

Thomas Corey Adams, 131, updated

Marcia Watson

The name Corey comes from the grandmother of Thomas Corey Adams:

Richard Adams married Ann Corey. Richard was a glazier and died in 1828. Ann died the following year.

Children:

Richard Charles Corey Adams 1797 - 1830

Thomas Corey Adams 1802 – 1856 Retired school teacher(1851). Ran a Boarding school(1844)

Catherine Ann Corey Adams 1807

Parents of Thomas Corey Adams, convict:

Richard Charles Corey Adams (as Charles Adams) married Pheby Kelly on 4 October 1821 at Steynton, by licence. Steynton is a small parish 5 miles south of Haverfordwest in Pembrokeshire, Wales.

Children:

Thomas Corey bap 17 August 1823. Father a mariner**, Mariner Square, Haverfordwest.

Charles Corey 1824 Father a schoolmaster, Hill St. Haverfordwest

William Walter Corey 1825 Father a schoolmaster, Hill St. Haverfordwest

** The register is rather messy! Is the occupation correct, considering his occupation the following year?

August 17 th	Thomas Corey son of Richard Adams Phebe	Richard Charles Kelly	Adams	St Martin's	Mariner
August No. 279.	William Walter Corey	Stephen Kelly	Morris	bridge street	

After the death of his father, Richard Adams in 1828, his brother Charles Adams appears to have taken over his father's business as a glazier. The Pigot's 1830 Directory has - Adams, Chas, Glazier & painter of Market St.

Charles Corey Adams died 25 May 1830 and buried 28 May, aged 35. Residence was Dew St, St Mary, Haverfordwest. The newspaper reported - On Tuesday last, Mr. Charles Adams, Glazier, of Haverfordwest. ¹

1841 census: Mariner's Square, St Mary, Haverfordwest. ²

Phoebe Adams, 45, shopkeeper, born in the county.

Also, at the same address were:

Martha David, 40

David David, 6

John Thomas, 45, schoolmaster

John Watkins, 50, carpenter

1844. Melancholy Suicide: On the evening of Sunday, or some time before four o'clock on Monday morning, **Mrs. Phoebe Adams** committed suicide, by drowning herself in the Haverfordwest river, a little below the town. The deceased was one of the daughters of the late Mr. Kelly, of that town, baker. She had for many years supported herself and youngest son, who is now about nineteen years of age, but of weak

¹ The Carmarthen Journal and South Wales Weekly Advertiser, Friday 28 May 1830, p3

² HO107/1450/2A, p26

intellects, by keeping a small grocer and baker's shop in the town; but, about twelve months ago, she was obliged to sell off her little stock and furniture, to pay some debts which she owed, and give up housekeeping. Shortly after, she went to reside with her sister in Bristol, where she remained until within the last three months. She then returned to Haverfordwest, and went to lodge with Mr. James George, shoemaker, Bridge-street. She left her lodgings on Sunday evening, with the intention, of as Mr. George understood, of going to church, according to her usual custom; but instead of going to church, she went in the direction of Cartlett, and called at the house of Mr. Phillips, the stone-mason, and had some conversation with his wife. Mrs. Phillips, in her evidence before the coroner's inquest, stated that the deceased then appeared to be in a state of great excitement, and talked a good deal "at random." Mrs. P. requested her to be calm and to sit down, and offered to make her some tea, but she would not sit, and after remaining a little while went out, saying she was going farther. This was the last time she was seen by any one, until the body was discovered in the river. She often complained that her friends had all turned their backs on her, and expressed her fears that she would not be able in future to support herself and her son. She was in a state of excitement all day on Sunday, but not more so than Mr. George had seen her on previous days. The jury returned a verdict, "That the deceased drowned herself while labouring under a fit of temporary insanity." ³

Buried 27 December 1843, St Thomas, Haverfordwest, aged 50.

1846. Marriage. 19 October 1846, St Martin in the Fields, Westminster, by Banns.

Thomas Corey Adams, full age, bachelor, Canal Terrace, mariner, father Richard Charles Adams

Mary Ann Heartszoak, full age, spinster, same address, father Frederick Henry Heartszoak, Captain.

Both signed the register. Witnesses were Bland Hood Galland and Ann Begly

Galland was an architect/civil engineer from Dublin.

1848. Charge of Forgery upon Messrs Coutts's Bank

On Tuesday last (7 April), Thomas Corey Adams, calling himself a Captain in the Royal Navy, (a young and rather well dressed man) was charged before the Mayor, W Morris, EH Stacey and S Tardrew, Esqrs, with having forged, or uttered knowing it to be forged, a bill of exchange for £164.

.....Remanded until Friday.

The following is the **description of the prisoner taken at the Gaol:- 25 years old, 5'5" high, light complexion, and hair inclined to curl, hazel eyes, and a rather round visage, slightly marked with small pox, of respectable appearance – says that he is a native of Haverfordwest, and received his education there and at Bristol and London – calls himself a Captain in in the Royal Navy, and says he has sailed in the ships *Benbow* and *Indus*, *Poictiers*, and *Mutine* – and that his father was a mariner, but is dead.**

Upon being removed to gaol, the prisoner was searched by Mr Williams, head-turnkey at the gaol, but denied having anything on his person. On close inspection, however, he was found to have concealed 5 sovereigns in his mouth, but was speedily compelled to disgorge them. ⁴

1848. Forgery at Carmarthen. July

Thomas Corey Adams, 24, described in the calendar as a seaman, was placed at the bar on the charge of having feloniously forged, uttered, and put off a certain bill of exchange for £164 with intend to defraud Messrs de Winton and Co, bankers. There were various accounts in the indictment, in which the intent charged was varied.⁵

³ Bristol Mercury - Saturday 06 January 1844, p2

⁴ The Welshman, 14th April 1848, p3

⁵ The Pembrokehire Herald and General Advertiser, 28 July 1848, p3

1848. Carmarthen.

On Friday morning the learned judge proceeded in the high sheriff's carriage, escorted by the usual retinue of javelin-men, &c., to attend divine service at St. John's church, where the assize sermon was preached by the Rev. T. Stacey, chaplain on the occasion to the high sheriff. Service being over, the learned judge returned to the Town-hall, and took his seat on the bench a few minutes before one o'clock. The Grand Jury having been sworn, his Lordship proceeded to deliver his charge. The grand jury then returned to an adjoining room, and in the course of an hour returned some bills into court. In the mean time the court was kept waiting. Mr Lloyd Hall begged to make an application to his lordship on the part of John Corey Adams, a prisoner in Carmarthen gaol. The prisoner stated in his affidavit that he had been apprehended at Birmingham on a charge of committing a forgery on Messrs. De Winton and Co.'s bank; that a large sum of money was found in his possession. The police took the whole of this money, and the magistrates refused to order the return of any portion of it, and committed the applicant to prison. He (the learned counsel) now applied that his lordship would order the return of £25 for the purposes of the prisoner's defence. He might remark that no part of the money was identified as being connected with the charge. His Lordship Is there any one retained on the other side? Mr. Hall: I am not aware that they have had notice of this application, and being in another county I had some difficulty about making the application. His Lordship - You must wait.⁶

Carmarthen Assizes, Saturday 22 July 1848 (continued from our 4th page)

Thomas Corey Adams, was placed at the bar, charged with having on the 28th of March last, feloniously forged, uttered and put off, a certain Bill of Exchange for £164, with intent to defraud Messrs. Wilkins and Co., bankers, and in other counts the intent was laid to defraud other parties. Mr. Chilton, Q.C., made a few preliminary observations for the prosecution, entreating the attention of the jury, and stated the facts as they afterwards appeared in evidence.

Mr. James Gwyther examined: I am a clerk in the bank of Messrs. Wilkins and Co., in this town. On the 28th of March last, the prisoner came into the bank and presented a bill for discount. I have the bill. It purports to be drawn by H. Light, at thirty days after sight, and accepted by Coutts and Co., London. Prisoner said he wished to have cash for it, and handed it over with a letter signed by Coutts and Co., and addressed to J. H. Day, Esq., Ivy Bush Hotel, Carmarthen. I returned the letter to the prisoner. I did not see the prisoner destroy the letter. The letter stated we inclose a draft of Sir Henry Light's for £164 which we have accepted." The prisoner said he was Mr. Day, and staying at the Ivy Bush Hotel, in this town, kept by Mr. George Davies. I then informed him that as he was a stranger I could not discount the bill without a reference; the prisoner then said, he would apply for Mr. Davies, of the Bush, he then left the bank taking away the bill and letter. He was absent about ten minutes and came back accompanied by Mr. David Davies, billiard-room keeper; and said that Mr. George Davies was gone to his farm, but that he had brought another gentleman in the town.

Mr. David Davies said, "he knew the gentlemen to be a very respectable young man." That reference satisfied me, and I cashed the bill in behalf of Messrs. Wilkins, and with their money. I gave him £163 in gold, and the remainder in notes and silver, deducting 9s and 6d. discount; at this time the bill was not endorsed, and prisoner endorsed it, and asked me if it was necessary to put his address, I replied that he might as well do so, he then wrote J. H. Day, Hunt Place, Bath." I sent the bill by the next post to our London agents, Messrs. Williams and Co. We received it back on the Saturday following, having taken it from the prisoner on Tuesday.

Cross-examined by Mr. Carne: I am quite sure he said, "my address." Mr. G. Davies has a farm near this town. I believe the letter from Coutts had the London post-mark on it. He asked me if I wished to keep the letter. I said no, it was of no further use.

⁶ The Welshman, 21 July 1848, p3

David Davies examined by Mr. Chilton: I live in Queen-street, in this town. I carry on the spirit trade, and also have a billiard-room. On Saturday, the 25th of March, the prisoner came to my billiard-room, and continued there almost the whole of the day. On Monday he came there again about 10 o'clock; in the course of the day I had a conversation with him, he told me that he resided in Bath, that he had an only sister, and that his parents were dead, and he and his sister were left orphans that he was travelling for the benefit of his health, and had property, and also a farm in Pembrokeshire, adjoining the Baron de Rutzen's property, that he expected a remittance on the following day, and that he intended going down to Pembrokeshire, and would return on Saturday. He came to the billiard-room the next day, and about one o'clock he took out his watch and said, I think the London mail is in, and I expect a remittance he then left and came back about two o'clock, and said that he had received a remittance, and that unfortunately Mr. G. Davies, the landlord of the Inn at which he was staying had gone to his farm, as he intended to ask him to accompany him to the bank. He then asked me if I would go to the bank with him, and say that I knew him, he did not want me to say anything more, as the transaction was perfectly correct; unfortunately I went with him, and told Mr. Gwyther I knew the prisoner to be a respectable young man. The prisoner then handed the bill and a letter to Mr. Gwyther, who returned the bill and said he must endorse it. The prisoner then asked was it necessary to put his address, Mr. Gwyther replied that he might as well do so. The letter was then handed to the prisoner, who said it was of no further use, and tore it up. The prisoner received the amount in notes and gold, and shortly after we left the bank. We then went down to my house and had something to drink together in a few minutes he said that he must go down to Pembrokeshire, and that he would order a car for the purpose. I told him the mail would go down shortly, and he might save some expense by going that way; he said he had some business to transact on the road and must go directly.

Cross-examined by Mr. Carne: The prisoner appeared a respectable young man quite a gentleman.

Mr. George Glossop examined by Mr. Hall.—I am an Inspector of the Detective Police Force, Birmingham. In consequence of a letter which I received from Brecon, I looked out for the prisoner. I found him about 12 o'clock in the day, in Bull Street. The Superintendent of the Police was with me, I told him he was charged with passing two forged bills in Wales. He said "Oh very well." I had seen the prisoner about two nights previous, I addressed him as **Captain Adams**, and he answered to that name. I searched him and found a £5 note upon him, a gold watch, a gold pencil case, and a card case on which was printed, "**Capt. T. C. Adams, R.N.**" I found his keys and asked him where he lodged, and he said at Miss Jones, Pershore Street. That is a house of ill fame. I found a portmanteau there which I opened and found in it £65 in £5 notes, and £94 in gold. I afterwards exchanged £20 in gold for four £5 notes with Miss Jones. The notes were Bank of England, of the Swansea issue. The four notes I received from Miss Jones, were of the same issue. I received the letter produced from Miss Jones a few days after he was committed in this town. I believe the hand-writing of the letter to be that of the prisoner.

Cross-examined by Mr. Carne: The prisoner made no resistance. He was dressed as described in the letter.

Mr James Allen Green, examined.—I am in the house of Messrs. Coutts and Co., London. Bills are accepted generally by John Wilkinson on behalf of the firm, and when he accepts, he writes on them "For Coutts and Co., John Wilkinson." When partners accept bills, they write on it "Coutts and Co." The acceptance produced is not signed by either of the parties, or any person having authority to accept for them. This bill purports to be drawn by H. Light, no person of that name has an account at Coutts. I have been in the house between 20 and 30 years.

Cross-examined by Mr. Carne: I know every person that has an account with Messrs. Coutts. Each of the four acting parties sign acceptances and this I am sure is not signed by either. The signature to this bill bears no similarity to the signature of either of the parties but there is some resemblance to the signature of the senior partner, Mr. Edward Marjoribanks, senior; but I am quite positive it is not signed by either. By the Court.—Coutts and Co., generally write their acceptance on the middle of the bill and not across.

Mr. George Stephens examined by Mr. Hall.—I am governor of the County Gaol. Since the prisoner has been in my custody I have employed him to write for me; and have therefore become acquainted with his handwriting. The endorsement on the bill bears a resemblance to his handwriting. A letter was put in evidence, part only being read which prisoner had addressed to Miss Jones, in Birmingham with whom he lodged. In this letter, prisoner gave some account of the manner in which he had been led on from step to step in the career of crime expressed regret at the disgrace he had brought on his family said that he was first led into crime by gambling, and then met one of the villains in London who taught him to commit forgery, and that he was guilty of the act. This letter had been written while prisoner was in custody on this charge.

Mr. Nicholl Carne stated that he had undertaken to cross-examine the witnesses, but the prisoner wished to make his own statement, which he had no doubt would have its proper effect, and that if the jury were satisfied with the reasonableness of the account given, they would acquit the prisoner. He did not know whether his lordship would allow him (Mr. Carne) to address the jury after the prisoner had made his statement—if so he would do so.

His Lordship: I cannot allow the prisoner and his counsel to address the jury.

Mr. Carne: Then I will allow the prisoner to make his own statement, as he can state many facts which counsel could not with regularity.

Prisoner then read a long statement from a manuscript paper. It was to the effect that he had, on repeated occasions, met a gentleman who called himself Sir Harry Light, in Liverpool and various other places—that he had several times dined with him — that this gentleman had frequently pressed him to bet on the results of certain races—that for a length of time he declined, but eventually consented- that Sir H. Light had on other occasions sent him drafts, which turned out to be perfectly regular—that after leaving Liverpool, he met Sir H. Light in London, and that he told prisoner, in case a bet was won by him, he would forward a draft by post to Carmarthen (where he had informed Sir Harry he was going). The latter told him to sign one draft J. H. Day, Hurst-place, Bath," and place another name on the second bill-that these were the names of two aunts of his, who would answer in case anything were wrong, but that he did not wish them to know that he was engaged in betting transactions—that on the Tuesday named by the witnesses, he went to the Post-office, and received the letter from Sir Harry Light, enclosing the draft, which he got cashed at the bank under the circumstances described.

The learned Judge then summed up the whole of the evidence, directing the attention of the jury to its various bearings both for and against the prisoner. The jury having retired, returned into court in the course of a few minutes with a verdict of—Guilty.

His Lordship then proceeded to pass sentence, and, addressing the prisoner, said that he had been convicted of the serious crime of forgery, and that upon evidence so clear as not to admit of the possibility of doubt as to his guilt. It had been truly stated that, in a commercial country like ours, forgery was a crime of a most aggravated character. But a few years ago, the prisoner's life would have been inevitably forfeited. It had, however, been considered, and that very wisely in his lordship's opinion, that the extreme penalty for an offence against property ought to be discontinued. The law still attached a severe punishment to the crime. There were too many reasons for believing that this was not the only instance in which the prisoner had been guilty of forgery, and the letter written by himself exhibited a lamentable instance of the progress from mere misconduct in the first instance down to crime, ending in an ignominious sentence. His representations were most specious, and the manner in which the forgery was accomplished pointed him out as a person whom it would be unsafe to allow to remain in this country. The sentence of the court therefore was, that he be *transported for fourteen years*.⁷

⁷ The Welshman, 28 July 1848, p2

Mr. Nichol Carne applied to His Lordship to grant an allowance of £25 from the sum taken from the person of Thomas Coreg Adams, when arrested on a charge of forgery, for the purposes of defence. None of the money amounting to £164 had been identified as a portion of the produce of the forgery. Mr. Hall who had made a similar application for the prisoner at Cardiff, now appeared for the prosecution, and consented to the sum of £10 being appropriated for the purposes of defence, which he thought reasonable. That sum was accordingly ordered to be granted.⁸

The Treasurer of the County of the Borough of Carmarthen paid the following:

Mr Geo. Stephens, Gaoler, expenses of conveying Thomas Corey Adams, a convict, to Millbank Penitentiary. £11.

Mr Richard Gardner, his bill of costs for prosecution, the Queen v. Thomas Corey Adams for felony. £110 18s 1d.⁹

Thomas Corey Adams, 25, single, can read & write well, seaman, was convicted on 20 July 1848 at Carmarthen of uttering a forged bill of exchange, and sentenced to fourteen years transportation. The Gaoler's report of character was not known. Thomas was received at Millbank penitentiary on 6 September 1848. While at Millbank, Thomas gave information of the intention escape of two prisoners. These prisoners were sentenced to seven years transportation at the Carmarthen on the same day as Thomas. A month later he was transferred to Pentonville Prison, probably because he graced on fellow prisoners. At Pentonville, the Gaoler's report said his character was good. Just over a year later Thomas was removed to Portland Prison on 31 October 1849. From Portland Thomas boarded the *Hashemy* for the voyage to Fremantle.¹⁰

1850. On arrival at fremantle, his description was:

131. Thomas C Adams, 30, 5'4³/₄"', light brown hair, hazel eyes, round face, dark complexion, well set build, marked with small pox and a cupped mark on back of neck, a boatman and single.¹¹

Casual sick list, Fremantle

Adams T C	16 November 1850	Diarrhoea	Cal: Jalap. Chalk mixture
Adams C	29 November 1850	Rheumatism	Liniment, Doves powder

1851. Escaped. January

Sailed.— On the 15th instant, the *Evergreen*, Green, master, for the Southward, in search of the escaped convicts.¹²

The *Evergreen* returned to Fremantle on Sunday, after a fruitless search for the escaped convicts, who have doubt less got clear off ere this. A small boat was searched near the Murray, which, it afterwards appeared, belonged to Mr. Sutton. The *Evergreen* arrived at the Vasse on the 17th instant, and, we suppose, examined the American ships in that bay, although we have not heard that such examination was made. She is now lying in Perth Water. If what we have heard is correct, a great want of prudence, of common foresight, and caution, has been manifested by those who had the control of these men. From their account, it seems that Adams, the master's mate, had given great satisfaction during the voyage out; he had been quiet and well behaved, and evinced a great desire to instruct some of his fellow convicts in

⁸ The Welshman, 28 July 1848, p4

⁹ The Welshman 5th October 1849, p1

¹⁰ HO24/4; PCOM2/29; HO24/16; HO8/105

¹¹ SROWA Acc 128/40-3

¹² Inquirer (Perth, WA : 1840 - 1855), Wed 15 Jan 1851, p2

the art of navigation. This desire on his part was encouraged, and among the men who derived the benefit of such instruction, were the three who accompanied him in his little boat excursion. These four men were afterwards permitted to be constantly together, and were employed in the same occupation— sail-making. In the other convict colonies this banding together of prisoners is invariably discouraged, and when any close intimacy is seen among them, the friends are speedily separated. The result of this confederacy is seen by the late event, and we may rest assured that the instruction imparted by the master's mate will not be disregarded, and that he will find in his pupils most efficient assistants. It seems to be a matter for doubt whether these men have proceeded to the Northward or Southward. Against the former route it is urged that they have not provisions, but this point cannot be clearly ascertained. They must have obtained supplies after landing the warder, but of course this will not be known, as the parties who have victualled them for their expedition will take good care not to render themselves liable to the pains and penalties consequent upon their aiding and abetting in the escape of convicts, by admitting that stores had been placed at their service. If they went to the Southward, and managed to net on board a Yankee whaler, they are safe enough; four hands and a whaleboat are prizes not to be met with every day. ¹³

1851. March. RECAPTURE OF FOUR CONVICTS AT SHARK'S BAY.—The four convicts who made their escape in the whale boat belonging to the establishment at Fremantle, the circumstances connected with which were related at the time, in January last, were recaptured at Shark's Bay, by a boat from the ship *Hashemy*, and sent back to Fremantle under military escort, where they arrived on Friday last on board the *Evergreen*. The following particulars relating to this daring attempt will be read with some interest. The idea which at first prevailed, that these men had steered for the southward, seems to have been totally without foundation. After a run of eight days, and anchoring we believe, every night, they reached the vicinity of Shark's Bay. They seem to have suffered no material privation, but at one time were in some apprehension as to water. They appear to have made for the northern islands with very little delay, for about the 22nd or 23rd of January as the party from the ship *Hashemy* were working at the guano on Sunday Island, the mate observed at a little distance from the working party, a European watching their operations. This gentleman well knowing that curious observers in that locality are somewhat scarce, lost no time in hailing the stranger, who gave them to understand that he had travelled on foot from Perth, and had swum across the Epinaux Channel. This story seemed a strange one, and unfortunately for the narrator he was recognised by some of the ship's crew who had sailed with him from England not more than three months previously. When on board the *Hashemy* he was taken good care of and on the following day the *Hashemy's* party discovered another of the runaways, who was speedily sent on board, where he was not a little surprised to meet his former companion. The men protested their ignorance of any one also belonging to them; but the prompt and determined manner of Captain Ross in despatching a boat's crew for further information, wrung from them the confession that they were escaped convicts, and had left two comrades with a boat on the island. When the *Hashemy's* party had made some search they discovered at a distance, two men, who instantly attempted to make their escape in the boat, which had been hauled up, but was speedily launched for that purpose. The ship's crew however, too alert, and cut off their retreat, and the whole party were secured and placed in irons on board the *Hashemy*. Captain Ross communicated with Lieutenant Elliott, and the result is, that the four men are now safely lodged in the Convict establishment at Fremantle. Much credit is due to Captain Ross and his crew for their promptitude, who seem to have been the predestined instruments of this recapture. ¹⁴

1851. March. Local Intelligence.

On Thursday, the 20th March, the four captured convicts, John Morris, **Thomas Corry Adams**, Henry Perkins, and William Hayles, were brought before W. H. Mackie, Esq. and the Resident Magistrate at

¹³ Inquirer (Perth, WA : 1840 - 1855), Wed 22 Jan 1851. P2

¹⁴ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News (WA : 1848 - 1864) Fri 21 Mar 1851, p2

Fremantle, charged with stealing a whale boat and sundry articles of public as well as private property. As it was not contemplated to send the prisoners out of the colony, the charge against them was confined to the simple larceny of stealing the whale boat, to which they all pleaded guilty. They were summarily convicted and sentenced to three years labour in chains, on some road or public work in the colony. This sentence is, of course, independent of the original one.¹⁵

20 March 1851, Superintendents Orders.

The 4 Prisoners viz. John Morris 122, Thos. C Adams 131, Henry Perkins 140 and Wm Hailes 141 having been adjudged by the Magistrate to undergo a Punishment of Three (3) years Imprisonment in irons - either on the roads or on such work as may be ordered - ... missing line with straps &c and be put to such work as may be directed - care being taken that they are not left by themselves for anytime, and that they are allowed no communication, either between themselves or with other Prisoners. They will continue on full diet & have the regular bed and Bedding.¹⁶

Casual sick list, Fremantle. Thomas was confined to his cell.

		Complaint	Treatment
Adams Thos	4 May 1851	Bad eyes	Lotion
Adams Thos	13 June 1851		Opening medicine

1853. Thomas was discharged from prison on 26 September 1853.¹⁷

He was granted a Conditional Pardon in April 1856.

1857. On the 28th January, the schooner *New Perseverance*, **Adams**, for Adelaide. Cargo — 32 casks oil, (20 tons,) 12 hhds. rum, 2 cases haberdashery, and 45 passengers.

Arrived 4 March 1857 at Adelaide—The schooner *New Perseverance*, 105 tons, **Thomas Adams**, master, from Fremantle January 28.

The *New Perseverance* from Swan River. It is seldom amongst the casualties which our coasting trade is subject to, that so many and such varied sufferings come upon the passengers as in the case of the passengers from the Swan River in the above vessel. It appears that just before she sailed from the Swan River, in consequence of some disagreement amongst the owners, the command was given, at a very short notice, to Mr Adams, who brought her round, and who had no time to see the state of the ship's stores. There were sixty-five souls on board, and rations were only provided for twenty-five days. Three days of food and water were consumed in harbour; but, as the Captain hoped to make a quick run, he sailed without any fresh supply. All hopes of a rapid passage was however destroyed by the schooner springing her foremast on the second day of sailing, and, to add to the misfortune, the Captain became so alarming ill that serious doubts were entertained of his recovery. There was no medicine chest or drugs of any kind on board. The first mate was unable to manage the ship, and the passengers began to feel very uneasy about their position. Her voyage, however, continued to be pretty prosperous, chiefly owing to the energy of the Captain, who, to great personal suffering, continued to direct the course as well as he could; but the provisions began to fail on the twentieth day, and the water became so putrid that nothing but the extremity of thirst could induce the passengers to take it. The sufferings of some women with children were dreadful. About three days before Kangaroo Island was sighted, one biscuit a day was all that could be given to the crew. On the day land was made, all the biscuits were exhausted, and seven onions and a few

¹⁵ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News (WA : 1848 - 1864), Fri 28 Mar 1851, p2

¹⁶ SROWA Acc 1156, SO1-3, p34

¹⁷ SROWA Acc 1156 RD1-2

potatoes were all that sixty-five souls had to cheer them, and to keep off the fearful dread of starvation. The prospect was a most dreary one. A few barrel of whale oil were about to be broached, to prevent death by hunger, when, fortunately, the *Ascendant* was spoken, and supplies were obtained. The passengers all speak in the highest terms of the captain's kindness and attention, and though he is certainly not to blame, surely the attention of the owners should be called to the fearful disregard of human suffering which allowed them to send a slow sailing vessel on a really long voyage, with twenty-five days' provisions for sixty-five souls only.¹⁸

The barque *Ascendant*, from London, arrived on Wednesday, after a voyage of 144 days from the Downs (her last point of departure). She reports having' reached the longitude of the Gape of Good Hope on December 30th, and that of Cape Lewin after being 116 days at sea, from which point continued strong easterly winds have prevailed. March 2nd, to the S.W. of Kangaroo Island, they were signalled by the schooner *New Perseverance*, from Swan River, bound to Adelaide, in distress. The *Ascendant* bore down, and the *Perseverance* reported having both her masts sprung, with other damage. She was out of provisions, and was making water with such rapidity that it required the entire exertions of not only the crew but the passengers, 41 in number, to keep her afloat. She had a cargo of rum and oil, and was consigned to Mr. Samson of this port. The following is a copy of the letter sent by the *New Perseverance* to the Captain of the *Ascendant*, the request contained in which was immediately complied with. The *Ascendant* reports having entered this Gulf on Saturday last, the 27th ult., by Backstairs Passage:

New Perseverance, March 2, 1857.

"Sir-You will greatly oblige me by supplying the vessel with some provisions and water, having been 33 days from Swan River, the passengers, 61 souls in number, out of provisions these last three days. If you would supply 2 cwt. of bread, some meat, and two casks of water, likewise a bottle of port wine. The master of the ship has been very unwell, and in great pain these last three days, or he should appear on board. Whatever charges will be settled by the agent, Mr. William Sampson, of Adelaide.

"For **T. C. Adams**, master
Frederick Byrne"¹⁹

The friends of Captain Adams, of the schooner *New Perseverance*, will be sorry to learn that he died yesterday of the complaint under which he was labouring on his arrival here. His death was probably accelerated by the privations and anxiety consequent on his protracted voyage.²⁰

To the Editor of the Times.

Sir— Captain Adams, who died on Thursday, wished to see an Episcopalian clergyman. A lady resident at 7 a.m. near his lodging called at 7 a.m. on Mr Farrell, also on Mr Maryatt, being referred from one house to the other, and, returning unsuccessful at 12 to find the poor seaman dead.

On Friday Mr Maryatt called.

Permit a temporary resident to enquire whether this occurred in civilized Adelaide, so celebrated for the large amount of charitable funds and great sanctity of her religious community.

I remain, Sir, yours, Enquirer.²¹

The *New Perseverance* came in the week before last with masts sprung, other serious damages, and in such distress for want of provisions and water, though only 33 days out, that they were, compelled to speak a

¹⁸ Adelaide Times (SA : 1848 - 1858), Sat 7 Mar 1857, p2

¹⁹ Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Sat 7 Mar 1857, p5

²⁰ Adelaide Times (SA : 1848 - 1858), Fri 13 Mar 1857, p2

²¹ Adelaide Times (SA : 1848 - 1858), Mon 16 Mar 1857, p3

vessel going out, and obtain a supply. She was overladen with passengers and the Captain (Adams) was summoned before the Port authorities to answer a charge to that effect, but before the time came, he died, having been sick nearly all the voyage.²²

The *New Perseverance*.—We are requested to state that the owner of the above named vessel, which arrived from Swan River on Friday last, is not Mr Lionel Samson, as may be inferred from his name being on the register, he allowed his name to be made use of just as the vessel was leaving the Swan, and was not, therefore, aware as to the manner in which she was provisioned.²³

Adams, Thomas Carey died 18 March 1857 and was buried the same day at West Terrace Cemetery, Adelaide. There is no death registered.

No.1, 1857. **NEW PERSEVERANCE**, O/No.40478, 105 tons. 2 Masted Schooner. Dimensions :- 84.8 x 20.7 x 10.2 feet. Built at Fremantle by William Owston during 1857. Owner :- **Samuel Brakes****, of Fremantle, Ship Owner. Other Owners, Lionel Samson, of Fremantle, Merchant. George Shenton, of Perth, Merchant. William Owston, of Fremantle, Merchant. This vessel was broken up in 1868 and registry cancelled after having been wrecked in Cossack Creek in 1866. It would appear that she was wrecked during a cyclone as the hull was well above the high water line and was subsequently used as a store and primitive hotel until being broken up. ** convict from the *Scindian*

The explanation of the entries is explained in the book:

Using the vessel NEW PERSEVERANCE the registration details the first entry as No. 1, 1857, this is the date of registration and not necessarily the year of construction. Next is the vessel's name and her official number. This number stays with the vessel for the rest of her life, unless there have been some material alterations in her configuration, such as lengthening, adding an engine to a sailing craft or reconstruction. Then comes the tonnage, this is expressed in pre-decimal tons and tenths of tons. The dimensions of the vessel are her length, breadth and depth of hold. In this case 84.8 X 20.7 X 10.2 feet, once again pre-decimal and expressed in feet and tenths of feet. (I should point out that for all my attempts I still don't know why the measurements are a mixture of feet and decimal feet). However 1 metre equals approximately 3.25 feet. **The builder of this vessel was William Owston and he built the ship during 1856 for Samuel Brakes, who was the sole owner of her 64 shares.** The ownership of vessels, large and small and even today is always expressed in shares and always in derivatives of 64. For example 2 owners might hold 32 shares each or one could have 48 shares and the other owner 16, or any other combination, making up 64. The "other owners" refers to sales of the ship and lists in order the various purchasers, sometime jointly, sometimes singly. Where possible through research, I have listed what eventually happened to the vessel, but quite often, a vessel was left to rot in a river or a creek or on a beach and the authorities weren't informed as to its fate, and so, to this day, in a lot of cases we are still left wondering.²⁴

²² The Inquirer and Commercial News (Perth, WA : 1855 - 1901), Wed 22 Apr 1857, p2

²³ Adelaide Times (SA : 1848 - 1858), Mon 9 Mar 1857, p2

²⁴ Ships Registered in Western Australia from 1856 To 1969. Their details, their owners & their fate. Transcribed and compiled By Rod Dickson, Merchant Seaman. October 1996.