



Swing Riots, 1830-1831 – Edmund White

Edmund White was sentenced to 7 years Transportation for Machine Breaking, his part in the Swing riots.

Extract from a letter written by Charlotte Wyndham to her brother George, who was a settler in New South Wales, on 13 January 1831.

“The special Assizes took place at Salisbury last week before three judges, and a great many prisoners are sentenced to transportation. Two are to be hanged ... I think these convicts will be most valuable servants to you and other settlers in New South Wales. I fancy they will not be inclined to quarrel with the machines they will find there. ... Papa has done his utmost to get one of the men's sentences mitigated, but he has not succeeded. ... A blacksmith, the most quiet and industrious young man in the parish. He was absolutely collared and taken out of his father's house by violence; but, of course, when his spirit was up he was active enough, and being a blacksmith he well knew how to break the ploughs and rollers. ... I know there is hardly a chance of seeing poor Edmund White, but if you do, don't forget that Papa has interested himself on his behalf. He has seven years to spend at Botany Bay.”

Dinton-Dalwood Letters, 1827-1853

Edmund White was transported to Van Diemen's Land aboard the Convict Ship Eliza which sailed on the 2nd February 1831 and arrived at its destination on 29th May 1831. Edmund was one of 225 convicts aboard the vessel.

Upon arrival, White was assigned to the 20,000 acre property 'Anstey Park' of Thomas Anstey, J.P. at Oatlands and he remained with Anstey until he received his ticket of leave in July 1835. The following month, he received approval to marry Maria Smith, a free woman. They eventually had six

©Wiltshire OPC Project/2016/Maureen Withey

children. He received his free pardon on 3 February 1836. White remained in the Oatlands area, working as a blacksmith. Edmund White was declared insolvent 26th April 1842. He soon acquired a small parcel of land in the town and, from 1846 to 1849, was licensee of the town's City Hotel and, from 1864 to 1865, the White Horse Inn.

He died in 1882. His Death was announced in the newspapers:-

“White. On April 17, after a short illness, Edmund White, aged 73 years. The funeral will leave St. Paul's Church, Oatlands, at 4 o'clock Today. (Wednesday) April 19. R.I.P.” **Hobart Mercury, 19 April 1882**

His wife Mary died in 1902. Her death was announced in the Newspapers:-

“White – On June 13, 1902, at No 2 Nile Terrace, Elizabeth Street, M. J. Mary, relict of the late Edmund White of Oatlands, and daughter of the late Sergeant-Major Smith, East India Company, Calcutta, aged 83 years. R.I.P. Funeral will leave the above address at 12 o'clock This Day.” **Hobart Mercury, Saturday, 14 June 1902**