

## 10. VAN DIEMEN'S LAND

The *Eliza* was reported as arriving in Hobart by the Hobart Town Advertiser on 29 May 1831 a trip covering some 112 days. **Samuel** accompanied by the 8 labourers from the Heytesbury area he was sentenced with on 7th January was about to start his new life.

On arrival the prisoners were kept on board until their details were taken and they and the ship had been cleared by the port health officer. At Hobart this might take two or three days but at Port Jackson it could take a week or more. Only then were they taken ashore and assigned for service with the colonial government or private employers.

Police number.	Name.	Height.	Age.	Trade or calling.	Where tried.	When tried.	Sentence.	Native Place.
1211	James House	5/3/4	24	Ploughman reaper & Groom	Wells	27 Dec 30	7	Hedgeburg near Warrimoo
1212	Sam <sup>r</sup> Harford	5/1	22	Ploughman reaper of milk	Wells	1	7	Leakey
1213	Joseph Hunt	5/2/4	21	Ploughman reaper	Wells	1	7	Leakey

### Eliza Ship Record Page 1

Married or Single.	Children.	Religion.	Read or Write.	Offence, &c.	Ship Character.	Remarks.
M	2	P	Both	Machine Breaking		Aggrieved one month in prison Breaking 3 months in prison
M	1	P	R/N	Machine Breaking		Another offence
M	1	P	N	Machine Breaking		Another offence

### Eliza Ship Record Page 2

The details taken of the prisoners on the *Eliza* have been helpful in us discovering a little about Samuel. For some time we believed Samuel was illiterate because he did not sign his name on his marriage record. However, the record from the *Eliza* indicates that he might have been able to read but not write. There is a column headed "Read/Write" and there are three different entries made in this column:

- Both indicating the convict could read or write
- R/N indicating the convict could read but not write
- N indicating the convict could neither read nor write

In Samuel's case the R/N entry was made. This interpretation has also been made by others.<sup>1</sup>

### DESCRIPTION OF SAMUEL HARFORD

The record below is the official description of Samuel. Interpreting this record Samuel was described as being 5 feet 0 inches without shoes, of brown complexion, a head of medium size with brown hair, no whiskers, visage medium, perpendicular forehead, brown eyebrows, blue eyes, small nose, medium width mouth, small chin and a short neck.

*12 dots on back of paper for name*

NAME,	<i>Harford Saml</i>	No.	
Trade	<i>Ploughman</i>		
Height	<i>5f</i>		<i>Libury</i>
Age	<i>22</i>		
Complexion	<i>Brown</i>		<i>Milk</i>
Head	<i>M. S.</i>		
Hair	<i>brown</i>		
Whiskers	<i>none</i>		
Visage	<i>M. S.</i>		
Forehead	<i>perpen</i>		
Eyebrows	<i>Bro</i>		
Eyes	<i>Blue</i>		
Nose	<i>small</i>		
Mouth	<i>M. W.</i>		
Chin	<i>small</i>		
Remarks	<i>short neck</i>		

### ASSIGNMENT<sup>2</sup>

The assignment system that operated at the time had the advantage of providing the prisoner with immediate productive employment, though he might be exposed to the whims of an unsympathetic master, who was empowered to send him before a magistrate at the slightest hint of misconduct or insubordination. Punishments were frequent and often savage. Even for comparatively slight offences men might be sentenced to 25 or 50 lashes, while more serious offenders were put to work on chain-gangs on roads.

Of the 224 men who arrived on the *Eliza*, thirty had been retained for service as craftsmen with various government departments, twenty five had been sent to Launceston to work at the various depots of the Van Diemen's Land Company, three had gone to Norfolk Plains for work with the Van Diemen's Land Establishment and the rest were being assigned to farmers, landowners, and other private employers. At least two of **Samuel's** Heytesbury colleagues were among the twenty five who were assigned to the Van Diemen's Land Company. **Samuel** record shows he was a Ploughman and that he could plough, reap and milk. Initially Samuel was assigned to Mr. Thomas Bonney a farmer at Tea Tree Brush about 25

<sup>1</sup> Wiltshire Machine Breakers Volume II: The Rioters by Jill Chambers.

<sup>2</sup> Captain Swing EJ Hobsbawn & George Rude Chapter 14

kilometres north of Hobart between Brighton and Richmond. In letters to the newspaper<sup>3</sup>r Bonney referred to the name of the place as Brandon Hall. Later there were two advertisements to let the property the first in 1836, and the other in 1845 which gave descriptions of the property..

**To Sheep and Cattle Owners.**

**TO BE LET,**  
*With immediate possession.*

**F**OR such a term as may be agreed upon—  
all the grazing land belonging to the  
Brandon Cottage Estate, about 1200 acres, com-  
manding an extensive back run and adjoining  
the Carrington Estate. The above is well  
worthy the attention of any person—having had  
no stock upon it these last 8 months. For fur-  
ther particulars apply to T. & C. BONNEY,  
Brandon Cottage, (if by letter post paid).  
June 17.

Above To Let Advertisement The Hobart Town Courier 15 July 1836

Below To Let Advertisement The Colonial Times 9 September 1845

**Eligible Farm to Let.**

**T**O LET, an eligible FARM, situated mid-  
way between Brighton and Richmond,  
containing about 800 acres, fenced and sub-  
divided into Paddocks, 250 of which are in  
cultivation. There is a comfortable Home-  
stead, Barn, Granary, Stable, and all other  
requisite Out-houses, with a splendid Orchard,  
the apples alone in which realized last year  
above £40. Immediate possession can be given;  
and about 200 acres of Stubble Land, and the  
Grass Run, will be given to the 1st of January  
next (gratis), the rent to commence from that  
date. A respectable tenant will be dealt with  
in every particular, most liberally.—Apply to  
the proprietor,  
C. BONNEY, Brandon, Tea Tree;  
Or, at the Transport Office.  
August 20, 1845. 1100

**To Boot & Shoemakers & Others**

<sup>3</sup> Hobart Town Courier 8 November 1828

Samuel stayed with Thomas Bonney for the minimum period of one year after which he was assigned to Mr. Thomson. He was again assigned to Mr. Thomson in 1833.

1211	Houde James	24	cto	P. Harrison / Tencho
1212	Hayford Samuel	22	de	Ths Bonney / Tea Tree
1213	Hunt Joseph	21	cto	V L L Co

**Assignment to Mr Bonney 1831<sup>4</sup>**

1211	Houde James	"		Ass <sup>d</sup> to Mr P Harrison
1212	Hayford Samuel	"		Ass <sup>d</sup> to Mr Thomson
1213	Hunt Joseph	"		Ass <sup>d</sup> to the V L L Company

**Assignment to Mr. Thomson end of 1832<sup>5</sup>**

1211	Houde James	"		Ass <sup>d</sup> to Mr P Harrison
1212	Hayford Samuel	"		Ass <sup>d</sup> to Mr Thomson
1213	Hunt Joseph	"		Ass <sup>d</sup> to the V L L Comp <sup>y</sup>

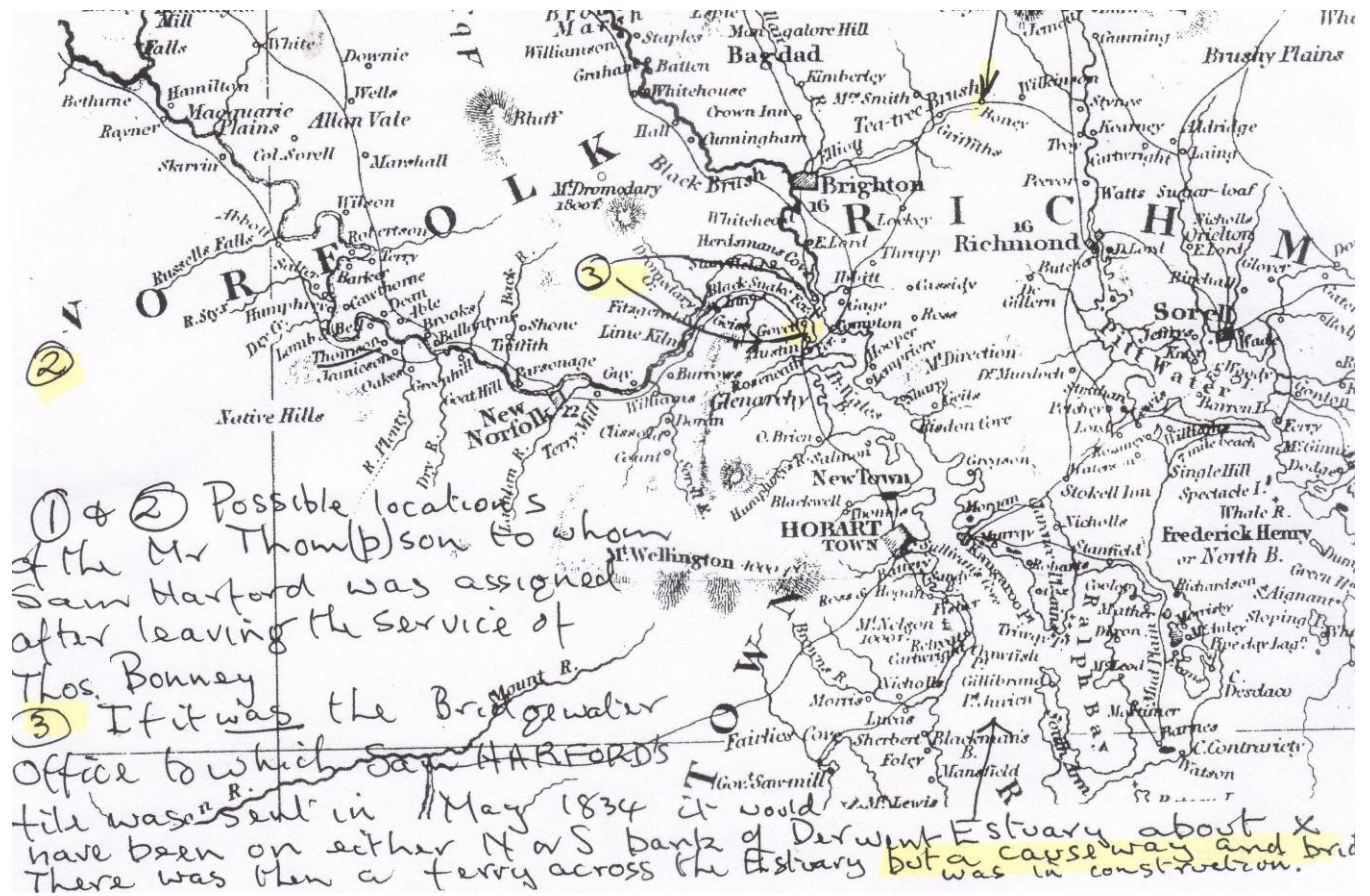
**Assignment to Mr. Thomson end 1833<sup>6</sup>**

The map below indicates possible locations of the farms Samuel worked with notes supplied by the researcher who assisted. The arrow at the top right points to Thomas Bonney's (Boney) farm at Tea Tree Brush.

<sup>4</sup> Ref: AOT CON 22/5

<sup>5</sup> Ref: HO 10/48

<sup>6</sup> Ref: HO 10/49



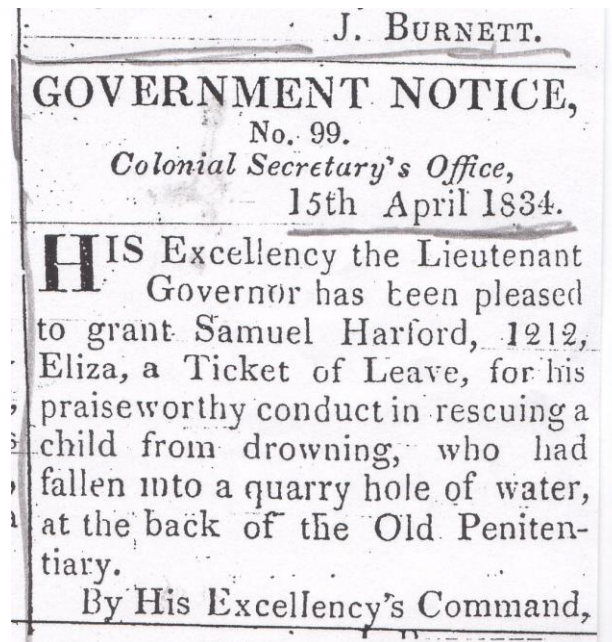
## CONDUCT

**Samuel's** Conduct Record for his time in Van Diemen's Land shows two offences. The first was on 5 August 1833 when he was in the service of Mr. Thom(p)son. His offence was "General neglect of duty and using improper language with respect to his Master." He appeared before the Assistant Police Magistrate who "admonished" him. The record also has the comment that "the offence appeared very trivial."

The second offence was on 12 January 1835 (by which date Samuel had received his Ticket of Leave) when he was "found in a Public Ho(use) yesterday Sunday". He again appeared before the Assistant Police Magistrate, who reprimanded him. In neither of these cases would he have been hurt very much.

## TICKET OF LEAVE

On 18<sup>th</sup> April 1834 The Hobart Town Gazette published the notice indicating that Samuel had been granted a Ticket of Leave "for his praiseworthy conduct in rescuing a child from drowning, who had fallen into a quarry hole behind the Old Penitentiary." This virtually gave Samuel his freedom after a little less than three years in Van Diemen's Land. With his Ticket of Leave he was now able to own property and work for wages anywhere in the Colony provided he obtained the appropriate permission



**Hobart Town Gazette 18 April 1834 p276**

## PARDONS

In England there had been a campaign to secure amnesty for the Swing rioters even as they were still in the Hulks. Henry Hunt moved a motion in the House of Commons for “a general pardon and amnesty to those unfortunate agricultural and other labourers who had been tried and convicted at the late special commissions.” However, he received little support with only one other member coming out in favour of the motion. The major speaker against the motion was none other than John Benett who of course was a victim at the “Battle of Pythouse.”

In the next three years opinion changed and in June 1834 Governor Arthur was directed to release John Boyes, a Hampshire farmer. He was the first of the Swing rioters to receive a free pardon. The next step was taken a year later in August 1835 when Lord John Russell, who had succeeded Lord Melbourne at the Home Office, announced that 264 machine breakers were to be pardoned. They included 236 men who had been sent to Van Diemen's Land aboard the *Eliza* and the *Proteus* (four of whom were already dead) that is all those who were sent to the island for seven years except ten who were serving current sentences. A second batch of pardons was issued in October 1836 and taking effect in New South Wales from 1 January 1837.

The Hobart Town Gazette of 5 February 1836 published the names of the *Eliza* and *Proteus* men who were to receive pardons. The Notice also contained the following:

*“The individual's in whose favour the pardons have been granted, will therefore apply at the Master's Office Hobart Town or to that of a Police magistrate in the interior, in order that the instruments of Pardon may be forthwith issued, as each person until possessed of such document, is liable to be treated as a prisoner of the Crown.”*

Van Diemen's Land was still a Penal Colony and to leave one had to prove that they had arrived free or had obtained a Pardon. Without applying for a Pardon the convict was unable to leave the colony or return home to England. There were many convicts who did not bother to collect their pardons because in essence all they served to show was that he had been a convict.

There was a further list published on 6 May 1836. This included the names of **Samuel** and five of his Wiltshire colleagues. William Bartlett, Joseph Beminster and William Munday had collected their pardons and presumably returned to England

There was further list published on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1837 which showed many *Eliza* men's names and who had been also on the 1836 list. **Samuel's** name was not on the list indicating that he had applied for and received his pardon. Of his eight colleagues who went with him to the *York* three had not bothered to apply. They were, James House, Henry Potticary and William Smith.

However, even if they had applied and received their pardon it did not mean that they had returned to England. To return home was a costly business and free passages were not provided. While **Samuel** would have received wages from April 1834, when he gained his Ticket of Leave until he left the colony some time between May 1836 and August 1837, he would have saved a small amount of money.

We have been unable to locate any records of his name on an outgoing passenger list from Hobart or Launceston to Australian or other ports. In this case there is a possibility that he would have worked his passage back to England, possibly calling at Victoria and/or South Australia on the way. This could well have stimulated him to later on migrate with his family.

172 THE HOBART TOWN GAZETTE,

1 John Clark, Tea Tree  
 1 C. Chick, Sorell  
 2 F. G. Tabart, Eastern Marshes,—From  
 P. W. Outlands.

TRANSFERS.

F. Roper, Brighton, 923, J. Revell  
 Atlas, from R. Layner, Green Point.  
 P. G. Emmett, Hobart, John Jones,  
 Southworth, from P. Smith, Ross.  
 John Moses, Elizabeth-street, John  
 Morris, Bardaster, from G. D. Wood,  
 Hobart.  
 E. C. Shaw, Waterloo Point, Richard  
 Walton, Persian, from W. M. Orr, Wharf.  
 C. Bonney, Tea Tree, George Webb,  
 Bardaster, from F. Count, New Norfolk.  
 H. G. Wallis, New Norfolk, 1528, C.  
 Sherry, K. S. Forbes, from Jos. Lester,  
 Hobart.  
 W. T. Macmichael, Liverpool-street,  
 702, Charles Dotisworth, Gilmore, from  
 Lieut. Barrow, New Norfolk.  
 C. Flegg, Liverpool-street, 1879, R.  
 Collings, Mangles, from S. Barrows, Li-  
 verpool-street.  
 Rosanna Smith, Goulburn-street, 1224.  
 James Bird, Thames, from W. Maycock,  
 Hobart.  
 W. Fletcher, New Town, G. N. Sil-  
 wood, Layton 2nd, from P. G. Emmett,  
 Hobart.  
 If the above men be not removed within  
 a reasonable time, they will be re-assigned  
 Composing the Board of  
 Assignment. { JOHN GREGORY,  
 M. FORSTER,  
 JOSIAH SPODE.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE,  
 No. 33.

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
 3rd Feb 1836.

THE Lieutenant Governor has  
 been pleased to direct that  
 the names of the following indi-  
 viduals who have received abso-  
 lute remissions of their sentences  
 and of which His Majesty's al-  
 lowance has been signified, shall  
 be published for general informa-  
 tion.

The individuals in whose favor  
 the pardons have been granted,  
 will therefore apply at the Mus-  
 ter Master's Office, Hobart Town  
 or to that of a Police Magistrate  
 in the interior, in order that the

instruments of Pardon may be  
*forthwith issued*, as each person  
 until possessed of such document,  
 is liable to be treated as a prisoner  
 of the Crown.

ELIZA.

424 Andrews, Henry  
 426 Allen, John  
 427 Arney, William  
 428 Alexander, Matthias  
 429 Alexander, Joseph  
 430 Abery, Thomas  
 431 Arner, Shadmeh  
 1485 Baker, Henry  
 1490 Brown, William  
 1491 Bushel, Stephen  
 1488 Barrow, George  
 1489 Beale, John  
 1491 Beckingham, Richard  
 1502 Banstone, Samuel alias Macey  
 1503 Barrett, John  
 1504 Birt, Thomas  
 1505 Bartlett, William  
 1506 Beamister, Joseph  
 1507 Baker, David  
 1508 Bennett, Charles  
 1509 Beckley, Charles  
 1510 Blake, Robert  
 1511 Budden, James  
 1512 Ball, George  
 1487 Ball, Robert  
 1514 Baker, William  
 1515 Broadway, Henry  
 1516 Bartlett, David  
 1517 Birt, Thomas  
 1213 Collender, Robert  
 1214 Curtis, William  
 1215 Cole, William  
 1220 Champ, David  
 1221 Cooper, James  
 1222 Collins, John  
 1223 Collins, George  
 1219 Camel, Edward  
 1226 Cook, William  
 1227 Case, James  
 1217 Cole, Richard  
 1218 Cowley, Robert  
 670 Dank, James  
 673 Dicketts, James  
 674 Durham, Henry  
 302 Eton, jun., William  
 303 Fyres, John  
 306 Eldridge, Henry  
 301 Edgeworth, James  
 450 Fielder, Arthur  
 450 Ford, James  
 453 Fisher, Joseph  
 462 Foot, Thomas

740 Grant, John  
 742 Gange, Thomas  
 743 Groves, Richard  
 1203 Hulkes, Henry  
 1220 Hart, John  
 1201 Hayhoe, Samuel  
 1205 Hepburn, alias Thomas  
 Winterbottom }  
 1204 Holland, George  
 1207 Hill, William  
 1208 Hughes, Thomas  
 1210 Hopgood, John  
 1211 Hulse, James  
 1212 Harford, Samuel  
 1213 Hunt, Joseph  
 1214 Herrington, Henry  
 1215 Hyter, William  
 12.6 Hutchinson, Barnabas  
 1218 Hillman, William  
 1219 Heath, David  
 1227 Hibberd, William  
 1220 Hole, James  
 1221 Hillier, Arthur  
 1223 Hayward, John  
 1225 Holt, William  
 1202 Hunt, John  
 518 Jenman, William  
 516 Jacobs, John  
 515 Jeffries, William  
 308 Kimmer, James  
 307 Kibblewhite, William  
 309 Kettle, Elias  
 592 Light, Thomas  
 593 Liddiard, Joseph  
 594 Looker, Edward  
 595 Lane, Charles  
 801 Moore, George  
 802 Morey, jun., Samuel  
 803 Mould, James (1)  
 884 Mould, James (2)  
 805 Munday, William  
 806 Morgan, Abraham  
 807 Marsh, William  
 808 Moon, John  
 809 Matthews, Richard  
 853 Mana, Worthy  
 870 Millard, Levi  
 800 Mitchell, John  
 229 North, Samuel  
 230 North, Daniel  
 231 North, William  
 116 Oliphant, Richard  
 117 Overry, Thomas  
 118 Olden, John  
 719 Padney, John  
 713 Painter, James  
 714 Palmer, George  
 715 Paice, George  
 718 Pitman, Richard  
 719 Potticary, Henry

Hobart Town Gazette 5 February 1836