

1851 census and Ancestry.com

If your convict ancestor was in Portland Prison or Millbank Prison, on 30 March 1851, you're the lucky ones. Prisoners have their full name on the census. For those who have a convict on the *Warrior* and *Stirling Castle* hulks you are nearly as lucky, they appear with surname and initial. Dartmoor Prison and the other hulks, unfortunately, only have initials. But don't despair, with a bit searching and comparing with known information, you can probably find your convict AND hopefully their place of birth.

Some ways to search:

PORTLAND prison

Name (given name is often abbreviated), Portland (civil parish) and prison (keyword)

eg. John Mansfield, prisoner, unmarried, 21, shoemaker, born Lambeth, Surrey
William Moat, prisoner, married, 50, miller, born Misterton, Lanc

WARRIOR hulk

Surname and Warrior hulk (keyword) OR Woolwich (civil parish) and Warrior hulk (keyword).

eg. J Lewis, convict, unmarried, 21, labourer, born Wales
J Rawlings, convict, unmarried, 30, labourer, born Leamington, Warwickshire

STIRLING CASTLE hulk

Surname and Stirling Castle (keyword)

eg W Bazley, prisoner, married?, 29, draper and clerk in the ..., born Tersey St Melliers, Hampshire.
J Pickersgill, prisoner, married, 27, weaver, born Osset, Yorkshire

DARTMOOR prison

Devon (county), prison (keyword) and initial of surname.

eg JA – Joshua Alcock, single, 23, nailmaker, born Preston, Lanc
IA – single, 17, joiner, doesn't know where he was born. Luckily he didn't come to WA.

DEFENCE hulk

Defence (keyword)

390 invalid convicts on this hulk

YORK hulk

Hulk (keyword), Alverstoke (civil parish) and initial of surname

eg EB – Edgar Bisdee, 20, farm lab, born Banwell, Somerset

JUSTITIA hulk

Woolwich (civil parish), hulk (keyword) and initial of surname

eg: DF – Daniel Franer, 20, baker, born Clerkenwell, Middlesex
GG – George Gale, 22, labourer, born Sobborn, Hampshire
JT – James Thomas, 32, married, labourer, born Maddom, Cornwall

Heading on the census page says Unite, Hebe and Wye. According to "The Intolerable Hulks" by Charles Campbell, the Hebe and Wye were no longer in service in 1851 and Unite was a hospital hulk.

MILLBANK prison

Name and Millbank prison (keyword)

COUNTY prisons

Some appear to have the full name of the convict and others only initials.

For example, Norfolk (county) and prisoner (keyword) gave list of prisoner with full names.

Robert Carter (3180), convicted in April 1851 but was in jail when the census took place, is listed as Robert Center.

There are lots of ways to find your convict—just don't give up.

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