

**Title**

**Papers of Richard Bowler, MS 4253 Items 1-8**

**Transcription Explanatory Notes:**

This transcription is a copy of the document, not a facsimile. For this reason, certain elements of the original document may not have been reproduced. To assist the reader, the following approach was taken:

**Spelling:** This document contains archaic forms of words. The spelling of such words has been retained, with the inclusion of (sic) at the first occurrence to indicate that this is not a misspelt word.

This document uses the archaic form of 'fs' to represent modern day 'ss' eg 'ifsue' for 'issue'. For ease of comprehension, this has not been reproduced in the transcription.

**Deciphered words:**

[ - ] = a single word is illegible

[ - - ] = two consecutive words are illegible

*italics* = content added by transcriber

[word?] = best guess

**Page location within the original document:**

This document does not have page numbers. To indicate the location of each page within the original document, the unique url number, which appears at the top of the digitised image of that page, has been included.

**Punctuation:**

Not used throughout this document and for ease of comprehension, has been added in the transcription

**Capitalisation:**

Used irregularly throughout this document and for ease of comprehension, has not been reproduced in the transcription

**Formatting:**

For ease of comprehension, the original format of the document has not been strictly followed.

**Background information:**

Richard Bowler, born in 1804, came from Brill Bucks Thame Oxon near Oxfordshire. He was convicted with another youth, James White, for burglary. Both were sentenced to death but reprieved through appeal. He was first remanded on *the Justitia* prison hulk before boarding *the Malabar* with James White for the voyage to Australia. During his voyage on the Malabar on 25 September he suffered from a bad right leg (boils?) and cured by 10 October. Given medicaments (citric acid). At 17 years he arrived at Vandiemans land on 21 October 1821 and was assigned to John Bailey, farmer at Broadmarsh. He received his ticket of leave in 1835. He learned to read and write in Australia and was able to send letters home. He obtained free pardon Number 664 on 16 Dec 1840. His behaviour was not always exemplary as indicated by Tasmanian conduct records. He worked as a labourer most of his life and died of senility in 1878 at Brickfields Pauper Depot, Tasmania.

**Parents:**

1. John Bowler (Clockmaker) and Charlotte Bowler (nee Wilkins). (M. 1791)
2. Charlotte Bowler (Wid) marries Richard Smith (Clockmaker) (m. 1819)

**Siblings:**

John Bowler (b. 1799 Clockmaker in Brill), Mary (b. 1800), Charlotte (b. 1812), Elizabeth (b.1806), Sarah(b. 1801),

Broadmarsh: a property and a farming hamlet 11km on Elderslie road from the Junction with Midlands Highway. A convict probation station was established there and convict buildings still stand.

Black Brush: also off the Elderslie Rd. Had its own post office at one time

**People in letters:**

William & Grace Burgess, Charles Woodman (butcher and convict known to his brother John), James White, Sir John Aubrey, John Bailey (farmer and his overseer), Miss Ann Newton, Stevens & Gibbons

Provenance: Francis Edwards LTD 83 Marylebone High Street London W1

**External links:**

Original offence: Jackson's Oxford Journal (Oxford, England)**Issue:** 3498 Saturday May 6 1820

Convict record: <https://convictrecords.com.au/convicts/bowler/richard/101050>

Conduct records: [https://stors.tas.gov.au/AF35-1-1\\$init=AF35-1-1p64](https://stors.tas.gov.au/AF35-1-1$init=AF35-1-1p64) (image 155)

Newspaper article: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/2957431>

Court reference: <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C14603609>

Ship surgeon's log: <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-1597465545/>

Death records: <https://stors.tas.gov.au/RGD35-1-9p138j2k> (RGD35/1/9 no 1232 )

Burial: Cornelian Bay, Pauper, Section A, Number 216 [https://stors.tas.gov.au/AF35-1-1\\$init=AF35-1-1p64](https://stors.tas.gov.au/AF35-1-1$init=AF35-1-1p64)

Tasmanian convict records: [https://librarianstas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en\\_AU/all/search/results?qu=richard&qu=bowler](https://librarianstas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/all/search/results?qu=richard&qu=bowler)

Broadmarsh history: <https://eprints.utas.edu.au/22682/2/dennison-A-K-opt.pdf>

Sir John Aubrey: (1739 – 1826), MP for [Aylesbury](#) from 1774 to 1780, for [Buckinghamshire](#) from 1784 to 1790

Family tree: <https://www.ancientfaces.com/person/richard-bowler-birth-1804-death-1878-australia/192784580#family>

*Item 1, letter to brother, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1835*

Paper type: Wove

Transcription follows:

P.1 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-609766799>

Broad Marsh

June 1<sup>st</sup> 1835

Dear Brother I take this opportunity of writing to you as it his(sic)<sup>1</sup>unknown whether My dear Father or Mother his living. If they are I send from their undutiful son my affectionate love to them hoping to find them in good health and [crown'd] with prosperity and everlasting happiness. To myself ever since I left England I have enjoyed a very good state of health. Dear brother and your wife and family to my sisters and my relations and all enquiring friends I remember my kind love to you all hoping to find you as happy as I am at present. I should have written before but it was my fathers wish to bring and send good testimonials to which I can give you a very satisfactory account of this country in every particular way mentionable. This island his from England eighteen thousand miles distance. We sailed from Woolwich on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 1821 and we left the English soil to see no more on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June and we sailed for Vandiemens land for that his the name of the island. The voyage was very pleasant and we arrived at Hobart town. That is the capital town in the country on the twenty first of Octbr and we landed on the 26<sup>th</sup> of the same month 1821. I was assigned to a farmer and lived with him seven years and ten months and I then work for government till I got My ticket of leave. The sense of that his I can employ myself in any employment

p.2 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-609766988>

the same as free man. I will give you the account of the prisanners (sic) regulation. A prisoner for life must be in the colony eight years and a good character [before] he will get the indulgence of a ticket of leave.[1<sup>st</sup>] years more six years and a 7 years more, four years the usage his entirely owing to a persons conduct and the country his very prosperous. The greater part of it his cultivated by farmers and graziers. The summer his a great deal warmer than England and the winter his nothing so cold as home not the days his never so long nor yet so short as with you; the prices of everything, whearing(sic) apparel very reasonable and meat same, flour same and everything required can be got here the same as at home. There his but few wild animals and none injurious then his the tiger. She will destroy sheep but will run away from any person. There his the opossum kangaroo, kangaroo rat, wharibat, [dog] devils. The snake, his very venomous here. Where the bite if the piece his not cut instantly it his almost sure death at sun down. The scorpion his venomous but not like the snake. The colony entirely his beautiful and it is [daes?] daily flourish the alteration since I came his quite surprising there his only two towns in the island and two countys. Hobart Town is the capital of the island and that his my own county (Buckinghamshire). Launceston his the other town and the county Cornwall. The two towns are one hundred and twenty miles apart to which all shipping can land at either one or the other of those towns and there his no other places convenient. My dear parents I have give you a small skit of every thing I must

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<sup>1</sup> Means "is"

p.3 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-609767302>

return as my own family. I was ups....(torn) that (torn) Mary was married. But the mans name [they] could not tell. And the letter she sent me I never got. I hope if you get this letter you will not think to(sic) much trouble to send me a answer and tell me every particular of our family and relations. Tell me whether Charlotte his married and how all Burgess family his, whether Sarah his married and whether any of my cosins are married and where the(y) are all living. My dear friends it his fourteen years since I ever saw a letter from you. But I am in hopes to see one more. But I am sorry to say I have been much to blame. I did not write before [ad] I can both write and read to which his a great consolation to me but a poor comfort to you. If you answer this letter it will be twelve months from date before I shall receive an answer. So I must conclude with saying I remain your loving son and brother, Rich Bowler

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Direct for Mr Rd Bowler at Mr John Baileys  
BroadMarsh Hobart town Vandiemans land

James White I have heard he has got his ticket of leave. But never have seen him since we landed

p.4 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-609767621>

Mr John Bowler  
Brill Bucks  
Near Thame Oxon (Oxfordshire) England

*Item 2, letter to Father, Mother and siblings, Dec 7th,*  
Transcription follows:

p.1 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-609767069>

Broad Marsh near Brighton

Dec 7<sup>th</sup> 1835

Dear Father and mother Brother and sisters and relations all. I write these few lines to you hoping to find you all in good health as it leaves me at present and I thank you for it and I likewise so with my affectionate and sincere love: I hope to hear of your having every thing you take in hand may prove prosperous so that you may end your lives in peace and happiness and I further hope that we may have the pleasure to meet once more if not in this world I hope it will be in the next and I hope our next meeting will be to part no more as our parting as been a long time and I have been as usual very negligent as I did not comply with your desire but I thought by stopping a length of time I thought your minds would be more reconciled so that my letters would not have the impression on your minds as I am aware my absence was a great trial to you. I will inform you of the voyage from England to Vandiemans land as that his the name of the island where I am. The voyage was beautiful

and I further hope that you will never fret about bad usugge (sic) for it his entirely your conduct whether good or bad then that you are placed under. *They* use you accordingly. I am very happy to inform you that I have one step towards my freedom and further I do expect before I receive a answer from this letter to have my conditional

p.2 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-609767195>

pardon as I intend to try for it immediately and should I happen that I should get it I should be a free man in the country. Dear parents if alive or whoever may got please to write back a answer immediately and send me every particulars how you are situated and where you are living and I will assist you as I am aware that you must be past work for you are getting quite an aged persons. But if you are alive I shall know my fathers writing altho I have not seen it so long. This his the second letter I have wrote to you and one to my brother. But I have not had any answer yet I remember my Love to my brother & wife & all his family and his wives relations I remember my love to my sister Mary and family and her husband. I heard she was married but don't know his name. I remember my respects to Miss Newton and my love to my sister [am] his wife. My respects to my uncle and aunt and cousins all and to all inquiring friends So no more at present from your undutiful But ever affectionate son Richard Bowler

Direct for Mr Rd Bowler at John Baileys Broad  
Marsh farmer (at) Brighton Vandiemans land

p.3 blank

p.4 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-609767987>

Mr Richard Smith Watch and Clock  
Maker Brill Bucks near Thame Oxam  
England Europe

*Item 3, letter to Mother Brother Sisters, Nov 14th, 1836*

Paper type: laid, cream, Ansell paper

Transcription follows:

p.1 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-609767512>

Broad Marsh [-]

Novr 14th 1836 District Brighton

Dear Mother Brother Sisters your wife and children and to all relations those few lines I write with my affectionate love to you all hoping it will find you all in good health as it leaves me at present and I thank God for it. Dear Brother I have the pleasure of informing you that I have received my conditional pardon so now I am a free man in this colony But I cannot leave it till I get a absolute pardon which I must wait about two years longer for. My liberty was granted to me on the thirty first of August 1836. My dear friends I hope by 1839 I shall be able to say I shall be as free as you are. I have waited in expectation of

[hearing] a answer from the last letter (words crossed out) as that was only nine months from the time I wrote it till I had a answer I and I wrote a letter to you immediately and I sent one directed for father before I got yours. Dear Brother I hope you will write oftener as the distance his (sic) so great. The distance his eighteen thousand miles. Brother I hope you will have the

p2. <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-609767793>

[-] to remember my love to my uncle and aunt and all your wifes relations and send me word whether Sir John Aubrey his living or who his living at Dorton House and tell Mr Woodman if he directs for Charles Woodman to the care of Mr Gunn<sup>2</sup> Esq. Prisoners Barracks Hobart Town. He will get the letter but don't you let them see this letter nor don't you tell them where he his for he his under a colonial sentence at Port Arthur. By the time he would get a letter from home he might be at Hobart Town. So my dear friend I must conclude with saying I remain your affectionate son brother and uncle for ever. God bless you all.

Now John if you don't write a answer immediately when I see you I will [compel] you to pay for a bottle of rhum. Direct as before. Excuse my [blunders]. I can sing as well as ever Brother.

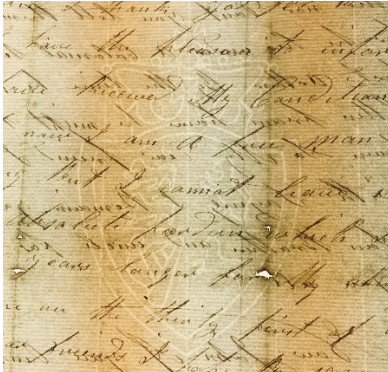
James White his fine but I have not seen him since we came in the colony but I saw his name gazzetted two years ago.

Watermark: a shield in four with fleur de lis above; reading L to R: Upper half

1. 2 lion passant; 2. Lion rampant

Lower half:

1. Harp? 2. Horse passant

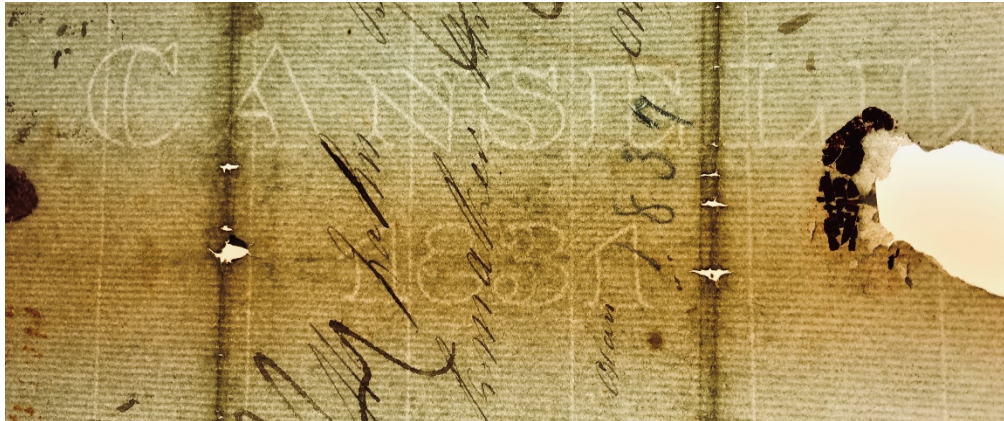


p3. <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-609768236>

Watermark: C Ansell 1831 (in double lines)

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<sup>2</sup> Mr Gunn owned large parts of Broadmarsh



P4. <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-609768554>

Mr John Bowler  
Clockmaker Brill Bucks  
Near Thame Oxon England

In pencil 1837  
Post marked 6 July 1837

*Item 4, letter to mother, brother, sisters, April 15, 1838*

Paper type: laid, blue from Carron Grove paper mill in Scotland

Transcription follows:

p.1 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-609768129>

Watermark: Carron Mills 1832 (at fold)

Broad Marsh April 15<sup>th</sup> 1838

Brighton Vandiemens Land

Dear Mother Brother Sisters and all your children. I write to you with my kind love hoping to find you all in good health as it leaves me at present and I thank God for it. Dear friends I am very happy to inform you that her Gracious Majesty queen Victoria has granted my [Immansipati]<sup>3</sup> which gives me the pleasure to say I am a free man in this country. I did explain to you in a letter the meaning of this liberty I now hold. Dear Brother I think it very strange that I have not received any letter from you this eighteen months which I have sent you two since that time. But never recd any answer and I am certain the(y) [came] to England for letters I wrote for other people that was sent in the same ship as mine the(y) have got their answers which I think their<sup>4</sup> must be some negligence in some way or other.

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<sup>3</sup> immancipation

<sup>4</sup> they



Dear Brother I was very sorry to hear that your wife suffered with such illness and I was more surprised to hear you are so corpulent. Give my love to your children and all my sisters children & I still live in hopes to see you all once more if God spares my life. You told me that Gibbins & Stevens was very [poor]. They cannot expect to be otherways for Stevens would swear the legs off a iron pot & Gibbins allways gloried at any persons downfall. I hope Brother you will write to me and tell me all particulars about Brill and give my love to my sister Ann Newton and tell her when I come home we will sing all [base] and burn the bellows.

p.2 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-609768445>

At Brill I was born the truth you will know I being wild and rakeish which proved my overthrow of being young and foolish. My parents advice forsook so to Vandiemens Land was sent. They [throught] to make me [droop] but through seventeen years good conduct my liberty I gained and in the course of a few years to Brill I'll be again. How happy will the moments be my friends for to embrace and my poor old tender Mother once more to see her face. The last time that I saw her she was in grief and woe to think I was a going some where but where she did not know. Dear Brother you was like her, your heart being filled with grief and I so far in bondage I could not you relieve (sic). But now the day his (sic) different I am happy for to say once more I am out of bondage. I am happy far away. I may for twelve months longer and then my free pardon gain and then success unto our Queen and long may she reign. Brother give my best respects to my uncle & aunts & cousins & their familys. If the(y) are married. the like will to your father & mother in law and all their family. Tell them I shall call at Islip and see them when I return.  
So no more at present from your affectionate son & brother Richard Bowler

p.3 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-609768789>

Watermark: 1832

p.4 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-609769011>

To Mr John Bowler  
Brill Buckinghamshire  
Near Thame Oxon

(in pencil 1838) England

*Item 5, letter to brother, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 1836*

Paper type: wove

Transcription follows:

p.1 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-609768650>

May 14<sup>th</sup> 1836 Broad Marsh Vandiemans Land District Brighton

Dear Brother I write in answer to your welcome letter which I received on the 11<sup>th</sup> of this month to which I read with [uneasyness] and pleasure for the loss of my father I felt myself very much grieved to think I had been neglectful as never to have wrote in such a long time. But I was here seven years and never touched a penn(sic). Dear Brother I must now speak to my tender aged mother. I felt myself quite happy to hear that she was alive. Dear mother I send to my love from a worthless and disobedient son that has caused you many months weeks and days uneasings. But my dear mother I hope these few lines will find you in good health as it leaves me at present and further have the kindness to send out in your next letter my age as I don't think I am more than 31 years old. But I am not certain. Dear Mother I hope you will be contented in mind and if I get a opportunity as I expect to have within 4 years if God should spare my life I will see Brill once more. Dear Mother I must now speak to my brother. Dear Brother and wife and children all, I write with a brothers and uncles love to you all hoping to find you all well as it leaves me at present. Dear Brother I am happy to hear you are doing well but [sorry] to hear your wife enjoys a bad state of health. You wished to know if I was married. I can assure you I never was nor are not at present. Dear Brother about Charles Woodman<sup>5</sup> I could not find him out unless you can tell me the year and the ship he came from Europe to this colony by, and then I can find him immediately. Brother send you childrens names in rotation and tell me whether which his the youngest or the oldest as James as I expect James his the only child you have I know. I wish Brother for you to tell Mary if she his not

p.2 [nla.gov.au/nla.obj-609769087](http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-609769087)

she his in any way offended or whether she owns me name as her brother as she could not send me a letter. I am not so miserable but I can pay the postage for I should feel it a pleasure in doing it. Dear Brother I must speak to my sister Mary. Dear sister and husband and children all I send my kind love to you all hoping to find you all well as it leaves me at present. I should have sent a letter to [Briham][possibly short for Buckinghamshire] but I did know your husbands christian name nor what part of Aylesbury you live in. I heard by Jack Smith you was married to the milkman. Dear sister I hope you will send me a letter. I shall at any time receive it with pleasure. To my sister Ann Newton I send my sincere love to you and your husband and hope you are both well. Further to my sister Charlotte her husband and family hoping to find you all well and please to let me know whether your husband his Mary Hays's son. Further to sister Elizabeth her husband and family and please to let me know how many more husbands more you intend burying. Further I give my love Brother to your father and mother in law and all their family and I hope that prosperity may attend them. Further I send my love to my uncle and aunt and all my cousins and I hope [they] are all doing well. Further I give my best respects to all your neibours and all inquiring friends.

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<sup>5</sup> Charles Woodman (aged 18), butcher, convicted for attempted killing of his sister-in-law (Bithiah Woodman) on 11 July 1831 at the Bucks Assizes and arrived 16 July 1832 on the *Katherine Stewart Forbes*. He fathered a child on his master's daughter in 1835 and in 1846 was charged with intent to kill and murder Elizabeth Jones. He was hanged on 25 March 1846. See article in *The Standard*, London Tuesday April 5, 1831  
[Colonial Times \(Hobart, Tas. : 1828 - 1857\) Tue 1 Dec 1835/page7](http://ColonialTimes(Hobart,Tas.:1828-1857)Tue1Dec1835/page7)  
<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/bl/0001286/18310717/026/0007>  
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/2946049>  
 convict records: [https://libriaristas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en\\_AU/names/search/results?qu=woodman](https://libriaristas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/names/search/results?qu=woodman)



Dear Brother I further beg of you that you will never see Mother want for any thing in a reasonable way as I expect you are the only one she depends upon for her support and if you are not rewarded by any one I trust God will. Dear Brother I have sent you some of my hair that his the only part of my person that I cold send you which you will keep some of it as there his same for my mother. I shall keep picture you sent me. So I must conclude with saying god bless you mother, brother sisters and every one of you. So I remain till Death your undutiful but loving son and brother Rd Bowler.

p.3 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-609769371>

Dear Brother write back a answer soon as you get this and should I have any further indulgence I will write immediately direct to the same place as before

p.4 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-609769632>

Mister John Bowler  
Clockmaker  
Brill Bucks near Thame Oxon  
1836 England

*Item 6, letter to family, 1 January 1841*

Paper type: laid, Lumsden Mills  
Watermark: p1. Brittainia in chariot p4. Lumsden 1838 (Scottish papermaker)

Transcription follows:

p.1 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-609769185>

Broad Marsh Vandiemans Land January 1<sup>st</sup> 1841

Dear Mother Brother Sister to your husbands wife and children all, likewise to all relations and inquiring friends I address these few lines hoping to find you all well as it leaves me at the present. I think it very strange I haeve (sic) not received a single letter from any of you this last three years. I have wrote to you John three letters you expected according to my information to you I should have been in England two years ago but the regulations of government often alter and that was the only reason. But I am happy to inform you that I have received my free pardon in this colony. But I have to wait for her Majestys pleasure which I expect about next Christmas then I shall be my own master once more, which [at] what time the like this twenty years. Dear Brother I expect if I should hear from you I shall hear you are married but I am single yet and likely to remain so.

p.2 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-609769508>

Dear brother I hope you will answer this letter and inform me all particulars. Give my love to my mother if she his(sic) living and if she his dead I hope the lord will rest her soul. I should much like to see the old lady once more and if living should God spare my life I will. My love to you Brother & your children & if a wife to her likewise although perhaps a strange likewise to my sister Ann Newton & her husband & family. Likewise to my sister Elizabeth her husband & family. Likewise to my sister Charlotte her husband & family. Likewise to my uncle aunt & all my cousins. Likewise to Wm & Grace Burgess & all their family and their familys to them that are married and good luck may attend them that are single and every one of you and that forgetting myself at the same time Brother should I not get any answer to this you will not hear from me any more till you see me. Not forgetting my poor sister Mary husband & children. So I must conclude with saying I remain your affectionate son & brother & uncle to many faces I never seen  
Richard Bowler

p.3 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-609769749>

In 1821 all on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May  
from Aylesbury Castle we set out to Woolwich went straight way on board of the ship *Justitia*. [They] placed us for a time over irons. Being light over usugge(sic) being kind me was there one month when the ship she did come down and taken one hundred & seventy two to Vandiemens Land. It was on fifteen day of June when *the Malabar* sail off. There was many a [rany] looking man & many a one pale look[ing] by being [fared] from our native land & our friends so dear we love. But we like craes cheer our hearts and on the ocean steerd we had a pleasant voyage. 17 weeks & 5 days then we reached our destination & to you I [-] through went & this we did engage & brave do their [-ings].  
On the 26<sup>th</sup> of October 1821 we landed in Hobart Town in the island called Vandiemensland. Some of us we were assigned & same to government according to our descriptions. So was our employment for many a year I was assigned as you the truth shall know, but now I am a free man. My liberty I hold. I hope my lines you will excuse as I have been so bold and a better study I will tell when I reach my Native home.  
So success to Liberty

Rich Bowler

p.4 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-609769953>

Mr John Bowler  
Clockmaker  
Brill Bucks near Thame Oxon  
1841 England

*Item 7, letter to family, 1 June 1841*

Paper type: laid, blue

Watermark: p1. "S" in double line and 1839 p4. Britannia in chariot riding waves

Transcription follows:

p.1 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-609770657>

The Derry near New Norfolk Vandiemensland, at Mr John Bailey Farmer  
June 1<sup>st</sup> 1841

Dear Mother, brother, sisters and to all your familys I once more take up my pen to let you know of my situation. I am happy to say I enjoy a good state of health which I hope you will inform me how you are situated as I hope those few lines will find you all in good health and resume let me know every particular respecting my poor aged mother & all your family. Dear brother I think it very strange I cannot receive any answers to my letters which I have wrote to you, Four there must be either neglect or you must be offended with something I have wrote to you. But if you are , it his (sic) quite unknown to me for I never wrote with any reproach or contempt to any of my relations for your kindness to the forbids me not but should I not receive any answer to this letter I am determined never to write to any one of you no more. But I shall consider myself a friendless

p.2 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-609770784>

exile in a foreign country. Many years we have been parted but still I have the [purest] affections for you all but I am troubled without exception to know the result.

Write a answer to this letter as quick as you can & if I do not get a letter within 12 months I shall expect you are either dead or you have denied having any kinsman a exile by the name of Richard Bowler. But should it be so let some person write to let me know whether my poor mother is dead as I have a great reason to think so & to what alterations as taken place in the family.

So no more at present from your affectionate son brother cousin & uncle Richard Bowler

p.3 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-609770919>

Blank page with Britannia in chariot watermark

p.4 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-609771045>

For  
Mr John Bowler  
Clockmaker  
Brill Bucks  
Near Thame Oxan  
1841 England

*Item 8, letter to Mother, brother sisters, April 24<sup>th</sup> 1843*

Paper type: wove

Transcription follows:

p.1 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-609772364>

Black Brush April 24<sup>th</sup> 1843

Dear Mother, Brother sisters & to all your familys and all relations I write these few lines in answer to your welcomed letter. I recd the beginning of this month and I feel quite happy to hear you are all well except poor Charlotte which I am very sorry to hear of her illness. You may think it strange that I never informed you that I received the picture of the [spa?] but I have it now and I have received four letters from you in all. I feel much pleasure in hearing from you but it his (sic) so [ledass] I think that before you get this letter I shall have my absolute pardon from England. I mean to go to the police office & see about it for I have neglected myself in not going. But this country his much altered and for the worse. Emmigration ruins this country and if the corn don't sell better than what it does there will be no living at all for these men that are in business are taking the benefit. Every day merchant failed. 130 thousand pound

p.2 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-609772558>

tradesmen are so numerous that there his not half employment for these. I can confidentially assure you there his droves unemployed. It his no use for any person to think of doing well at Vandiemens land now without money and their good judgement to his required and the neighbouring lands around are as bad at Port Phillip and Port Adelaide and other parts. I can affirm this to you as a truth. It was easier before emigrats came here to get a pound than it his now to get a shilling. Dear brother I hope you will tell me in your next letter whether Sir John Aubrey his dead or not. I have not seen James White since we first arrived in this country. Further I wish you to inform me whether you know of any of our kindred sent to this country. I heard there was a person named Bowler & he said he had an uncle here but there his a Joseph Bowler here but not any kin to us. I could know if I knew the ship the boy came in. He his about 17 or 18 years old. I hope and trust it is not one of your sons. I particularly

p.3 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-609772683>

request of you to give my kind love to Mother and I should if please God to see once more and every one of you. Give my love to Ann Newton & her husband. If he his a kin & give my love to Elizabeth & husband & family & tell me how your family & all [off] you are situated. Give me a small *statement* of all our relation, neighbours & inquiring friends. Direct for me at Mr John Baily, Black Brush Pontville Vandiemens Land.

I am happy to say I enjoy a most excellent state of health & still single. Give my love to poor Charlotte if she his living, & should she be dead I hope the Lord will rest her soul.

So I conclude with saying I still remain your affectionate son & brother & uncle.

MS 4253

Richard Bowler

p.4 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-609772815>

Envelop marked "Ship letter"

To)

John Bowler

Clockmaker Brill

Buckinghamshire

Near Thame Oxfordshire

England (in pencil 1843) Europe