



Dresses of the Officers and Prisoners
The Illustrated London News, 13 March 1847 p164

Parkhurst Boys and Officer, 1846

The Story of James Crouch

A Journey From Poverty in Mere, to Parkhurst Prison, to Western Australia, to Life As a Successful Farmer and Family Man.

James Crouch was convicted of stealing three iron cappings at Mere, and sentenced to seven years' transportation.

The prisoner was a poor boy - homeless, and friendless, and without a single relation; he was, therefore, sentenced to transportation, in order that he might be sent to the new Institution at the Isle of Wight.

Salisbury and Winchester Journal, 24 August 1840

In the 1841 Census James Crouch, age 11, is listed as a prisoner of Parkhurst Prison, Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight.

Parkhurst Prison

The institution opened in 1839, in the former building of Parkhurst Hospital, and was set up as an establishment for young offenders who were sentenced to be transported, and there they were given training in a trade.

The Parkhurst apprentices were juvenile prisoners from Parkhurst Prison on the Isle of Wight, sentenced to "transportation beyond the seas" and transported to Australia and New Zealand between 1842 and 1852. Either before leaving England or on arrival at their destination, they were pardoned on the conditions that they be "apprenticed" to local employers, and that they not return to England during the term of their sentence. In the ten years between 1842 and 1852 nearly 1500 boys aged from twelve to eighteen were transported to Australia and New Zealand from Parkhurst Prison.

Western Australia agreed to accept no more than 30 apprentices a year, provided they were aged under 15.

Source : Wikipedia



The entrance to Parkhurst Prison, 1847

James Crouch was "transported" aboard the ship "Shepherd", leaving the Isle of Wight on 6th June 1843. The vessel sailed to Freemantle, Western Australia, arriving on 26th October 1843, with 28 Parkhurst Apprentices aboard.

James Crouch's Parkhurst Register and Records from his guardian in Australia read as follows:-

401	JAMES	CROUCH			
HO 24/15 p.12	PARKHURST REGISTER				
RECEIVED FROM	Fisherton	21-Sep	1840		
AGE	11				
OFFENCE	Stealing Iron				
CONVICTED AT	Devizes Assizes	15-Aug	1840		
SENTENCE	7 Years Transportation				
READ & WRITE	Read				
TRADE	Labourer				
DISCHARGE	Apprenticed	19-June	1843	Western Australia	
GUARDIAN'S REPORTS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA					
TR	Date of Indenture	Length of Indenture	Trade	Masters Name	Remarks
3	20-Nov 1843	5 years	Farm lad	R. Burgh	Seems a very good boy
4					An excellent boy
5				H. Burgh	Very good lad
6			Shepherd	H. Burgh	Excellent report

7						Excellent report
8						Excellent report
9						Excellent report
10					R. Burgh	Excellent report
11						Allowed to work on his own account. Like several others he was indentured, on arrival here for a period extending beyond the date of the original sentence. In these cases, the Government has authorised their being allowed to go on their own hands wherever the master could be persuaded to give up the indenture, but they are not at liberty to leave the colony until the expiration of the period fixed for their apprenticeship. Crouch has engaged to remain with his old master at £2 a month etc.
12				Shepherd	R. Burgh	As for report No. 11 plus; Crouch is now receiving £2 10 a month with board.
13				Shepherd	C. Wittenoom	Since expiration of his original sentence in August 1847 he has been working on his own account. The stipulated period of his apprenticeship being now completed he has been paid his wages and discharged. He is still employed as a shepherd and is receiving £33 a year with board and lodging.

Death of Mr. James Crouch

On Monday the death occurred of Mr. Jas. Crouch, aged 82 years, a resident of the Clackline. The late Mr. Crouch had been engaged in farming and orchard pursuits on the Boberkin Farm, Clackline, for the past forty-three years. Three months ago he sold his property and retired, taking up his residence at Newcastle with his daughter (Mrs. E. W. Geary) at whose home he died. The deceased emigrated to W. A. in 1843, and leaves a family of five sons and two daughters, his wife having died some twenty years ago. The remains were conveyed to the undertaking establishment of Mr. J. W. Purslowe, Northam, from whence the funeral was conducted on Tuesday afternoon and was largely attended. The pall-bearers were Messrs. Jas. Wilkerson, Richard Smith, T. Sinclair and B. Jessup. The following sent wreaths: Eileen, Ted, Alf and family, Mr. and Mrs. Ellson, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Byfield, Mr. and Mrs. M. Doust and family, Mrs. Martin, and Mrs Hutson.

The Northam Advertiser, Western Australia, Saturday, 20 February 1909, Page 4.