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Joseph Brickhill Revisited

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While browsing through the October 1953 issue of the Reports of the Australian Numismatic Society I came across a reference to an intriguing token. The paragraph in question reads as follows:

Some years ago an Australian Museum official was shown an Australian Penny Token which appears to be more elusive than the Kiama or a Nicholas penny as far as the actual name or coin is concerned. The legend was described as: BUCKLAND / DRAPER / CAMPBELLTOWN / N.S.W. / 1856. (Here is an opportunity for some token collector to explore the possibility of finding what appears to be an unpublished variety. It may be an "advertising check" or coin but being dated seems to make this unlikely).

No further details about the token were given. Its design, obverse and reverse, were a mystery to me.

The editor of the Report was David Raymond, and the president of the Society, Owen C Fleming; both these men were experienced and knowledgeable numismatists and their opinions could be considered reliable. I went through subsequent reports but nowhere did I find any follow up to the 'Buckland' inquiry.

Although somewhat belatedly, I decided to do some research on this elusive token.[1]

The first questions that occurred to me were: 'what did the museum official think he saw?' and 'did he describe the token correctly?' The wording of the brief tells us that he saw what he took to be a token but that the sighting of the token took place some years before its inscription was recorded in print. The number of years since he had seen the token is probably not as important as the well known fact that even short term memory can play tricks and his recollection may not have been accurate.

To begin my research I decided to look into the NSW town of Campbelltown, which is in the general vicinity of Wollongong, Kiama, Liverpool and Jamberoo, localities that have all had confirmed token issuers. But the Campbelltown library had no record of a draper named Buckland; in fact there was no draper in that town in 1856. On the internet I found Campbelltown listed in New Zealand, in Adelaide, in Scotland and in Pennsylvania, USA. None, except perhaps the one in New Zealand, seemed worth pursuing further.

Looking into the occupation of draper seemed to be the next logical step. Andrews and McNeice both list a 34mm penny token issued by a Joseph Brickhill who lived in Campbell Town in Tasmania, and whose occupation is given on his token as draper.[2] Here was a draper named

Brickhill, not Buckland, living in a town called Campbell Town, not Campbelltown, in Tasmania, not New South Wales. Is it possible that our museum official was more enthusiastic than accurate in his efforts to report this unknown token, or simply suffered from a faulty memory? Admittedly, New South Wales, or NSW, is a name very different from Tasmania; there is absolutely no similarity. But Buckland and Brickhill are not so dissimilar, and Campbelltown and Campbell Town can easily be confused. The date of 1856 is of course common to both pieces.

In view of the information I had so far come up with and in view of the fact that no token resembling the one reported has been discovered in the fifty years since, I was unable to come to any other conclusion but that the mystery token was none other than the Tasmanian Brickhill penny token, which I will now discuss. The fact that the ANS Reports do not mention the token again seems to indicate that the editor had eventually decided that the museum official had made errors in his description.

Joseph Brickhill token

The penny token issued by Joseph Brickhill is 34mm in diameter with a plain edge, copper, and its description is:

Obverse: Four line inscription in the centre, DRAPER / AND / GENERAL / IMPORTER; around the top, • JOSEPH BRICKHILL •, and around the bottom, CAMPBELL TOWN; a border of beads inside a plain raised rim.
Reverse: Three line inscription in the centre, ADVANCE / TASMANIA / 1856; around the top, • ONE PENNY TOKEN •, and around the bottom, COMMERCIAL HOUSE; a border of beads inside a plain raised rim (Figure 1).

Andrews lists the die alignment as normal while McNeice records both normal and 10 degrees upset. A counter-stamped example with the letter 'N in a serrated circle on both sides' is listed by both.[3]

Andrews credits Stokes with the production of the Brickhill pieces and in his book records Stokes as saying 'he did not strike tokens until post 1857'. Around this time Stokes was a small-time button and seal maker who had set up a 'manufactory' in Flinders Street and later near the Melbourne markets.

In 1852, WJ Taylor, an English die sinker and token manufacturer, formed a syndicate to stamp Australian gold. He sent his associate R Scaiffe to Melbourne with a heavy press as part of the Kangaroo Office venture into striking Australian gold. This failed and in 1857 Stokes negotiated with Taylor to purchase the press. Acquiring this press enabled Stokes to become a significant token maker and would see his well known 'vine leaf', 'emu', 'arms' and 'wheat sheaf' reverses come into prominence in the early 1860s.

Whether the Brickhill dies were cut in England or Melbourne is not known with certainty. Their overall appearance and their date, 1856, indicate they were engraved in England but struck in Melbourne. The date on the tokens is no guarantee that they were issued in 1856. For example,

Figure 1. Original Brickhill 1d. token.

Figure 2. Copy of the Brickhill 1d. token. It is slightly bigger than the original and has the added reverse inscription, STOKES / 1972. This example has the matte surface finish.

it is now accepted that the Macintosh and Degraves shilling with the date 1823 was commemorating the year their business began. I believe Andrews is correct when he places Brickhill in the Stokes listing, thus dating its manufacture as post 1857.[4] Brickhill no doubt issued his tokens for the usual reasons, for the profit margin in selling them for a 1d, for filling the demand for much needed small change and importantly as a means of advertising his business name.

There is a modern commemorative token or medal struck by Stokes, Melbourne, for O'Brien of Campbell Town, Tasmania (Figure 2). It is larger than the original 34mm token being 38mm in diameter and gilt brass. One type is bright and shiny while the other has a matte finish. The latter may well be a gilt piece with the gilding worn off. A silver plated example has also been seen. The wording of the legends is identical but smaller to that on
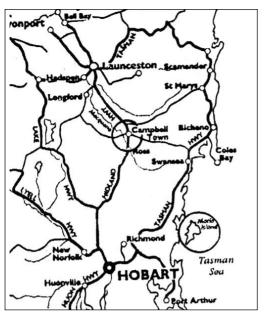
Figure 3. A modern map of the east coast of Tasmania showing Campbell Town in the centre and Maria Island lower right.

the original token except for the addition of STOKES / 1972 in small letters below the date on the reverse; the layout is more spacious.

Campbell Town, Tasmania

In 1811, Governor Lachlan Macquarie accompanied by his wife Elizabeth visited the island and traversed the road, now the Midland Highway, which links Hobart Town to Port Dalrymple in the north. The party paused at a place about 140 km north of Hobart Town; Macquarie commented on the pleasant nature of a river crossing and suggested it would be a suitable midland site for a settlement. The idea was followed up and Campbell Town, named after Macquarie's wife's maiden name and the Elizabeth River after her Christian name,

came into being in 1821. Campbell Town was established as a garrison town, one of four between Hobart and Port Dalrymple, built by convict labour with a double arched river bridge, the Red Bridge. This bridge still stands and derives its name from the colour of the mortar which contains a red pigment that leached through the brick work. In 1841 the population was 446 and in 1858 the railway line reached the settlement. In 1866 it was declared a Town (Figure 3). For a time in the early years it carried the Scottish spelling of Campbelton (Figure 5).

Initially the town acted as a base from which the military and constabulary regularly sent expeditions in an attempt to control the increasingly hostile Aborigines and bushrangers. The payment by the authorities to local merchants and settlers in the form of store receipts as part of the victualling process for expeditions to the interior is regularly recorded in the *Hobart Town Gazette*.[5]

Joseph Brickhill

Joseph Brickhill was born circa 1800, probably in the East End of London; his details prior to the research for this paper were a few lines in McNeice's book:

Nothing is known about Brickhill's early life in Tasmania but in 1833 he was in charge of property belonging to the Rev. W. J. P. Bedford. In 1836 he purchased a town allotment [in Bridge Street] *in Campbell Town and built a large retail store, one of the finest in the district*.[6]

It is here that we need to introduce the

Reverend William JP Bedford. William JP Bedford Junior was the oldest son of the Reverend W Bedford senior who had arrived in Van Diemens Land in 1823 as Anglican Assistant Chaplin. Bedford junior was Superintendent of Schools in 1825. He had received or purchased land prior to returning to England, where he studied theology at Cambridge. I have not been able to trace the grant but in April 1829 we find record of a sale of crown land:

Drummond Parish. / Lot, no.10. / 600 Acres, / Value per Acre, 5s. 6d. Bounded on the east by a locationf [sic] *to Mrs. Margetts, North by that to, E. Hobson, west by Mr. Bedford's junior, and south by Crown land.* [7]

It is probable that this is the property referred to by McNeice and where Brickhill worked in 1833. It is described as situated in the Drummond Parish near Brighton, just north of Hobart. On returning to Tasmania, Bedford was ordained into the Anglican Ministry. He was 'called' to Campbell Town, moved there with his wife Mary in June 1833 and held his first services in the 'the Old Police Office'.

I have not yet been able to prove it, but suggest Bedford sold his Brighton land and used the funds to buy the Campbell Town property grants. It seems logical that Brickhill would have moved with him. We will learn that Brickhill was unmarried with no commitments. If Brickhill was put in charge of managing the Bedford property whilst the latter was in England he probably accrued a reasonable 'nest egg'.

In July 1836 Brickhill bought land in Bridge Street, Campbell Town. There was either a building on this lot or he erected one and set himself up as a general merchant. In 1837 he acquired another Lot in High Street.[8] In 1847 he was married to Grace Coombe in the Wesleyan Chapel in Campbell Town (Figure 4).

The 1850s was a period of change for the island. The colonists had successfully petitioned to stop convicts being transported to their shore and had changed the name from Van Diemen's Land to Tasmania in a bid to eradicate the stigma of the convict past. In 1856 Tasmania had officially broken ties with Sydney when it had its first Legislative Assembly meeting with direct responsibility to London.

Business success saw a continuing rise in Brickhill's social and economic status. This becomes very evident from the 1840s to the 1850s. In 1852, his name appears in the Launceston Assessment Roll as being eligible to vote as a landowner. We also find a record of him on the Jurors' List in 1852, 1855 and 1858. In the first he is listed as a 'General Dealer'; in the other two as a 'Storekeeper'; on all three occasions his address is given as Bridge Street.[9]

Bedford would have been not only a customer of Brickhill and a near neighbour but a family friend, as by 1852 they had known each other for about twenty years. We will learn later that, as a young man of nineteen, Brickhill's occupation was given as shopman—probably meaning an apprentice shop assistant. This would have given him at least several years' experience working in the trade.
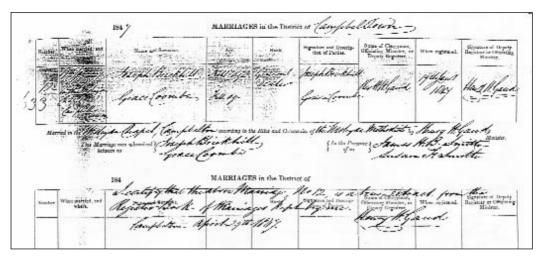
Figure 4. The marriage certificate of Joseph Brickhill and Grace Coombe, dated 19 January 1847. Note the two spellings of the town: Campbel Town and Campbelton.

As Campbell Town was a garrison town, Brickhill probably catered not just to the general public in general store goods, but also to the military detachments stationed in the town. As such he would have been at least partly paid in store receipts and other forms of government bills. As the emission of government paper was fairly prolific throughout the early Australian settlements, it is puzzling that none paid to Brickhill have been reported.

Brickhill continued to prosper and in 1859 built a new shop in High Street at a cost of £6,000, a very significant outlay[10] (Figure 5)**.** The change in location was no doubt brought on by the construction of a new bridge over the Elizabeth River and as a consequence, High Street becoming the commercial thoroughfare of the town. It is likely the name 'Commercial House' was transferred to the new building.

1856 had been a tragic year for Joseph Brickhill as on 4 April his 32 year-old wife Grace died of a stroke. They had been married for just ten years. Four years later, on 3 October 1860, Joseph Brickhill would re-marry, this time the widow Mary Ann Brown. Thomas Coombe, the father of his first wife, was a witness at the wedding.

But, back to the shop—what was it like? The *Mercury* correspondent covering the Tasmanian country districts reports that:

…one of the largest and most elaborately finished commercial establishments in the colony, recently erected in this town ship by the enterprize and good taste of our fellow townsman, Joseph Brickhill, Esq, who with a prodigality, laudable in such a cause, has placed Campbell Town, in respect to architectural pretensions, on an equality with the capital [Hobart]. *Thinking your readers may derive some pleasure from the perusal, we have roughly sketched a few particulars concerning the building and posted them*
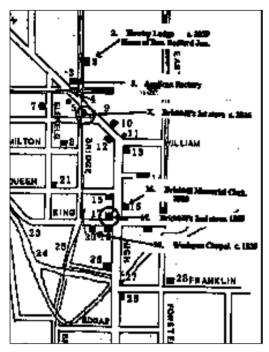
Figure 5. Town plan of Campbell Town showing the first and the second location of Brickhill's store.

to you.

The style adopted by the architects…has been the "Free Italian" as best adapted to street architecture, in which the whole of the beautiful and elegant facade has been faithfully designed and executed in the pure white freestone of Ross. The superficial area covered by the premises exceeds 3500 feet, upon which has been erected a block of buildings under one roof comprising shops, warehouses, show-rooms, dwellings, &c. &c.

On the ground floor is the retail establishment, extending the whole length of the frontage on the main road, 50 feet by 24 feet, communicating by large folding doors with another shop 40 by 24 feet; both these rooms present a very brilliant effect internally from the great

amount of light admitted through several plate glass windows, 12 feet by 9 feet in height. The remainder of the ground floor is devoted to private apart-ments.

On the second floor are two show rooms, one 40 feet by 24, the other 34 feet by 24 feet, approached by means of a light ornamental iron staircase leading from the principal shop.

The ceilings of these rooms are boldly and handsomely panelled, and with their great height add very much to the general effect of the interior. One thing we must not omit to mention, which is the remarkably short time in which the building has been completed, not more than ten months have elapsed since the commencement of the works; and considering that the whole of the stone had to be brought from a distance of seven miles, and the remainder of the materials from localities much further removed, great credit is due to all engaged. The total cost is reported to be £3,500.[11]

If the building itself was impressive, so must have been the stock. Louisa Anne Meredith, novelist and historian, describes 'some tolerably good "stores"' in Campbell Town in 1861 as:

those colonial shops-of-all-work, where on one side we can buy iron pots, groceries, glass, china, medicines, and door mats; and on the other, a fashionable French bonnet, a packet of envelopes, a skein of Berlin wool or a counterpane.[12]

Brickhill also had a bank agency for a short period. The Launceston Bank for Savings began establishing country

agencies in 1855 and in Campbell Town the agency was taken up by Joseph Brickhill. The agencies had short life spans, however, all being closed by April 1862, in spite of an attempt by Brickhill to keep his branch open. At a meeting in Campbell Town on 25 August 1862:

Mr Brickhill gave an interesting account of the successful workings of the Launceston Bank Agency he said [that] *people were willing to deposit their savings given the opportunity and that he was willing to resume the charge of the branch again at considerably less remuneration than before.*[13]

The reopening of his Launceston Bank agency did not occur, however. Brickhill died on 28 February 1865 after a most horrendous incident. He had kept a large Airedale as watchdog and this dog had presumably mistaken him for an intruder and severely savaged him. His injuries were mortal and he died from an abscess shortly after. His death notice in the *Examiner*, March 2, reads:

BRICKHILL; On February the 28th, at his residence, Campbell Town, Joseph Brickhill Esq, aged 65, greatly esteemed and respected. The Funeral will take place on Thursday the 2nd of March. Friends are invited to attend.

Mary Ann, his widow, died a year later aged 68. Brickhill had been a devout Wesleyan Methodist. His will bequeathed monies to the Methodist church in Launceston, in Westbury, in New Town and in Campbell Town.[14] A legacy of

£500 went to form a theological fund and £1,400 towards the construction of The Brickhill Memorial Methodist Church which opened in 1880, but without the steeple—the money had run out before this could be erected (Figure 7). In the church there was a marble tablet, 'to the memory of Joseph Brickhill given by the trustees of the Launceston, Westbury and New Town Churches who benefited by his gifts.' The church has since been converted to a private residence.

Brickhill is buried in the Uniting (previously Methodist) Church cemetery at the southern entry to Campbell Town. His memorial grave stone with inscription on all four sides is surrounded by a high metal fence topped by sharp spikes, keeping the spectator from approaching the stone too closely (Figure 6). Because of this it was not possible to clearly decipher all the words of the inscription which is recorded here as follows:

Sacred to the memory of Joseph Brickhill whom [?] *departed this life Feb 28th 1865. Aged 65 years. Mark the perfect man and behold the upright for the end of this man is peace* [followed by a psalm]. / *All honour to the name of him who lies beneath this sod, Virtue and truth were his who lived daily to praise his God.* / *Sacred to the memory of*

Mary Ann Brickhill who departed this life Dec 7th, 1866. Aged 68 years… / Sacred to the memory of Gr[ace] *Brickhill 1856.*[15]

The Brickhill business was continued

Figure 6. The Brickhill gravestone. The inscription tells us that he died in 1865, his first wife, Grace, in 1856 and his second wife, Mary Ann, in 1866.
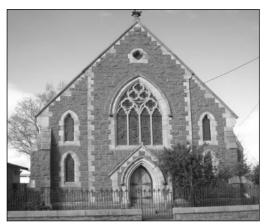
[Photo: Lorraine Green]

Figure 7. The Brickhill Memorial Chuch opened for worship in 1880. Due to insufficient funds, the proposed tower was never erected.

[Photo: Lorraine Green]

by Joseph's stepdaughter's husband Fred Hart and expanded under the name of Hart, Orton & Co with branches in Fingal and Mathinna. In 1917 the business was bought by Chas E Button and Co Pty Ltd. James FC O'Brien, from Perth, became manager of the Button store in Campbell Town in 1917 and around 1921 he and his brother LG O'Brien bought out the business (Figure 8, 9). In the post WWII period it became the Campbell Town Discount Store and O'Brien's Carpets.

Around 1964, the Brickhill Memorial Church, by then the Uniting Church, ceased to function and was sold to the O'Briens. In the old church O'Brien developed a private museum containing some of the memorabilia relating to the business and the town. A vast amount was also stored upstairs in the Brickhill Building. However, on the night of 4 August 1982, disaster struck and the Brickhill Building along with its irreplace-able historic contents was destroyed by fire (Figure 10). So ends

the story of a Tasmanian pioneer rural merchant.

But, like a token, there are two sides to the Brickhill story. Let's investigate the reverse.

With the help of the staff of the Campbell Town Library, The Launceston Library and the Hobart Library, all part of the Tasmanian State Library, the Tasmanian Archives, The Mitchell Library, Sydney and the internet, another image of Joseph Brickhill started to emerge. Its genesis came from one aspect that did not fit the picture of a well respected and wealthy rural merchant's death. I could not find any obituary—I would have expected at least a few lines in the regional paper, not just a death notice.

If I had found an obituary that lauded the good works of this well-to-do man then Joseph Brickhill might never have been revisited. It was not long before
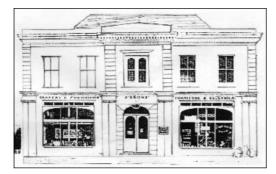
Figure 8. Front view of Brickhill's second store, now owned by the O'Brien brothers.

Figure 9. High Street, Campbell Town, early 1920s, around the time the O'Briens took over the Brickhill building seen left. The Brickhill Memorial Church is partly visible on the right. [Tasmanian Communities

my searching began to bear fruit. The results came as quite a shock. 'Yes, there is information about a Joseph Brickhill. There is also a record of a J. Brickhill, a convict.' In fact on the internet I located three Brickhills in the Tasmanian convict records. There was a Janet Brickhill who arrived in Hobart on the convict ship *Providence 2* on 16 May 1826. Then there was a Thos Brickhill who arrived on the convict ship *Sir Godfrey Webster* in 1823. Finally there was the third, Joseph Brickhill.

Joseph Brickhill, aged 19, a shopman by occupation, was sentenced, at the Old Bailey on 11 September 1819 to transportation for seven years. He left England on 11 September 1819 on HM Storeship *Dromedary* which arrived in Hobart on 10 January 1820. Brickhill's convict number was 7833. The records which accompanied him give us a basic physical description of the man. His height was 5 feet 10¼ inches (considered tall at the time), he had grey eyes, light brown hair, and bore no distinguishing marks. There are 33 names along with Brickhill's on the page recording his details; only one other was of the same
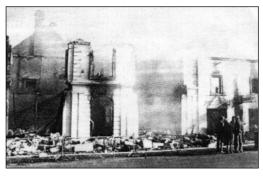

Figure 10. The smoking remains of the O'Briens' store after the fire on 4 August 1982, which completely destroyed this 'Brickhill Building' and its irreplaceable historic contents.

[*The Examiner*, Launceston]

height, none was taller.

The chance of there being another Joseph Brickhill was remote, but they had to be checked. The *Tasmanian Pioneer Records 1803–1899* record 9 Brickhill deaths—3 related to Joseph, 8 marriages—2 related to Joseph and 49 births—none related to Joseph (See Appendix). There was no reference to Joseph Brickhill the convict.

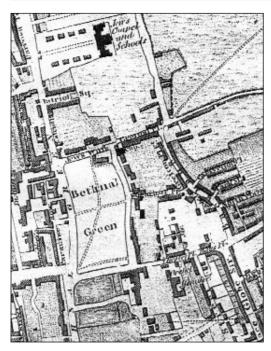Any hint of a convict past would have been strenuously covered up as skeletons

Figure 11. An 1830 plan view of Bethnal Green and surrounds, the scene of the crime in June 1819.

'in the cupboard'. Perhaps an individual's later prosperity and success in business and society or their religious beneficence were not sufficient to obliterate the stigma of a convict past. Could this have happened to Joseph Brickhill? It would certainly explain why Brickhill the merchant seemed to have no past.

Brickhill's boyhood is still unknown but he was almost certainly a Londoner, probably born and bred in the East End in the Parish of Bethnal Green or its environs. At the age of nineteen, along with two mates, Joseph Brickhill was arraigned on 7 July 1819 at the Old Bailey and charged with stealing a watch, a key and some ribbon, valued at 5s 2d. (Figure 11). A transcript of the hearing, Case 995, is as follows (Figure 12):

995. ROBERT WEBB, JOSEPH BRICKHILL, and DANIEL BARRATT were indicted for stealing, on the 9th of June, one watch, value 5s.; one key, value 1d., and one ribbon, value 1d., the property of William Griffin.

WILLIAM GRIFFIN. I keep a chandler's-shop, in Bethnal-green-road. On the 9th of June, about half-past ten o'clock in the morning, the three prisoners came into my shop together; my wife and I were in the passage by the side of the shop—hearing footsteps we went into the parlour, and saw Webb take the watch off the nail; he went into the shop, and handed it to Brickhill, and all three ran out. I pursued, and saw them walking towards Bethnal-green—we lost sight of them there, and found them in Camden-gardens. My wife seized Brickhill and Webb. I saw Brickhill hand something to Barratt, I followed and stopped Barratt. I said, "You have got my watch!" he said, "No, I have not—the man who stole it has gone across Hare-fields." I said he had it—he then gave it to me. I let him go, and returned to help my wife, who kept the other two. About ten days afterwards, I saw Barratt in custody, and am certain he is the man.

CHARLOTTE ALICIA GRIFFIN. I am the prosecutor's wife. I went into the parlour with my husband, and saw Webb in the act of taking the watch—all three ran out; I followed, and collared Webb and Brickhill. I saw Brickhill give something to Barratt—I will not swear Barratt is the man....BRICKHILL'S Defence. They have both perjured themselves. WEBB—GUILTY. Aged
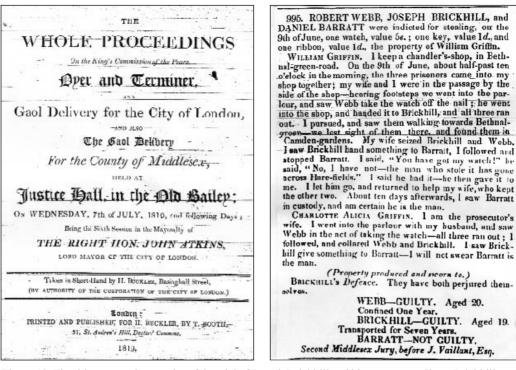
Figure 12. The title page and transcript of the trial of Joseph Brickhill and his two accomplices. Brickhill must have already had a criminal record and been a repeat offender to have been given such a harsh sentence.

20. Confined One Year. BRICKHILL— GUILTY. Aged 19. Transported for Seven Years. BARRATT—NOT GUILTY.

A few comments on the crime and the convictions are perhaps worth making. According to the evidence all three seem equally guilty. Webb took the watch off the nail, not Brickhill. Webb handed it to Brickhill who in turn handed it to Barratt. Unfortunately we know nothing of any previous criminality. Repeated petty crime was the reason many felons were transported. Brickhill's somewhat cheeky defence would not have done him any good, but he may well have been lied about by the other two, thus having most of the responsibility for the crime put

on him. Griffin's wife must have been a hefty woman and somewhat brave, if not reckless as she seized Brickhill, a tall and young man, and also Webb.

Brickhill's time spent on a convict prison hulk would have been brief as only eight weeks after sentencing he sailed for New South Wales. He left England on HM Storeship *Dromedary*, a ship of 1,100 tons and 40 guns. Her Master was Captain Richard Skinner RN and her Surgeon, George Fairfowl. She carried two paying passengers and a detachment of the 84th regiment. She was a naval ship and only made one convict voyage. The *Dromedary* began as the East Indiaman *Kaikusoo*, was converted to a naval frigate HMS *Howe*

and in 1805 was refitted as a store ship and renamed *Dromedary*. In 1809 she was selected to carry Colonel Macquarie, Governor Designate of NSW, his wife and members of the 73rd regiment to the new colony. Macquarie complained that the food and space for the women and children was unsatisfactory. As a consequence some of the passengers were transferred to another ship. He also had the bunks for the troops removed and replaced by hammocks.

After a voyage of 121 days Joseph Brickhill and three hundred and sixty-eight fellow convicts were landed at Hobart on 10 January 1820. Twenty-two were taken on to Sydney. The ship's records note that during the voyage several convicts were 'flagellated' (flogged), but Brickhill was not one of them.

Assignment

After landing, the convicts would have been checked against the documentation accompanying them on the *Dromedary*. They would have been moved either into government service or assigned to a free settler or 'emancipist'. Unfortunately a very significant part of the convict records no longer exists. Some have been lost or destroyed by neglect but a Senior Archivist states that much of this was deliberate. It is only in recent times that convict ancestry is worn as a badge of distinction. In view of his recorded occupation and subsequent success in trade, Brickhill probably would have been either in a government store or assigned to a merchant. I have found one reference for 1821 [PRO 77:HO.10/43] stating that he 'was working in Port

Dalrymple', but the type of work is not specified.

Conduct Record:

Part of Brickhill's Conduct Record [CON 31/1] has survived. It is handwritten and sections are indecipherable. He is number 248 on this list:-

BRICKHILL Josh. Dromedary 1820. Middsx, July 7. 1819.
   Dec. 19. 1825. Abscond'. from his Master 20th Nov. From…about till he surrendered to Mr B…yd, Chief…Maria Island (…) May 5 1826. suffer...to wear his jacket 25 lashes (R…RK) Sept 4 1822 [sic]: neglect of Duty hurtfully damaging Charcoal belong' to the Govt' 25 lashes (G…here, Esq.) May 5.1831. Drunk and Disord.—fined 5/-, I.S. & B…Same date, Breach of the Peace towards Thos. Davis, bound over to keep the peace for 12 Mos. (G. Simpson & B. Ho…).

The bracketed names and initials are of those authorising the punishment. Where possible these were magistrates or 'persons of good standing'. The record for 1822 may simply be out of place, copied from an earlier document. The May 5, 1831 events occurred <u>after</u> Brickhill had received his Certificate of Freedom. [In SLTX/AO/LP/ 59; Con 23/1; surnames A-F, 1804-1830, Box 55: this is recorded along with his ship, sentence, personal details etc. as F.C. (Freedom Certificate) 235. 7 July 1826]. In the *Tasmanian Government Gazette*, 15 July 1826, page 1, we find: 'in the past week Joseph Brickhill per *Dromedary*, received his Certificate of Expiration of

Term of Sentence.'

Brickhill was obviously an unruly and troublesome young man while a convict yet, in spite of his problematic behaviour, he still received his freedom on the exact date stipulated at his hearing in the Old Bailey in 1819. The authorities obviously did not consider him a serious threat to society and I cannot find any record of him being given a Ticket of Leave or any other privilege.

Only one geographic name crops up in Brickhill's Conduct Record, namely Maria Island, a small island off the east coast, now a National Park. In December 1825, 200 convicts along with 20 guards were sent to the island to establish the penal settlement of Darlington. It was designed to be a half-way house but not in the same category as the dreaded Sarah Island in Macquarie Harbour on the west coast. Land was cleared, buildings were erected and Darlington became a productive community. Tailoring, pottery, shoe making, blacksmithing, and weaving were organised here and the end products sent to Hobart. It had one disadvantage, escape to the mainland was too easy and even the convicts regarded life here as an easy one. In 1832 Darlington was closed down and the inmates moved to Port Arthur. It was reopened in 1842 and closed again in 1852.

At one point it held 730 convicts. The Commissariat and other convict relics remain there to this day.

The December 19, 1825 entry in Brickhill's Conduct Record refers to him as 'absconding from his master', but the island is not mentioned. Two years after the 1831 'Drunk and Disord…Breach of the Peace' episode, we find him working for the Reverend W Bedford junior in Campbell Town. This is where our story began.

To summarise the life of Joseph Brickhill: he began as an (apprentice) shopman in England and was caught stealing and convicted as a petty thief. He was transported as a convict to the penal colony of Van Diemens Land and eventually given his freedom. He then became a successful rural merchant, issued his own copper penny token, ran a bank agency, was not only a devout Methodist but a church benefactor. He married twice and died a wealthy and respected man.

Acknowledgements

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Notes

1. Fifty years after the publication of the Report and more than forty years since my own token 'period'.
2. Andrews, token 45.
   McNeice, token 3, 3a.
3. Andrews, p.1170; McNeice, S8, p.92.
4. Andrews, p.19.
5. *Hobart Town Gazette*, 1829; 1833-36.
6. McNeice, p.71.
7. *Hobart Town Gazette*, Saturday 18 April 1829, p. 83.
8. The two land grants are: LSD 1/76/p, and LSD 1/7 238.
9. 1852, CY 878: frame 433; 1855, CY Reel 2142: frame 13; 1858, CY 2142: frame 162.
10. *Campbell Town Tasmania: A history*, confirms 1859 as the year Brickhill erected his new store.
11. *The Mercury*, 19 June 1860. The cost of the building is nearly half that recorded in the above reference.
12. Meredith, p.41.
13. Mitchell Library, 982/M.
14. 1865: Will no. 1101 AD 960/6 page 245.
15. Recorded by Lorraine Green of Longford, student of convict history.
16. The *Tasmanian Pioneer Index 1803–1899*, covering the years 1847–1887.

Bill Mira is well known in numismatic circles in Australia and overseas. He is a retired Sydney medical practitioner who, since the early 1960s, has merged his love for numismatics with history, particularly of Australia. His publications include James Cook: His Coins and Medals, Coinage and Currency in New South Wales 1788–1829, The New South Wales

Appendix

Brickhills in the Pioneer Index[16]

Births:

49, none, related to Joseph.

Marriages:

James	to	Rebecca Emms	1865
John	to	Susanna Vivian	1866
*Joseph	to	Grace Coombe	1847
*Joseph	to	Mary Ann Brown	1856
William	to	Ellen Eliz Ewin	1868
Rebecca	to	William Thomas Barnett Smith	1878

Deaths:

*Grace	1856	Aged 32	Campbell Town
*Joseph	1865	65	Campbell Town
*Mary Ann	1866	68	Campbell Town
Percy Vivian	1886	16	Launceston
John William	1886	4	Launceston
John	1874	32	2369
Florence Jessie	1871	?	1416
Elizabeth Jane	1848	4	Launceston 1054
Albert Scott	1887	15	Launceston 206

Dumps, The Holey Dollars of New South Wales, From Cowrie to Kina, *and jointly with WJ Noble,* The Holey Dollars of New South Wales. *Bill has published many articles on numismatics, including two in previous issues of this journal.*

In 1977 he was awarded the Paul Simon Award. His Australian Numismatic Society (ANS) awards include the Mark Freehill Award and the Society's silver and gold medals. He was awarded the Tasmanian Numismatic Society's A.J.Lockwood Memorial Medal and the Auckland Numismatic Society Medal, both for numismatic publications.

Bill is a Fellow, Past President and Councillor of the ANS and a Patron of the Perth Numismatic Society.