

The Greenough Museum has a large collection of original documents that were found in Maley's Store. Included in the collection are these letters that belonged to Convict No. 4951 – John Fox.

In this digital age, we leave a continuous electronic trail of our travels, work, purchases, health, relationships, correspondence and more. Will future historians know everything about us?

In the past the only method of saving information was to put it on paper. Yet this fragile material is easily destroyed.

Over 9,000 men were transported to Western Australia as convicts between 1850 and 1868. Detailed documents were written and kept on the trial, imprisonment and transportation of these men.

But once they gained their freedom, they often disappeared from public record.

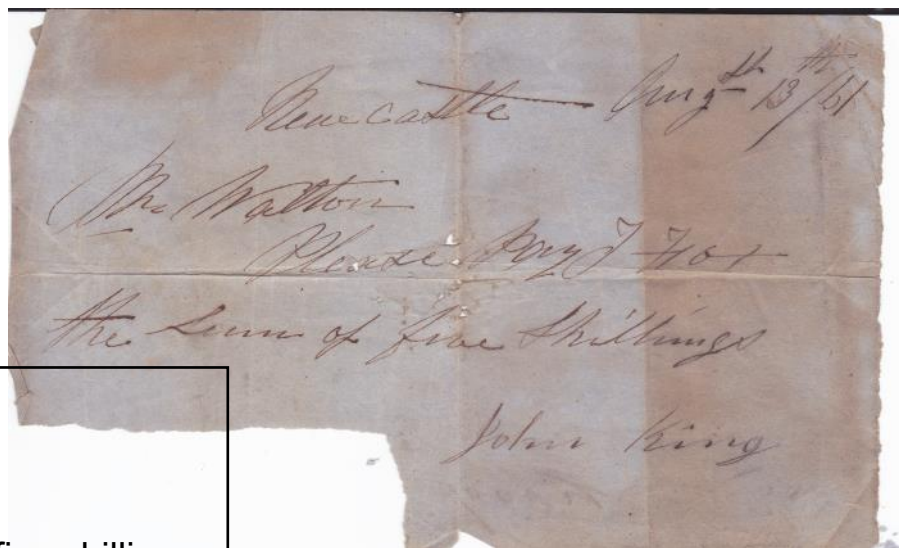
It is only through information garnered from scraps of paper like these that we learn more about those men.

John Fox was born in England in 1816. A butcher by trade, he was convicted at Warwick on 17th December 1856 of uttering a forged £5 note. As he had previously been convicted of defrauding the Excise, he was sentenced to 6 years imprisonment. At that time Fox was married with 2 children.

He was described as being, "5ft 6ins, brown hair, grey eyes, long visage, fresh complexion, middling stout."

Fox was transported from Portsmouth Prison to Western Australia on the *Lord Raglan*, arriving on 1st June 1858. He was then sent to the Toodyay Valley to work on the roads.

Fox received his Ticket of Leave on 21st March 1860 at Toodyay.



Newcastle Aug¹³/61

Mr Walton

Please pay J Fox the sum of five shillings

John King

The town of Newcastle (name changed to Toodyay in 1911) was gazetted in 1861, and located near the convict depot that had been built 10 years earlier.

Because cash was scarce in the colony, promissory notes like these were used to pay employees.

The writer of the promissory note is possibly John Hunter King, a carter who was employed by James Drummond at his Toodyay Valley property, "Hawthornden."

Further research is required to determine to whom the note was addressed.

Mt Anderson 21st Aug 1861
This is to certify that I have known Jesse
for some time past, during that period
I have not individually known any thing
against his character
To all whom it may
concern
M Clarkson

Mt Anderson 21st Aug 1861

This is to certify that I have known Fox for some time past, during
that period I have not individually known any thing against his character.

To all whom it may
concern,

M Clarkson

Michael Clarkson leased "Mt Anderson" at Toodyay and was also Superintendent of the Toodyay Convict Hiring Station.

I have known the bearer
John Fox for a period of
Eighteen months six
months of which time he
lived in my service as a
butcher and conducted
himself respectably
Toodyay Drummond
August 23/61.

I have known the bearer
John Fox for a period
of eighteen months six
months of which time
he lived in my service
as a butcher and
conducted himself
respectably
Toodyay Drummond
August 23/61.

This reference letter is from James Drummond, of "Hawthornden," Toodyay Valley, where Fox worked as a general labourer and butcher.

As a Ticket-of-Leave man, Fox would have received £1/month in wages.

	/61
Mr J Richards	
Dr To J Fox	
Ballance of Bill	" 12 "
June 1 st 1s 1/4 lbs Beef	" 5 1 1/2
4 th - Beef -	" 5 3
6 th - 5 Pork	" 5 "
8 th - 11 1/2 Beef	" 6 8 1/2
12 th - 8 Beef	" 4 8
15 th 11 3/6 Mutton	" 6 7 1/2
" 4 Feet	" 4 8
16 th 5 1/2 Pork	" 5 6
25 th 4 1/2 leg mutton	" 2 7 1/2
27 th 12 Beef	" 6 6
	3 2 8 1/2
Paid By cash	1 " "
	£2 2 8

John Richards was a boot maker at Toodyay.

Mr Robson	Ap 26 th /62
Ap 5 th 8 1/2 lb Beef	" 4 3
8 th 2 1/4 Mutton	" 1 1 1/2
22 2 1/2 Mutton	" 1 4
	" 6 8 1/2

Thomas Robson was a blacksmith at Toodyay.

John Fox was granted his Conditional Pardon on 3rd November 1862 at Toodyay.

Newcastle April 2nd 1863

This is to certify
 that I do this day
 discharge John Fox having no further employment
 for him at present and I believe him to be
 a honest hardworking Man.

C. Monger

Newcastle April 2nd 1863

This is to certify

that I do this day

discharge John Fox having no further employment for him at present and I believe him to be a honest hardworking Man.

From this note we know Fox also worked for Monger.

At that time, Charles Samuel Monger was the manager of the Newcastle Store at Toodyay.

Newcastle Feb 2nd 63

1862	Jan 2 nd	To Face Dr To C. Monger		
		Tobacco of pipes 2 Cumb 6 3 Matches 1	1	4
	5	4 1/2 lbs mutton @ 2 1/3 Tobacco of 6 @ 4 lbs meat @	4	10
		Matches 7 1/2 Tobacco of 28 1/2 @ 6 3/4 lbs mutton @ 6	4	7 1/2
		1 Check Spirit 4/- 9 1/2 lbs mutton of 10 @ 5 1/2 lbs meat @ 2 1/2	6	8
		Suit 3 1/3 @ 6 1/2 lbs mutton @ 6 1/4 @ Cash 4/-	4	6
	15	5 3/4 lbs mutton @ 3 1/2 @ 1 lb @ 4 3/4 lbs do @ 2 3/2	4	10
	17	6 1/2 lbs do 3/- Cash 3 1/2 lbs do 2 1/2 @ 3 3/4 lbs mutton @ 5 1/2	5	4
	19	6 1/4 do 2 1/2 @ 20 @ Cash 6 do 4/- 2 1/2 do 4/-	5	4 1/2
	22	6 3/4 do 3/1 24 @ Cash 6 do 4 1/2 5 1/2 lbs mutton @ 5 1/2	6	3
		1 Shirt 5/- Cash 2 28 1/2 @ 3 3/4 lbs do @ 3 1/2 @ 18 1/2	6	10 1/2
	31	7 1/2 lbs mutton @ 3 1/2 Head & piece R 8	3	10 1/2
	Feb 2 nd	5 1/2 do Cash 6	2	9 1/2
			£	2-17-3 1/2
C. By Wages to date			£	2-5-
due to C. M.				0-12-1/2

Newcastle Feb 2nd 63

1862 J. Fox Dr to C.S. Monger

Jan 2 nd Tobacco 7d pipes 2d Comb 6d 3 Matches 1d	1	4
5 4 ¹ / ₂ lbs Mutton @ 6d 2/3 Tobacco 7d 6 th 4lbs Meat @ do	4	10
Matches 1d 7 th tobacco 1/2 8 th 6 3/4lbs Mutton @ 6d	4	7 ¹ / ₂
1 Check Shirt 4/- 9 th Tobacco 7d 10 th 5 ¹ / ₄ lbs Meat @ 4 ¹ / ₂	6	8
Suit 3d 13 th 6 ¹ / ₂ lbs Mutton @ 6d 14 th to Cash 1/-	4	6
15 5 ³ / ₄ lbs Mutton @ 5 ¹ / ₂ d 16 th 4 ³ / ₄ lbs do @ 5 ¹ / ₂ d	4	10
17 6 ¹ / ₂ lbs do 3/- Cash 3d 1/2lbs Soap 4d 3 ³ / ₄ lbs Mutton @ 5 ¹ / ₂ d	5	4
19 6 ¹ / ₄ do 2/10 ¹ / ₂ 20 th To Cash 6d do 1/- 21 st do 1/-	5	4 ¹ / ₂
22 6 ³ / ₄ do 3/1 24 th Cash 6d do 4 ¹ / ₂ d 5 ¹ / ₄ lbs Mutton @ 5 ¹ / ₂ d 2/3	6	3
1 shirt 5/- Cash 2d 28 th 3 3/4lbs do @ 5 ¹ / ₂ d 1/8 ¹ / ₂	6	10 ¹ / ₂
31 7 1/2 lbs Mutton @ 5 ¹ / ₂ d Head & Pluck 8d	3	10 ¹ / ₂
Feb 2 nd 5 ¹ / ₂ do Cash 6d	2	9 ¹ / ₂
	£2	17 3 ¹ / ₂
Cr By Wages to date	£2	5
Due to CSM	0	12 1/2

From the next account we know that Fox briefly moved to Dandaragan to help with the harvest.

John Cook originally worked for Drummond at Toodyay, then became manager at Drummond's property at Dandaragan.

John Fox
In ac^t with John Cook

1862

11oz 13	5 lb Bread	4/3	6 lb Beef	7	5. 11
	1/2 lb Tea	1/6	2 Sugar	4	2. 6
	4 lb Bread	1/12	1 Soap	10	1. 11 1/2
	4 lb Bread	4	5 lb Beef		4. 7 1/2
	11 lb Flour	2/9	1 Suet	11	3. 3
	3 lb Sugar	1/2	1 Tea	2/4	1. 6
	1 lb Bread	1/4	1 lb Tea	1/4	3. 0
	9 lb Beef	5/3	8 lb Beef		9. 0
	5 lb Bread	4/3	5 lb Bread	4/3	2. 6
	2 lb Sugar	4	1 lb Suet	11	1. 6
	5 lb Bread	4/3	11 lb Beef	4/5	7. 8
	1 1/2 lb Tea	4/3	1/2 Tea	4/6	5. 9
	1 lb Bread	1/4	1 lb Sugar	11	1. 6
	5 lb Beef	2/11	1/2 Tea	4/6	4. 5
	2 lb Sugar	4	8 lb Bread	3/4	3. 13
	1 lb Beef	3/6	4 lb Bread	4	4. 6
	2 1/2 lb Bread	7/4	2 Sugar	4	1. 7 1/2
	5 lb Beef	2/11	3 lb Bread	4/4	4. 0 1/2
	Cash over				3. 11. 0

Ret forward	3. 11. 0
1/2 lb Soap	15
4 lb Bread	1
1/2 lb Tea	1/6
5 lb Beef	2/11
	4. 5
3 lb Bread	10 1/2
5 lb Bread	1/4
	2. 3
8 lb Beef	4/8
4 lb Bread	1
	5. 8
2 1/4 Gallons Beer	2/4
	4. 6
	14. 9. 5
Cr	14. 3. 7
By 11 days Work	1. 16. 8
Recd Bailey	
	1. 1. 29 1/4
	1. 0. 0
Shoaring	
22 bush of	12. 10
Making Hay Stack	1. 0. 0
	11. 9. 6
Balance in favor of Fox	5/11

John Fox	
In a/c with John Cook	
1862	
Nov 13 5lb Bread 1/3 8lb Beef @7	5. 11
½ lb Tea 1/6 2 Sugar 1/-	2. 6
4 ½ lb Bread 1/ ½ 1 Soap @10	1. 11 ½
4 lb Bread 1/- 5/2 Beef	4. 7 ½
11 lb Flour 2/9 1 Suet @6	3. 3
3 lb Sugar 1/6 1 Tea 3/-	4. 6
1 lb Bread 1/6 1 lb Bread 1/6	3. 0
9 lb Beef 5/3 6 ½ Beef	9. 0
5 lb Bread 1/3. 5 lb Bread 1/3	2. 6
2 lb Sugar 1/- 1 lb Suet @6	1. 6
5 lb Bread 1/3 11 Beef 6/5	7. 8
17 lb Flour 4/3. ½ Tea 1/6	5. 9
4 lb Bread 1/- 1 lb Sugar @6	1. 6
5 Beef 2/11. ½ lb Tea 1/6	4. 5
2 lb Sugar 1/- 8 ½ Bread 2 ½	3. 1 ½
1 lb Beef 3/6. 4 lb Bread 1/-	4. 6
2 ½ Bread 7 ½ 2 Sugar 1/	1. 7 ½
5 lb Beef 2/11. 3 ½ Bread 1/1 ½	4. 0 ½
Cad over	3. 11. 0

Brought forward	3. 11. 0
½ lb Soap @5 4 lb Bread 1/	- 1. 5
½ lb Tea 1/6 5 Beef 2/11	4. 5
3 ½ Bread 10 ½ 5/2 Bread 1/4 ½	2. 3
8 lb Beef 4/8, 4 Bread 1/-	5. 8
2 ¼ Gallons Beer 2/-	4. 6
	<u>£4 9. 3</u>
	4. 3. 7
Cr	
By 11 days work	1.16.8
“ Reapg Barley 1.1.29 14/-	1.0.0
Thrashing 22 bush @ 7d	12.10
Making Hay Stack	1.0.0
	4.9.6
Balce in favour of Fox	5/11

Newcastle April 20/63
J. Fox Dr
To C.S. Monger
 1863
 April 6th Cash 5/6 5-6
 9 Matches 1/- -1
 14 Cash 5/- 5-0
 Matches -1
 18 Cash - 1-6

 12-2
 Cp Bay Killing Bullock 10/-
 By 2 weeks wages 22/6

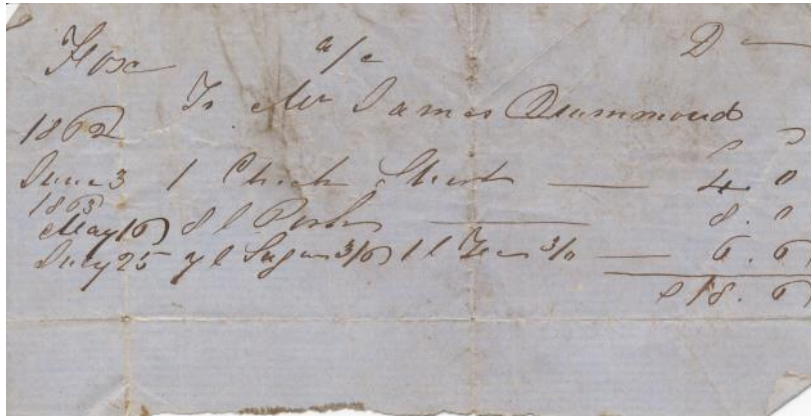
 1-12-6
 Due to Fox -1-11-4

Newcastle April 20/63

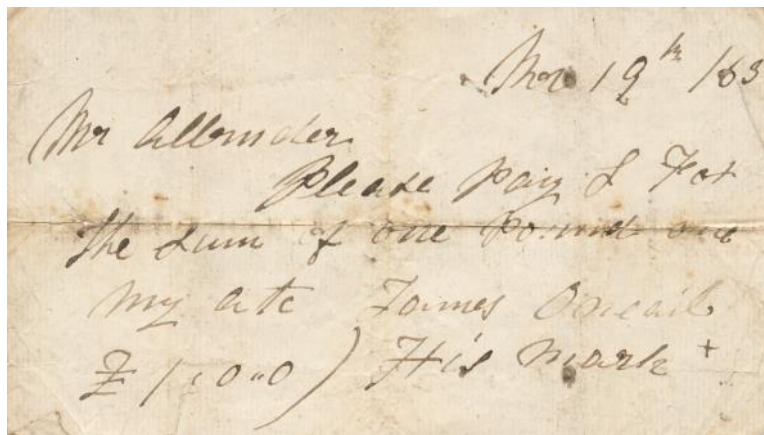
<i>J Fox Dr</i>	
<i>To C.S. Monger</i>	
1863	
<i>April 6th Cash 5/6</i>	5 6
<i>9 Matches 1d</i>	1
<i>14 Cash 5/-</i>	5 0
<i>Matches</i>	1
<i>18 Cash</i>	1 6
	12 2
<i>Cp Bay Killing Bullock 10/-</i>	
<i>By 2 weeks wages 22/6</i>	
	1 12 6
	1 12 6
<i>Due to Fox</i>	1 0 4

From this note we can see Fox moved to Champion Bay in 1863.

But he still owed money to Drummond .



Fox	a/c	D -----	
To Mr James Drummond			
1862		s	d
June 3	1 Check Shirt	4	0
1863			
May 10	8lb Pork	8	0
July 25	7lb Sugar 3/6 1lb Tea 3/0	6	6
		18	6



Nov 19 th /63
Mr Allender
Please pay J Fox the sum of one pound on my a/c
James Oneail
£1.0.0.
His Mark X

This note is possibly from James O'Neil (Convict No. 4478).

Francis Allender had a farm on Company Road, Greenough (near the Hampton Hotel).



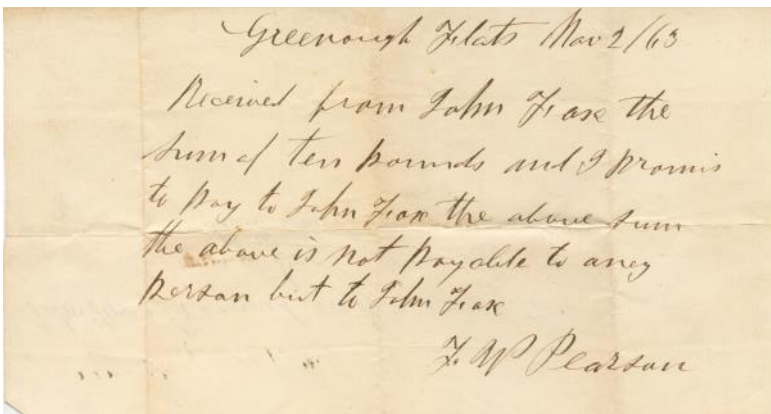
Nov 21st /63

Mr Allender

Please pay to J Fox the sum of Three Pounds and place the same to my A/c

Denis Higheim

This note is possibly from Denis Higgins (Convict No. 3539).

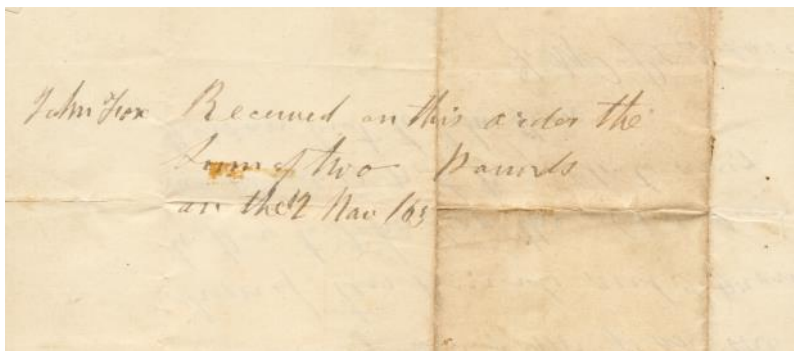


Greenough Flats Nov 2/65

Received from John Fox the sum of ten pounds and I promise to pay to John Fox the above sum the above is not payable to any person but to John Fox.

F.W. Pearson

Francis Watson Pearson was the owner of the Hampton Hotel at Greenough. On the reverse side of this letter was the following:-



John Fox Received on this order the Sum of two pounds on the 2 Nov/65

C Bay Nov 3rd / 65
Recd from John Fox
the Sum of two Pounds
for Board & Lodging
Being all that is due
to the above date
James Osborne

C Bay Nov 3rd / 65
Recd from John Fox the Sum of two
pounds for Board & Lodging Being
all that is due to the above date.
James Osborne

James Osborne was a boarding house keeper at Geraldton.

John Fox died at Greenough on 19th October 1866 and these notes of his were stashed away in the attic at Maley's Store.

It is not known where he was buried.