

Arthur Deebank, 592, *Pyrenees*

Researched by Marcia Watson

Name variation: Debank, De Bank, De Banks

Baptism	4 July 1819, Coleshill, Warwick, England
Parents	Arthur Deebank and Ann Lea
Parent's marriage	17 March 1794, St Martin, Birmingham
Siblings	Charlotte (1794), Maria (1797), Mary Ann (1799), Abraham (1802), William (1805), Sabina (1808), Elizabeth (1810), John (1813), Mary (1815)
Wife	Anne Matilda Baldwin
Married	12 June 1843, Middleton Cheney, Northamptonshire
Children	Julia Marritta Debanks (1844) Martha Rosetta Debank (1847-1848)
Partner	Unknown
Married	Probably not
Child	Arthur (~1852)

Arthur's father was a bricklayer, a trade he passed on to his son. The family lived in Coleshill, about 14km east of Birmingham.

At the Walsall Borough Sessions, Staffordshire, 21 April 1835, Arthur Debank was convicted of larceny from the person and sentenced to 6 months hard labour. He had picked the pocket of Harriet Griffin on 9 June at the Walsall fair and stolen 10½d in copper. His sentence was served in the House of Correction at Stafford.¹

Then, at the Lichfield Borough Sessions, Stafford, on 27 June 1836, Arthur Debank, 21, can read and write imperfectly, was convicted of larceny in a dwelling house and sentenced to 2 years.²

On the 1841 census, Arthur Debank, 25, bricklayer, was boarding with a family at Shears Yard, Rugby.³

Five years after getting out of prison, he married on 12 June 1843, Parish church at Middleton Cheney, Northampton, by licence:

Arthur Deebank, full age, bachelor, bricklayer, resides at Lower Middleton, father Arthur Deebank, builder

Matilda Baldwin, full age, spinster, resides Lower Middleton, father John Baldwin, Innkeeper

Arthur made his mark, and Matilda signed the register

When their daughter, Julia Marritta, was born in 1844, the family returned to Birmingham. Their second daughter, Martha Rosetta, died in July 1848 when she was eight months old.

In January 1849, the newspapers reported:

Extensive Robbery of Bricks. A bricklayer named Arthur Deebank, residing in Lawley Street, and John Lee, a labourer, residing in the same locality, were charged with stealing about 1,000 bricks from the Birmingham and Oxford Railway, the property of the contractors Messrs Peto and Easted. It appeared that on Saturday, the 13th instant, Mr William Phillips, Garrison Lane, who employed the prisoners, gave Deebank a sovereign to pay for two loads of bricks, which he had agreed for with Mr Morris, Moor Street. Instead of going there, however, they went to a place near the canal bridge in

¹ TNA UK, HO 27; Piece: 50; Page: 235; Staffordshire Advertiser, 04 July 1835, p3

² TNA UK, HO 27; Piece: 54; Page: 266

³ TNA UK, HO107/1137/17

Sandy Lane, where some houses on land belonging to the railway company had been pulled down and filled their cart from the heap of bricks. While doing so, however, Mr Griffiths, who resides near the spot, has suspicions that they are stealing bricks, and endeavours to find out the name on the cart. However, this had been carefully covered with mud, but he managed to rub it off, although the information he received could lead to nothing. He sent his son to watch them and saw them drive to Mr Phillips's, where they gave their employer 6d as the sovereign's balance, after paying for the bricks. Inquiries were instituted when it was found that they had not been at Mr Morris's at all. They were accordingly apprehended.

Mr Austin, who attended on behalf of Messrs Peto and Easted, showed that the bricks belonged to that firm, although they had not been missed.

In defence, Deebank affirmed that he had gone to Mr Morris's, but that the bricks offered him there were so bad that he would not have them, upon which a man who was standing by offered to sell him two loads and took him to Sandy Lane. He paid that man 14s for them. Lee, who seemed to be merely a tool, told a different tale, which had every appearance of being true and tended much to exculpate himself. Both were, however, committed to the sessions, the Magistrates intimating that they would take bail to the amount of £20 for Lee's appearance.⁴

Prison Registers show Arthur Deebank, 33, married two children, bricklayer, convicted 2 March 1849 at Birmingham Sessions of stealing bricks and sentenced to 7 years. He had two previous convictions. His co-accused, John Lee, was found not guilty. Arthur was received at Portland Prison in Dorset from Northampton Gaol on 5 April 1850. He boarded the *Pyrenees* on 13 March 1851 for the voyage to Western Australia.⁵

On arrival at Fremantle, Arthur was described as:

592. Arthur Drebank, 36, 5'8", with dark brown hair, grey eyes, long face, fresh complexion, stout build, no marks or tattoos, , a bricklayer, and married with two children. His surname was recorded incorrectly in this register. On all other family and prison records, his surname as Deebank or Debank.

Around 1852, Arthur Deebanks appears to have fathered a son called Arthur De Banks. No marriage or birth certificate has been found. When Arthur De Banks died, no parents were named on the Death Index. However, when Arthur De Banks married Ann Mead⁶ in 1879 at Fremantle, he said his father was Arthur De Banks [Deebanks].

On 10 January 1853 at Perth Police Court—Arthur Deebank, t.l., out after hours; fined 10s and costs of 3s.⁷ Later in the year his Conditional Pardon was granted on 30 September 1853.

Nothing more of Arthur has been found until 1862, when at some stage, Arthur went to Victoria. The Kyneton Cause List and Charge Sheet, 8 March 1862:

Arthur de Banks, charged with lunacy, to be sent to the Hospital for 2 days and to be charged the current rate of maintenance during his stay at the Institution if he recovered at that period.⁸ It was reported in the newspaper:

Police Court, 6 March 1862. Lunacy.—Arthur Banks (*sic*) was charged with lunacy by constable Heaver of Woodend. The prisoner seemed to be laboring under the effects of drink from which he had not recovered though in the lock-up since Saturday. The Bench ordered him to be sent to Hospital.⁹

⁴ Birmingham Journal, 27 January 1849, p7

⁵ TNA UK, PCOM2/383

⁶ Ann was Sarah Anna, the daughter of William Mead and Frances Mary Fothergill Thomson, born in 1851.

⁷ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 21 January 1853, p3

⁸ Victoria PRO, Petty Sessions Records, Public Record Office of Victoria, Australia, 1854-1922

⁹ The Kyneton Observer, 11 Mar 1862, p2

Arthur De Banks [Arthur Deebank], unknown age, unknown parents, died on 11 March 1862 at Kyneton Hospital and was buried on 13 March at the Kyneton Cemetery.

Coronial Inquest into the death of Arthur De Banks

The Examination of Michael Heaver, Henry Dale, John Mackenzie and Henry Laurence at Kyneton & Wood End on the 13 March 1862.

Michael Heaver said I am a Police constable stationed at Wood End. On Saturday last, between 10 and 11 o'clock, Henry Dale, the landlord of the British and American Hotel, sent a message to the Police Station that there was a man in his bar, very bad with Delirium Tremens. I went there & found the deceased sitting on a form in an insensible state. I took him to the Lock-up & shortly after went for Dr Cochrane who came and prescribed for him. He said he was suffering from Delirium Tremens and that he was in a very dangerous state. He ordered a little spirits every 4 hours. He appeared better on Sunday and on Monday morning I brought him before the Kyneton Bench who instructed me to take him to the Hospital which I did. The deceased told me his name was Arthur De Banks, he lived at Wood End.

Henry Dale said I am Landlord of the British and American Hotel at Wood End. I knew the deceased, he went by the name of "Brummy". I had known him about 3 months, he was at work at my Billiards Room, not for me but for Contractors. I left home on Friday morning and returned on the same evening, deceased was then in the Bar. I can't say whether he was sober, he was hunting snakes in the bar, he had nothing more to drink after I got home. I put him to bed about 8 o'clock. I did not see or hear anything more of him till the following about 7 o'clock. When I went to his room he imagined there were all kinds of things in the room. I give him about three parts of a 9 cap of ale. I had some beef tea made for him, he took about a cup full of it and ate a little toast, he had nothing more to drink and about 9 or 10 o'clock I sent for the Police who took him away, he had been drinking a good deal for the last few days both at my house and at other houses too. On Thursday he was so drunk he could hardly walk, he had nothing to drink at my house on Thursday. I told my Barmaid not to serve him. He was back at work on Monday or Tuesday. I served him with one pint of ale on Tuesday. I don't know whether he had any more, he was then sober.

John Mackenzie said I am a legally qualified Medical Practitioner and reside at Kyneton. I am at present the Medical Officer in charge of Kyneton Hospital. On the Monday morning last the deceased was admitted into the Kyneton Hospital suffering from Delirium Tremens in an advanced stage, he was incoherent in speech and in a stage of great excitement. He was placed under the usual treatment stimulants and narcotics in large quantities frequently administered. I saw him again the following morning when I found the remedies had induced no apparent effect. He was much weaker and more violent, the pupils dilated and face pale and livid and the pulse feeble and irregular. I ordered the remedies to be increased in quantity and frequency in order to produce sleep. He continued in the same state till about 4 o'clock in the afternoon when he had a fit of convulsions which lasted about half an hour. When he died I have no doubt but that Delirium Tremens produced by intemperance was the cause of death.

Henry Laurence said I am a water carrier and reside at Wood End. I have known the deceased for the last 12 months. I only knew him by the name of "Arthur" or "Brummy". He had always been in the habit of drinking and keeping at it constantly more particularly during the last two months. On Sunday week last I saw him when he did not seem in a sound state of mind, he was trembling. I saw him again on Tuesday when he seemed about the same, on Thursday I met him in the Township when he seemed worse and fancied all kinds of things. Later on the same day I saw him in Mr Dale's bar and persuaded him to go home with me and he ate two eggs and shortly after went home but in a short time came rushing back and asked for protection saying there were some men after him. I got him to lie down but he almost immediately jumped up and ran out of the place. I did not follow him. I did not see him again till he was given in charge.

Wife and family

Matilda and her daughter moved back to live with her mother.

1851 census, Farthinghoe, Brackley, Northamptonshire ¹⁰

Sarah Baldwin, head, widow, 63, Innkeeper

George Baldwin, son, unmarried, 27

Anne Matilda De Bank, daughter, married, 32

Julia M. De Bank, granddaughter, 6.

Ann Matilda Deebank lived with William Dumbleton at Bloxham, Oxfordshire from about the mid-1850s. No marriage had been found. William was a carpenter and 10 years younger than her. They had three daughters, all of whom died young:

Florence Mary Dumbleton (1856-1859)

Sarah Ann Dumbleton (1857-1858)

Sarah Matilda Dumbleton (1860-1861)

Ann Matilda Dumbleton was buried 22 February 1881 at Bloxham. She was survived by William and her daughter, Julia Marritta Debank.

Julia married Eli Maule around the time her mother died; they had no children.

¹⁰ TNA UK, HO107/1735