

ORAL EVIDENCEEVIDENCE OF WILLIAM CORDEAUX,<sup>1</sup> DEPUTY ASSISTANT COMMISSARY  
GENERAL, SYDNEY. NOVEMBER [1819?].

1. How do you supply the store at Newcastle with wheat or flour?

By freighting colonial vessels, the grain being either the property of the owner of the vessel or the property of individuals. They of course take the wheat at their own risk and deliver it at Newcastle. The flour that is required at that station we send down from hence in government vessels.

2. What is charged to Government for freight by their owners?

One shilling per bushel.

3. Why could not the government vessels be employed in this service and the cost of the freight saved?

The government vessels are always employed in carrying either lime or coals. Therefore the wheat could not be conveyed in bulk and as there are not more sacks than are sufficient to convey flour from the mill, and as canvas has been both scarce and very dear, we have not been able to supply any for service. When the shipment of wheat is made direct from the Hawkesbury to Newcastle, the voyage is much shortened and then no charge of freight is made.

4. Is this wheat purchased by sample that is sent to Newcastle?

It is not, but the storekeeper there has directions to refuse it, if it turns out to be bad and then it is a charge upon the importer.

5. Have you instances of corn being returned from Newcastle on account of its quality or condition?

Never.

#### REFERENCE

1. Bonwick transcripts, Box 9, pp.3558-9.  
An entry for Cordeaux appears in the Australian dictionary of biography, vol.1, p.246.

EVIDENCE OF JOHN HARRIS,<sup>1</sup> SURGEON AND MAGISTRATE, SYDNEY,  
7 NOVEMBER, 1819

1. Are you at all acquainted with the nature of the punishment at the Coal River?

I am not personally, but I understand that its efficacy consists in a constant and entire prevention of the use of all spirituous liquors whatever, and an effectual separation from their old companions and a very unremitted state of employment.

2. Have not instances occurred of late, of escapes from the Coal River?

Not so frequent of late as they were formerly.

3. To what cause do you impute this?

I believe that it is owing to the strict precautions of the present commandant Captain Morisset of the 48th Regiment and the great difficulty of finding employment by the settlers.<sup>2</sup>

4. By what means do you think he succeeds in excluding the use of spirituous liquors?

I believe that the prisoners have no means of obtaining any money to purchase liquor by their extra labour.

REFERENCES

1. Bonwick transcripts, Box 2, pp.568-9.  
 An entry for Harris appears in the Australian dictionary of biography, vol.1, pp.519-20.
2. Presumably not the twenty three farms at Paterson's

Plains and Wallis' Plains, as farmers there placed their farms in jeopardy by assisting and employing escaped convicts, according to the Evidence of Brevet Major Morisset, qs 63-4, 135-9, and Morisset to Campbell, 6 July, 1820, N.S.W. Colonial Secretary, Records, In-letters. The settlers referred to by Harris are likely to have been outside the Hunter Valley.