

**“Australia – New Country, Old History”  
2005 Fulbright-Hays Seminar Abroad**

**Convict Project: Gaining an Understanding of Abel  
Magwitch in New South Wales in *Great Expectations***

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## **Convict Project: Gaining an Understanding of Abel Magwitch in New South Wales in *Great Expectations***

GRADE: 9

SUBJECT: Language and Literature

**SUMMARY OF PROJECT:** In preparation for reading Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*, students must assume the persona of a real British or Irish convict who was transported to New South Wales, Australia. Students must write six (6) diary entries in the voice (thoughts, feelings, and dialogue) of that convict. Their diary entries must be thoughtful, researched, and probable. In groups of three (3), the students will read their best three (3) of (6) entries and the group will select a winner using the provided rubric. The winners of the groups will meet during their class period in the media center the following day in costume to present their diaries (extra credit for British accent) to all students reading *Great Expectations* that period.

**BRIEF BACKGROUND:** Abel Magwitch, in Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations* is transported to Botany Bay, New South Wales, for life.

**RATIONALE:** Students reading *Great Expectations* need an understanding of a convict's sentencing, the 6-8 month ship voyage, his or her life in a penal colony, indigenous animals of Australia, Aboriginal culture in the area, and life after convicts received a "ticket-of-leave."

**MY EXPERIENCE IN APPLYING THIS LESSON:** Students spent two (2) days researching for the diary entries in books and on the Internet from websites I had posted on the district library page. Students had already drawn a convict name out of a hat, and they listened to Australia folk songs such as "Botany Bay" while they researched. Students read their diary entries (3 best) in class ten (10) days later. Teacher will grade three (3) of the six (6) entries. See rubric.

### OBJECTIVES:

1. Use prior knowledge to anticipate meaning and make sense of texts
2. Read in such varied sources as diaries, journals, maps, newspapers, electronic texts, and other media
3. Interpret the possible influences of the historical context on a literary work
4. Write in a voice and style appropriate to audience and purpose

### BACKGROUND:

The teacher should review convicts transported from Britain or Ireland to New South Wales in 1788 and other penal colonies in Australia for over sixty years. (See historical background in the student assignment.)

## Australian Convict Project

In preparation for reading Charles Dickens' Great Expectations, you must assume the persona of a real person who was transported to New South Wales. You will write six (6) diary entries in the voice (thoughts, feelings, and dialogue) of that convict. You must date each diary entry. Your diary entries must be thoughtful, researched, and probable. Each diary entry must be typed on a computer in 12 point, comic sans, double-spaced, and default margins. Each diary entry must be no longer than one page typed (6 pages maximum).

Historical Background: After the Revolutionary War, the Americans refused anymore convicts sent from Britain or Ireland. Brits decided to send the convicts "down under" to a new continent approximately six to eight months away by ships called hulks. The First Fleet arrived at Botany Bay in 1788 and realizing this body of water in New South Wales lacked depth and shelter from enemies, the fleet moved to Sydney Cove some seven miles away. A number of years later the continent became known as Australia. From 1788 until the last convict ship arrived over sixty years later, approximately 163,000 men and women from Britain and Ireland were transported with sentences of seven years, fourteen years, twenty-one years, or life. At the end of the "time served," the convicts received a "ticket-of-leave" and 30 acres of land (50 acres if their wives and families were in the colony).

Your class will be in the media center for two days \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. I have included some research facts you could weave into your life story in New South Wales and some Internet sites that will aid your project. You must get into the National Library of Australia ([www.nla.gov.au](http://www.nla.gov.au)) and use articles from Sydney newspapers from the 1820s, 1830s, or 1840s to give your audience a feeling for the time period.

You will draw a name of a convict sent to New South Wales or other penal colonies that may include the convict's home of origin, crime, sentence, or other valuable information.

- Everyone must select a ship for transportation to New South Wales.
- If you have only a name of the convict, select Ireland, Wales, England, or Scotland as the country of origin.

- If you have only a name of the convict, select a crime you committed from the list in the packet.
- If you have only a name of the convict, select an age at sentencing (between 14 and 25).
- If you have only a name of the convict, select an occupation from the list "Before Transportation."
- If you have only a name in your last diary entry when you have your "ticket-of-leave," you must select an occupation from the list of "Trades" in Australia (Remember the skills you have acquired.).

Diary Entries (These are due \_\_\_\_\_)

1. Write a (1) diary entry to describe yourself based on your name and what you think the name suggests about your appearance. How old are you? Write about your home in \_\_\_\_\_ (country) and explain what caused you to commit the crime of \_\_\_\_\_. What was your sentence? How do you feel about being transported to New South Wales? (This diary entry may be a little longer than one page.
2. Write a (1) diary entry about the 6 to 8 month passage to New South Wales. How were you treated? How often did you get on deck to see the sun? How did you feel?
3. Write one (1) diary entry about your life as a convict in New South Wales. Use the newspaper articles from the Sydney newspapers to decide who would employ you there (government or free immigrant) and how you were treated. Based on your research, the diary entry must reflect your prison time.
4. Write a (1) diary entry about contact with one of the indigenous animals in Australia. Be creative and realistic.
5. Write a (1) diary entry about contact with a group of Aboriginal people in the Sydney area. How did you treat each other? How did you communicate with them? What did they eat?
6. Write a (1) diary entry about getting your "ticket-of-leave." How long did you serve as a convict? What about your behavior? How much land were you given and what did you do as a free man or free woman?

Be sure that your voice comes through each of the diary entries. You must date each diary entry and sign it with the convict's name. Be creative. Use dialogue if you wish. On your due date, you will be in a group of three students. Each member of the group will read three (3) of the six (6) diary entries to the other members. Using the rubric I provide, select one person with the best entries. Turn in your diary entries staples with your complete heading.

## Rubric

1. Followed directions	25%
2. Research	25%
3. Voice and creativity	25%
4. Grammar/Punctuation/Spelling	25%

The next day those students will come dressed as their convicts and read their diary entries in the media center for students and teachers. You will have your picture taken. These diary entries should give all students the background they need to understand the penal colonies in New South Wales before we begin reading *Great Expectations*. Those who read their entries will receive extra credit 5 points for speaking in a British or Irish accent.

Names of Ships (You may use the name of a ship from your research.)

1. *Essex*
2. *Surprise*
3. *HMS Calcutta*
4. *Atlas II*
5. *Rolla*
6. *Catherine*
7. *Three Bees*
8. *Atlas*
9. *Alexander*
10. *Surrey*
11. *Tyne*
12. *Chapman*
13. *Queen*
14. *Palambam*

Occupations of Convicts before Transportation to New South Wales

Occupations for Men Only: weaver, carpenter, quarryman, currier, bricklayer, fisherman, shoemaker, stonemason, glass cutter, slater, plasterer, coach wheeler, paper maker, leather dyer, watchmaker, tailor,

locksmith, book binder, cooper, cabinetmaker, butcher, millwright, farmer,  
no occupation

Occupations for Women Only: servant, housekeeper, needle-woman, shoe-  
binder, cutter, confectioner, shopkeeper, dealer, upholsterer, country work,  
no occupation

### Research to Use in Diary Entries

#### Characteristics of Convicts in the Employment of the Government or Free Immigrants

1. tea drinkers
2. cleared almost unclearable scrub (land)
3. tutors to the master's children
4. employed by the government or assigned to free settlers (majority  
working for free settlers)
5. worked on chain gangs and lived in barracks
6. in the beginning lived in caves and "lean tos" and the Rocks in Sydney
7. if convicts escaped had no place to go

#### Favorable Points about Sydney

1. good climate
2. fruitful soil
3. opportunities for advancement
4. if joined by family 'would never see a poor day'
5. employment readily available
6. would be better off than those at home (Britain and Ireland)

#### Penal Colonies (Facts you could use in your diary entries)

1. Sydney, New South Wales
  - After serving their time (7 years, 14 years, 21 years or life), convicts were given a ticket-of-leave and 30 acres of land. If they had their wives with them, they received 50 acres.

## 2. Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania)

### Convict's Routine

- 04.45 Rise, fold beds, to be aired if weather fine
- 05.00 Cells unlocked; wash under supervision. Prayers
- 07.55 Breakfast, grace, smoke in yard
- 08.40 Work resumed
- 11.55 Dinner
- 12.50 Work
- 17.00 Return to station
- 18.00 Prayers, school, intellectual recreation
- 20.00 School over. To bed

## 3. Norfolk Island

### Prisoners

- Fed coarsest food
- Rigid discipline
- Stern and frequently capricious overseers
- Severe punishment by floggings or re-transportation
- Master could be kind or treat the prisoner as a slave
- Some unscrupulous employers kept convicts from gaining their release (Many of these convicts "bolters" became bushrangers (outlaws))

## Animals in Australia

- koala
- kangaroo
- wallaby
- dingo
- platypus
- Tasmanian devil
- magpie
- emu
- kookaburra
- wombat

## Crimes That Caused Transportation to New South Wales and Trades of Convicts after Pardoning and a Ticket-of-Leave

1. agrarian offender: stealing a horse, mare, gelding, colt, filly, bull, cow, ox, steer, bullock, heifer calf, ram, ewe, sheep, lamb (all considered a felony)
2. forging bank notes (counterfeit money)
3. having forging implements
4. political prisoners
5. perjury
6. rape
7. assault
8. wife-killing
9. house-burning
10. pig and goat stealing
11. burglary (larceny stealing 5 pounds or more from a dwelling considered a felony)
12. terrorizing a family
13. carrying off an informer's daughter
14. stabbing a person
15. robbing a person
16. embezzlement

Seven-year sentence for stealing the following:

1. a drab coat value 10 shillings
2. a copper kettle 3 shillings value
3. pair of blankets 3 shillings
4. one silver teaspoon value 2 shillings
5. black hat of silk value 1 shilling (about 12 cents)

Trades in New South Wales: blacksmith, apothecary, silversmith, engraver, cotton and linen printer, jeweler, cutler tallow-chandler, soap boiler, coppersmith, iron-founder, carpenter, mill and wheel wrights stone masons, wool comber, plasterers, distillers, tillers, tobacconists, mailers, cotton-spinner, baker, carpet maker, hosier, shoemaker, gardener, cooper, butcher, gentleman's servant, weaver, farmer

## REFERENCES:

### Web Sites for Diary Entries

National Library of Australia (Steps to get to Sydney newspapers in 1820s, 1830s, and 1840s.

1. Go to [nla.gov.au](http://nla.gov.au)
2. Click into the link that says "Australian Newspapers Online"
3. Select the "S" in the "SELECT BY TOWN:" area
4. Scroll down until you get to Sydney

The exact link to get to this website that has all the links to the newspapers is the following:

[http://www.nla.gov.au/npapers/npapers\\_town.html#s](http://www.nla.gov.au/npapers/npapers_town.html#s)

### Australian Animals

<http://faunanet.gov.au/wos/animals.cfm> - wild life of Sydney

<http://australian-animals.net/> - unique Australian animals

<http://www.australianfauna.com/>

<http://members.iinet.au/~perthaps/convicts/ships.html>

<http://cultureandrecreation.gov.au/articles/australianhistory>

### Convicts and Others

<http://members.iinet.au/~perthaps/convicts/list.html>

[www.rootsweb.com/~fianna/loc/O2nz/PasConau.html](http://www.rootsweb.com/~fianna/loc/O2nz/PasConau.html)

<http://www.cultureandrecreation.gov.au/articles/convicts>

<http://www.pcug.org.au/~ppmay/convicts.htm>

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~fianna/oc/oznz/pasconau.html>

<http://www.coraweb.com.au/convict.htm>

<http://www.icij.org/report.aspx?aid=314>

[http://www.australianexplorer.com/australian\\_animals.htm](http://www.australianexplorer.com/australian_animals.htm)

[http://http://www.australianexplorer.com/australian\\_birds.htm](http://http://www.australianexplorer.com/australian_birds.htm)

[http://www.hht.net.au/museums/hyde\\_park\\_barracks\\_museum/hyde\\_park\\_barracks\\_museum](http://www.hht.net.au/museums/hyde_park_barracks_museum/hyde_park_barracks_museum)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New\\_South\\_Wales](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_South_Wales)

<http://www.cultureandrecreation.gov.au/articles/australianhistory/>

<http://www.nla.gov.au/ferg/issn/144403617.html>

<http://www.nla.gov.au/ferg/issn/14401916.html>

## RESOURCES:

### Works Cited

Chambers, John H. A Traveler's History of Australia. New York: Interlink, 2002.

Costello, Con. Botany Bay: The Story of the Convicts Transported from Ireland to Australia, 1791-1853. Cork: Mercier, 1987.

Daniels, Kay. Convict Women. Crows Nest, NSW, Australia: Allen & Unwin, 1998.

Hughes, Robert. The Fatal Shore: The Epic of Australia's Founding. New York: Vintage, 1988.

Hyde Park Barracks Museum Guidebook. Sydney: Historic Houses Trust, 2003.

Keneally, Thomas. The Playmaker. New York: Harper & Row, 1987.

Kent, David and Norma Townsend, editors. Joseph Mason: Assigned Convict, 1831-1837 'Doomed . . . to the earth's remotest region'. Melbourne: Melbourne University Press, 1996.

Roughsey, Dick. The Rainbow Serpent. Sydney: HarperCollins, 1975.

Stokes, Deirdre. Desert Dreamings. Sydney, Australia: Rigby, 1993.

## APPENDIX:

### LIST OF CONVICTS FOR STUDENTS TO DRAW (See also websites for a longer list)

#### Convicts Transported from the British Isles (England, Ireland, Wales, and Scotland)

All of the names listed below are real prisoners transported to New South Wales during its period as a penal colony. Students must draw a name and use any available information with the convict. If they draw only a name, the students must select Ireland, England, Wales, or Scotland as the country-of-origin; they must choose an occupation from the list if it is not provided. They must select a crime off of the attached hand-out. They may use other research in the appendix and the URL names to continue their research for the six diary entries. Please see the assignment page.

1. Henry Kable, 16 age at sentencing, sentenced at Norfolk Lent Assizes 1783 for burgling a dwelling house and taking goods to the value of some eighteen pounds. Sentenced to death. Reprieved on account of extreme youth. Seven years' transportation. Occupation: laborer
2. Robert Sideway, 22 age at sentencing, sentenced at Old Bailey for stealing property valued at twenty-eight shillings. Guilty. Transportation for life. Occupation: watchcase maker
3. Ketch (James) Freeman, 17 age at sentencing, sentenced for highway attack on Thomas Baldwin and taking from him twelve shillings in money. Guilty to be hanged. Transported seven years. Occupation: laborer
4. John Wisehammer: 20 age at sentencing, sentenced Bristol, February 10, 1785 for stealing snuff from the shop of Messr. Ricketts and Load. Transportation seven years. No occupation
5. John Arscott: 20 age at sentencing, sentenced for burglary and breaking and entering, the dwelling house of Philip Polkinghorn and

- then the house of *George Thomas*. Watches and tobacco stolen.  
Transported seven years. Occupation: carpenter
6. *Curtis Brand*: 20 age at sentencing, sentenced January 6, 1784 for stealing two game-cocks. Sentenced to seven years. Occupation: no trade
  7. *John Hudson*: 9 age at sentencing, tried at Old Bailey December 10, 1783, for burgling and breaking and entering. Stealing one linen shirt 10 shillings, five silk stockings 5 shillings, one pistol 5 shillings, 2 aprons 2 shillings. Transported seven years. Occupation: chimney sweepers
  8. *Mary Brenham*: 13 age at sentencing. Trial began December 8, 1784, for stealing stuffed petticoats, a pair of stays, four and a half yards of cloth, one waistcoat, one cap, one pair cotton stockings, one pair nankeen breeches and one cloth cloak, valued at 39 shillings. Transported for seven years.
  9. *Nancy Turner*: 17 age at sentencing. Sentenced March 5, 1785 for stealing a silk cloak, a pair of stays, a muslin handkerchief, a lace handkerchief, an apron, and other stuff, goods of *Nancy Collins* of the Parish of Holy Cross in Pershore, valued at 40 shillings. Sentence to seven years' transportation. Occupation: servant
  10. *Duckling* (Supposed name *Ann Smith*): 16 age at sentencing, believed sentenced at Old Bailey, October 1786; for stealing silverware, value, 45 shillings. Sentenced to death. Reprieved to seven years' transportation. Occupation: none
  11. *Dabby* (Alias *Mary*) *Bryant*: 20 age at sentencing, held at Exeter on March 20, 1786, before Sir *James Eyre Knight* and Sir *Beaumont Hotham Knight*, for assaulting *Agnes Lakeman spinster* in the King's Way, putting her in corporal fear and danger of her life, and violently taking from her person one silk bonnet valued at pence and other goods valued 11 shillings 11 pence. Guilty of highway robbery. To be hanged. Transported seven years

12. Ann Rorke: Dublin, life sentence
13. Catherine Geran: from County Limerick, life sentence
14. Thomas Beirne: 35 agrarian offender
15. Michael Murray: breaking and entering (Trasher's Oath), pilloried at Elphin, life
16. Peter Baneghan: breaking and entering (Trasher's Oath) pilloried at Elphin, transported for life
17. Thomas Whyte: born in Dublin, Ireland, and sentenced in Edinburgh, arrived September 1815, pleased Governor Macquarie. He was a Master Mariner (assigned to Colonial Marine) 1820 granted 300 acres at Longford on Norfolk plains of Van Diemen's Land. Task of pursuing bushrangers and escaped convicts
18. Edward Ryan: 20 age of sentencing from Clonoulty, Ireland
19. Roger Corcoran: 20 age of sentencing from Clonoulty, Ireland. Accused of destroying a house used as barracks - agrarian offense
20. Peggy Brophy:
21. Ellen Dixon:
22. Nancy Haigney: sentenced in County Galway for stealing clothes
23. Francis Greenway: 37 age at sentencing for concealing assets. He was the official architect in Sydney designing Hyde Park Barracks, St. James Church, St. Matthews, and Windsor
24. Catherine Stafford: from Cork, 7 years for coining
25. Ann Donnelly:
26. John Kelly: itinerant tailor

27. John Currans: agrarian offense of sheep stealing
28. Dennis Mahoney:
29. John Graham: stealing  $6\frac{1}{4}$  pounds of hemp. Transported for seven years
30. John Donahoe:
31. Frank Macnamara: forger, 1824. Songwriter.
32. Bernard Reilly: 1824 wrote verse
33. Luke Dillon: 23 age of sentencing. Escaped died in an asylum in Dieppe
34. Alexander Pearce: died age 33 July 1824, gallows. Exiled for theft
35. Joan Ready: 14 age at sentencing, forgerer. Transported May 15, 1812. Pardoned seven years later
36. Dick Troy: dealing in stolen cattle
37. James Staines: dealing in stolen cattle
38. Joseph Holt: pardoned during Captain William Bligh as governor 1806-1808
39. Alfred Byrne: 20 age at sentencing United Irish rising "intelligent, sober, honest and industrious" freed within six years of arrival in the colony - wife with 3 children at Botany Bay. They lived there until 1822, had 3 more children. They were given more land and had 100 head of cattle.
40. John Grant: Irish, sent to prison at Norfolk Island
41. Michael O'Hogan: Irish, sent to prison at Norfolk Island

42. Charles Boyle: Irish, handsome, publicly flogged with 100 lashes for striking a guard, had only one arm
43. Bridget Donlan: Irish, 24, beautiful
44. Richard Fitzgerald: transported 1791 - expertise in farming. He was a supervisor on government farms in the colony, director of crown agricultural settlements, high constable, banker, prominent citizen
45. James Fitzpatrick Knaresborough: 20 at sentencing, from Country Kilkenny capital crime. Perpetual transportation to Botany Bay
46. William Burke: Limerick city jail, 13 July 1802
47. Tristram Moore: 30 age at sentencing. County Derry Presbyterian United Irishman. 1798 life sentence in Australia. By 1828 farming 100 acres horse and 18 cattle
48. Andrew Doyle: from Wicklow, Ireland wife and 3 children. 1804 his wife had a grant at Toongabblie. She purchased land near Lower Portland on Hawkesbury River. He worked on prison time working for his wife and they had a family of seven. They accumulated 1220 acres of land, 14 horses and 130 horned cattle.
49. William Buckley: free for 30 years in the bush. He joined the aborigines.
50. Murtagh Fortune: from Wexford, Ireland. Transported to New South Wales on *Atlas II* in October, 1802.
51. Thomas Connell: 24 age at sentencing. Laborer from Bakerstown in Holycross Parish. Accused of attempting to rescue a prisoner from the yeomanry. Served four years. He was pardoned and by 1810 he was a policeman in Sydney.
52. William Lett: from Wexford, Ireland. He was pardoned in 1815 in Sydney.

53. Ann Farrell: Sent in 1805
54. Michael Dwyer: mutineer leader. He murdered officers and was sent to Norfolk Island to Van Dieman's Land. After prison he was given 100 acres and made constable.
55. John Mernagh:
56. Hugh Byrne:
57. Martin Burke:
58. Arthur Devlin:
59. James Armstrong:
60. John Monks: convicted of forgery at Mullingar, Ireland. Sent for life
61. Mick Duggan: agrarian offender
62. Edward Eager: Transported in 1809 for forging bills. He introduced Methodism to Australia. He was assigned to a clergyman as a tutor for his children. He was given an absolute pardon in 1818 and adopted the Emancipist cause.
63. Edward O'Shaughnessy: 26 age of conviction in Dublin, Ireland, for "obtaining money under false pretences." Sentenced to seven years. He had graduated from Trinity University and became editor of the Sydney Gazette in 1835.
64. Peter Fitzgibbon: sentenced in Dublin. After transportation to Sydney, he wanted his wife and their marriage license because he could be assigned to her and be as well off as a free man. He could be pardoned and earned 25 pounds a year with plenty of food. He definitely would be better off in New South Wales than Ireland.
65. Mary Browne: 13 age of sentencing. Assault and robbery for a piece of corduroy worth a few shillings and a linen worth 2 shillings

66. John Tighe: Transported in 1833 for manslaughter.
67. Dennis Dogherty: from Derry for mutiny. He was confined over 30 years and endured 3,000 lashes. In 1876 he was given his freedom.
68. Cornelius Driscell: 17 age at sentencing. Transported to Sydney June of 1833 for stealing from a person
69. Patrick Donohue: shepherd, crime for stealing sheep
70. Samuel Terry: He had stolen 400 pairs of stocking. Transported to Sydney and served seven years. He became very wealthy.
71. Simeon Ford: 20 age at sentencing for theft. He owned a retail business in Sydney. He was made a magistrate, owned 18,000 acres, a fleet of sealers and whalers and two ships that transported convicts (1771-1840).
72. Solomon Levey: 20 age at sentencing for theft. After he received his "ticket-of-leave," he became one of Sydney's great capitalists. He encouraged Jewish migration. He also played a key role in the foundation of Western Australia.
73. Mary Reibey nee Haydock: 13 age of conviction. She stole a horse from Lancashire. She claimed she was borrowing the horse without permission. She became rich and successful (1777-1855).
74. James Ruse: After serving his sentence, he was pardoned and given a land grant in Parramatta. He said, "I sowed the first grain."
75. Cornelius O'Mahony:
76. Thomas Duggan:
77. Hugh Brophy:
78. John Flood:

79. Michael Cody:
80. Kevin O'Doherty:
81. John Kelly: from Tipperary. Transported for stealing two pigs to Van Dieman's Land. He received his "ticket-of-leave," went to New South Wales and married.
82. Jack Donahoe: Transported in 1824 from Dublin. He escaped into the bush and became the most notorious bushranger of the time and was finally shot dead. He was called 'wild colonial boy.'
83. Frank Macnamera: forger from Cashel, County Tipperary. Wrote poetry
84. Bernard Reilly: Transported in 1824 from Ballinamore, County Leitrim
85. Francis Meehan:
86. Alexander Pearce: 33 age at sentencing for theft from County Monaghan.
87. John Troy: Transported for seven years for burglary and felony. He escaped and was a bushranger robbing from the rich to help the poor.
88. Lawrence Frayne: Transported from Dublin to Norfolk Island. After 150 lashes his shoulders started decomposition.
89. Patrick Hanraghan: 17 age at sentencing for murder in County Galway. Transported in 1801. By 1828 he had 50 acres of land and 5 children.
90. Mary Frazer:
91. Francis Carney: Transported for seven years for stealing handkerchiefs

92. Samuel Hammon: Transported in 1827 for life for highway robbery from Navan, County Meath, Ireland. In 1836 his wife and 3 children sailed over to New South Wales.
93. Thomas Helion: Transported in 1827 on the ship Cambridge from Nenagh, County Tipperary. Occupation: shepherd
94. Thomas Brown:
95. Jack Murphy:
96. Martin Cash: 18 age of conviction. "Gentleman bushranger."  
Transported to New South Wales in 1828 from Enniscorthy, County Wexford. Sent to Port Arthur for 4 years before he escaped.
97. Lawrence Kavanagh: from Rathdrum in County Wicklow, Ireland. In Australia he had a bed to himself for the first time.
98. William Charles Wentworth: (1790-1872). His mother was convict Catherine Crowley.
99. Catherine Crowley:
100. James Brogan Scariff: from County Clare. Transported for involvement in the Battle of Macken
101. Thomas Montgomery: from Enniskillen, County Fermanagh. Transported for involvement in the Battle of Macken.
102. Alexander Boyce: from Belfast
103. Francis Simpson:
104. Mary Tirley:
105. William Buckley: from Spithead on HMS Calcutta. Height 6 feet 6 inches. Transported to Port Phillip on April 24, 1803. Escaped and remained free for 33 years

106. Tom Ryan: 1000 floggings
107. Alexander DeWar:
108. James Blake: Seven-year sentence for stealing a pair of silver buckles
109. Henry Waldron, alias George Barrington: pickpocket
110. Laurence Drennan:
111. Edward Byrne:
112. Pat Connor:
113. Michael Galavan:
114. James Letts: 13 age at sentencing. Near relative of the United Irish leader. He had great courage in the battle of Ross and Foulksmill.
115. Richard Caldwell: United Irish leader political prisoner
116. Tom Langan: United Irish leader. Death mitigated by Knight of Glin and transported to New South Wales.
117. Daniel O'Meara: Transportation to New South Wales for 'endeavoring to procure arms.' Occupation: farmer
118. James Connor: 13 at sentencing for playing marbles at Parliament. In a scuffle he was accused of stealing 3 pound notes.
119. Matthew Sutton:
120. Friar James Harold: Life sentence for burning a house in 1798. Transportation to Norfolk Island for seven years

121. Friar James Dixon: bad health, short of money
122. Mr. Henry Fulton: Sent for life
123. Dr. Bryan O'Connor: Sent for life
124. James Meehan: Worked in New South Wales in the surveyor's office for 100 pounds a year
125. Joseph Holt: 39 age at transportation. Protestant farmer. Burned a house and joined an uprising
126. Captain St. Leger:
127. Captain William Alcock: Transportation for 14 years. Never heard from his wife again.
128. Benjamin Carroll: 38 age at sentencing. 500 lashes and jail ganged for life
129. William Maums: Granted 50 acres at Parramatta
130. Paddy Galvin: 20 age at sentencing. Given 300 lashes. In 1810 he merited a free pardon.
131. John Lacey: 20 age at sentencing. Freed in 1810. Owner of 1080 acres with two houses
132. Richard Dry: Transported for political offenses in 1797. A Protestant. A woolen draper from Dublin. Married 'currency lass' founder of Talnar Steam Navigation Co. and Cornwall Bank. Owned 500 acres and gain up to 12,000 acres
133. Barry Brennan:
134. -135. Moses Brennan or Michael Brennan:

## Appendix – Student Assignment

Robert Metts  
English 1, 4  
10-20-05

### Australian Convict Diary Entry 1

This is a diary about a man who has been wrongfully accused of treason. A treason against a king who he did not swear allegiance. This is a diary about a man who for no reason is being sent to the desert island Australia. For all who read this hear my cry.

May 12, 1834

I am Tom Logan. I am the United Irish leader. I was captured by the British in 1831. Now, in 1834, I am being transported to Australia. I have heard nothing good about this island, and it seems I shall be spending the rest of my life there.

When they brought us aboard the ship, I could see this would be a long voyage. We were quickly thrown into the cargo hold so we could not see the light of day. A few days later we were out into the open sea. This is when I was called onto the deck. It turns out that the captain's brother was a British soldier killed at an engagement I led against the British. He gave me 50 lashes and then threw me down into the cargo hold. My back was torn up and there was no skin left. One of the other prisoners was a doctor and he placed maggots on to my back to stop any infection.

Well this is where I stop for now.

### Australian Convict Diary Entry 2

September 1, 1834

I have landed on the island and it is the strangest place in the world. Yesterday we were unloading off the ship when the strangest creature I have ever seen was hopping around. Before one of the guards shot it, I saw it had a pouch where a smaller one was sitting inside. We ate the creature I now know as a kangaroo. It was the first meat I have had in several months.

We have been taken to the island of Tasmania. It is a smaller island of the coast of Australia. There is a special animal here called the Tasmanian devil. I have not yet found this devil and I am told not to go looking if I want to live. I have made a friend in these last few weeks named Harrison Belittle. He was sent here because he escaped from his English prison and the court dared him to try and break out of

Van Diemens land. He plans he will. Right now I am supposed to sleep so I must. There is supposed to be a hard day tomorrow.

I have decided I will continue this diary until my transportation from this hell.

Australian Convict Diary Entry 3

November 23, 1834

A few days ago we met with the indigenous people. It wasn't a friendly meeting. They were trading with the British during the day and somehow the British people did something to offend the Aboriginals and one struck a guard with a club. This is when all hell broke loose. The guards standing on the wall fired into a crowd of Aboriginals and killed twelve of them. The Aboriginals threw some spears and hit two guards then ran. Now they are giving rewards for all the aboriginal people captured or killed.

While all this was happening, Harrison found a way to get out of the prison. There is a latrine at the end of our courtyard. Harrison found that we could tunnel out from one of the stalls. He said he could tunnel through it in six months. So I have no choice to wait. He said if I ever wanted to see my beloved Ireland again I should come with him. He planned that there will be a boat waiting for us in one of the inlets to take us to Ireland.

While I have been in this prison, I have been flogged five times: Once for being Irish; once for talking back to one of the guards; and the rest for being in the United Irish. Every guard here has had a friend killed by one of my countrymen.

Australian Convict Diary Entry 4

April 23, 1835

Harrison has finally completed the tunnel he is now making arrangements for us to get out.

In the months I have not written in this diary I have seen horrible things. The governor has placed bounties on all Aboriginals. I have been forced to bury hundreds of dead bodies. They included not only men but also women, children, and babies. The horrible atrocities these soldiers have committed will never be forgotten to whoever reads this. Please remember this account.

While in this place I have found some of my brethren from the United Irishmen. army. We have decided instead to go to the mainland and organize a resistance to the British rule in Australia. We have

traded the guards for a map of Australia, and we have decided to center this resistance movement to the northern end of the continent, and we hope to talk the Aboriginals into joining our side. Together we can make Australia a new Ireland.

#### Australian Convict Diary Entry 5

April 25, 1835

We made it out of the prison by way of the tunnel. A little while after we got out ,they got suspicious and checked the latrines. They found the tunnels we dug and followed us to the ship. There we stopped and attacked the guards who had tormented us so for the last year. We killed twenty of the guards that day. We lost two of our brethren. Their names were James Curry and Patrick Branigan. Curry was captured with me and Branigan was captured six months later. They were both fine Irishmen. I will miss them so.

We have made it off of that hell of an island and are traveling to Botany Bay. There we can muster enough Irishmen to attack and seize the port. I pray for luck.

#### Australian Convict Diary Entry 6

April 30, 1835

This is Harrison Belittle. I am sorry to say but Tom was killed. While we were pulling into the port at Botany Bay, a soldier recognized Tom and shot at him. Tom ducked and the bullet hit Hans Selman, a German who came with us, in the throat. While the soldier was reloading Tom pulled out a rifle he had taken from the guards and shot the soldier.

While all this was happening, a ship pulled up along our side and fired all its cannons into us several times. In the first volley, Brian McFarlane was hit by a cannon ball and was blown away. By the third volley, only Tom and I were alive. We dove off the ship and swam to the brush. While we were climbing out of the water, a cannon ball hit near us. Tom dove on top of me and saved my life. When I got up, I said, "Tom that was close. Let's get out of here." I started to run but I didn't hear Tom behind me. I turned around and he was lying face up, gasping for air. I tried to drag him but he wouldn't let me. He gave me this book before he died. The last thing he said to me was "Gasp, take this away, Gasp." Then he died. I have made it back to Ireland and I am getting this diary published in the name of Tom.