

Crikey! It's the Convicts!



A Spectrum of Empires

The 18th Century has transcended all others in its rich history of colonization by a new generation of European empires, among them the Dutch Republics, France and the British Empire. The Dutch were the most seasoned colonizers among this new generation. Having superseded Portugal in economic influence over the Indian and Pacific Oceans' markets, the Dutch gained access to an otherwise isolationist feudal Japan. They also oversaw the *Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie's* (VOC's) development of The Dutch East Indies (Indonesia), opening Europe to a market of unforeseen potential, including coffee, sugar and in later centuries tin. During their process of colonizing the Indonesian Archipelago, the Dutch had even mapped out the

coast and terrain of a landmass unknown to Europe, yet refused to make any use of it, seeing said landmass, named New Holland, as containing inadequate resources for a colony.

The French Empire was another of great importance, not necessarily in its economic, political or military influence but rather in its nationalistic impulse to undermine its enemies. French foreign policy since the mid 18th Century had focused on undermining British interests while striving for their own betterment, including their entanglement in the American Revolution. Despite revolution beginning to boil in their own country, the French had taken measures to establish footholds in Asia as well, commercially collaborating with the Vietnamese people with the goal of eventual annexation. By 1787, the French had begun moving military forces into Vietnam to help consolidate two warring factions into a single, unified kingdom. However, in doing so the ruling faction was to become dependent on French military and economic aid. This gave the French early access to a market and political sphere of influence to continually prick the British Empire should they venture nearby.

Another empire worth analyzing is the Spanish Empire. Not a part of the newer generation of global powers, Spain still held considerable sway in global military and economic affairs, yet their influence was beginning to wane. Beyond Latin American colonies, who were beginning to lean towards revolutions of their own in the decades following the American Revolution, Spanish influence came in scattered islands and archipelagos across the globe, most notably in the Philippines. Fought over by the Spanish and Dutch, briefly being held by the British in the mid 18th Century, the Philippines provided the Spanish with tobacco and ports, giving the Spanish a vested interest in the changing political tides surrounding Eastern Asia and Oceania

Lastly was the British Empire, which had only begun its exponential growth by the concluding decades of the 1700s, however they were duped by their Spanish, French and Dutch adversaries during the American Revolution, depriving them of victory against their insurgent 13 colonies in North America. Lacking their economic foothold in North America and a place to establish penal institutions abroad, distant prospects and horizons farther than the Atlantic Ocean appeared brighter. Captain James Cook's nautical expeditions had since stirred an interest into a new patch of land beyond the previously dreamed sphere of British influence. This land, once named New Holland,

was dubbed New South Wales by the British who then laid claim to the territory, and in January of 1788, Captain Arthur Phillip led 11 ships consisting of farmers, troops and 700 convicts halfway across the world to this land to establish a land-based colony.

New South Wales

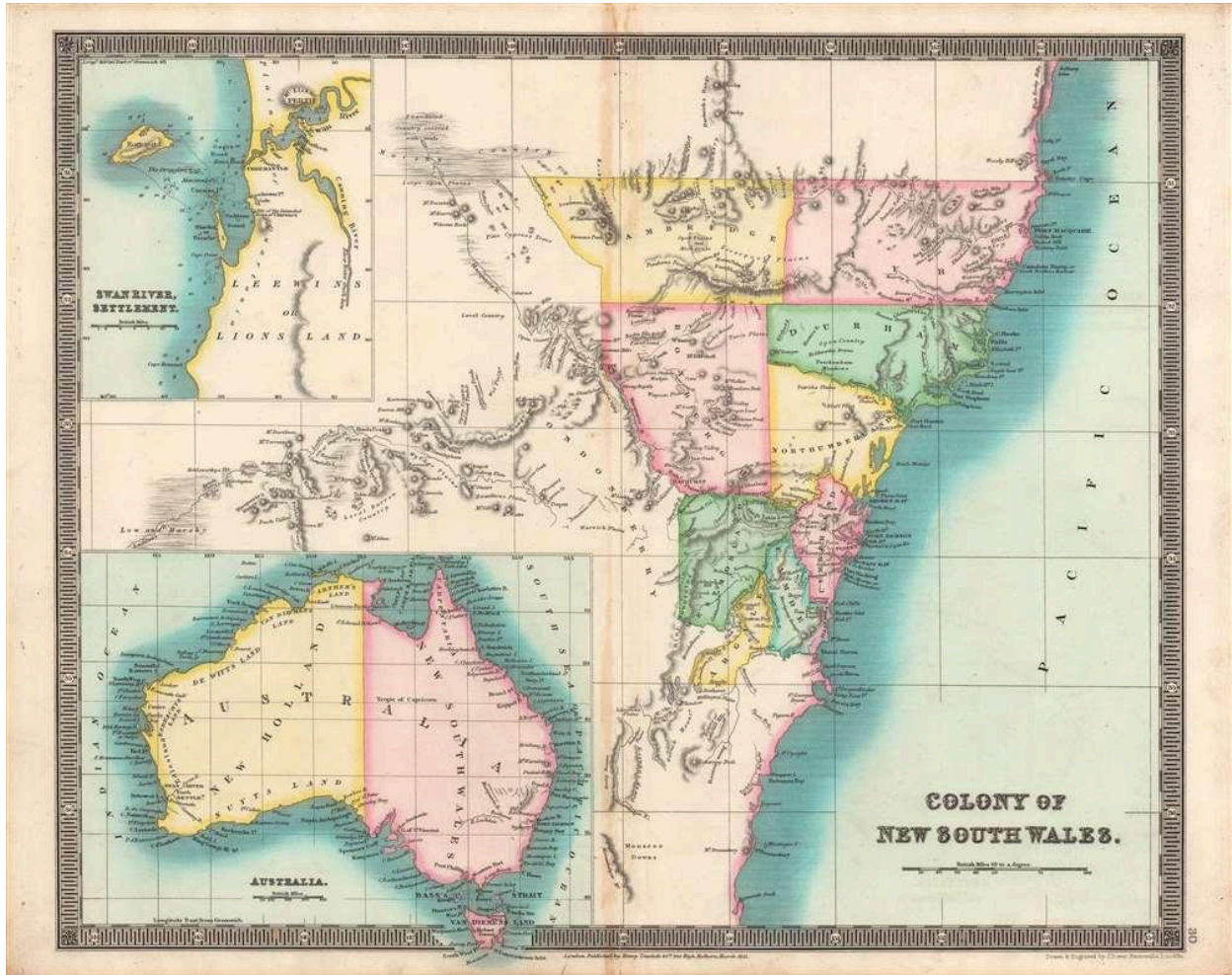
The colony to be established was rooted with a punitive attitude towards the convicts, numbering an overwhelming majority of those sent on this initial expedition. However, care was taken in deciding which convicts were to be selected. Many were selected due to their experiences in certain trades or professions, while a few were chosen as they were seen as a threat, physical or political, by their presence in the mother country. The result of the selections was a diverse cast of characters, having collectively worked thousands of different professions, of which the most common were shepherds, laborers, ploughmen, shoemakers, tailors and butchers. With a vast array of working convicts at their disposal, what few British troops that could be spared to join the colonizers were tasked with enforcing labor quotas among the convicts, requiring them to contribute towards increasing the quality of life and productivity of the colony as a form of punishment until their sentences are spent.

Following the successful landings in Port Jackson in Sydney Bay on April 13th, 1788, the only things the colonizers did not lack in was uncertainty and labor, for much work was needed to be done. The land was unfamiliar, ripe with danger and heat, so far from the mother country that any immediate financial support was practically a pipe dream. The voyage, already poorly funded and greatly mismanaged, spelt disaster with disease and starvation, particularly among the convicts, not relieved in any degree once the ships made landfall.

With few troops to enforce order, chaos has erupted among the convicts, some with a proclivity towards unbridled and unprejudiced violence, others believing that anything should and must be done if it meant survival for the majority. With this underway, the neighboring isles of Polynesia has become desirous for their resources and maritime proximity to China, Siam, The Dutch East Indies and the British East India Company. Thus, as the newly established colony appears to be unsustainable, European eyes have begun to wander far East once more. Additionally, resentment

towards Europe has begun to fume within China, wishing to avoid entanglements with the conflicts and economic competition beginning to sprout just beyond its shores by Europe.

Thus the convicts of New South Wales have begun to fight amongst themselves to survive as it seems the world is watching eagerly to see what becomes of this penal colony if it means the Continent of Australia is available to colonize for themselves. To attempt to bring about some semblance of stability, 13 convicts have been chosen by their fellow inmates as representatives of their interests, tasked with bringing about New South Wales' future as they see fit. This task in itself is both daunting and illegal, violating the British policies of cracking down on prisoner associations while incarcerated. The risk however is believed to be worth undertaking, as positive change under the rule of Captain Phillip is a mere fantasy, considering his latest choice of action is to call for not food, supplies, money or laborers to increase the quality of life or productivity, but rather troops to clamp down further on unrest. It is now June, 1788. Having suffered for two months in the new colony, the convicts now have to take action into their own hands to organize resources and labor to permanently affix themselves to the land and prevent an untimely fate for themselves.



Characters:

Richard Phillimore, 34, Treason

- Born and raised on a farm located a short 5 miles West of the Hudson River in New Jersey, Phillimore had grown up sympathizing with the plights of a select few revolutionaries advocating for the retribution of transgressions against the 13 Colonies. Following the initiation of the Revolutionary War, Phillimore served in the Colonies' meager navy, eventually under captain John Paul Jones. During a skirmish in an attempt to raid the English port of Whitehaven, Phillimore was presumed dead when struck in the shoulder and fallen overboard, however in the

cover of night he swam to shore only to be captured as a prisoner of war. Following the Revolutionary War, the British had little interest in respecting negotiated terms of the Treaty of Paris without international prodding, including the eventual release of prisoners of war without compensation for maltreated loyalists. By 1788, among those sent to the new prison colony was Phillimore, legally listed as having been incarcerated for theft of sheep, referencing a specific crime in a neighboring town of Whitehaven which was in reality unsolved. While lacking allies and numbering among the least favored convicts for his treason, Phillimore's role as an imprisoned American long detained without trial or recognition may prove one insult too many for the young republic to tolerate peaceably if discovered by foreign powers.

Mary Harrison, 33, Assault

- With the maiden name Adamson, Harrison was born into an affluent family who amassed their newfound wealth from mining coal in South Yorkshire. During her formative years, she gained a passion for the art and literature of the classical era. As a result of her passion for learning, Harrison desired to pursue higher education. However, her father insisted that she marry to maintain the family's status. So, on July 14, 1785, Mary was wedded to David Harrison, an up-and-coming barrister who is distantly related to the Harrison Clan of Virginia. Harrison's short-lived marriage was tumultuous. During their time together, Mary birthed a daughter, Penelope. After Penelope's birth, sadly, Mary suffered from what would be recognized today as postpartum depression. David began to view her as "mad" and strictly limited her to bedrest. During this time, they often broke into fights and David built up a strong resentment for his ill wife. After three months of bedrest, one day when David was leaving for work, Mary forcibly grabbed his wrist and sobbingly begged him not to go. David took this incident out of proportion and with his legal connections, managed to get Mary convicted of assault. Mary comes to New South Wales with feelings of rage after suffering from injustice at the hands of her husband. Now she is determined to organize a movement of fellow, female convicts to advocate for equal treatment.

Dorothy Handland, 81, Perjury

- Having attained a great age, Dorothy Handland has thus accumulated a great tale of her own. Being born to a wealthy family of Spanish nobles, of whom the father served as Governor-General of the Philippines. Growing up knowing the Philippines, her father was recalled before Dorothy's teenagehood, allowing her to spend the rest of her early years in Spain. Afterward, Dorothy married Richard Handland, a wealthy distant relative living in Plymouth, where she relocated for the rest of her life. Though in time her Spanish tongue faded away and her legal allegiance was aligned with the British, Handland had never forsaken her heart for her native peoples. During her life, as the Spanish and British found themselves as enemies repeatedly, her status as limited nobility gave her an opportunity to undermine British interests. After the American War of Independence, treachery was suspected of her, however even as she aged beyond the average life expectancy she covered her tracks well. In her trial for treason, the prosecution could not draw up enough evidence for a conviction, yet during the process she let slip a falsity about her youth as a member of Spanish nobility. Still expected of treason, the prosecution then successfully charged her with perjury, and though a lighter crime in the British legal system, the "Princess" of the Spanish-Philippines had found herself being boarded onto transports bound for familiar seas.

John Green, 61, Grand Larceny

- John Green descended from Herbert Green of Cardiff, who removed himself to Ireland, where he married Susanna Doyle. It was among the Irish which John lived his entire life as a shepherd and a dog breeder. He was known as a bitter, thin-skinned man: quick to anger and quicker to scheme. Among those who slighted him was Matthew Cairn, a neighboring shepherd with whom Green had often quarreled with regard to property titles and land agreements. The pettiness between this local feud hit a fever pitch when Cairn tasked his children with refilling Green's well with the feed Green had grown and stored for his own

livestock. The following day, after discovering his feed gone, Green took to the barn occupied by his dogs slated for sale. In the cover of night, Green and his pack of 23 border collies crossed into Cairn's property whilst the Cairn boys slept away an evening of self-congratulatory drinking over their morning victory. Once in the pasture, Green set his dogs to work, gathering in virtual silence all of Cairn's precious ewes and rams near a log fence bordering a main road. Hacking the rotting logs into splinters, Green and his pack herded the nearly 400 sheep onto the road and guided them through the night for miles like a rancher and his cattle. After disposing of the sheep in a wooded prairie, Green and his dogs returned home just before dawn. With the sheep gone, Carin charged Green with grand larceny, of which he was found guilty, in time himself slated for transport to Australia. By great (or perhaps divine) coincidence, the 23 border collies slated for sale were also for the transport to New South Wales for the influx of shepherds. This sale would still be transacted, giving the now infamous "Border Breeder of Ballybofey" a chance to reclaim his pride and establish himself like never before.

Elizabeth Beckford, 76, Theft of Cheese

- Beckford, residing in the port town of Dover, had long been an accomplice in a French financial scheme brewing in Britain regarding her share of commerce in the dairy industry. As tensions exasperated between the great powers of Europe, trade relations too strained as a series of commodities and goods were barred from importation and exportation among the warring states. One such case as this is the levying of duties by the British on French goods, a levying which was reciprocated by the French. Among the goods banned from sale were domestically manufactured cheeses, a particular thorn in Beckford's side. Located at such a valuable port for Anglo-French trade, as a large shareholder in the Beckford Cheese Company of which her late husband was heir-apparent, Beckford could only helplessly watch as cheeses meant for sale were locked away in warehouses and docked ships. To combat this, Beckford had for several months engaged in "running" tariff-free cheeses into France. One instance of this

however ended in disaster, as Beckford, with several accomplices, were caught in the act of boarding a docked ship and breaking into said ships cargo, containing aged cheeses meant for weighing and taxation. While inconsequential to the French economy, Beckford's efforts had gained her some reputation as a friend of the French, even earning her recognition among local French nobility, who took her imprisonment and deportation as an affront.

Elizabeth Hayward, 13, Theft

- With a fierce Cockney accent, Elizabeth Hayward was born and raised in the East End of London. Hayward had a very turbulent childhood. Her mother died during childbirth and her father was often absent for long periods of time as he worked as an angler. At the age of 8, Hayward's father was presumed dead due to being lost at sea, causing her to become an orphan. With no other family, Hayward went to the streets, befriending Edward Garth, another convict brought to the colony. In order to fend for herself, Hayward quickly took to stealing, especially through the use of trickery. Before her conviction, she could often be found near heavy traffic areas, namely Buckingham Palace, where she would pickpocket people passing through. She also went from shop to shop, clandestinely putting items in her bag and sneaking away. When she and Garth got more skilled in their craft, they started to run small scams, claiming that they were raising money for charity. Hayward and Garth have had their share of run-ins with the police and spent much of their time evading law enforcement. Surprisingly, Garth was not a co-conspirator in Hayward's latest offense. What occurred is that Hayward had recently taken up work as a maid for a sympathetic, wealthy family. Soon thereafter, the family began to notice that items around their house were going missing. They never mentioned this to Hayward, but knew it was her due to her apparent affinity to their vases imported from China. One day when she showed up to work, the police met her at the door and put her under arrest. Dismayed with her circumstances, in protest, Hayward hopes to continue to cause chaos with Garth as a unified force.

Edward Garth, 17, Cow Stealing

- Born in London to an impoverished family as one of twelve children, Garth has spent much of his time on the streets. During his early years, he mostly caused mischief, occasionally snatching bread from the nearby bakery. When he was 13, he met Elizabeth Hayward and they immediately became friends. One of their favorite pastimes was to put on the act of sad, hungry children in order to guilt people into giving them money. As they grew older and more skilled, they became more ambitious. Garth's favorite scheme was when they sold fake souvenirs at inflated prices on the street. Over time, Garth grew tired of his and Hayward's typical shenanigans and decided that he wanted to aim higher, taking bigger risks that would hopefully yield higher profits. With a lower than usual supply of cattle, but an abnormal demand, the price of cattle was astronomical. Supplied with merely a rope, Garth traveled north to the countryside and jumped the fence of a farm. Once he came across a cow that he found fit, he tied a rope around its neck and successfully led it off of the farm property. On his way back to London, having spent much time with the cow, Garth became attached and named the cow Bessy. Garth managed to keep Bessy for a full two weeks without suspicion. During that time, he also decided he would not sell her. Then, the police caught wind of the fact that there was a cow in an abandoned warehouse and seized it. Devastated by the loss of Bessy, Garth's only wish is to find another cow to be his companion. However, Hayward has other priorities and frequently insists that Garth abandons his goal, causing them to question if they can remain a unified force.

Edward Whitton, 29, Highway Robbery

- To understand the mind of a criminal has been the object of many wrinkles donned upon the foreheads of thinkers, yet history has shown that there exists a class of mind nearly indecipherable to this end. This class, ever small yet unpredictable and dangerous, is one which wishes to see the world burn, feeling mundane in the present society. Among this class is Edward Whitton, a man born

in the heart of London with an itch for greater things. At a very young age, Whitton was a renowned troublemaker, smashing windows, pick-pocketing and even to a small degree committing arson. As he got older, his crimes only grew more daring and dangerous but also more flashy, capped off with a dapper fashion sense and eccentric personality: one which even the most frightened could call “charming.” From staging the collapse of balconies when certain individuals stand on it to successfully robbing the wealthy of precious stones only to smash them and litter the dust and shards into public fountains, his intentions have been an object of great speculation. The dominant theory is of sheer boredom; Whitton making the grievance of others alone his own entertainment. Though caught committing highway robbery on his way to another town to spread his idea of entertainment, Whitton remained one of the very few with a pleasant attitude on his way to the new colony; perhaps anticipating his new “playground.”

William Hogg, 52, Forgery

- Among the trading magnates within the British Empire, few look at the port collectors underneath overseers for large corporations such as the East India Company. Among Britain’s array of port collectors was William Hogg, a member of the East India Company in charge of imports documented near the modern city of Kolkata. In charge of such a port, much trade came from the Dutch East Indies, another state which found itself often at war with the British. For Hogg, the stopping of trade, whether by official or unofficial declarations of war by the British government, harmed the port otherwise so dependent on Dutch goods. For the Dutch, India was a hurdle to surpass to transport goods from their colonies into the West. During the American War of Independence the Dutch and British held their grounds in a financial standoff while the two governments legally remained at peace with each other. One such action taken during this standoff was a letter addressed by the Parliament notifying the East India Company of the cessation of allowing Dutch ships to dock in British ports. Fearing the financial strain already plaguing the company, Hogg forged false

documents allowing for a gradual continuation of Dutch docking policies, allowing commerce to continue flowing. When suspicions were raised by the near-normal rate of Dutch trading from the East Indies, several collectors were placed under scrupulous investigation, during which the forged documents were found and Hogg's port audited. Hogg, taken to Britain from India, was then tried and detained for forgery, angering the Dutch who felt they lost a safe port to continue their trade, both to Britain's enemies and to neutral states.

John Nicholls, 31, Stealing His Own Toolbox

- Among the great banes of the financial world in history are creditors, tasked with upholding the financial statuses of those at their mercy. One such debtor to several credit firms was John Nicholls, a poor farmer born into an indebted family of rural laborers. Orphaned at 15, Nicholls inherited the family debt, turning accordingly to creditors for some relief. As the process typically goes, unable to pay his debts by going into more debt to pay off another debt, creditors smelled the blood of Nicholls' possessions. Among items repossessed as security was Nicholls' toolbox, a necessity for his business. Caught in the act of repossessing his repossessed toolbox, Nicholls was arrested and sentenced to join the fleet of prisoners heading to New South Wales. Seething with hatred for the elite financiers costing him his livelihood and now freedom, Nicholls vows to create an equality among all laborers, freeing them of their dependence on the upper class.

Hannah Mullins, 27, Forgery

- Hannah Mullins was born into an affluent family in Manchester. Her father, Braham Smith, comes from a long line of revered military leaders and currently holds the status as a general in the British army. And her mother, Karolina (née Romanov), hails from the prominent House of Romanov in Russia. Growing up with great privilege, Hannah became a nuisance to her family's reputation. She would often throw tantrums in public, which were triggered when she did not get exactly what she wanted. Due to them growing tired of her behavior, at the age of

16, Hannah's parents married her off to Charles Mullins, an up-and-coming military man. For most of their marriage, Mullins was satisfied because their financial stability allowed her to purchase whatever her heart desired. However, Mullins' spending habits caused the couple to soon acquire debt. Her parents offered the couple financial support and during a visit to their house for a Christmas feast, Mullins got ahold of her father's checkbook and forged a check for 300 shillings. When she tried to cash the check, the bank immediately suspected that it was a bad check. In order to give her "tough love," Mullins' parents decided not to pay for her legal expenses, expecting that she would receive a mild punishment for her first offense. Unfortunately, they were mistaken and she was sent to the colony as a punitive measure. Despite their dislike for Mullins' behavior, her parents are saddened by her departure to the colony and hope to provide as much love and support as possible. Now Mullins is forced to navigate the challenges of her new life as she is unaccustomed to the poor living conditions as a convict, meaning that her stubborn nature is more important than ever.

Peter Woodcock, 23, Theft of Bacon

- Peter Woodcock descended from one of many British families to relocate in newly-acquired colonies. The Woodcock family themselves moved to the island of Saint Kitts. The island had been a hellish one for all but a select few: a land of slavery, disease and natural disasters. Dependent on sugar and tobacco, slave labor was an everyday observance by all inhabitants. Poor sanitation among all the islanders led to increased susceptibility to disease and famines. Even if these factors felt remotely normal, the island fell prey to hurricanes and flooding frequently during the wet seasons. It was this world of suffering in which Peter was born and raised. The pains of living on this island was one which Peter blamed the British, seeing that the colony was not properly supported. On slavery Peter was disgusted, often criticizing the British elites for not seeing their inhumane treatment of those subjugated. Possibly inspired by a growing fever not yet boiling in the French colony of Saint Domingue, Peter took part in

undisclosed mass meetings, where he sought to place his foot in a door towards the betterment of all islanders, including immediate and unconditional emancipation. His efforts were however cut all too short by the involvement of Peter and a handful of other young men in an attempt to steal food, in particular bacon, for hoarding for a potential uprising. Though history may have been untimely for Peter in his removal from Saint Kitts to New South Wales, one may wonder if his ideas had played any part in Saint Domingue or if they would in New South Wales.

John Owen, 17, Assault/Homesocken

- John Owen hails from Doncaster and comes from an average-income family. When he was only five years old, his mother sadly succumbed to tuberculosis, leaving only him and his father, John Owen Sr. As he grew older, Owen's father grew increasingly abusive towards him, constantly calling him insulting names and hitting him. At the time of his arrest, Owen was working as an apprentice to his father who is a blacksmith. Owen was forced to work twelve hour days alongside his father, causing him to become skilled in his craft. When he was not working, Owen snuck away from home to rendezvous with his blossoming love interest, Harriett Abott. Eventually the couple decided to marry. When Owen announced to his father that he would be leaving home to marry Harriett and find work elsewhere, his father was very disapproving of this idea and threatened to tarnish his reputation in the blacksmithing community. Before running off with Harriett, Owen returned home one last time to pack up his remaining belongings. While doing so, John Sr. was home and they engaged in a heated argument about Owen's decision to move. The argument escalated to a fight where Owen sustained some minor injuries, but his father ended up with a broken nose, causing him to press charges. In court, Owen pleaded self-defense, but was ultimately convicted. Now in the colony, Owen hopes that he can use his skills as a blacksmith to have the upper-hand on other prisoners. His ultimate goal is to get home to his beloved Harriett who has vowed to stand by Owen and

utilize her father's power as a higher-up in England's national bank as a means to get him back.

William Parr, 25, Fraud

- William Parr hailed from Essex county in the East of England and was known to have immersed himself, along with his father Donald Parr and brothers Arthur and Henry, in the activities of The Jockey Club – one of the oldest horse racing organizations founded by high society members in London. This remained to be one of the prominent and most exclusive social groups for gentlemen at the time. After his father's retirement, Parr took over his position as an ambassador to George Venning, who was one of the executives in the Jockey Club responsible for overseeing initiatives to introduce horse racing in Eastern Maryland as part of Britain's efforts to retain an economic and political stronghold in the Annapolis area. Parr's passion for racing superseded that of both his brothers, and he naturally overtook the family-run illegal bookmaking business surrounding major-league horse races. He eagerly established ambitious goals for the company, along with a research and advisory board that would monitor and thoroughly analyze the outcomes of Parr's new initiatives for the business. A notable advisory board member was Blake Kensley. She was one of the few women to operate in a relatively powerful capacity at the company. Parr was particularly captivated by her sharp-wittedness, valor, and her Rosé Elegance rouge which remained an inseparable part of her captivating allure. Kensley often arranged for "date nights" with Parr, where they sipped wine and talked beneath the moonlit sky. Parr would later discover that Kensley was an undercover agent operating under Zachary Eldred, his business rival. Parr was already defenseless considering the countless secrets he had shared with Kensley. She reported the activities of the Jockey Club to the police, and Parr was arrested for fraud and money laundering.

Logistics and Notes:

This committee is a simulation of the settlement of convict colonies of Australia, involved also with other European expansion episodes across Asia and Polynesia. Thus, acknowledgement and restraint is required of the staff and the delegates. The colonization of Australia, Polynesia and Asia is rich with racial violence and mass murder, intentional and unintentional, of Aboriginal peoples, and should be taken seriously. Nobody in this committee shall make light of, ignore, aid or take part in any such violences, including exploitation, ethnic crimes, genocide, war crimes or any denial of such that had previously occurred in history.

That being said, there remain many ways in which this committee may turn towards, of course depending on the actions taken in the front and back room by the delegates. Some options include, but are not limited to, successful British control and colonization, realignment of loyalties towards a foreign power, complete independence, continued turmoil among any of the following scenarios, or the complete failure of the body, thus the destruction of the colony. Much leeway is given to this committee, as historical records of those taken to the Colony of New South Wales is limited. With this in mind, the characters drawn up are based solely on a select few names of the hundreds taken to Australia. It is for this reason that characters were fictionalized in order to give delegates greater ability to affect the front and back room with their assignments.

This committee, like all other crisis committees being hosted at MinneMUN, will utilize a dual notepad system. While it is not required by MinneMUN or its staff, it is highly encouraged and asked that delegates refrain from using both notepads at once, in a sense trading notepads with a crisis assistant once crisis notes have been answered are brought back, simply to keep a consistent flow and to not overwhelm staff, thereby slowing down the process and detracting from the simulation's experience.

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