

George Newton, 1300, William Jardine and 6165, Lincelles

Marcia Watson

Real name is William McGinnis/McGinness

In February 1847, William McGinnis was convicted in Liverpool, as William McGinnes *al.* John Bryan (15). He was charged with his father Terence (41) of stealing 12 pounds of tea. His mother Ann (40), and his sister Jane (14) were charged with receiving stolen goods. William was gaoled for five months. Terence, who had a previous conviction, was sentenced to seven years' transportation, and was sent to Port Philip in 1849. Terence was married with four children.

The 1851 census: 10 St Martin Street, Liverpool, Lancashire, England

Ann McGinnis (43), widow, small shop keeper, born Ireland

Edward McGinnis (12), scholar, born Liverpool

James McGinnis (12), scholar, born Liverpool

Jane McGinnis (18) helps mother, born Liverpool

William moved to London where at the Central Criminal Court in London, on 18 September 1848: WILLIAM McGinnis, stealing 1 watch, value 30s; the property of John Howard, in a vessel on the Thames.

John Howard. I am mate of the Medora, which is in the Thames. The prisoner belonged to that vessel—on 21st Aug., he left, which he ought not to have done, and I missed my watch—this is it (produced).

John Gilbert Cox. I am a pawnbroker. This watch was pawned with me I cannot say, by whom, but a lad about the prisoner's size came to have a second ticket on it—this is it.

Ann Duffy. I am the wife of James Duffy. On a Saturday in Aug., My husband bought this ticket of a watch of the" prisoner—I went with it to Mr. Cox-and he would not show me the watch—this is the ticket.

William Flossing(*sic*) (City-policeman, 565). I took the prisoner—he said he ran away from the ship, and stole the mate's watch, and sold the ticket.

GUILTY. Aged 17.— Confined Six Months.

Old Bailey Proceedings Online (www.oldbaileyonline.org, version 8.0, 06 December 2020), September 1848, trial of WILLIAM M'GINNIS (t18480918-2103).

A year after serving his sentence, he appeared at York City Sessions, 15 April 1850.

William Maginnis, 17, was indicted for having, on the 25th of March last, stole two stones weight of iron, the property of Mr. Edwin Thompson, of the Phoenix Foundry, Castle Mills. Mr. Blanshard prosecuted. The prisoner pleaded Guilty, and was sentenced to two months' imprisonment at hard labour. He was committed on 28 of March to trial.

Yorkshire Gazette, 20 April 1850, p6

The following year he was in Cambridgeshire. At the General Quarter Sessions to be held on 30 June 1851, Cambridge:

George Newton (17), for stealing wearing apparel and saws, the property of George Yardley and James Robert Pearl.

Cambridge Chronicle and Journal, 28 June 1851, p4

Stealing Linen &c.- George Newton (the same prisoner) was also indicted for stealing stockings and other articles, the property of George Yardley, police constable. Mr Naylor for prosecution; prisoner was undefended. The articles were stolen from a line in a garden, adjoining Pearl's on the same night, a portion of the stolen property found on the prisoner. Mr Edis, the governor of the Borough gaol, said, about a fortnight ago, the prisoner asked to speak to him privately, and then admitted that he was guilty of the above charges but was afraid of a long imprisonment: and further stated that **his real name was McGinness(sic)** and he had been convicted at York and London. *Guilty*.

A previous conviction in London under the name McGinness(sic) was proved. Fourteen years' transportation

Cambridge Chronicle and Journal, 05 July 1851, p8

George Newton, 18, single, can read and write imperfectly, a confectioner, was convicted on 30 June 1851 and received 14 years transportation. He was received at Millbank Prison on 23 August 1851 from Cambridge. George had been convicted twice of felony as Wm Macguinnis. He boarded the *William Jardine* on 17 April 1851 for the voyage to Western Australia.

HO24/5

George returned to England

Two newspapers articles, both with mistakes, document the return of convict George Newton to England.

Narberth Petty Sessions, 9 September 1858 - Wm. Kelvington v. George Newman, an escaped convict from the Swan River district. Defendant admitted the charge. He will be kept in custody until an answer from the Secretary of State be received.

Capture of an Escaped Convict.—On Saturday the Metropolitan police received information of the capture of an escaped convict, named George Newton, aged twenty-five, who was apprehended by Superintendent Kerrington, in Narbeth, on suspicion of being a deserter, when he was accidentally recognised as having been transported at Cambridge, in 1852, for fourteen years and was sent out in the ship Jordan, and sailed from Plymouth for Western Australia. He was sent to Swan River, from whence he made his escape by an American whale ship in March, 1857, and landed on the 1st inst., from a barque which arrived from South America. He is marked with the American state coat of arms above each wrist, and the letters "G.N." and "W.H." on the back of the left hand.

[NOTE: The policeman's name is Kelvington; George was convicted at Cambridge in 1851 and transported on the ship *William Jardine* in 1852; his age is probably wrong; "W.H" maybe "W.M"]

Many American whaleships arrived at Fremantle or Albany in February and March 1857. Eighteen months after escaping in one, George arrived at Cardiff in Glamorgan onboard the barque, *Prince*, on 1 September 1858. The ship's cargo included 300 tons of Patagonian guano from South America.

At the Lent Assizes at Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire on 23 February 1859, George, charged with being at large in the United Kingdom during the term of his transportation, received another eight years' of penal servitude. Superintendent William Kelvington received a £20 reward and praise for capturing an escaped convict.

Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper, 19 Sept 1858, p11; Potter's Electric News, 15 Sept 1858, p3; Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian, Glamorgan, Monmouth, and Brecon Gazette, 04 Sept 1858, p5

The Under Secretary for the Home Office, H Waddington, wrote a letter to the Chief Constable of the County of Pembroke on 13 June:

Mr Sotheron Escourt having received an application for mitigation of sentence from George Newton who was convicted at the last Pembroke Assizes of returning from transportation and sentenced to 8 years penal servitude in which he alleged that on arriving in the County of Pembroke from Australia on 4 September he went direct to the Police Station at Narbeth(sic) and surrendered himself as an escaped convict. I am directed to request you to report for Mr Escourt information as to the truth of his statement.

Escourt was briefly the Home Secretary from March to June 1859 before the Government lost the election, and George Cornwall Lewis became the Home Secretary on 18 June. The petition from George has not been found and, presumably, the authorities believed Kelvington's version of events.

George was transferred from Haverfordwest Prison to Millbank Penitentiary on 7 April 1859. He then moved to Portland Prison in December before boarding the *Lincelles* on 23 September 1861 for the voyage back to Western Australia.