

James Ferris, 482, *Pyrenees*

Researched by Marcia Watson

Name variation: Ferres

Born	8 October 1830.
Baptism	31 October 1830, Saint John the Baptist, Hoxton: New North Road, Hackney, London
Parents	James Ferres and Phoebe Shepherd
Parent's marriage	7 February 1830, Saint Leonards, Shoreditch, London
Siblings	John (1832-1836), William (1835-1836), Robert (1837)
Wife 1	
Married	
Children	

When John Ferres was baptised, the family lived at Cliff Street, and his father was a labourer. By the time his brother John was born, they had moved to Freeman Street in the parish of Christ Church. They were still living there in 1835, but his father was now a carman. In 1837, they lived in Half Moon Street, St Botolph, Bishop's Gate, and the father was still a carman.

On the 1841 census, Suffolk Street, North, Carrons Buildings, St Matthew, Bethnal Green. James Ferres, 45, Wine cooper; Phebe, 45; James 10; Robert 3. The parents were not born in the county. ¹

In 1847, James Ferres, aged 16, who could read and write imperfectly, was charged at the County Adjourned Sessions, Clerkenwell, on 18 May 1847 with stealing a fixture. He was found not guilty. ²

Two weeks later, James Ferris, 17, read and write imperfectly, was convicted at Middlesex County Sessions, Clerkenwell on 1 June 1847 of larceny from the person and sentenced to 6 months. He was discharged in December 1847. ³

Just over a month later, James Ferris, 18, single, read and write well, was convicted of stealing a hat and two pairs of shoes on 1 February 1848 at Middlesex and sentenced to 7 years. He had been twice previously convicted of felony. James was received at Millbank Prison on 15 May 1848 from Westminster Gaol and on 3 January 1849 was transferred to the *Stirling Castle* hulk at Portsmouth. Here he was documented as James Ferris, born at New North Road, London, 5'7", read and write well, dark hair, dark eyes, dark eyebrows and lashes, large nose, small mouth, dark complexion, round face, slender, labourer, three lines on left arm below elbow, no family recorded. ⁴

Act of Bravery: 7 September 1850, James jumped overboard from a slip in the Dock Yard, into the water and saved his fellow prisoner, 2938. Geo Phillips. £2 was awarded to him by the Royal Humane Society. George Phillips was a sailor and was transported to Bermuda.

James boarded the *Pyrenees* on 10 March 1851 for the voyage to Western Australia.

On arrival at Fremantle, Western Australia, on 28 June 1851, James was assigned number 482, issued with a Ticket of leave and a physical description was recorded.

482. James Ferris, 25, 5'7¼", with black hair, dark eyes, oval face, dark complexion, two marks on the left arm with ring on third finger, cooper, labourer and ostler, and single. ⁵

¹ The National Archives (TNA) UK, HO107/692/10, p5

² TNA, HO 26/ 53, p88

³ TNA, HO26/53, p89

⁴ TNA, HO24/4, PCOM2/28

⁵ SROWA, Acc 128/32

The Superintendent's Journal records:

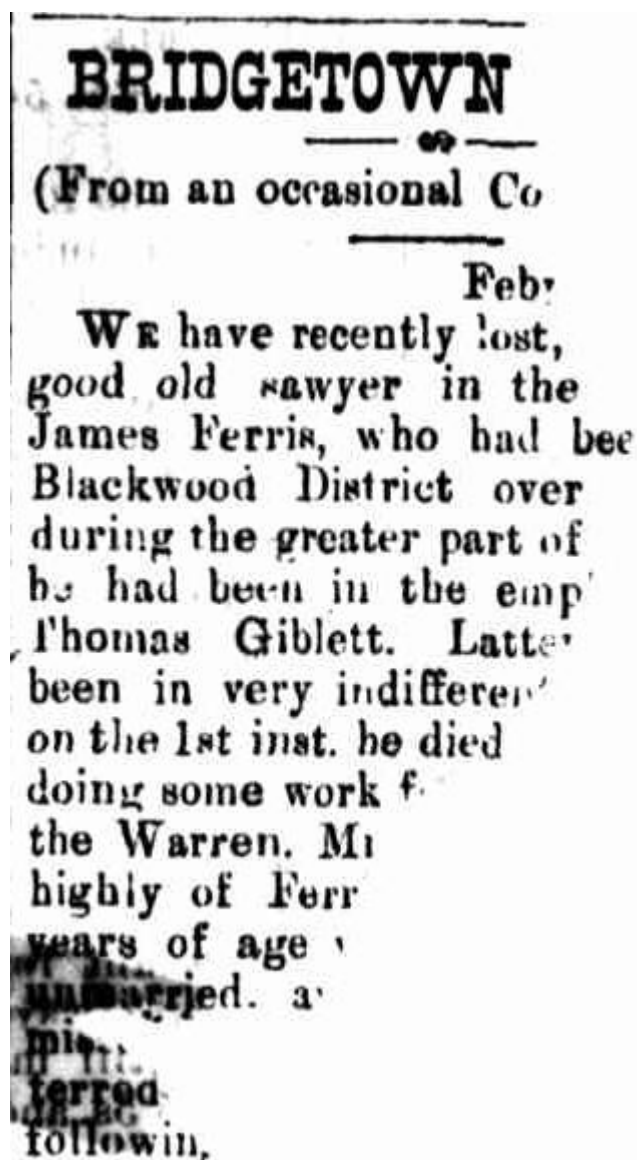
4 July 1851. The following 57 men from the *Pyrenees* will be received at the Prison and located in division No. 3 (45 men from the *York* hulk at Gosport and 12 men from the *Stirling Castle*), including 482. James Ferris.

10 July 1851. The following 5 men, pass holders, will this day join the 31 already at North Fremantle Station; the Steward will therefore see them provisioned, including 482. James Ferris.⁶

The newspapers reported the Ticket-of-Leave-Men at North Fremantle Station: 482, James Ferris, Carter and Cooper's Laborer.⁷

A Conditional Pardon was granted in June 1853.

James does not appear to have committed any more crimes. He died on 1 February 1889 at Bridgetown.⁸ Unfortunately, part of the newspaper that records his death is missing.



⁶ SROWA, Superintendents Orders, So1-So3, p52, p55

⁷ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 25 July 1851, p 2

⁸ James Ferris, 57, registered Warren district, 1889/96

⁹ Southern Times, 19 February 1889, p5