Memorands by James Martin

Causer, Tim

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Fair copy of *Memorandoms*
by James Martin
Memorandums by James Martin

J. James Martin being convicted at the City of Exeter in the County of Devonshire being sound guilty of stealing £31 6s. 8d. East & £7 16s. 8d. of old pew. the Property of Lord Armstrong Amsterdam Castle in the
Transported to Botany Bay for 7 years — Returned from the ship to Exeter jail and there remained 2 months.
from thence sent on board the Dunkirk where remained
2 months the ship put on board the Charle the Transports
then bound to Botany Bay. March 25, 1790. Sailed from
Newcastle where remained to the 13 of April where
remained 9 days. Three remained 9 days. One sailed to
Dundee where remained under the command of Governor's
Most Secret for Second of April 13 days where
remained 7 days. One sailed for the Island of the de Janeiro's
being 9 Weeks on our passage remain
3 days on board. One sailed for the Cape of Good Hope
in 3 Weeks and 3 days on our passage. One sailed for Botany
Bay being 10 Weeks on our passage.

Memo: At Hunter's Inn, 1st April, the bounds being read on shore we began to work onGovernments account. and being landed we were surrounded and formed into bands of work in a team — after being surrounded some of us were
ordered to work the Governor's house to build celebrates. I arrived on botany
Islands from January 1st April till March 1791 — on the
25th January made my escape on Company with 2
more, one Wm. Martin and two children we an army of six
small boats, having of provisions on board one hundred
lbs. of flour, one cask of rice, 1 cask of pork, and
about
Memorandoms by James Martin.

I James Martin being Convicted at the City of Exeter in the County of Devonshire being found guilty of Stealing 16½ lb of old Lead & 4½ lb of old Iron the Property of Lord Courtney Powderham Castle near Exeter—Received Sentence to be Transported to Botany Bay for 7 Years—Returned from the Bar to Exeter Goal and there remained 2 Months— from thence sent on Board the Dunkirk there remained 10 Months from thence put on board the Charlotte Transport then bound to Botany Bay—March 12th: 1787. Sailed round to Spithead there remained to the 13 of May—then sailed in Company with 10 Sail for Botany Bay under the Command of Governor Philips. Made the Peak of Tenereef 5th of June, there remained 7 days, then sailed for the Island of Rio de Janeiro, being 8 Weeks on our Passage remained there 1 Month, then sailed for the Cape of Good Hope being 8 Weeks and 3 days on our passage, then sailed for Botany Bay being 10 Weeks on our passage. Came to Anchor in Port Jackson—sent on shore in two days—the Convicts being sent on shore began to work on Government’s account—on being landed we were Encamped and formed into squads of size in a tent—after being Encamped some of us were sent to clear the Ground others to build Huts—I remained on the Island from January 1788 till March 1791—on the 28th of March I made my Escape in Company with 7 Men, one Woman and two Children in an open six oared Boat, having of provisons on board one hundred Weight of flower, one Cwt. of Rice, 14lb. of Pork, and about
about 8 gallons of water; having at Company’s quarters & Chard after sailing 3 days we reached at little Break, about 2 leagues to the Northward of Port Jackson; there we found a quantity of fine breaking boat, we remained there 2 weeks & 3 days, and found a great many Kangaroo trees some of which we cut down and preserved the bark of. The Indians came down to shore we gave some blankets and other trifles and they went away very well satisfied. The boats appeared much better than at Sydney Cove, here we got a great many fish of which we had affectionate ones — After one day of wind and one day we continued our voyage to the Northward, after two days we made a very fine tacos coming to run up the country for many bales and very considerable for the embarkage of shipping; here we found plenty of fresh water, no handful of boat-ashes & house, in another with some Bass and whiting which we could use, we launched our boat and went off to the stream quite out of reach of them. That being Sunday, Monday we were off on the stream several hours, thinking to land some miles below — on Monday morning we attempted to land, and we found a place convenient for to repair our boats; we accordingly put some of our things past being where we had the Indians come and great numbers moved with spoons, and struck us several times in parts, one party of us made towards them, to signify they by signs, but they took not the least notice accordingly we stuck a musket thinking to affright them, but they paid no attention to it — our proceeding down.
about 8 gallons of water; having a Compass Quadrant & Chart. After Sailing 2 days we reached a little Creek, about 2 Degrees to the Northward of Port Jackson, there we found a quantity of fine burning Coal, we remained there 2 Nights & 1 day and found a great many Cabbage trees some of which we cut down and procured the Cabbage. The Natives came down to whom we gave some Cloaths and other articles, and they went away very well satisfied. The Land appeared much better than at Sidney Cove, here we got a great many fishes which were very refreshing to us—After our Stay of two Nights and one day we continued our Voyage to the Northward after two days sail we made a very fine harbour seeming to run up the Country for many Miles and very commodious for the Anchorage of Shipping; here we found plenty of fresh water, we hawled our boat a shore to repair her bottom with some Bees-wax and Resin which we had a small quantity of. But on the same Night we were drove off by the Natives, which meant to destroy us, we launched our boat and rode off in the stream quite out of reach of them. That being Sunday, Monday we were off in the Stream we rowed lower down, thinking to land some Miles below—on Monday morning we attempted to land, and we found a place convenient for to repair our boat, we accordingly put some of our things part being ashore when the Natives came in great numbers armed with Spears and Shields & c. we form’d ourselves in parts, one party of us made towards them to pacify them by signes, but they took not the least notice accordingly we fired a Musket thinking to affright them but they paid no attention to it—on perceiving them rush
such forwards we saw good to lake to our boat and got out of these
reach as just as we could, and was to the westward and still it
eternal was determined to run up the bottom, which we thought
we did not think but we would take a little while to sweep along the
middle of the bottom which we took up and moved up our boat
and several here to sea and to lake from the bottom, then we made
off to the shore where we took in fresh water and a few fuel and
we had put to sea the night before, the events are not quite middle's, if
rainy, short hour, they were blown out of both, then we proceeded
to the northward, having a leading wind from the S.W. but then
ought the wind changed and came as out of sight of land, when
we landed our mind having a set of boats in the wind, we made the
next day we made close into land, but the circumstances very hard
we could not attempt to land but kept along shore, but making
our barrack on each for over 3 Weeks we were very much destitute
for water & wood, but preserving the draft to take two or our own
women a chance to get some water, not being afraid of the Indians
which they were so numerous they returned without any but a
little word which they threw into the water and made up:
We put over in the other side of the bay expecting to meet with
a convenient harbor, we found a little near which with great diffi-
culty we got up on our boat being very low at that time that we was
with great difficulty we could keep her above water, we was
landed & landed her up putting some days in the change which
continued very well at this place we could get off but of any
land twice we stopped two days and two nights till we left this
place and wentLOWER down the bay about 20 miles expecting
to meet with a barrack to get some refreshment but could not
rush forwards we were forced to take to our boat and get out of their reach as fast as we could, and what to do we could not tell, but consulting together we were determined to row up the harbour which accordingly we did 9 or 10 Miles till we made a little white sandy Island in the middle of the harbour which we landed upon and hawled up our boat and repaired her bottom with what materials we had: during our stay of 2 days we had no interruption from the Natives; then we rowed off to the main where we took in fresh water and a few Cabbage trees and then put out to sea—the natives here are quite naked, of a copper colour shock hair, they have Canoes made of bark—then we proceeded to the northward, having a leading breze from the S:W—but that night the wind changed and drove us out of sight of land—when we hawled our wind having a set of Sails in the boat accordingly the next day we made close into land, but the Surf running very hard we could not attempt to land but kept along Shore but making no harbour or creek for near 3 Weeks we were very much distressed for water & wood: but perceiving the Surf to abate two of our men swam ashore to get some water, but being afraid of the Natives which they saw in numbers they returned without any but a little wood which they threw into the water and we took up—We put over on the other side of the bay expecting to meet with a convenient harbour we found a littler river which with great difficulty we got up our boat being very leaky at that time that is was with great difficulty we could keep her above Water—were we landed & hawled her up putting some Soap in the Seams which answered very well—at this place we could get no fish of any kind here we stopped two days and two nights then we left this place and went farther down the bay about 20 miles expecting to meet with a harbour to get some Refreshment but could not see
we again on the coast of the bay the wind being favourable we looked about and saw to see the land here seemed to be much the same as at Patuxent Bay consider we are going and land in the North ward but our boat being very deep we were obliged to throw all our ballast under the hull to lighten our boat as the low book was not quite right that might we saw with a open day but could see no place to land on the shelf near so that we feared if staying our boat to pieces we came to a shagging as the bay the same night but about 2 Clock in the morning our shagging broke and we were on the middle of the shelf expecting every moment that our boat would be streched to pieces and every boat partido we got round it we got our last refuge where without any loss or damage we择 up our house we landed our boat up and there re- annoed in days we built a fire with great difficulty many things being very wet we got plenty of shillas first under the natives came down in great masses and burnt a house our their hands they disposed immediately end and tore no more of them we put our things on the boat and with great difficulty we put out to sea for 3 days we had very bad weather our boat shipping many heavy load which our sail wind was always employed in taking out the water to keep as up the west place we courted the White Bay living in latitudes 7 we came down that day 3 or 4 hours before and when we moved a circumstantial plan to land the day running very high we saw two houses 8 2 Elizabath with a fire round in their town at the place we landed the two women being frightened came away but we waited that we wanted a light none they gave as saying we come in their way we take all things out of the boat and put them on the lake which made them the next morning about 8 o'clock a great number of the natives came towards us at dawn as we saw them we went to meet them and find a m c Hall
see any nor the end of the bay the wind being favourable we tacked about and put to Sea the land here seemed to be much the same as at Botany Bay. Accordingly we up Grapling and stood to the Northward but our boat being very deep we were obliged to throw all our Cloathing overboard the better to lighten our boat as the Sea broke over us quite rapid—that night we ran into an open Bay but could see no place to land as the Surf ran so that we were afraid of staving our boat to pieces—we came to a Grapling in the bay the same night, but about 2 oClock in the morning our Grapling broke and we were drove in the middle of the Surf expecting every moment that our boat would be staved to pieces and every Soul perish but as God would have it we got our boat safe on shore without any loss or damage excepting an oar we hawled our boat up and there remained 2 days & 2 Nights—there we kindled a fire with great difficulty every thing being very wet, we got plenty of Shell fish & fresh water the natives came down in great numbers we discharg’d a Musket over their heads, they dispersed immediately and we saw no more of them we put our things in the boat and with great difficulty we put out to Sea for 2 or 3 days we had very bad weather our boat shipping many heavy Seas, so that one man was always employed in bailing out the water to keep her up—the next place we made was White Bay being in Latitude 27°. 00 we ran down that bay 2 or 3 Leagues before we could see a convenient place to land the Surf running very high we saw two Women & two Children with a fire brand in their hand at this place we landed the two women being frightened ran away but we made Signs that we wanted a light which they gave us crying at the same time in their way we took our things out of the boat and put them in two huts which was there—the next morning about 11 oClock a great number of the Natives came towards us as soon as we saw them we went to meet them and fired a musket over
our ship's hands as soon as they heard the report they ran into the woods and in our manner of their being we gave out that we were stopped 2 days & 2 nights. the ship was so high that we were in great danger of drawing the boat that might be near and by a heavy gale of wind & current expecting every moment to go to the bottom. next morning we too the land the land being mountainous high we wore under a low reef & continued in it until night then came to anchor a large at the night more low land the land being every moment to be the last the land being as being open not every evening then that two hands were obliged to keep look out except very hard all that night the next morning we took our large & let out land on any land but landing to where the land is water it was not as proper to the galley men & salt continuing we kept on under a low reef & mountain but could not make land all that day I took leave you to consider what distress we were in the winter and the weather was very cold. Condition everything being worst that we could by no means light a fire we had nothing to eat except a little raw fish at night we came to anchor a large at the night before the next morning we took our large and kept to the northward we purpose to make the land about 8 o'clock we made the land which proved to be a small Island about 20 leagues from the main the land being very high we were rather fearful of going in for scarce seeing our land but we continued arriving at last that we might as well continue there as to be forced to draw away without probability but that of us kept at the land we should every last parish all round this Island there was nothing but reefs and wa...
over their heads as soon as they heard the report they ran into the woods and we saw no more of them, the natives are quite naked there we stopped 2 days & 2 nights, the Surf running so very high that we were in great danger of staving the boat; that night we were drove out to Sea by a heavy gale of wind & current expecting every moment to go to the bottom next morning saw no land the Sea running mountains high we were under close reef Mainsail and kept so untill night then came to under a droge all the night with her head to the Sea thinking every moment to be the last the Sea coming in so heavy upon us every now and then that two hands were obliged to keep bailing out it rained very hard all that night the next morning we took our droge in but could not see any land but hawling towards the land to make it as soon as possible the Gale of wind still continuing we keep on under a close reef Mainsail but could not make land all that day—I will leave you to consider what distress we must be in the Woman and the two little babies were in a bad Condition every thing being so wet that we could by no means light a fire we had nothing to eat except a little raw Rice at night we came to under a droge as we did the night before the next morning we took in our droge and kept to the northward on purpose to make the land about 8 oClock we made the land which proved to be a small Island about 30 Leagues from the main the Surf running so very high we were rather fearful of going in for fear of staving our boat but we concluded amongst ourselves that we might as well venture in there as to keep out to Sea seeing no probability but that if we kept out to Sea we should every Soul perish—All round this Island there was nothing but reefs and a little
little sandy beach which we got in safe without much damage, and
brought our boat up out of the way of the wind and got them
things out of the boat, then we went to make a fire which was not
difficult, we did a little of it before it showed us light. We
halted near the boat on the island, we had two gallon of fresh
water for there was not a drop to be had on this island, the island
was about 1 mile or 2 square see: after the light fell we went to look
for some place where we found a great quantity of very fine
gravel. Some shells were left upon the shore, we took 5 of them and
brought them upon the beach. the time around a mile and a
half, and in the day, it is entirely dry when low water we killed
one of the turtles and had a noble meal that night it rained
very hard, when we opened our manilla & filled our two
bottles full of water. We stayed on the island 6 days during
that time we killed 12 turtles and some of them we took
and took over the Prow to take to the people. It appeared
so that there had never been any natives on this island
there was a kind of fruit which grew like a small pepper and
looked very nice, there was a great quantity of fruits which
stayed at night on tables in the ground, we could not think
of taking any live turtles with us because our boat could not
extract of it, so paid the charge of our boat with our coat before we put to sea at the end of the 6 days we landed our
boat 8 to 10 at表扬 the morning and started to
the mainland. our Island was on Latitude 38° 15' we marked
the main land in the evening we passed a great number
of small islands each pit with a great many of them co-
panying to find some turtles but never found any, in any of
the islands we put into afterwards we found a great
quantity of saltfish, but none of these very far to land, but being
little sandy beach which we got in safe without much damage and hawled our boat up out of the way of the surf and got all our things out of the boat then we went to make a fire which with great difficulty we did & being almost starving we put on a little rice to cook when we landed on this Island we had but one Gallon of fresh water for there was not a drop to be had on this Island the Island was about 1 mile in Circumference after the tide fell we went to look for some shell fish but found a great quantity of very fine large Turtles which was left upon the reef, we turned 5 of them and hawled them upon the beach this reef runs about a mile and a half out in the Sea & is entirely dry when low water we killed one of the Turtles and had a noble meal that night it rained very hard when we spread our mainsail & filled our two Breakers full of water. We staid on the Island 6 days during that time we killed 12 Turtles and some of them we took and dried over the Fire to take to Sea with us—It seemed to us that there had never been any natives on this Island there was a kind of fruit which grew like a bell pepper and tasted very well there was a great quantity of fowls which stayed at night in holes in the ground we could not think of taking any live Turtles with us because our boat would not admit of it we paid the Seams of our boat all over with Soap before we put to Sea at the end of the 6 days we launched our boat & put to Sea at 8 oClock in the morning and Steered to the northward; this Island was in Latitude 26° 27′ we made the main land in the Evening, we passed a great number of small Islands and put into a great many of them expecting to find some Turtles but never found any in any of the Islands we put into afterwards we found a great quantity of shellfish but none of them very fit to eat but being very
very hungry we were glad to eat them & thank God for it for if
had not been for the salt fish & the little salt cake we had
we must have starved; we very seldom put into any place but found
plenty of fresh water but we could not find anything of to eat
when we came to the Gulph of Carpentora which was in latitude
.34.11'. We saw some more the Gulph 1/4: in 12 miles & saw several small
Islets or which were covered of the Indians & we heard
a story of one of the Indians who started down towards these
we soon as they saw us they and their Indians round to the
back of the Island with canoe in each which we came down
to them they seemed to stand as a picture of defence against
us we fired a broadside near them & immediately they began
firing their guns & arrows at us we immediately hoisted
up our boats and rowed away from them but as God would
have it none of their arrows came into the boat but dropped
along side we could not get hold of any of them but they
assumed to be about 50 Indians long the Indians seemed to be
very short and fat and blacker than ever we saw in the
South, there was one which we had to he the chief with
some skull round his shoulders we rowed a little further down the
Gulph to the bend when the Indians for to get some water or from
plenty and some small howl of but about 10 yards we
the fresh water was there were not any of the inhabitants in
these but or about them we could see their buts were
large enough for 6 or 7 of them to stand up right in they
were made of both & covered over with grease we filled our
two
very hungry we were glad to eat them & thank God for it for if it had not been for the Shell fish and the little Turtle which we had we must have Starved: we very seldom put into any place but found plenty of fresh water but we could not find any thing fit to eat when we came to the Gulph of Carpentara which is in latitude 10°: 11′ we ran down the Gulph 9 or 10 Miles & saw several small Islands on which were several of the Natives in 2 Canoes landing upon one of the Islands we steered down towards them as soon as they saw us they sent their 2 Canoes Round to the back of the Island with 1 man in each when we came down to them they seemed to stand in a posture of defence against us we fired a Musket over them & immediately they began firing their Bows and Arrows at us we immediately hoisted up our Sails and rowed away from them but as God would have it none of their arrows came into the Boat but dropped along side we could not get hold of any of them but they seemed to be about 18 Inches long the Natives seemed to be very stout and fat and blacker than them we saw in other parts; there was one which we took to be the chief with some shells round his Shoulders we rowed a little farther down the Gulph & landed upon the Main for to get some water we found plenty and saw a small Row of huts about 20 just by were the fresh water was there were not any of the inhabitants in their huts or about them as we could see their huts were large enough for 6 or 7 of them to stand upright in they were made of bark & covered over with Grass we filled our two
breakfast with fresh water and came aboard of our boat again for we were afraid of staying alone for fear of the Indians, went 3 or 4 miles from the shore and kept our heads and steered towards the shore we came to a very large canoe coming toward us we did not know what to do for we were afraid to meet those men we expected to be about 3 or 4 men in each canoe they had no sails to be made of having one of the canoes were ahead of the other a little way it passed till the other canoe was and then she looked like dust like smoke after we saw that we talked about what water we had determined to make the gulf of which we said about 300 miles but as God would have it we met no canoe they followed us till we lost sight of them hanging but little fresh water and we moved to make a fire with but one day and a half we made the other side of the gulf we put on shore to look for some fresh water but could not find any at that place we kept along shore till the evening we saw a small river which was made to and get plenty of fresh water we put off to sea the next morning and we were landed at the latitude of North 66° of the Isanor we landed up to make the land to get some fresh water but saw nothing but a heavy snow which had laid it too snowed over so as then we concluded the best way to shape our route would be for the Island of St. Honor with what little water we had which we made on St. Honor ran along the isanor until we came to the Isanor
breakers with fresh water came aboard of our boat again for we were afraid of staying ashore for fear of the Natives, we went 3 or 4 miles from the shore and dropt our Killock\(^67\) and stopped there all night the next morning we were determined to go to the same place to recruit our water but as we were making towards the shore we saw two very large Canoes coming towards us we did not know what to do for we were afraid to meet them there seemed to be about 30 or 40 men in each Canoe they had sails seemed to be made of Matting one of the Canoes was a head of the other a little way it stopt till the other came up and then she hoisted her Sails and made after us as soon as we saw that we tacked about with what water we had determined to cross the Gulph\(^71\) which was about 500 Miles\(^72\) but as God would have it we out run them they followed us till we lost sight of them, having but little fresh water and no wood to make a fire with, but in four days and a half we made the other side of the Gulph we put on shore\(^73\) to look for some fresh water but could not find any at that place we kept along shore till the evening, we saw a small river which we made to and got plenty of fresh water; we put off to sea\(^74\) the same night & saw no more land till we came into Latitude of North End of the Island\(^75\) we hauled up to make the land to get some fresh water but saw nothing but a heavy swell which had liked to have swallowed us up then we concluded the best way to shape our course would be for the Island of Timor with what little water we had which we made in 36 Hours we ran along the Island of Timor till we came to the Dutch Settlements
Statements where we went native to the governors house which were extremely well to us filled with belles and clothed as double with going down that were worn on the island. Great store of rum remained very happy for two months till we departed had words with his majesty and informed against himself, wife, children and all of us. We were immediately taken prisoners and put in the castle and strictly confined afterwards we were allowed to go out of the castle 2 or 3 times a day and the next day the same. We were continued till Captain Edwards who had been in search of the Bounty. We can see some of the prisoners who had been on the island when he lost the Pandora. Gigante between New Guinea and New Holland. He reached the island of Tasmania where we were told there were convicts and had made our escape from Botany Bay. He told us we were the prisoners of the 3 men who had been with him. We were allowed out and could go to the botany island. Other ships and we were put on a different ship bound to the Cape of Good Hope. We were 2 months before we reached the Cape when we came here the governor of the ship had brought the convicts from Botany Bay which we were put on board of. And were known well by all the marine officers. We were all glad that we had not panicked at sea we were brought to England on the ganges.
Settlements where we went ashore to the Governors house who behaved extremely well to us filled our bellies and Cloathed us double with every thing that was worn on the Island where we remained very happy for two Months till Wm Bryant had words with his Wife who went and informed against himself, wife, Children and all of us; we were immediately taken prisoners and put in the Castle and strictly examined afterwards we were allowed to go out of the Castle 2 at a time for 1 day and the next day 2 more & so we continued till Captain Edwards who had been in search of the Bounty Pirates who had taken some of the Pirates at Otaheite when he lost the Pandora Frigate between New Guinea and new Holland, he made the Island of Timor in the Pinnace two Yawls and his Long Boat & 120 hands which were saved: which Captain Edwards came to us to know who we were we told him we were Convicts and had made our escape from Botany Bay he told us we were his Prisoners & he put us on board the Rambang Dutch Companys Ship and put both our legs in irons called the Bilboes in which we was conveyed to Batavia where we were taken out of the Rambang and put on board a Dutch Guard Ship in irons again there we lost the Child, 6 days after the Father of the child was taken bad & died they were both buried at Bretava 6 Weeks after we were put in 3 different Ships bound to the Cape of Good Hope we were 3 Months before we reached the Cape when we came there the Gorgon Man of War which had brought the Marines from Botany Bay we were which we were put on board of and was known well by all the Marine officers. We were all glad that we had not perished at Sea we were brought to England in the Gorgon and
Memoranda by James Martin

The memorial of James Martin

146
set ashore at Purfleet from thence conveyed by the Constables to Bow Street Office London; and taken before Justice Bond and was fully committed to Newgate.

Wm Moatton Navigator of the Boat
James Cox
Samuel Burd
Wm Bryant
A Boy of 12 Months old
and a little Girl 3 years and a quarter old died
The Mother of the 2 Children Mary Bryant
James Martin
Wm Allen
John Broom
and Nathaniel Lilly alive