

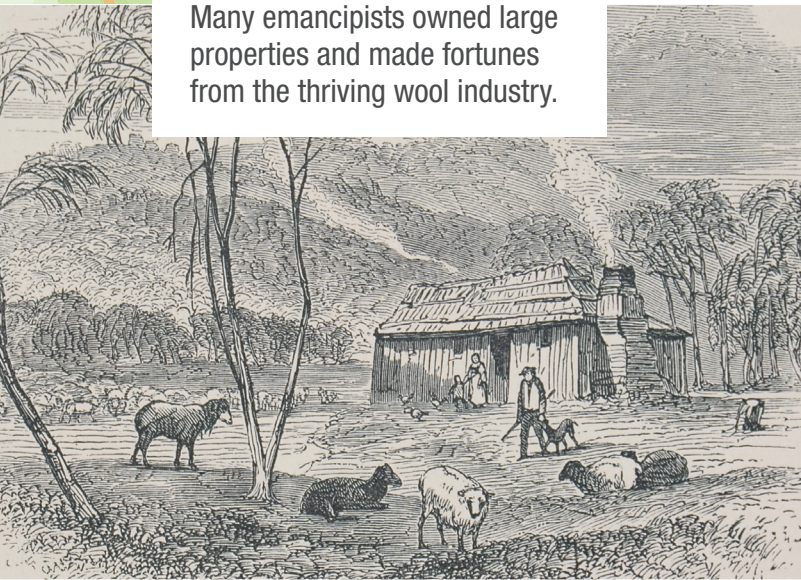
Emancipists and escaped convicts

Convicts who finished their sentence or were **pardoned** by the Governor were freed and given the same rights as free settlers. They were called emancipists. Other convicts tried to gain their freedom by escaping.

Emancipists

Although many emancipists became successful citizens, free settlers looked down on them because of their convict backgrounds. The emancipists believed they had the natural right to live in the colonies, because the colonies had been set up especially for them.

Many emancipists owned large properties and made fortunes from the thriving wool industry.



AN EMANCIPIST'S STORY

When she was 13 years old, Mary Reibey stole a horse. As punishment, she was transported to Australia for seven years. Mary married a free settler and was **emancipated**. When her husband died, Mary took over his shipping business. She had seven children to care for, but she ran the business successfully by herself. Over time, she made a fortune.

aussie fact

Because there were very few women in the colonies, women convicts were emancipated if they married free settlers.

NOTICE TO TICKET-OF-LEAVE MEN.

Police Department, 21st February, 1842.

NOTICE is hereby given, that I am authorised by the Lieutenant-Governor to offer the Indulgence of a Conditional Pardon to such well-conducted Ticket-of-Leave Men as will serve in the POLICE, as hereinafter stated, at the expiration of their respective terms of Service; viz.

TICKET-OF-LEAVE Men, whose term of Transportation is Seven Years—to serve with good conduct for

Six Months.

Ditto,

Ditto,

ditto

ditto

Fourteen Years—ditto One Year.
Life—ditto Fifteen Months.

It is, however, to be clearly understood, that no Pardon will be issued under these Regulations until such Ticket-of-Leave Men shall have been in the Colony for either Four, Six, or Eight Years respectively, according to their terms of Transportation being either for Seven Years, Fourteen Years, or for Life.

Men wishing to enter under these Regulations are to address their Applications to the CHIEF POLICE MAGISTRATE, and send them through the Police Magistrate of the District in which they may reside.

M. FORSTER,
Chief Police Magistrate.

Convicts with tickets of leave

Some convicts who behaved well qualified for a 'ticket of leave' or 'certificate of freedom'. They became emancipists and could earn their own living. They were watched, however, for the rest of their sentence. If they misbehaved, their ticket could be cancelled.

Escaped convicts

In the penal colonies, convicts were not kept behind bars. The thought of trying to survive in the Australian bush kept most convicts from escaping. Those who did escape often returned, starving.

A police magistrate could offer a ticket of leave to convicts who worked hard and behaved themselves.



AN ESCAPED CONVICT'S STORY

Convict William Buckley escaped in 1803. He was found starving and near death by the Wathawurung people. They believed he was a warrior who had returned from the dead and they welcomed him into their group. He lived with them for 32 years. One day, Buckley came across a camp of European settlers. He rejoined European society and became an interpreter and peacemaker.