

OXFORD COUNTY GAOL

Opened in 1855, the Oxford County Gaol held prisoners for 123 years. Over the years, it saw 5 executions, including one public execution, that saw Thomas Cook lose his head in 1862. In 1890, Reginald Birchall was tried and found guilty of the murder of Thomas C. Benwell, in Blenheim Swamp. He was hanged on November 14, 1890 and, following British tradition, was buried in the jail yard.

The following sketch was created by Birchall during his time in the County Gaol.



THE GAOL LOOKING NORTH,
(The Cook Execution took place just East of the Main Entrance)