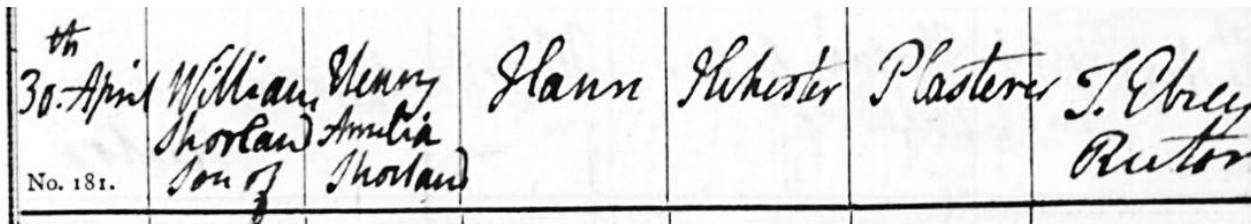


## William Hann, 836, Minden

Researched by Marcia Watson

Real Name: William Shorland Hann

Born	Butleigh, Somerset.
Baptised	30 April 1820, Ilchester, Somerset
Parents	Henry Hann and Amelia Shorland Corry
Parent's marriage	28 July 1819, Ilchester, Somerset, by Banns
Siblings	Anna Mary Shorland (1822), Agnes Corry (1823), Hugh Currey (1827), Edwin (1829), Maria Phillips (1831), Charlotte (1833), Caroline Harriet Phillips (1835)
Wife	
Married	
Children	



1841 census, Brunswick Street, Yeovil, Somerset. <sup>1</sup>

Henry Hann, 46, Painter and wife Amelia, 43

Ann, 19, Glove Sewer; Agnes, 18, Glove Sewer; Edwin, 13; Maria, 10; Charlotte, 8; Caroline, 6

All were born in the County.

The first report of William Hann was when he was committed to Wilton Gaol on 5 October 1846: William Hann and Charlotte Paul, stealing sundry monies, Bridgwater Borough Sessions. Charlotte, 23, who was married and a Traveller, received a sentence of 5 months.<sup>2</sup>

Wilton Gaol:

William Hann, 24, 5'5", fresh complexion, grey eyes, brown hair, single, no marks, born Butleigh, last residence was Yeovil, Painter, admitted 5 October 1846. He went to school until he was 12 years old, and could read and write well. William was sentenced to 6 months' hard labour at Wilton Gaol. <sup>3</sup>

William was released from Gaol in April 1847. It wasn't long before he was in trouble again.

At the Somerset Michaelmas Sessions, on 19 October 1847, at Taunton:

William Hann, 23, (an old offender) was indicted for stealing a silk handkerchief, the property of John Harcombe Cuff. The Prosecutor stated that on 19 August 1847, he was at the Taunton races. About six o'clock in the evening, he felt someone's hand in his pocket, and, on looking round, he saw the prisoner putting a handkerchief into his pocket. He accused him of the theft, and he said he was sorry for what he had done. The jury found the prisoner guilty, and a prior conviction having been proven against him, he was sentenced to ten years' transportation.<sup>4</sup>

Wilton Gaol:

William Hann, 26, read and write well, attended private day school, convicted of felony B.W.B (Bridgwater Borough) sessions Oct 1846, 6 months at Wilton Gaol, received into custody on 21 August, charged with stealing one silk handkerchief, convicted Sessions, 10 years transported.

<sup>1</sup> The National Archives (TNA) UK, HO107/958/9

<sup>2</sup> Taunton Courier and Western Advertiser, 07 October 1846, p7

<sup>3</sup> South West Heritage Trust; Taunton, Somerset; Reference Number: Q/AGW/14/3; Q/AGW/15/5

<sup>4</sup> Sherborne Mercury, 23 October 1847, p4; Taunton Courier and Western Advertiser, 27 October 1847, p7

William Hann was 25, 5'5" tall, with a fresh complexion, grey eyes, brown hair, single, Painter. He was born in Butleigh, and his last residence was Yeovil.<sup>5</sup>

### **Petition**

I know William Hann, son of H. Hann of this Town, Painter. He has been in my employ several years in the painting season, I always found him industrious in his work, and particularly honest.

Dated 25 May 1849. George Cox, Painter, South Street, Yeovil.

As the Superintendent of the Police of the Town of Yeovil, in the County of Somerset, and having known William Hann for a number of years, I hereby certify that he has always borne the character of a sober, steady, honest and industrious young man, until very lately, when having got acquainted with Persons of indifferent character, by whom it appears he was lead away, and induced to lead his home, to the great grief of his Parents and mortification of his Friends, all of whom are industrious and respectable People of this Town.

Dated 25 May 1849. Thomas Holt, Superintendent of Police of the Town of Yeovil, Somerset.

To the Right Honorable Sir George Grey, Bart, M.P., Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department.

Right Honorable Sir,

The Humble Memorial of Henry Hann of Yeovil in the County of Somerset

Sheweth, That your Memorialist is, by Trade, a Painter, and that he has bred a large Family in credit and respectability. That one of his Sons, William Hann, having unfortunately become acquainted with persons of bad character was, by them, induced to leave his home, and wander about the Country, to the great grief of your Memorialist, and his wife, and to the distress of his Friends and Relatives.

That the said William Hann was, at the Michaelmas Sessions, holden at Taunton, in and for the County of Somerset, in the year 1847, tried before William Miles, Esq, M.P, for taking a handkerchief, of trifling value, from the pocket of a Gentleman, named Cuff, and being convicted thereof, was sentenced to Ten Years' Transportation.

That the said William Hann is now on board the ship Justitia, and his Number is 9297.

That though your Memorialist is anxiously desirous that Justice should have its course, and that the Law should be vindicated, yet he cannot but consider that the Sentence of Ten Years Transportation is too severe for such an offence.

That your Memorialist can assure you, Right Honorable Sir, that, previous to this unfortunate circumstance, his Son, the said William Hann, always maintained the character of a sober, steady, honest and industrious young Man, never having been before a Magistrate on any circumstance whatever.

That your Memorialist has every reason to believe that, since his conviction, both whilst at the Gaol at Taunton, and also on board of the Justitia, the conduct of his Son, the said William Hann, has been good, and for which he has received the stripe of approval.

That your Memorialist earnestly entreats your kind consideration of the testimonials herewith sent, and that you would, Right Honorable Sir, have the goodness to cause enquiry into the case of the said William Hann, and in taking into consideration his previous good character (which can be substantiated by most of the respectable Inhabitants of Yeovil) and his conduct since conviction, your Memorialist feels confident that you would, Right Honorable Sir, be convinced that the said William Hann is one to whom the Royal clemency might be extended without comprising the Majesty of the Law, and that you would have the goodness to recommend the said William Hann to the kind consideration of our beloved Queen for a mitigation of his severe sentence.

And your Memorialist will ever pray &c

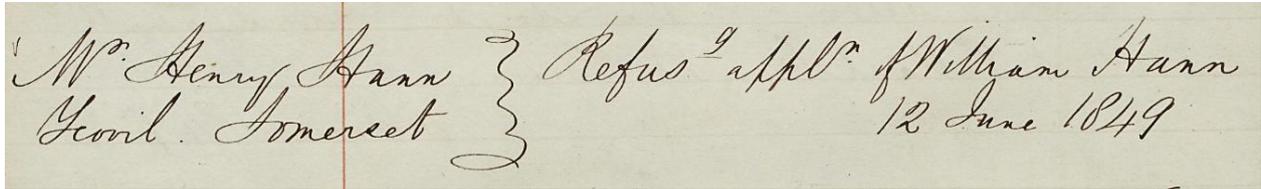
Henry Hann, Yeovil, Somerset, 25 May 1849.

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<sup>5</sup> South West Heritage Trust; Taunton, Somerset; Reference Number: Q/AGW/14/3; Q/AGW/15/5

I, the undersigned, having been the Prosecutor of the said William Hann, mentioned in the foregoing Memorial, being satisfied that his previous character was good, and that the sentence passed on his is severe, Do hereby Cordially join in prayer for a mitigation of the same. Dated 25 May 1849.  
John Harcombe Cuff, Prosecutor and six others.

Result of Petition: <sup>6</sup>



Mr. Henry Hann } Refus<sup>d</sup> appl<sup>d</sup> of William Hann }  
Yeovil. Somerset } 12 June 1849

The two Prison Registers for Millbank Prison, HO24/4 and PCOM2/28, state that William is married; however, no marriage has been found, and all other records indicate he was single.

William Hann, 26, married, read and write well, Painter, convicted 19 October 1847 at Taunton for stealing a silk handkerchief and sentenced to ten years, as he had a previous conviction for felony. Received at Millbank Prison from Taunton on 8 February 1848. On another Register, William had auburn hair, blue eyes, fair complexion, round face, stout, single, 5'5", can read and write, Painter, no marks, and his father and mother at Yeovil.

William was transferred to *Justitia* hulk at Woolwich on 7 August 1848. Almost a year later, on 15 June 1849, he was transferred to the *Stirling Castle* hulk at Portsmouth. He boarded the *Minden* on 9 July 1851 for the voyage to Western Australia.<sup>7</sup>

Conduct during the Voyage:

William Hann, 26, Painter, very good conduct, in water gang.

On arrival in Fremantle, Western Australia, William was assigned number 836, issued a Ticket of Leave, and a physical description was recorded.

836. William Hann, 30, 5'6", light brown hair, blue eyes, round face, fair complexion, healthy stature, mark on right hand, gardener, single.<sup>8</sup>

When he arrived, he had £3.6.4 in convict earnings and 1/6 in private cash, giving a total of £3.7.10.

By December 1852, William had repaid his passage money (£10) - £9 was repaid, and he received a £1 allowance or discount.<sup>9</sup>

He was granted a Conditional Pardon on 31 December 1853.

No further information has been found about William Hann, and he may have left Western Australia. Unfortunately, there are numerous people with the same surname in Australia and South West England.

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<sup>6</sup> TNA, HO13/97, p109; HO18/231/31

<sup>7</sup> TNA, HO24/4, PCOM2/28, PCOM2/134

<sup>8</sup> State Records of Western Australia (SROWA), Acc 128/1-32

<sup>9</sup> TNA, CO18/69