

## **INSTRUCTIONS TO BE OBSERVED IN BURYING THE BODIES OF EXECUTED PRISONERS**

All the clothing, with the exception of the shirt or similar garment, will be removed from the body, which will be placed in a coffin made of fir wood, deal or pine.

The sides and ends of the coffin will be well perforated with large holes.

Lime will not be used.

The original size of the plot of ground will be 9ft by 4ft, and the grave will be from 8 to 10ft in depth.

When the coffin has been covered with 1 foot of earth, charcoal to the depth of three inches will be thrown into the grave, which will then be filled in. The top coffin will be not less than 4 feet below the ground surface.

Arrangements will be made for the grave sites to be re-used in sequence, in such wise that no grave shall be used over again until 7 years have elapsed. When a grave is reopened the charcoal and the foot of earth above the last coffin will not be disturbed.

A register of graves will be kept, containing the name of each convict buried, the date of burial, the site of the grave, and the position of the coffin in the grave.

Each burial had to be formally reported to Headquarters, the Reports were normally brief and to the point. They contained only the grave number, depth of the grave, and the direction the body was laid.

Exhumations are only carried out when a formal licence is issued by the Home Office and personally signed by the Home Secretary. There are strict instructions as to procedure, who has to be present, and the due care and decency required as well as discretion and absence of publicity. As each grave, separated by the prescribed layer of charcoal, can contain up to 3 bodies, exhumation is neither a simple nor desirable task.