James Martin

James Martin was born around 1760 in Ballymena. He had a wife and son and worked in England. In 1786 he stole eleven screws, bolts and a few other goods from Powderham Castle. He was sentenced to seven years and transportation. James Martin was held on the Dunkirk hulk, another ship, before being transferred to the Charlotte on the 11th of March 1787 to head to Australia.

He was the only convict to keep a journal during his time at Sydney Cove and was known to be a useful tradesman. On the 28th of March 1791 he stole a boat along with seven other men and one of the men's family. They headed north up the coast line, surviving storms and meeting Aboriginal and Torre Strait Islander People. They reached Kupang in Dutch West Timor on 5th June 1791 and pretended to be shipwreck survivors. It was not long before they were discovered to be runaway convicts and were sent back to England.

While most of the others died during the journey, James survived and was placed in Newgate jail to serve out the rest of his sentence.