

## **MOONDYNE JOE ESCAPES AGAIN – 1866**

**Extracts from York Police Book: August to October 1866**

### **TABLEAUX / IMPROVISATION / READERS THEATRE**

Students are on the raised platform of the 1874 York Courthouse and have their scripts in folders. For Readers Theatre the students do not need to know their parts but should be well rehearsed in reading them. Even though the parts are read, students should still make eye contact with the audience. The performers do not look at each other. Students may take on different roles.

**Suitable Years:**                      **Years 7 to 10**

**Number of Students:**              **one or more**

**Venue:**

1874 York Courthouse

**Synopsis:**

These are the primary source reports recorded in the York Police Book for August 1866 to October 1866. Moondyne Joe has escaped from gaol again and is again captured by the York Police. They can be used for reference or developed for performance.

**Costume:**

York Courthouse Complex has some costumes available for student use. Ask at time of booking.

**Suggested Activities:**

- One or more students could take the role of Narrator and read out the Police Book entries. After each one is read a group of students could present a short improvisation that they have prepared. The improvisations might take the form of interviews with the characters, a series of tableaux (like a series of photos or slides), mime, a melodrama, or realistic drama.
- This material could also be presented as Readers Theatre.
- Using this primary source, together with the setting of the York Courthouse, students can develop a presentation about the second chase and capture of Moondyne Joe.



## MOONDYNE JOE ESCAPES AGAIN – 1866

### Extracts from York Police Book: August to October 1866

The following are extracts from the York Police Book from the time of Moondyne Joe's escape in August 1866 through to the time of his capture.

August 9<sup>th</sup> 1866

PC Hayden and his native assistant left this station at 10 am on route to the eastern station with him three police horses one of which was carrying the pack with the instructions from Magistrate Cowan to go round by Mrs ER Parkers and make a careful enquiry and search for the other three escaped convicts who are still at large 3396 G Jackson, 5330 A McDonald 8189 J. B Johns and on their arrival at their station if no reports of robberies have been made they will patrol amongst the sandalwood men north of their station and make a careful search.

Resident Magistrates report (to the Governor)  
8th August 1866

Sir

I have the honour to state that the four escaped prisoners mentioned in the margin were caught by Police Constable Edwards, Hyde and M Cowitch on Sunday in the neighbourhood of Beverley. On the 2nd instant they robbed Mr Fleay at three o'clock in the morning. 7833 George Needham, 7898 D Williams entered the dwelling of Mr James Fleay. The doors not having been locked and two of them the one armed with a large sharp pointed knife the other with an axe and with bludgeons threatened the lives of Mr James Fleay and Mr Quartermaine if they stirred out of bed.

September 3rd 1866

Mrs T W Dodd

To report that his shepherd reported to him this morning that he saw three men this morning which he believed to be the escaped convicts. I sent to Mr Dodd's sheep station to get the description of the men from the shepherd and asked him to put four men on their tracks. They have taken with them one horse, plenty of rations, handcuffs, ammunition and as it is suspected that it was Moondyne Joe and his party, PC Hyde, PC Moran, PC Hayden and two natives.

September 4<sup>th</sup>

All above returned to station at 8pm and reports that they stopped at Thomas Dodd's last night and proceeded to Mrs Hammersley's sheep station this morning where Mrs Dodd said the escaped convicts were seen. The shepherd said he saw two men in the bush on Thursday last (30th August). One of them had a double-barrelled gun. They were dressed in civilian clothes. The shepherd did not speak to them. He also stated that a man came to Thomas Bird on Wednesday night last 29th alt asked for a night's lodgings. They gave him a wool bale and he slept in the barn. He was dressed in civilian clothes he had no gun. He was a tall stout man with long whiskers. They then proceeded to Mr E Hammersley's who reported All right and said there was no person about his place lately. Called at Thomas Enright's who reports All right. Called at Henry Bonney's who reports All right and returned to the station and states the report of the escaped convicts being seen where Mrs Dodd's mentioned was false and in consequence of not hearing any correct account of them, they did not consider it necessary to remain out any longer.

September 19th 1866

Police report

Sergeant Moye, PC Edward and native assistant arrived at the Stanton Spring station at 8am on the 17th. I paid him his pay for the month of August, filled up his returns for August and copied his occurrences in the book. We left Station Spring at 3pm visited at Thomas Danning, Francis Wharton reports All Right. Stopped there all night on the 18th. Visited John Higgins, John Seabrook, Terrance McGrath, Richard Potts reports All right. Arrived at Beverley. I left Beverley this morning. Visited JW Brown, John Blackston, John Fleay, The Reverend F Lynch, Joseph Hicks, Charles Massingham, reports All Right. Made inquiry at all of the above mentioned places respecting the escaped convicts at present at large. Nothing was heard of any of them.

September 22nd 1866

The native Cowitch arrived at this station from Youndegin with a note from Mrs James Turner to the resident Magistrate stating that 3 men armed were seen at Youndegin in the morning of the 21st by some sandalwood men and natives. Supposed to be Moondyne Joe and his party. See special report of arrangements made.

23rd September 1866

Sergeant Moyes, Nugent and Edwards and native Cowitch and Muckle Jack. Sergeant Moye hired a horse from H Albert and then left this station at 10 pm enroute to the eastern station in pursuit of Moondyne Joe and Party. See special report.

24th James Turner returned.

September 30<sup>th</sup>

Native Cowitch arrived at the station at 1pm from the eastward and reports that Moondyne Joe and his party are arrested and on their way to York

October 6th

Constables Hayden , Lalley and Monahan and three native assistants arrived at this station with the three escaped convicts Joseph B Johns PCP No 8189, Thomas Bugg PP 8203  
Property found on prisoners  
3 double barrellled guns, one revolver, sundry articles.

October 8th 1866

Constables Fee, Maloney, Hayden and Lalley and native assistant left this station at 9am on escort duty to Perth with the three escaped convicts by order of the Resident Magistrate.

Joseph B Johns to Perth after staying in York Lock up between October 6th and 8th apprehended by PC Hayden.

PC Monaghan left this station at 10 am to return to Toodyay  
Native assistant Muckles Jack left this station to go to Beverley station.