Robert Bails

Robert Bails was born in 1766 in Reading. He worked as a solider and later as a labourer.

He committed assault and highway robbery to value of 2 shilling and was sentenced to death. The sentence was reduced to 14 years with transportation. He escaped Reading jail on the 30th of November 1784 but was recaptured a few days later. He travelled aboard the ship Alexander as a convict on the First Fleet to Australia.

He was described by a police officer as almost 1.8 metres high, having long, thin hair, scarred from smallpox, had thick lips and was heavily built. In 1788 he was charged with stealing meat and made to pay back the cost. In October 1789 he was sentenced to 25 lashes due to insolence towards the purser on the ship Sirius.

In 1801 he was pardoned and went on to work as a school master in 1806 and was listed as having 25 students in 1820.