

Henry Heighstead 573, *Pyrenees*

Researched by Marcia Watson

The correct name appears to be Highstead.

Henry Highstead was born about 1827 in Lambeth, Surrey. His father John Highstead, lived at 18 Tower St, Westminster Bridge Road in 1848.

The first record of Henry is found at the Central Criminal Court on 13 June 1842.

Henry Highstead, 15, was indicted for stealing, on 1 June, one scent bottle, value 4s.; one box of matches, value 2s. 6d.; one jar, value 3s.; one bottle of oil, value 3s., and one bottle of essence of almond, value 1s.; the goods of Ebenezer Medcalf; to which he pleaded Guilty.

Sentence: Confined One Month.¹

On 28 November, he was back before the Central Criminal Court.

Henry Highstead, 16, was indicted for stealing, on 9 November, two half-crowns and one 6d; the monies of Charles Manners, his master, and that he had been before convicted of felony; to which he pleaded Guilty.

Sentence: Transported for Seven Years—Convict Ship.

A newspaper reported that Henry Highstead, a very diminutive lad of 16, was charged with stealing 5s from Mr Charles Manners. Although so young, the prisoner, who had been convicted once before, was sentenced to 7 years' transportation.²

The Prison Registers show that Henry Highstead, 16, 4'8", fresh complexion, brown hair, hazel eyes, slender, from Lambeth, labourer, was committed on 22 November 1842 for stealing money, value 5/6, the property of Charles Manners. Henry was tried on 28 November 1842 at the Central Criminal Court. He pleaded guilty and, with a previous conviction for a felony, was sentenced to 7 years of transportation (Ship).³

Henry arrived on the *Euryalus* hulk at Chatham from Newgate Prison on 24 December 1842. The hulk was for boys, and many were shipped to Tasmania. During the July–September quarter of 1843, Henry was subject to fits. The following quarter, he was on the *Fortitude* hulk at Woolwich, and the surgeon's report said he was an invalid. In the January–March quarter of 1844, he was still sick on the *Fortitude* hulk, but his health improved, and he was transferred to the *Justitia* hulk in the April–June quarter of 1844. He remained here until he received a free pardon on 13 November 1846.⁴

A year after being pardoned, Henry was convicted at the County Sessions, at Clerkenwell, on 23 February 1847 of larceny from the person. Henry, 20, was sentenced to 6 months.⁵

Then, at the Middlesex County Sessions, at Clerkenwell, on 9 October 1848, Henry was convicted of larceny from the person. He was not so lucky this time and was sentenced to 10 years.⁶

The Prison Registers show that Henry Highstead, 20, a lucifer match maker, was convicted on 10 October 1848 at Middlesex of stealing from the person, and sentenced to 10 years. He has been convicted three times and once transported. Henry was transferred from Westminster Gaol on 12 February 1849 to Millbank Prison, where the register said he weighed 8st 7lbs. On 2 August 1849, he

¹ Old Bailey Proceedings Online (www.oldbaileyonline.org, version 9.0) June 1842. Trial of HENRY HIGHSTEAD (t18420613-2001). Available at: <https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/record/t18420613-2001?text=highstead>

² Sun (London), 30 November 1842, p4

³ Old Bailey Proceedings Online (www.oldbaileyonline.org, version 9.0) November 1842. Trial of HENRY HIGHSTEAD (t18421128-270). Available at: <https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/record/t18421128-270?text=highstead>

⁴ The National Archives (TNA) UK, Quarterly Prison Returns, HO8/75 to 90; PCOM2/208.

⁵ TNA, HO26/53

⁶ TNA, HO 26/54, p117

was transferred to Pentonville Prison, where his behaviour was good. Eight months later, on 4 March 1850, he was transferred to Portland Prison.⁷

Portland Governor's Journal, Thursday 13 March 1851.

With reference to yesterday's journal, the following 77 convicts for Ticket of Leave men embarked at 7 am in the *Echo* Steamer to be taken to the Convict Ship *Pyrenees* at Spithead for W. Australia, including H. Highstead.⁸

On arrival at Fremantle, Western Australia, on 28 June 1851, Henry was assigned number 573, issued with a Ticket of Leave and a physical description was recorded. The printed convict lists record his name incorrectly.

573. Henry Heighstead, 22, 5'3", light brown hair, hazel eyes, long face, sallow complexion, slight stature, no marks, a labourer and single.⁹

The Superintendent's journal notes that on:

16 July 1851. The following 71 men will be received this day from the ship *Pyrenees* and will be located in the No. 3 division, including 573. Hy Highstead.

22 July 1851. List of 40 men with their Trades proceeding this day to York, including 573. Hy Highstead, labourer.¹⁰

A Conditional Pardon was granted on 31 December 1853.

This is the last record of Henry in Western Australia.

Possible sightings in Queensland, Unclaimed letters.

28 November 1863, Henry Highstead, Gayndah (west of Maryborough)

30 November 1871, Henry Highstead, Myall Downs (further west, near Roma)

Possible death: Henry Highsted, 6 September 1872, Queensland.

Parents' names are usually recorded, but none were on the index.¹¹

⁷ TNA, PCOM2/63, PCOM2/383, HO24/4; HO24/16

⁸ TNA, Portland Prison, Dorset: Governor's Journals, PCOM2/355

⁹ SROWA, Acc 128/32

¹⁰ SROWA, Superintendent's Orders, So1-So3, p61, 66

¹¹ Queensland Death 1872/C/1129