

UNWILLINGLY TO AUSTRALIA

by David Willavoys

On the night of 31 May 1821, two young men, Thomas Macklow and Isaac Bennett, set out with the intention of breaking into houses in Church

first son of William and Susannah Macklow. His father was in fact a Methodist Local Preacher and, in July 1803, Thomas was baptised at the newly

11 *Thomas Macklow*, aged 20, committed June 21, 1821, by William Prosser, Clerk, one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the borough of Tewkesbury, charged on the oath of Thomas Ricketts, keeper of the common Gaol of the Borough of Tewkesbury, with having, on the 5th day of June instant, (he the said Thomas Macklow then and there being a prisoner in the custody of him the said Thomas Ricketts, in the common Gaol of the said Borough, on a charge of burglary,) broken out of and made his escape from the said common Gaol of the Borough aforesaid.

15 *Isaac Bennett*, aged 20, committed July 2, 1821, by William Prosser, Clerk, one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the borough of Tewkesbury, charged on the oath of Thomas Ricketts, keeper of the gaol for the said borough, with having, on the 5th day of June last, feloniously broken out of and made his escape from the said gaol of the said borough, he the said Isaac Bennett then and there being a prisoner in the custody of him the said Thomas Ricketts, in the said gaol of the borough aforesaid, under and by virtue of a warrant of commitment, bearing date the 1st day of June last, under the hand and seal of Benjamin Holland, Esq. one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the said borough, and charged on the oaths of Robert Groves, Thomas Stephens the younger, Benjamin Nairn, Thomas Stephens the elder, Isaac Fincher, Thomas Bishop, and James Wood, with feloniously and burglariously breaking open the dwelling-house of the said Robert Groves, situate in the said borough, in the night of the 31st day of May last, with intent to commit some felony within the same.

Extract from the Gloucester Gaol Calendar for 1821 August Quarter Sessions, recording the offences for which Macklow and Bennett were detained (Gloucestershire Record Office Q/SG2)

Street, Tewkesbury. Their first target was the house occupied by the tanner, John Hartland. They managed to wrest the iron bars from the cellar window but, before they could gain entrance, they must have been disturbed and abandoned their efforts. They then took the iron bars with them and used them to force entrance to the cellar of the house in Church Street, occupied by the drapery business of Robert Groves and his partner, Thomas Humpidge. Unfortunately for them they had been seen entering the cellar by a boy who, with great presence of mind, replaced the cellar cover and sent for help. Macklow and Bennett were arrested and were taken to the cells at the new Tewkesbury Gaol in Bredon Road. They appeared before the Magistrates on the next morning and were ordered to be held in custody to await trial at the next Assizes.¹

So who were these two housebreakers? Neither of them was a stranger to the inside of prisons, since both had what would now be called 'form' Thomas Macklow had been born in Upton Bishop, near Ross in Herefordshire, on 30 May 1801, the

built Providence Wesleyan Chapel in nearby Weston-under-Penyard.² The family moved to Tewkesbury in about 1811 and set up home in Red Lane. In 1813 the British School had been opened in Barton Road, which was intended to educate the children of non-conformist parents: Thomas was the tenth pupil to be enrolled, having been recommended by the School's Committee. He started his education on 15 March but left after only two months. He was re-enrolled in September 1815 and left in October 1816. This time only his mother was listed in the school register as parent, so one must assume that his father had died.³ In April 1817 he had his first encounter with the law after he was charged with breaking into his old school and stealing the moneybox. He did not stand trial for this offence, since he broke out of gaol and appears to have absconded, but in 1821 he was arrested and sentenced to one month in prison for breaking out of gaol.⁴

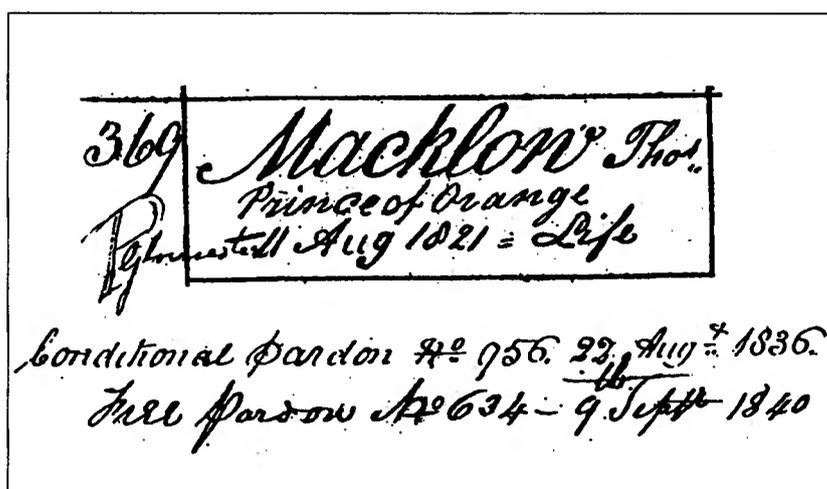
His partner, Isaac Bennett, was born at Forthampton, the son of Thomas and Ann

Bennett.⁵ Nothing is known of his early life, but in 1819 he was convicted, at the Lent Assizes in Gloucester, of breaking into a butcher's shop in Cheltenham and stealing eight pound notes. He was sentenced to two years in the Penitentiary.⁶ Both Bennett and Macklow were released from prison in early 1821 and it is likely that their ill-fated friendship began while they were serving their sentences together.

The Tewkesbury Gaol was crowded and in consequence they had to share a cell with Joseph Stephens. The Keeper of the Gaol, Thomas Ricketts, remembering that Macklow had broken out of custody in 1817, took the precaution of placing him and his cellmates in irons. At 9 o'clock on 4 June 1821, Ricketts did his usual evening inspection and found all three in their beds. What Ricketts did not know was that the three prisoners had somehow managed to secrete a file in their cell and had spent most of that day in cutting through their chains. After Ricketts' visit, the three completed the breaking of their fetters and broke out of their cell into the inner yard of the prison and, using their bedclothes as a rope, climbed over the outer wall to freedom.⁷

Stephens was captured the following day and was returned to the Gaol, but Macklow and Bennett made good their escape as far as Abergavenny by 6 June, where they took lodgings. However, they were arrested on 9 June on suspicion of having robbed their lodgings. The authorities could not prove this charge, but from "*their prevarication and suspicious behaviour,*" they were committed to the Gaol at Usk as "*idle and disorderly persons.*" Once again, they found themselves incarcerated with a third prisoner, to whom they boasted of having stolen goods to the value of £150 from a silk mercer's premises in Abergavenny, which they had hidden in an orchard. In return for their companion's help in escaping from Usk Gaol, they promised him a share in their booty. Using the same method that they had used at Tewkesbury, the three escaped. Macklow and Bennett soon left their companion behind and he was caught and quickly told the authorities of their intentions to collect the stolen goods. Men were sent to Abergavenny to await the arrival of the felons, and at two o'clock in the morning Macklow and Bennett arrived. After a determined resistance, Macklow was captured but Bennett

escaped. Macklow was sent to the Abergavenny lock-up where he was chained to the wall. By the following morning he was free from his bonds and would doubtless have attempted yet another escape, but he had left it too late. All the stolen goods were recovered and Macklow was returned to Tewkesbury, where the Magistrates ordered that he be sent to the Gaol at Gloucester, it being deemed to have greater security than the Gaol at Tewkesbury.⁸ Bennett meanwhile evaded recapture until the end of June, when he was caught at Coventry and sent back to Tewkesbury.⁹ Both Macklow and Bennett faced their trial, before Sir William Garrow, for housebreaking and escape from prison at the Summer Assizes at Gloucester on 11 August 1821, when they were found guilty and sentenced to death. However,



The heading of Macklow's Convict Record
(Tasmanian Archives CON 31/29)

this was commuted to transportation for life.¹⁰ The prosecutor was Robert Groves, the owner of the property which had been burgled in Tewkesbury. Groves was granted a 'Tyburn Ticket' for his part in bringing Macklow and Bennett to justice. This ticket was used by Groves to obtain exemption from the parish duty of being a *Director of the Poor* for Tewkesbury in 1822.¹¹ Men sentenced to transportation at Gloucester were usually sent to Woolwich and confined on board the hulk '*Justitia*' in crowded conditions. Whilst awaiting their turn to be sent to Australia, they were put to "*hard labour in cleansing the River Thames, or any other service for the benefit of the navigation of the said river.*"¹² Living conditions on the hulks were not as arduous as might have been expected, according to the report of the Select Committee on Secondary Punishments.¹³ At night the convicts were allowed to have lights between decks and were permitted to use musical instruments so that dancing and

gaming took place. However, the time eventually came when a transport ship was available to take them away from England. In the case of Macklow and Bennett, their turn arrived on 1 April 1822 when they sailed on the *'Prince of Orange'*,¹⁴ a ship of 359 tons, which had been built in 1813 at Sunderland.¹⁵ The destination of the *'Prince of Orange'* was Van Diemen's Land (now Tasmania). The ship was taking its second trip to Australia, the first having been to Sydney in 1820/21.

Few ships were purpose-built for the traffic to Australia, mostly they were converted merchant ships. The prisoners' berths were usually arranged in two rows, one above the other. Each berth was six feet square, sufficient for four prisoners to sleep in. On embarkation, each prisoner was issued with a pair of shoes, three shirts, two pairs of trousers and other warm clothing; also issued were a bed, pillow and blanket. The ships were equipped with a hospital in the fore part of the ship, which was in the charge of a Surgeon Superintendent. Rations for the convicts were described as "*good and abundant*" and included a daily issue of biscuit. Each day was provided a dinner of "*either beef, pork or plum pudding, having pea soup four times a week.*" After three weeks at sea, there was an issue of "*lime juice and sugar daily, to guard against scurvy.*" Liquid refreshment included "*three to four gills of wine weekly and three quarts of water daily.*"¹⁶ In most cases these rations exceeded by far the amount many of the convicts had been able to afford in England. The *'Prince of Orange'* boarded 136 transportees and arrived at Hobart on 23 July 1822, after a voyage of 113 days. During the voyage, 59 convicts were treated by the Surgeon for a variety of maladies, including flux, scurvy, ulcers and constipation. Four convicts died on board ship.¹⁷

On arrival at Hobart, the authorities took a muster of the prisoners in the presence of the ship's Captain, John Moncrief, and Surgeon, John Crocket. Each convict was asked his name, offence for which he was transported and other details of his life in England. Notes were also made of the prisoners' descriptions. These muster rolls survive in the Tasmanian Archives and from this we know that Bennett was 5'5" tall, with dark brown hair, dark hazel eyes and with scars near his left eye and left side of his mouth. Macklow was 5'7" tall, with grey eyes and dark brown hair. After the completion of the muster, a few days elapsed before the convicts were disembarked and

assigned to their place of work. Macklow and Bennett were then separated.¹⁸

The justification for transportation was to attempt to rid Britain of the criminal classes, and to provide cheap labour to open up the new colony of Australia. In addition, the intention was to provide the convicts with the opportunity to redeem themselves with the promise of rewards if they behaved themselves. Some convicts knuckled down to their new life and, after a short time, obtained '*tickets of leave*' that entitled them to hire themselves out and earn money. Unfortunately, Macklow and Bennett were not of this persuasion on arrival in Australia and, as their convict records reveal, they were soon in trouble.

Macklow was sent to work for a Mr. Tuckett at Coal River, and all went well until May 1823, when he stole a trowel from his master and was sentenced to 50 lashes. After this punishment he was returned to his master but, in the following month, he was brought before the magistrate for disobedience of orders and neglect of duty, for which he received another 50 lashes. For the next two years, he stayed out of trouble. However, in August 1826 he was working in New Norfolk when he absconded and entered Hobart without the appropriate pass. He gave himself up and was brought before the magistrate who ordered that he should work on the '*chain gang*' for a month and then be returned to his master. In March 1828, he again went absent without leave and was admonished by the magistrate. Within three weeks he was again before the magistrate for being insolent and disobeying his master's orders. His punishment on this occasion was to work for 14 days '*on the wheel*' after which he was to be returned to his master. In August 1828, he absconded yet again and remained at large for three days. The magistrate evidently thought that a severe punishment was merited for this offence and he was ordered to be put to work in Hobart in chains.¹⁹

In 1829, Macklow was assigned to work for a notable figure in Tasmanian history, *George Augustus Robinson*,²⁰ and this was to change Macklow's way of life. For over 20 years there had been much trouble between the Aborigines and the settlers. The Aborigines resented the incursion into their lands, by the white men with their sheep, depriving them of their traditional hunting prey, the kangaroos. After abortive attempts to drive the Aborigines out of the settled parts of the Island, the Lieutenant-Governor of

Van Diemen's Land, Colonel George Arthur, appointed Robinson in 1828 to be the 'Conciliator' between the settlers and the Aborigines.²¹

Robinson kept a voluminous journal of his excursions in search of the Aborigines.²² There are many mentions of the Aboriginal servants who accompanied him on his travels. He does seem, however, to have maintained a very low opinion of his convict servants and only mentions them by name when he is displeased with them. Thomas Macklow is mentioned as having been the overseer of the convict servants on Bruny Island in 1829, when they were preparing the mission station intended to house the Aborigines who agreed to go to Bruny Island under Robinson's protection. Macklow was also with Robinson on two of his expeditions into remote parts of Van Diemen's Land, which resulted in 117 Aborigines being taken to Bruny Island. On one occasion, Macklow is described as being "somewhat impertinent." Robinson also comments that Macklow had "occasioned me a great deal of trouble and has been the occasion of a great deal of mischief among the men." Nevertheless, on 4 February 1831, Robinson recommended that Macklow be given a ticket of leave, as a reward for his work in rounding up the Aborigines. Not every member of Robinson's entourage was rewarded in this way, and so one can imply that in spite of the recorded criticism, Macklow had contributed to the success of Robinson's activities. Governor Arthur approved the grant of a ticket of

leave to Macklow on 3 March 1831 and, provided he kept out of trouble, Macklow was effectively a free man. He grasped this opportunity and established himself in the trade which he had learnt whilst an assigned convict – as a wheelwright. On 14 June 1831, he married a widow, Anne Lloyd, in Hobart.²³

In June 1832, Macklow felt sufficiently secure in his new life that he applied for, and received, the grant of a piece of land at Ross, at that time a growing township north of Hobart. In his application he promised that, if the land were granted to him, he would build a house in stone, measuring thirty-six feet by fourteen feet. He also undertook to enclose the house with a post, rail and paling fence.²⁴ Two people, George Parramore and Benjamin Horne J.P., who certified that Macklow had the means and the will to build the house, supported his application. Macklow fulfilled his undertaking at a cost later claimed to be in excess of £300. In 1835 the property was mortgaged and in 1842 was sold to Charles Viveash.²⁵

Macklow received a conditional pardon in August 1836 and a free pardon in September 1840.²⁶ A certain amount of mystery, however, surrounds Macklow's life after 1842. In the census of January of that year, he was living in Bridge Street, Richmond, about 25 kilometres from Hobart. He was described as the proprietor and there were two other persons in the property – one female aged between 45 and 60, presumably his wife – and one male aged between 21 and 45, who

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Marriages solemnized in the Parish of Hobart Town in the County of Buckingham in the Year 1831.

No. 416. Thomas Macklow of the Parish of Bachelors (T. L.) (Prince of Orange) and
 of 1590 Anne Lloyd of the Parish of Widows were
 married in this Church by James with the consent of
 this fourteenth day of June in the year 1831.

By me *Wm Bestford* Senior Chaplain.

This Marriage was solemnized between us { Thomas Macklow.
 Lemark X of Anne Lloyd.

In the Presence of { Charles Hanger of Hobart Town
 A Hornbold of Hobart Town

Register entry recording marriage of Thomas Macklow to Anne Lloyd (Tasmanian Archives REG 36/1831/1590 p.104)

A.

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND

Census of the Year 1842.

Parish of *St. John's*
 Name of Householder *Thomas Macklow*
 Name of Employer of Servants
 Name of Person in charge
 Place of Residence and (if in a Town) the Name and (if in Hobart Town) the Number of the Street

Bridge Street Richmond

Questions to be proposed to every Householder Employer of Servants and Proprietor or Occupier of Land in the Island of Van Diemen's Land by Persons appointed by the Commissioners for taking an Account of the Population under the Act. The Replies to be inserted by the Persons appointed as aforesaid and any Person refusing to reply to such Questions or giving false Answers is by the Act subjected to a Penalty of Fifty Pounds.

1. What is the name of the Person at the head or in charge of this House or Establishment? *Thos Macklow*
2. Who is its Proprietor? *Thomas Macklow*
3. Is the Dwelling-house built of Stone or Brick or of Wood? *Brick & wood*
4. Is it complete or unfinished? *Complete*
5. Is it inhabited or uninhabited? *When the Proprietor is present.*
6. How many Persons generally reside in this Establishment besides yourself? *Two*
7. How many of these persons are Free? *Two*
8. How many of these Persons were dwelling here on the night of the thirty-first day of December last? *Three*
9. What other Person (if any) on that night was dwelling with you? *No one*
10. Give me (according to the Form annexed) a Return of these Persons distinguishing Males and Females, and showing the Number of each Age Religion and Calling as therein specified.

All these Questions are to be answered by the Proprietor and as well as those which are made in the Numerical Return which follows to be taken down in Writing by the Person who by the Act is authorised to propose them.

Census return showing Thomas Macklow living in Bridge Street, Richmond in 1842 (Tasmanian Archives CEN 1/38 pp. 43-4)

was in possession of a 'ticket of leave.'²⁷ By 1850, Anne Macklow described herself as a 'widow' and married for the third time to James Osbourne, at Holy Trinity Church in Hobart.²⁸ One would deduce from this evidence that Thomas Macklow had died, but in 1851 he appears on the passenger list of the steamship 'Shamrock' bound for Melbourne.²⁹ He was able to travel as a cabin passenger, which implies that he was a relatively wealthy man. It may be that Macklow had joined the substantial numbers of ex-convicts leaving Van Diemen's Land in pursuit of gold, which had been discovered at Ballarat and other places in Victoria. At some time, he had

perhaps deserted his wife and she had, quite innocently, assumed that he was dead and that she was free to marry again.

By 1866, Macklow was back in Van Diemen's Land (by then renamed Tasmania), living once again in Ross.³⁰ The registration records of deaths in Tasmania have been searched, but Macklow's death has not been found. Further sources of information in Tasmania and mainland Australia are being investigated to try to solve the mystery.

Despite this mystery, the Authorities would probably have viewed Macklow as a success for the system of transportation, since he had learnt a trade and established himself to become a useful member of the growing community of Van Diemen's Land.

Isaac Bennett appears to have been a much tougher character than Macklow. In February 1823, he made the first of 16 appearances before the courts in Van Diemen's Land. His offence was that he threatened to "blow out the brains of Thomas Chaffey" and stole potatoes. He was rewarded with 50 lashes and was ordered to be locked up at night. In January 1827 he again was found in possession of potatoes and was absent from his lodgings at 2 o'clock in the morning. He was ordered to be detained in the Prisoners Barracks. For repeated insolence and neglect of duty in May 1827, he was given 25 lashes and ordered to work on the chain gang for a month in irons. He was before the magistrate again in October 1827 and May 1828 on charges

of theft, but both cases were dismissed. He was reprimanded in November 1830 for neglect of duty, and in May 1832 was committed for trial at Quarter Sessions for theft of a trunk and other articles. He was tried in July 1832, but the verdict is not recorded.

During his time in Van Diemen's Land, Bennett had been trained to be a sawyer, a trade for which there was much demand by settlers and the authorities who were clearing the forests which covered a great deal of the island. In February 1834, Bennett was assigned to work with the chain gang at Bridgewater, about ten miles from Hobart. Using the escapology skills that he had

learned in England, he removed his irons and took to the bush. When he was recaptured he was working for himself, presumably felling trees. He appeared before the Magistrate, who sentenced him to serve 12 months at the Port Arthur Penal Settlement.³¹

In order to punish convicts who were constantly offending against the authorities, Colonel Arthur established the Penal Settlement which bears his name in 1830. The site was well chosen, on the Tasman Peninsula, accessible only by a hazardous sea voyage from Hobart, or by land across a strip of land barely 100 yards wide, called 'Eaglehawk Neck.' To prevent escape, fierce dogs guarded Eaglehawk Neck. The regime was extremely harsh and was based on hard labour, backed up by almost instant justice in the form of the lash, if any convict offended. Bennett served his time at Port Arthur as a 'bottom dog' in a sawpit. Realising that it was no use trying to beat the system, he kept out of trouble for the twelve months he spent at Port Arthur.

Bennett's good conduct continued until 1837 when, because of his neglect of duty and irregularity, he was sent to a road party and kept to hard labour for three months. Later that year, he removed some timber that he had cut contrary to his orders and was sentenced to six weeks' hard labour. In 1838 he was sentenced to twelve months imprisonment with hard labour in chains for using insolent and disrespectful language. In the following three years, he offended a further five times with varying degrees of punishment; his final offence was in March 1841, when he had to serve fourteen days on a 'tread wheel.'

After such a rebellious career, it is perhaps no surprise that he did not obtain a ticket of leave until 6 January 1842, after almost twenty years in Van Diemen's Land. He was then granted a conditional pardon in March 1845. However, there was to be no happy ending since Bennett's death was registered at Launceston on 11 November 1846 at the age of 47, the cause being inflammation of the lungs.³² Doubtless this was brought about by constant breathing in of sawdust over many years.

Whilst both men were transported for life for the same offence, their careers in Van Diemen's Land did not follow parallel lines. Macklow learnt the lesson that he could make a good life for himself and effectively was a prisoner for only eight years, his reward being a grant of land and his own trade. Bennett, however, fought the system and never

gained unconditional freedom in his twenty-four years in Australia. With the benefit of hindsight it cannot be denied that transportation to Australia was a cruel practice, causing hardship not only to the convict, but also to the families they left behind them in England. In total, about 160,000 men, women and children were transported to Australia between 1787 and 1868.

However, as news reached England of the good life being enjoyed by those transportees who had made a success of their misfortune, there were many instances of people committing crimes in order to be transported to the land of opportunity, Australia.

Notes

- ¹ *Gloucester Journal* (GJ) – 4.6.1821.
- ² Baptism Register of Gloucester Wesleyan Circuit – Microfilm in Gloucestershire Collection.
- ³ Gloucestershire Records Office (GRO) – S329/1/2 and S329/1/4.
- ⁴ GRO – TBR A13/1, 1817/25 and TBR A13/1, 1821/61.
- ⁵ International Genealogical Index.
- ⁶ GRO – Q/SG2.
- ⁷ *GJ* – 11.6.1821.
- ⁸ *GJ* – 25.6.1821.
- ⁹ GRO – TBR A13/1, 1821/23, and GJ 2.7.1821.
- ¹⁰ GRO – QGc 5/2.
- ¹¹ James Bennett – *Tewkesbury Yearly Register and Magazine*, Vol.1 p.38. A 'Tyburn Ticket' was the common name for a Certificate issued by the Clerk of the Peace to a person successfully prosecuting a felon. It exempted the recipient from taking a parish office.
- ¹² Hulks Act, 1776 – 16 Geo III c43.
- ¹³ Report of the Select Committee on Secondary Punishment–Parliamentary Papers 1831/2 – VII, 547.
- ¹⁴ Irene Wyatt – *Transportees from Gloucestershire to Australia, 1783-1842* (Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, 1988).
- ¹⁵ Albert Anderson – *Sunderland's part in the Colonization of Australia* (Sunderland Antiquarian Society, 2000).
- ¹⁶ P. Cunningham - *Two Years in New South Wales.* Vol. 2 pp 212-4 (1828).
- ¹⁷ Public record Office ADM 1001/60 Surgeon's Journal of the 'Prince of Orange.'
- ¹⁸ Tasmanian Archives (TA) - CO01/403/9099 & CON273.
- ¹⁹ TA - CON31/27
- ²⁰ TA - LSD1/106 p.437
- ²¹ Does not permit a full account of Robinson's activities. Readers wishing to learn more are referred to Robert Hughes - *The Fatal Shore* (Colin Harvill, 1987), Also in paperback (Pan, 1988)
- ²² *Friendly Mission - The Tasmanian Journals and Papers of George Augustus Robinson, 1829 - 1834,* edited by N. J. B. Plomley (Tasmanian Historical Research Association, 1966).
- ²³ Hobart Town Marriage Register - REG 36/1831/1590 p. 104 (Microfilm at Genealogical Society of Victoria in Melbourne).
- ²⁴ TA - LSD1/106 p.1437
- ²⁵ TA - SC285/458
- ²⁶ TA – CON 31/29
- ²⁷ TA - CEN 1/38 pp. 43-44.
- ²⁸ Marriage Register of Holy Trinity Church, Hobart – RGD 37/1850/375.
- ²⁹ TA – POL/9/1 p.527.
- ³⁰ Ross Residents listed in the Directory of Tasmania (1866).
- ³¹ TA – CON 31/1, no.535 & CON 32/1 p.329.
- ³² Launceston Deaths Register – RGD 35/16 Reg.No.614

FOOTNOTE

I became interested in transportation when, on a visit to Australia in 1999, I read Robert Hughes' epic book, 'The Fatal Shore,' which describes the subject in great detail. I resolved to find out more about the fate of transportees from Tewkesbury. With the aid of Irene Wyatt's masterly index, compiled from the records of Gloucester Quarter Sessions and other sources, I identified 38 names. But the best story emerged from the pages of the Gloucester Journal in describing the arrests and escapes of Thomas Macklow and Isaac Bennett.

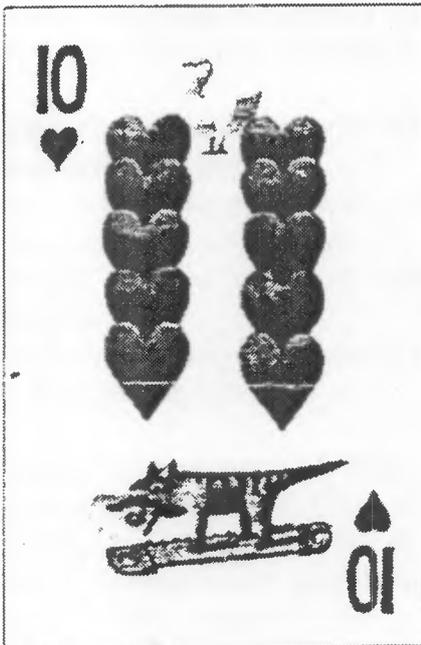


A family wedding took me to Australia again in 2001 when, armed with what I knew of Macklow, I visited Port Arthur, which is now a major tourist attraction in Tasmania. To aid visitor understanding of transportation, one is given a playing card which has to be matched to details contained in a box giving details of a prisoner's time at Port Arthur. To my amazement, the card I was given corresponded to Thomas Macklow's friend, Isaac Bennett. It was as if he was calling me across the 180 years since he was convicted at Gloucester, pleading for his story to be told.

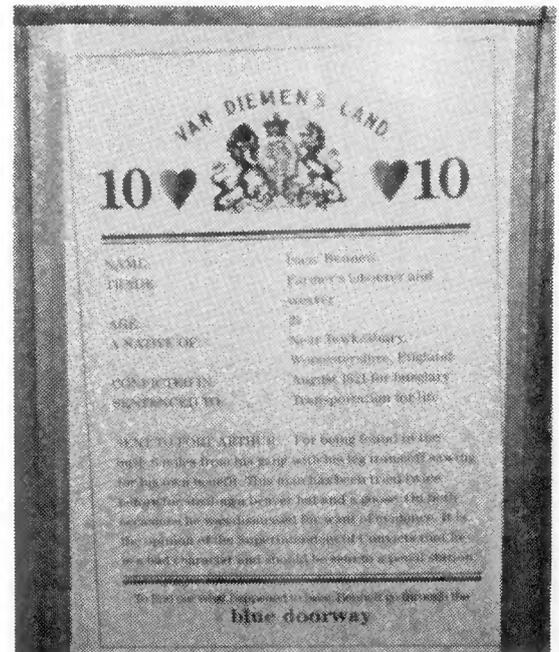
The following day I was able to spend two hours in the Tasmanian State Archives in Hobart where, with help freely given by the staff, I was able to find much of the details about Thomas Macklow. Further help with Bennett's career came to me after correspondence with the Archivist at Port Arthur. On mainland Australia I visited the Genealogical Society of Victoria and was guided to information about Macklow by the Research Manager, Eleanor Pugsley. I later discovered that Alan Fincher of East

Malvern, Melbourne, a descendant of Thomas Macklow's sister, Sophia, was researching the Macklow family and we were able to exchange useful information.

I am greatly indebted to all those organisations and people mentioned, without whose help this article could not have been written.



The playing card given to the author, which led to Isaac Bennett



Details of Isaac Bennett's time at Port Arthur on display in the Visitor Centre