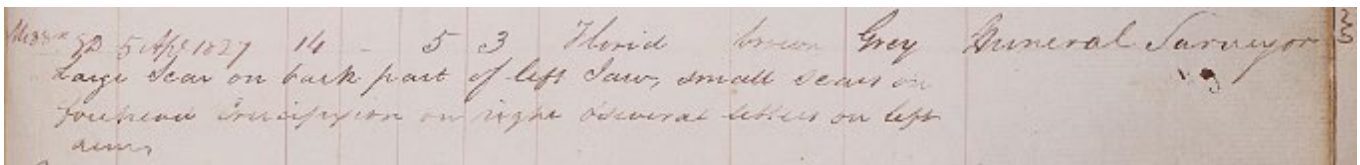


Whatever Happened to James?

Deaf convict James Smith was not looking good when he arrived in Sydney in 1827. But he looked even more battle-scarred when he received his Certificate of Freedom in 1841. Discuss how he might have come by some of his additional scars and markings, and develop a re-enactment of what happened to him.

Indent from 1841



Transcript of the description:

When tried: 5th April 1827

Sentence: 14 years

Height: 5 feet and 3

inches Complexion:

Florid

Hair: Brown

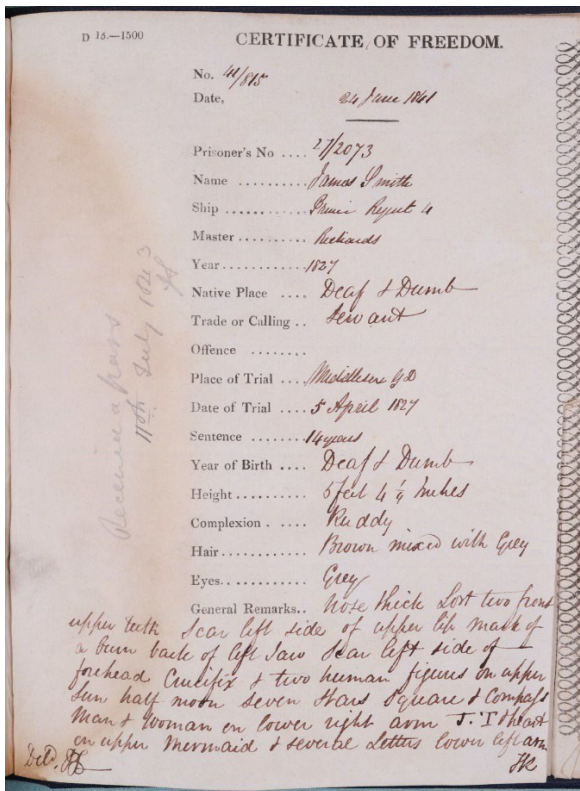
Eyes: Grey

Indentured to: General Surveyor

Large scar on back part of left jaw, small scars on forehead Crucifixion on right and several letters on left arms.

Whatever Happened to James?

Certificate of Freedom from 1841



Transcript of the description:

Nose thick Lost two front upper teeth Scar left side of upper lip Mark of a burn back of left jaw Scar left side of forehead Crucifix & two human figures on upper Sun half-moon seven stars square & compass Man & Woman on lower right arm J. T & heart on upper mermaid & several Letters lower left arm.

- Work in groups of two or three, and compare the descriptions of James Smith in 1827 and 1841.
- Develop a scenario to explain how he acquired his additional scars or marks.
- Develop a re-enactment of this scenario in Auslan – one of you as James, and the others as some of his fellow convicts.
- Your Auslan explanations must include constructed action and depicting signs.
- Practice your re-enactment together and show the class.