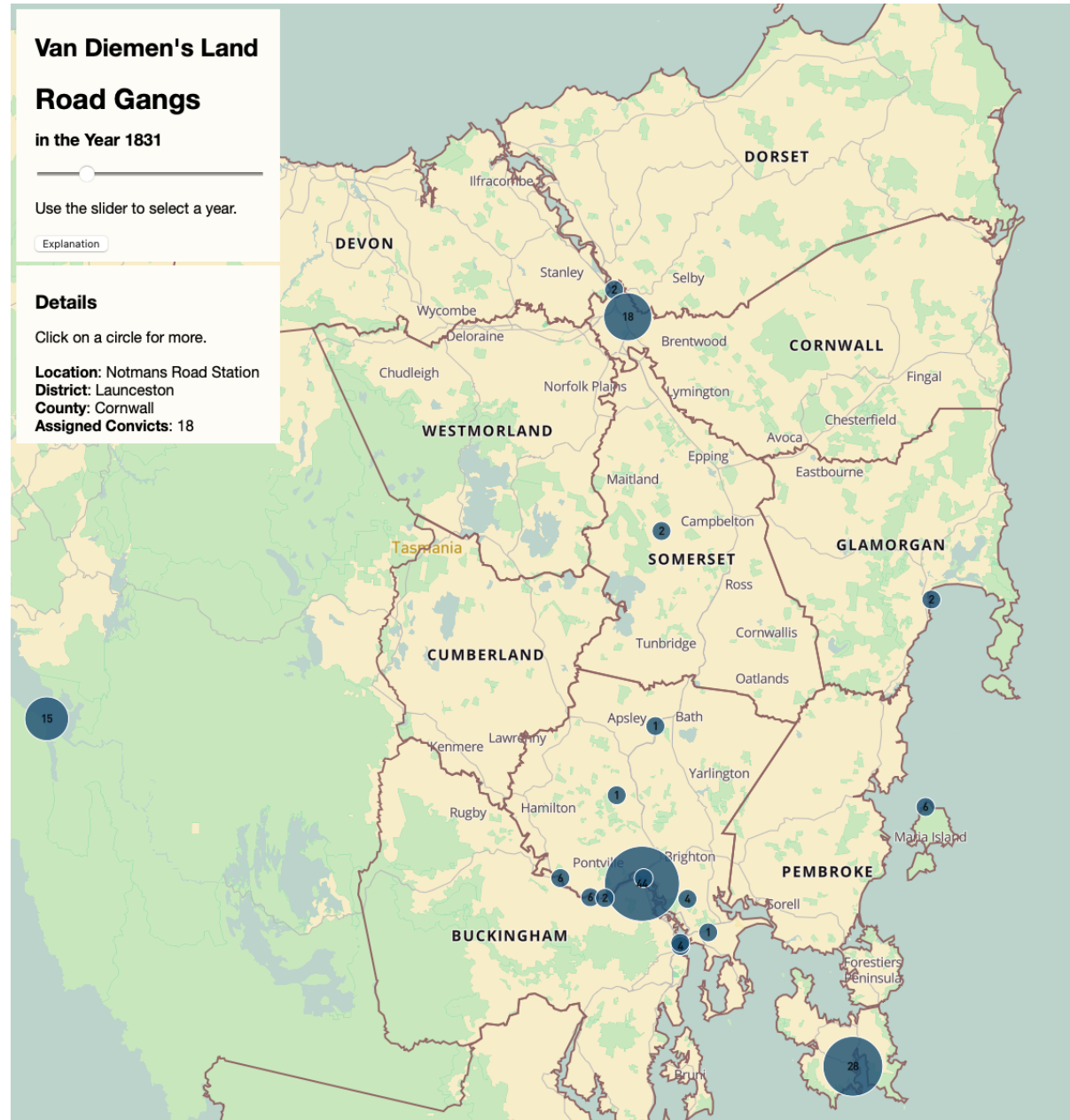


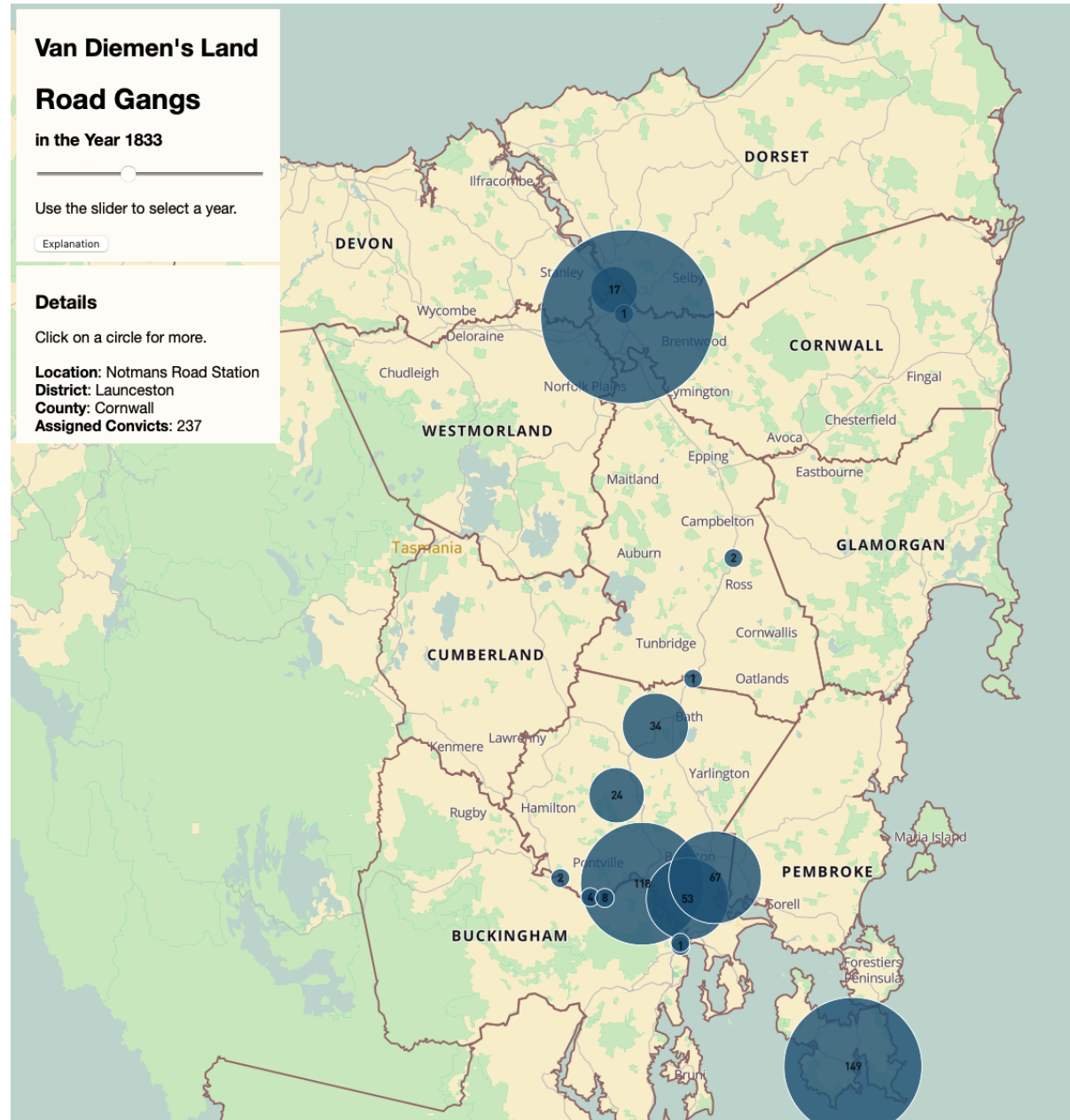
Road Gangs in Van Diemen's Land

- Male convicts sentenced to work as secondary punishment
- Active all over Van Diemen's Land
- Road gangs and chain gangs



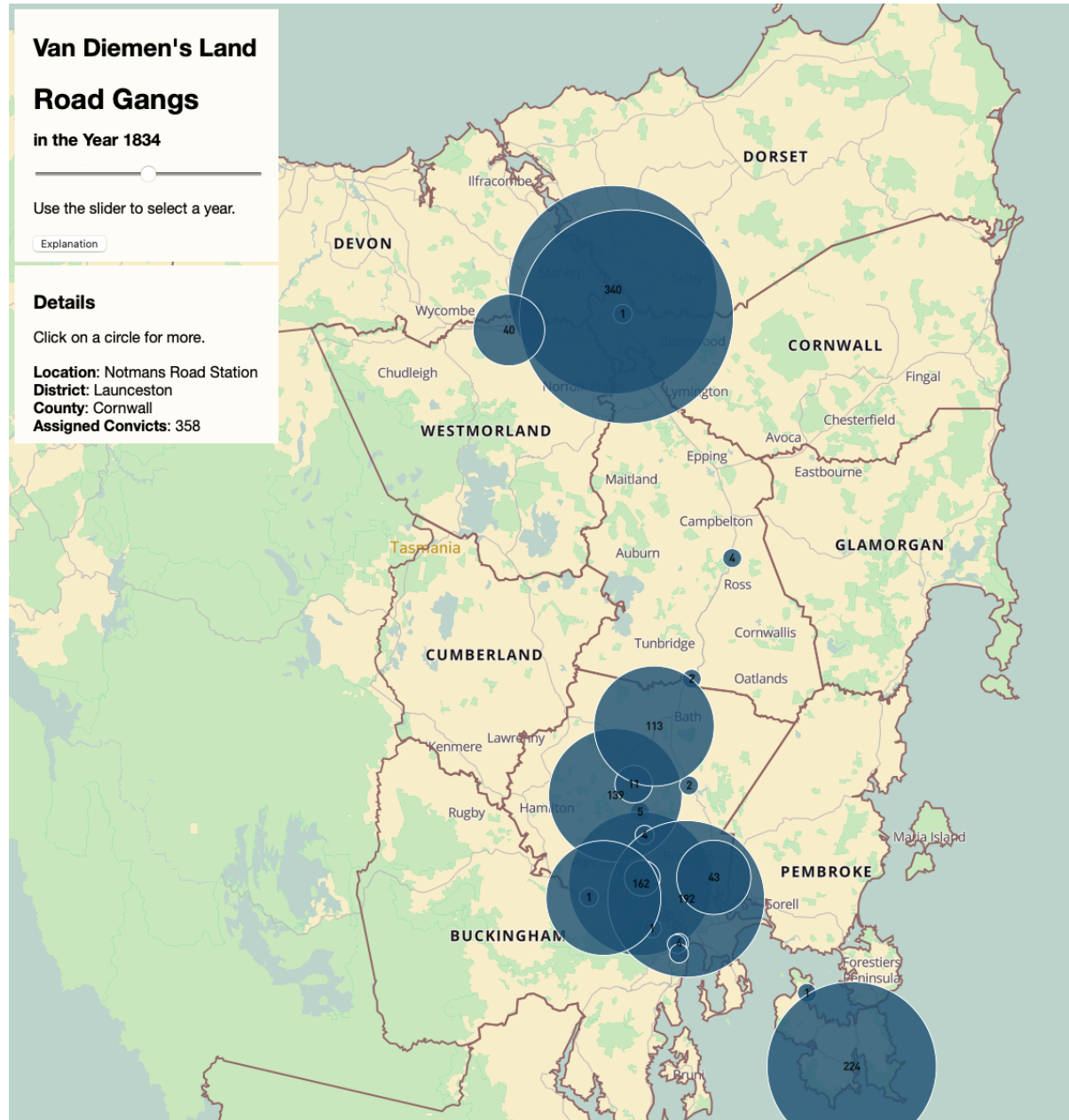
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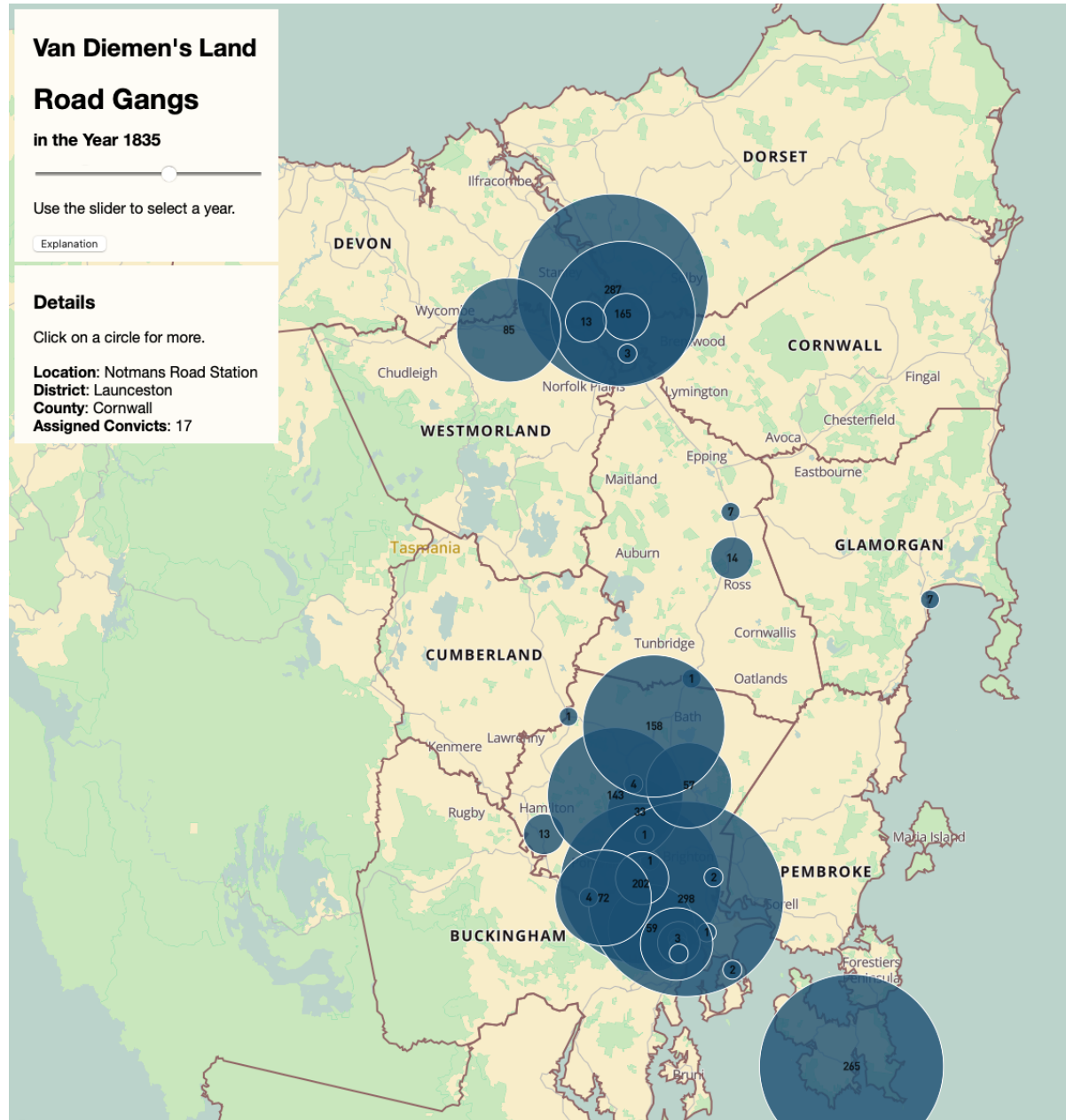
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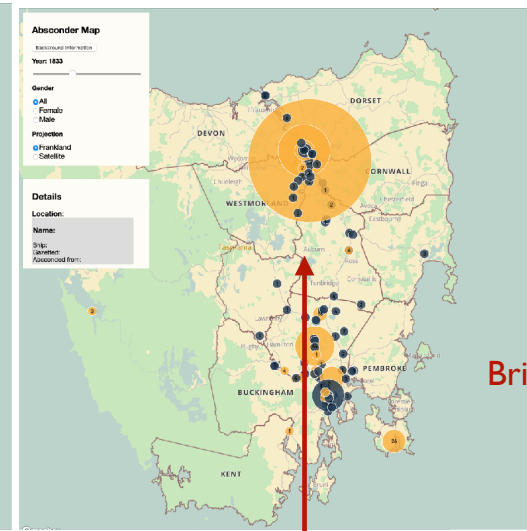
Why are we looking at Notman's Road Gang?



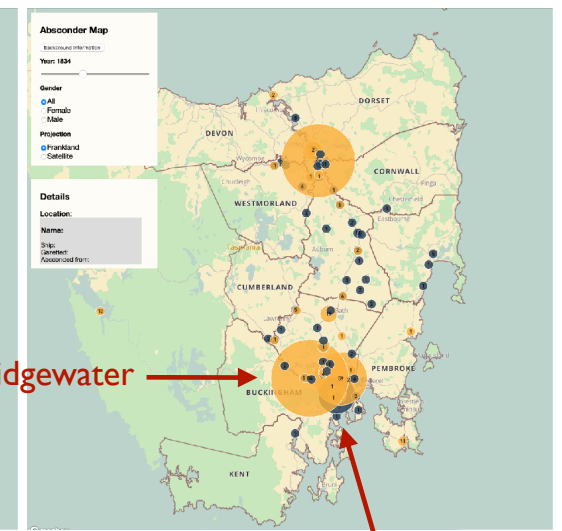
1831



1832



1833



1834

Bridgewater

Hulk Chain Gang

Absconding record for NSW and VDL

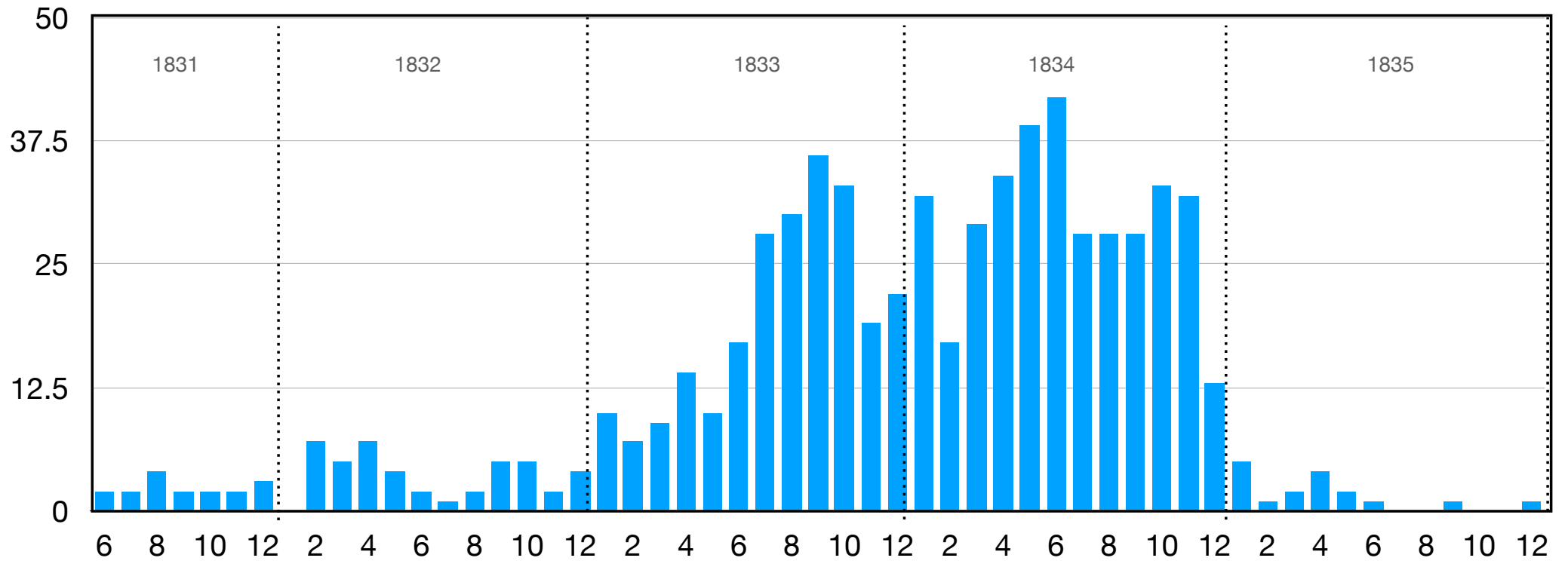
- Public Works
- Assigned

What was Notman's Road Party? Who was Mr. Notman?

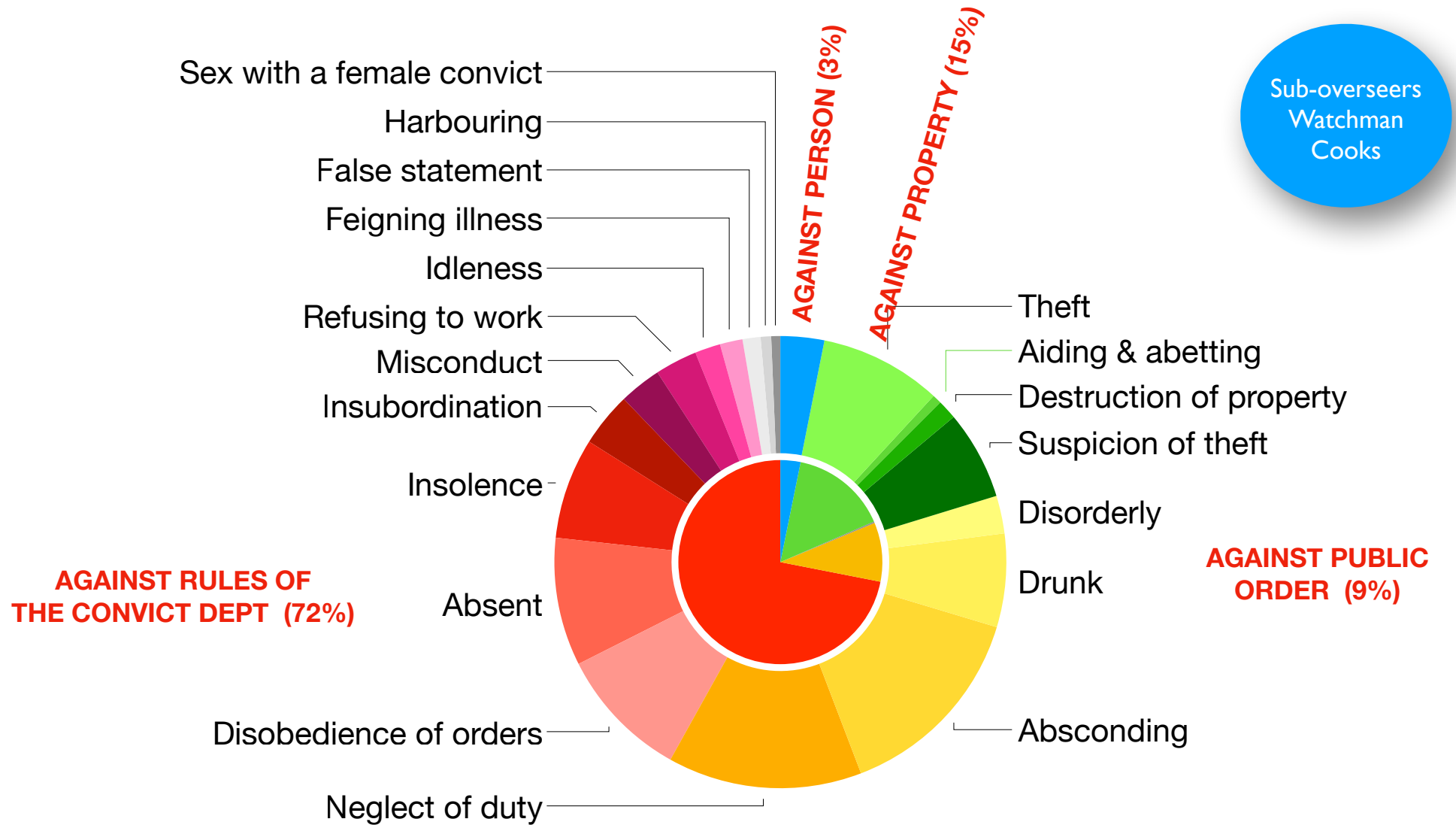


'For the very name of
"Notman's Road Party
" was a dread and terror
for all evil-doers.'
(Bent's review on 1/03/1837)

Monthly sentences to Notman's Road Party



CHARGES FOR WHICH CONVICTS WERE SENT TO NOTMAN'S ROAD PARTY MARCH 1832 - DECEMBER 1835



Described as 'the very scum of the prison population.' They were 'rogues doubly and trebly convicted' ... 'the greater number' of whom 'have run through all gradations of crime'.

Letter to *Launceston Advertiser*, 5 September 1833

The Chief Police Magistrate believed that those sentenced to Notman's were 'such desperate characters'

William Whitehead was sentenced to three months for 'violently assaulting and cruelly beating his wife'.

William Allington was charged with stealing wine and spirits from a business in Hobart where he occasionally laboured. The legal proof 'being defective', the case collapsed - However - There 'being no moral doubt on the mind of the Mag[istrate]s of the prison[er]s. Guilt' they recommended he be detained in a punishment gang and not be reassigned for three years.

William Durrant took his master, Captain Ennis, to court. As the Assistant Police Magistrate noted, Durrant had a history of such actions. He had accused his previous master, J. T. Robertson, of not supplying sufficient food and had subsequently demanded that he should be paid. He was awarded fifty lashes for 'falsely' bringing the first complaint and a stint on the treadmill for the second. This being the third time that Durrant had challenged the terms under which he was forced to labour, he was sentenced to a road party for a year.

William Baker was sentenced to six months for 'Insub[ordiatio]n in threatening James Hawkins for having appreh[ende]d a Runaway Convict'.

Benjamin Rawnsley had his sentence to transportation extended a year for gross insubordination and 'assaulting and abusing' an overseer at Bridgewater chain gang.

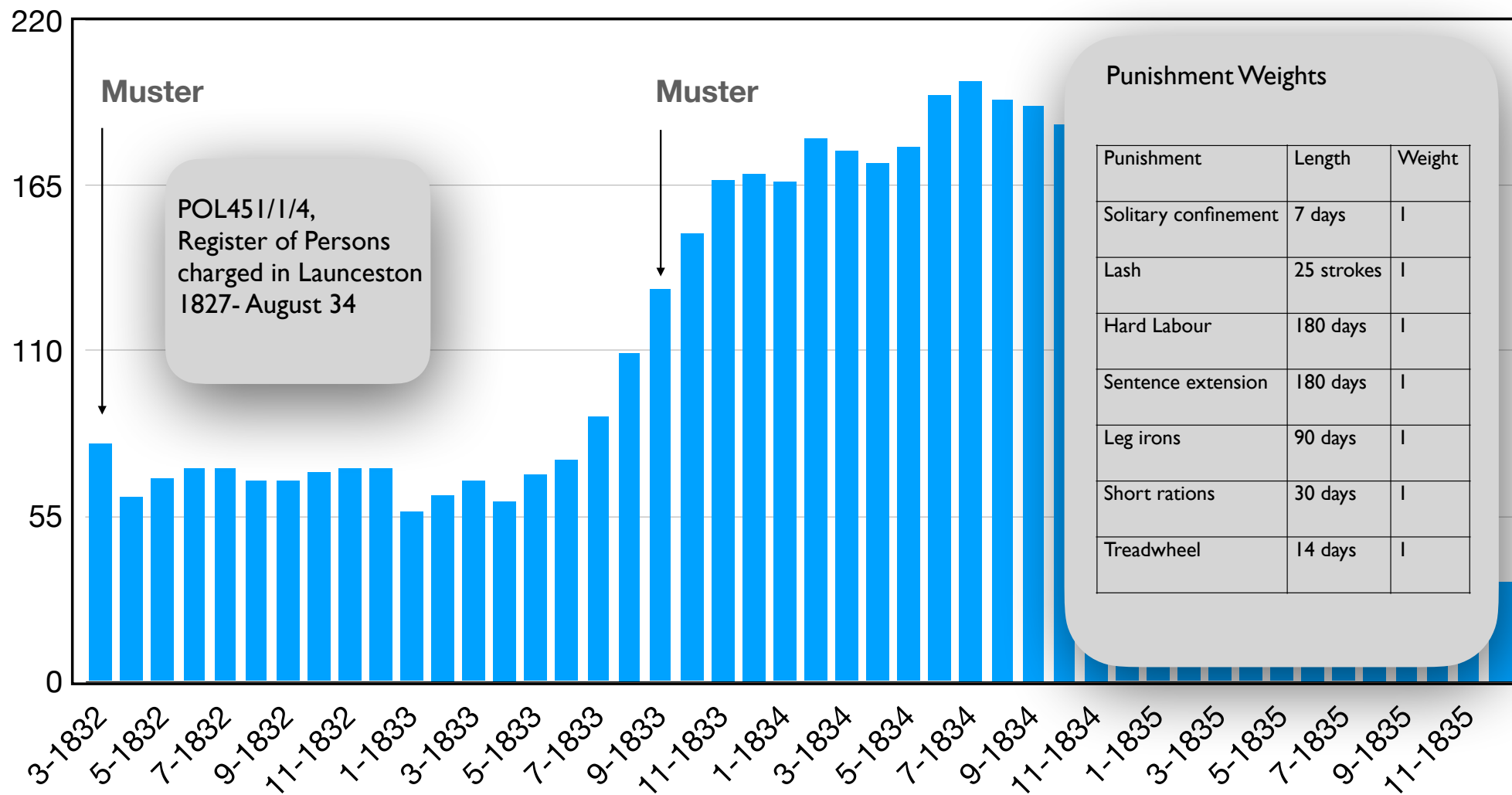
Joshua Chamberlain was sentenced to a years' hard labour for rubbing out some footprints following a robbery at the King's Yard.

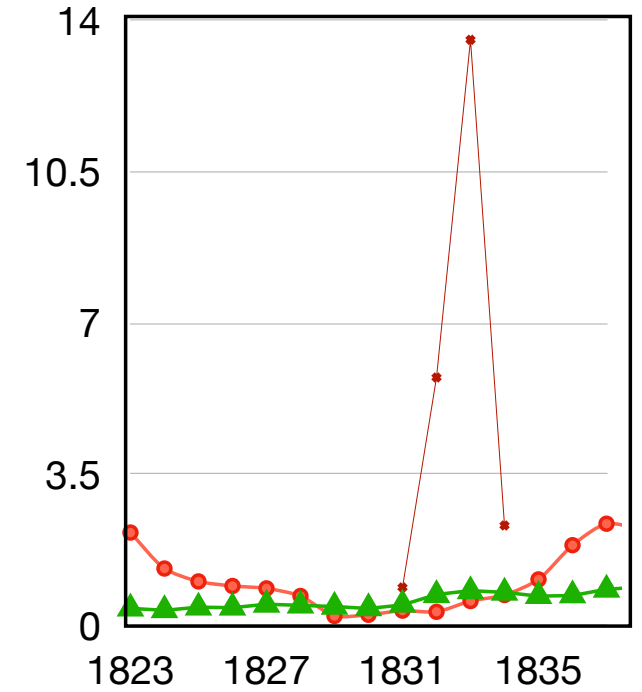
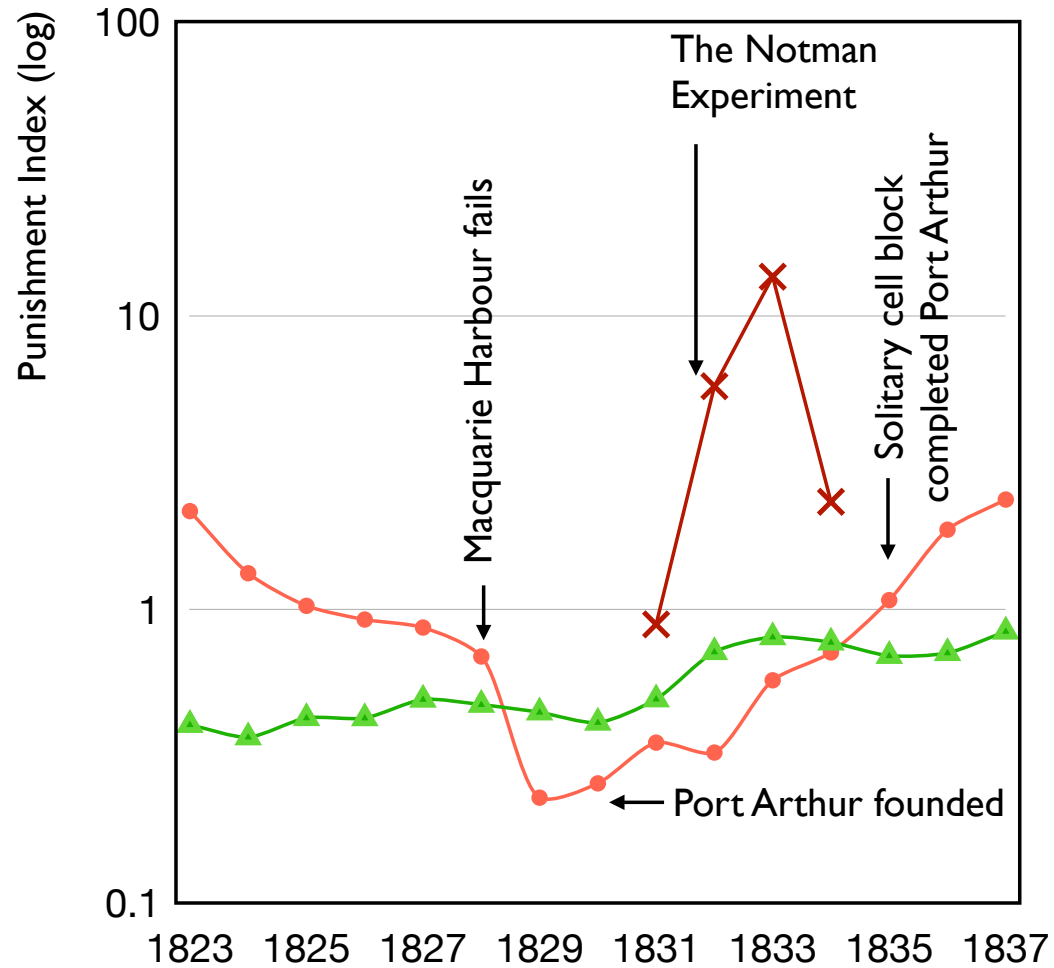
John Clifford got two months for communicating with a prisoner in Notman's gang.

John Gillett and William Keep were both ordered to serve a month for 'carelessly driving 2 Bullock Carts on the wrong side of the High Road.'

Robert Burrows was prosecuted by his master, the Rev. William Bedford, when he was 'found in an indecent situation' with the nurse maid in his master's drawing room. For this infraction the Chief Police Magistrate sentenced Burrows to Notman's for three months 'for the purpose of breaking him of a bad connexion' The maid, Harriet Stammers, was sent to the crime class at the female factory for six months. Only in Van Diemen's Land was sex between consenting adults considered a crime.

Estimated Number of Convicts in Notman's Road Party

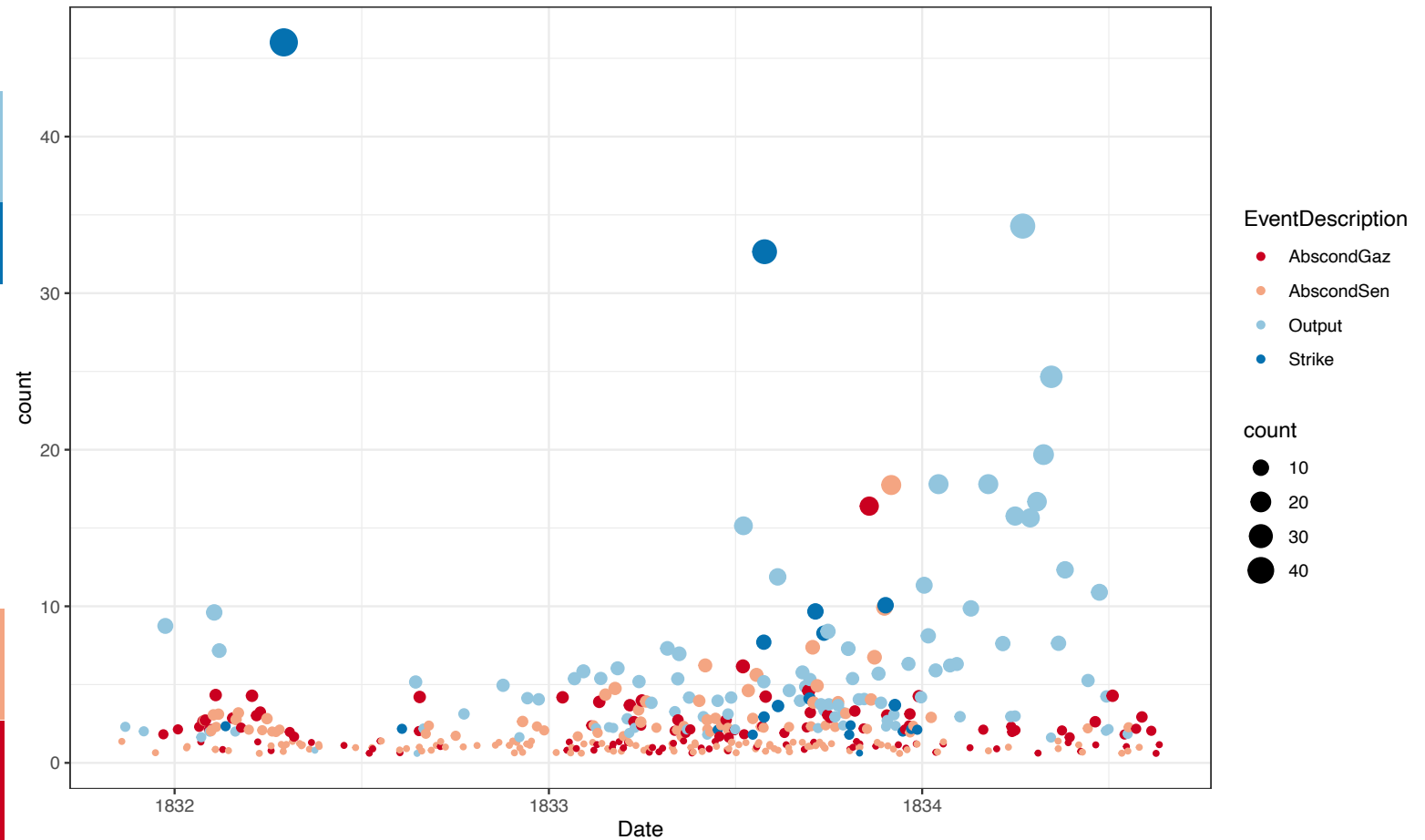




- All Male
- Penal Station
- Notman

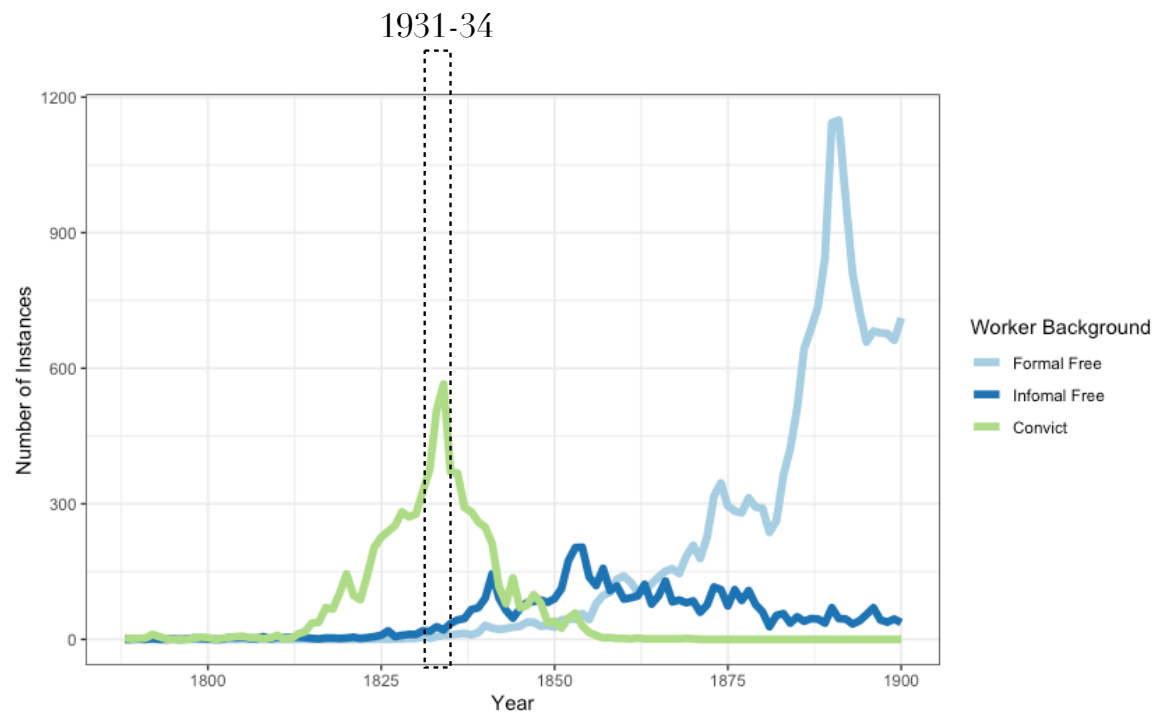
Prosecuted Collective Offences at Notman's

Collective Event	Total Number of Events	Total Number of convicts involved	Details
Output	72	522	includes neglect of Duty, neglect of work, disobedience, idleness
Strike	10	128	Insubordination, refusing to work
Absence	4	20	Absence without leave
Theft	2	13	10 convicts having potatoes in their possession and 3 convicts stealing clothes from a dwelling house
Violence	1	3	3 convicts attempting a violent assault on the overseer Richard Cloake
Gazetted Absconding	34	134	Gazetted as absconded from Notman's on the same day
Sentenced Absconding	33	142	Sentenced for absconding on the same day by the same magistrate or pair of magistrates



Why are we looking at Notman's Road Gang?

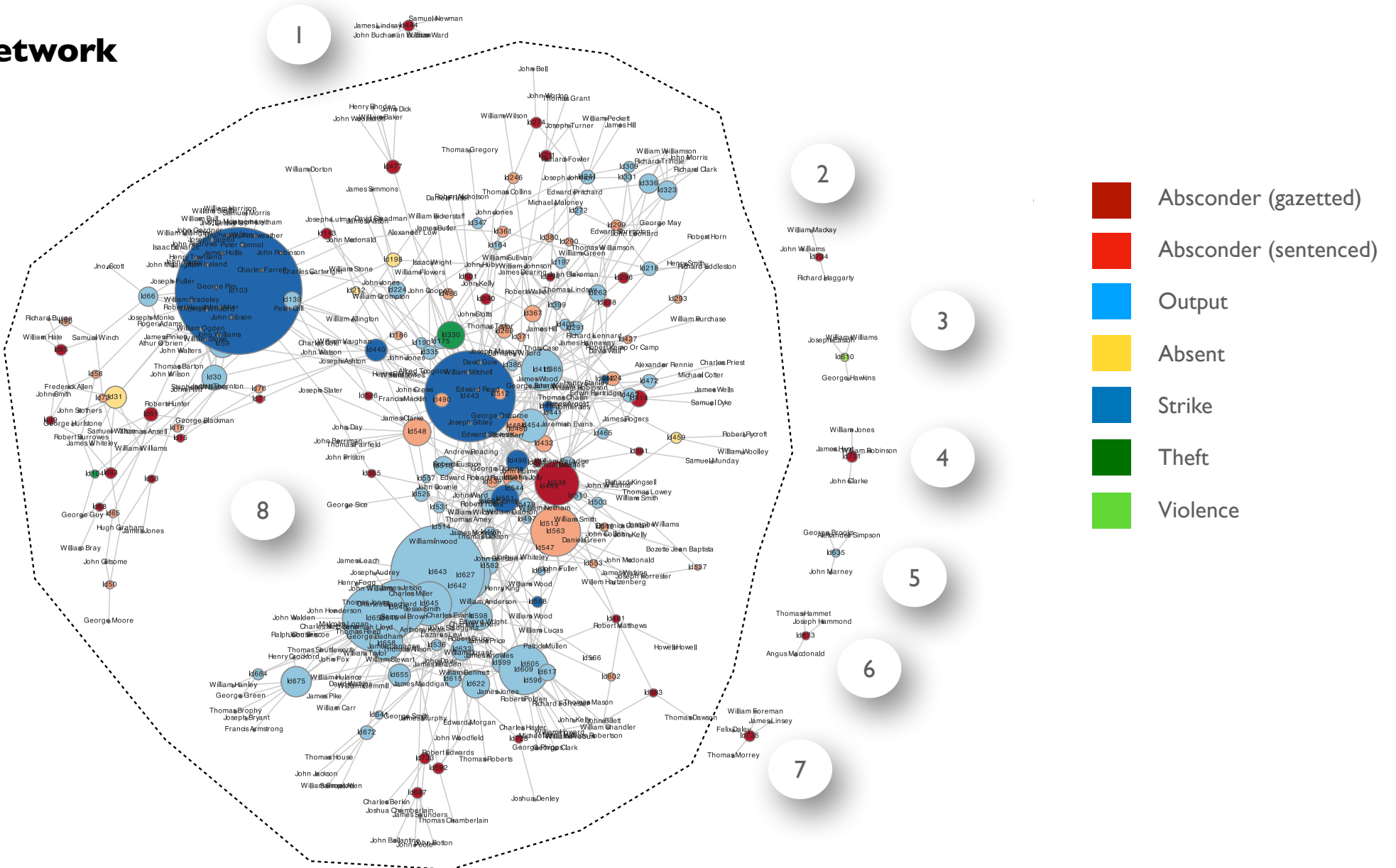
Huge spike in convict organisation around the time

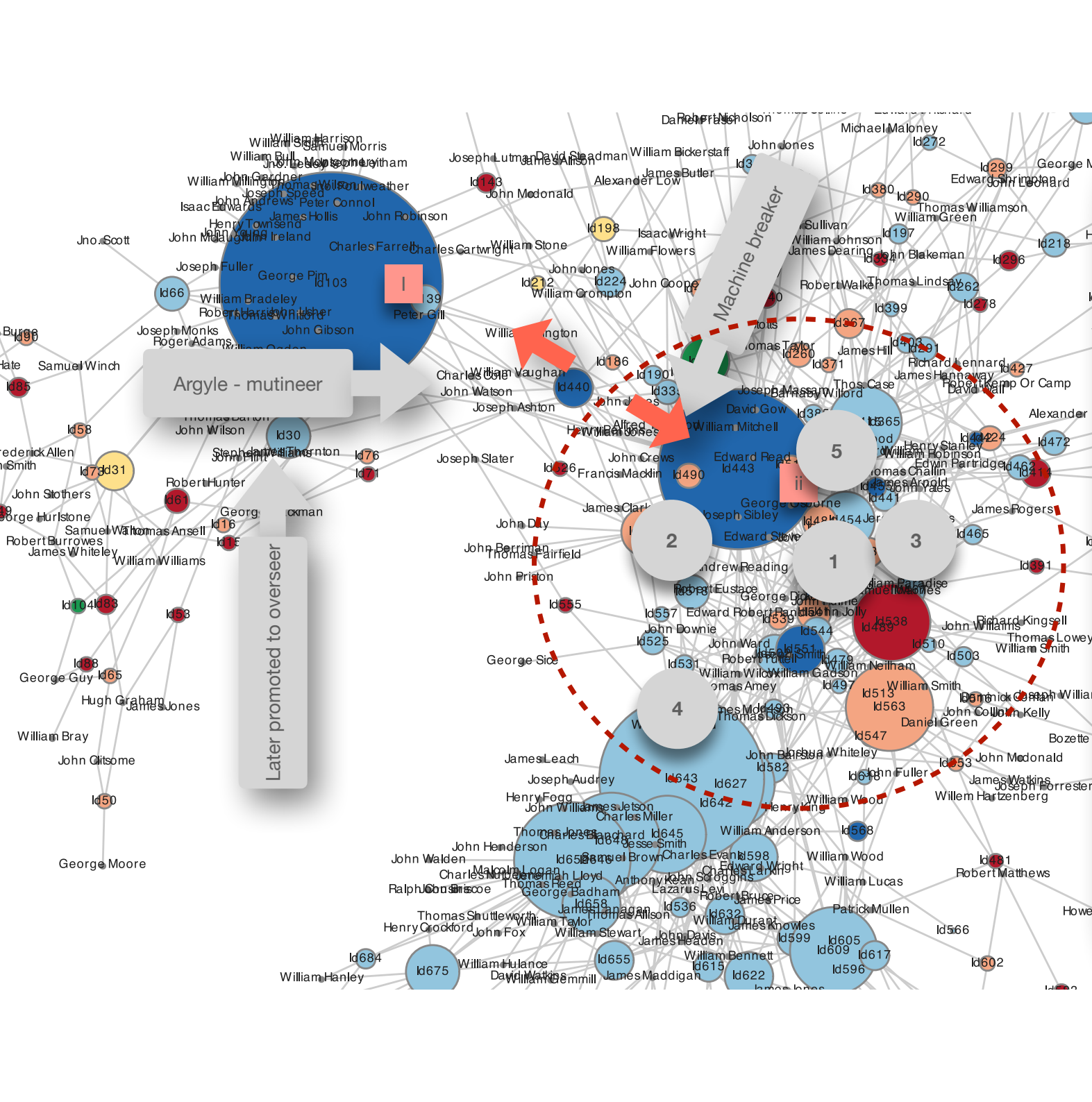


Instances of Worker Organisation in Australia 1788-1900

Source: Michael Quinlan

The Network





1
William Paradise
 Burglar - Kent
 Aged 19 4 feet 11 1/2 inches
 Assigned - Joseph Archer
 430 lashes at Notman's

2
Joseph Sibley
 Tobacco pipe maker
 Stole 28 lbs Figs
 Aged 16 4 feet 1/2 inches
 Inveterate idleness
 560 lashes

3
George Osbourne
 A determined drunkard
 385 lashes

4
Thomas Amey
 Violent suspicion of
 committing a robbery
 180 lashes

5
Edward Read
 Sent to Notman's aged 18
 Disobedience of orders
 & Neglect of duty
 Hulk Chain Gang 1838
 New Town Farm 1841
 Oatlands Hiring Depot 1845

Humphrey McQueen:

'it is misleading to clothe the convicts in the aura of class struggle since for its first fifty years Australia did not have a class structure, but only a deformed stratification which had itself been vomited up by the maelstrom which was delineating class in Britain'.

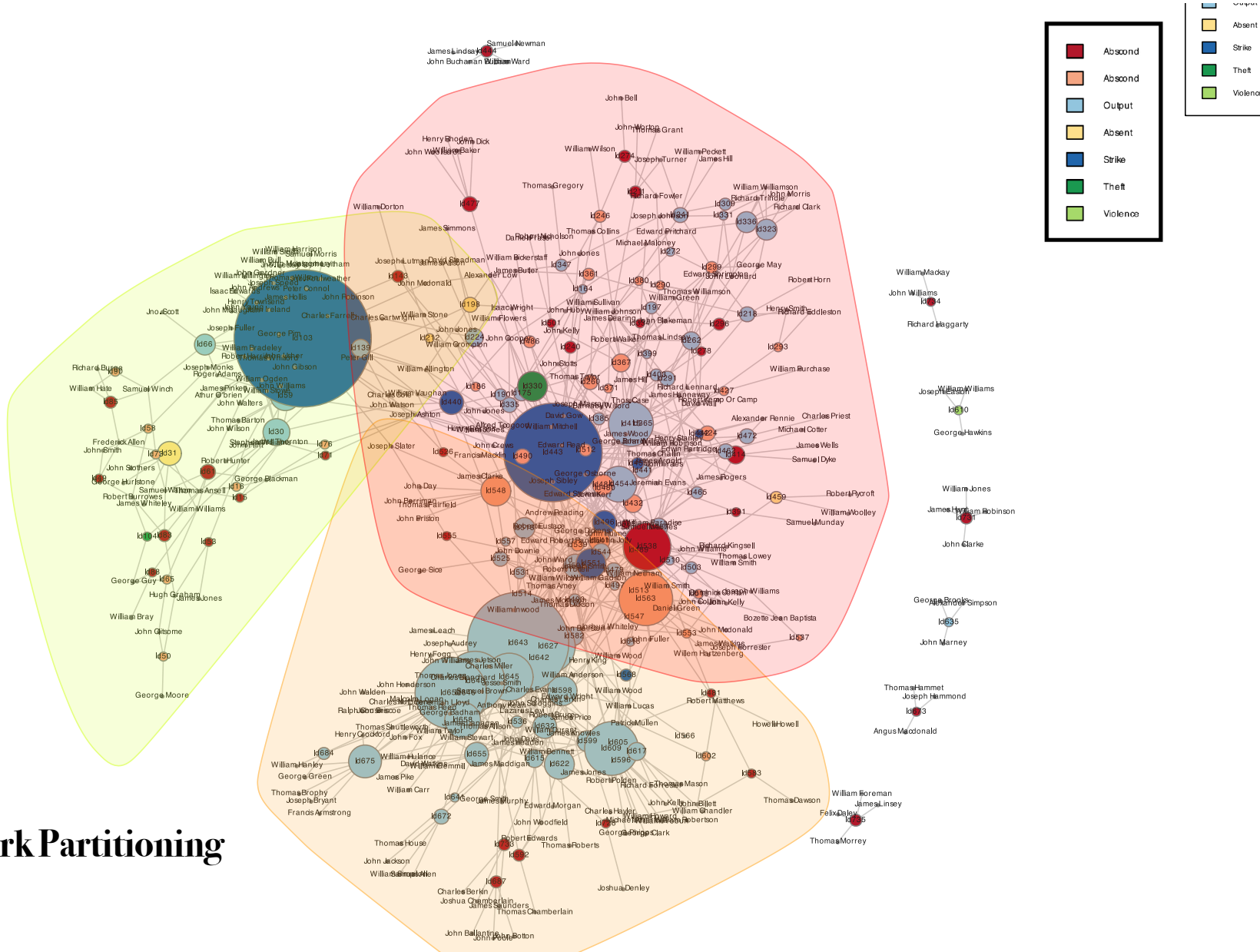
Robert Hughes 'other traits with lumpen workers, chiefly a loathing of authority'.

▣

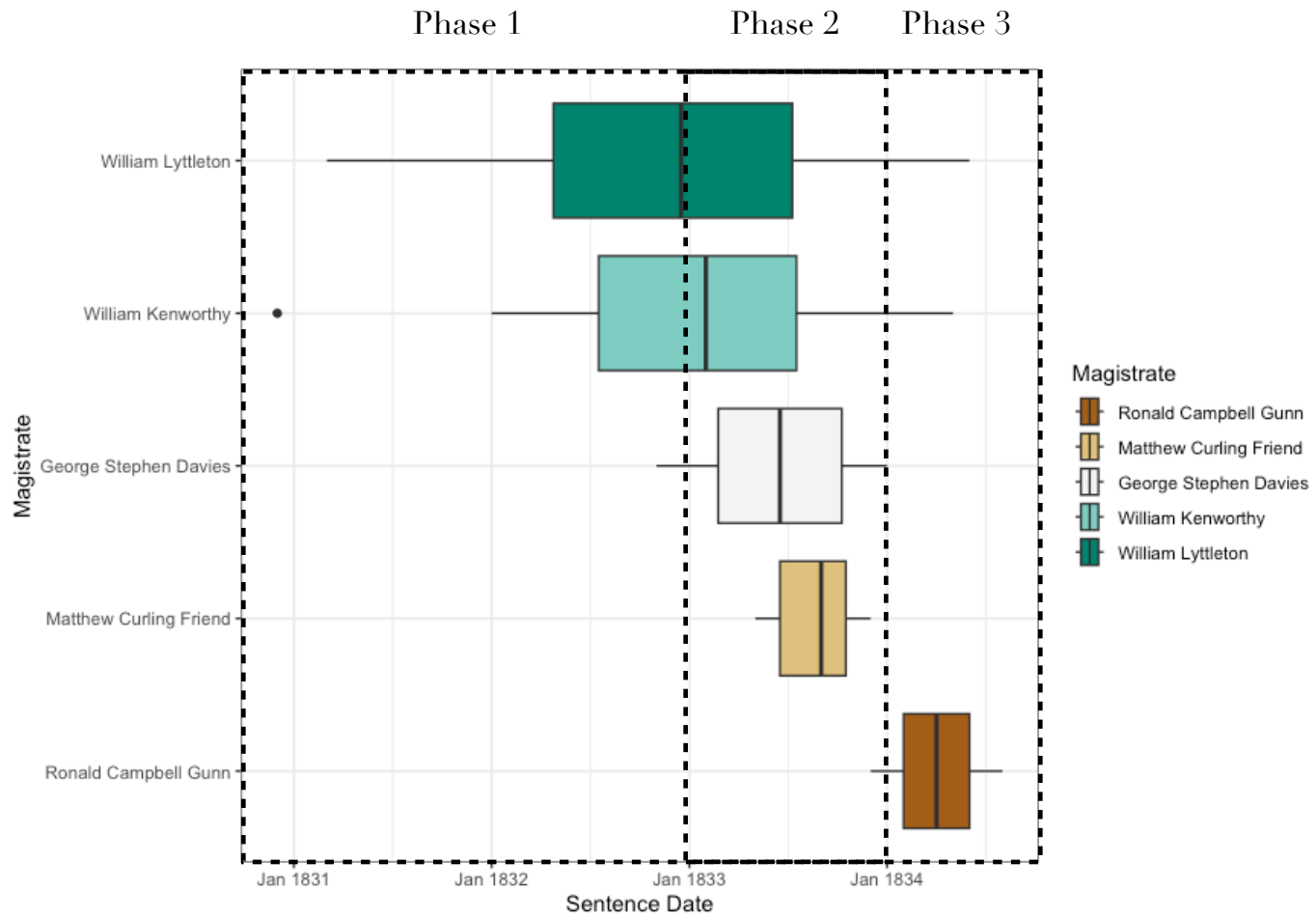


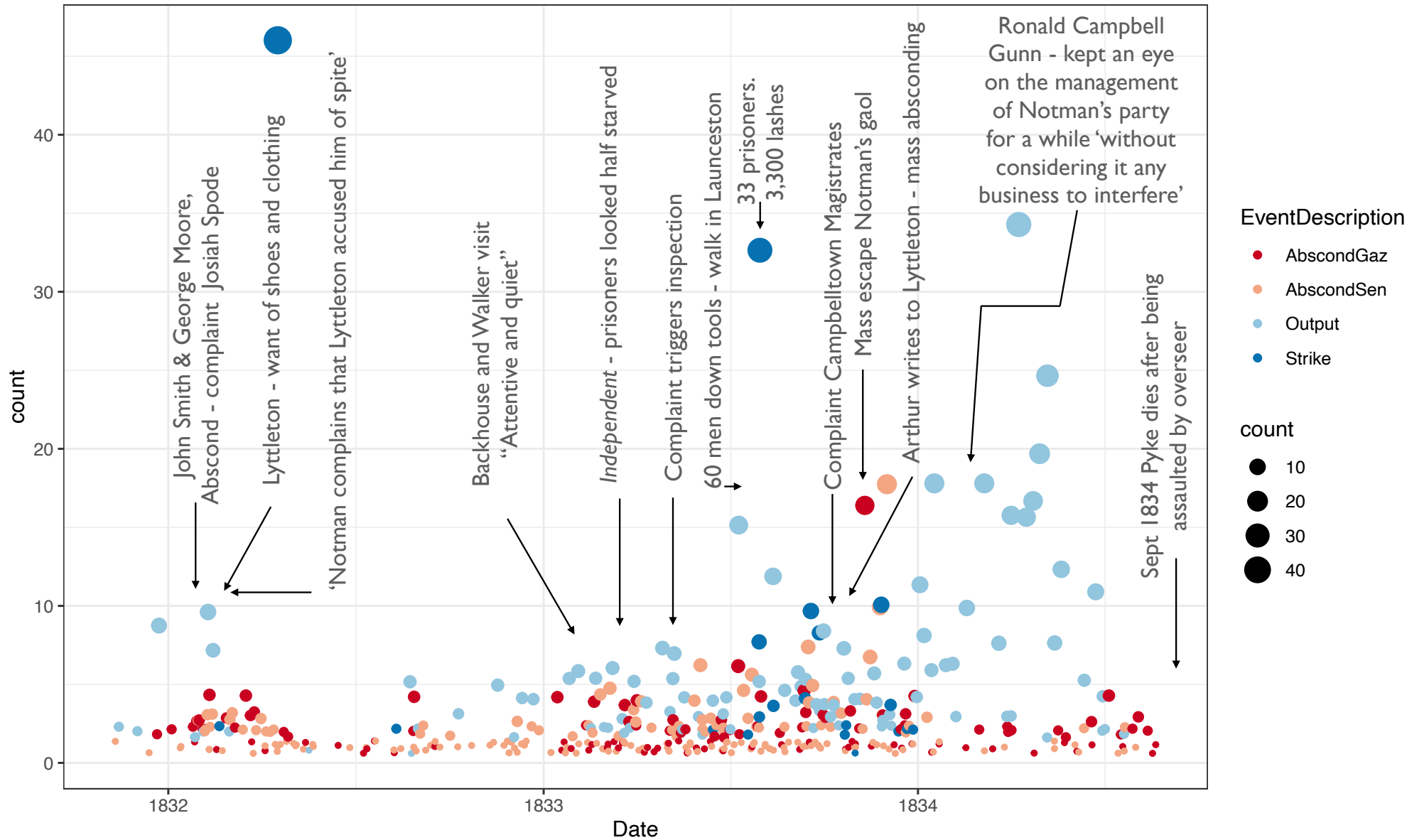
The artful dodger

Network Partitioning



The Magistrates





Franklin administration proposed sending Notman back to Launceston to manage a gang in 1836. This met with a blunt response. As the *Cornwall Chronicle* put it, the local magistrates provided ‘an indignant negative’.

Cornwall Chronicle, 16 March 1839.

Post script —

Robert Notman returned to Britain in 1844

William Paradise died in 1895 aged 81 in the Launceston Benevolent Association Asylum.