Thomas Barrett

Thomas Barrett was born in 1759 in London. In 1782 he stole a silver watch, a steel chain, a stone seal, two shirts, a hook and one shift. He was sentenced to death but it was reduced to transportation to America for life. He boarded the Mercury in 1784, headed for Nova Scotia but he organised a mutiny where he and some others tried to take over the ship. During the mutiny he prevented the death of a steward and injury towards the captain so when he was recaptured instead of being sentenced to death he was again given transportation for life. He travelled on the ship Charlotte and on the voyage he and some others were involved in making and using counterfeit coin from spoons, buttons and buckles. John White (the chief surgeon) asked Thomas to make a memento of the trip and so he made a medal out of a dish. This was sold at auction in 2008 for one million dollars.

In 1788 he stole beef and peas and became the first man executed by hanging in New South Wales.