

Henry Gale, Convict No. 6303 - Claimed to be the last Albany Convict

Henry Gale wasn't sent to Albany but moved there after he received his freedom. He is believed to have been born in England in about 1842 and died in Western Australia in about 1921. No records have been found to be sure of either event. He may have been the last convict to die in Albany but this can't be proved one way or another.

What is known is that he was convicted of 'assault with intent to rob' in Dorchester in March 1861; was transported per the *Norwood*; attached to Toodyay hiring depot for about 3 years and moved to Albany sometime after receiving his conditional pardon in September 1866.



Henry Gale outside his Albany humpy (ALB-104-21). The photo donor was Mrs. Myra Mallaby granddaughter of Joseph Stokes – Kelly Street, Albany brick kilns owner.

Henry's crime, as reported in the local newspaper:

ATTEMPTED HIGHWAY ROBBERY.—Henry Gale, John Davis, James Lucas, Richard Sullivan, and Elizabeth Davis, five tramps, were brought before the County Bench on Saturday, having been remanded from Tuesday, charged with an assault and attempted robbery, on Monday, November 15.

Louisa Haine : On Monday, the 12th of November, I left Upwey, where I reside, for Dorchester. When between the cutting on Ridgway Hill, I was passed by four men and a woman, now before the Bench, who were going towards Dorchester. Owing to one of the men looking very suspiciously at me, I put my purse in my bosom. I did not see them again till I came to the Dorchester side of the last cutting, where two of the male prisoners, together with the woman, were sitting down, the other two were standing. One of the men, answering to the name of Henry Gale, came to me and asked for three pence. I told him I had no money. The woman, replied, "You are not going to town without money." Immediately afterwards Henry Gale knocked me down; the woman, Elizabeth Davis, then came up and slapped my face, and I became insensible. When I recovered my senses I found I had been searched, and my pocket turned inside out, my frock being turned over my arms. I did not lose anything, and had only a bunch of keys and a small book in my pocket, which I found on the ground under me. The top flounce of my dress was torn. I can swear that Henry Gale was the man who knocked me down, and that Elizabeth Davis was the woman who searched me, and that the other three men were in company with Elizabeth Davis and Henry Gale.

—**James Toms :** On Monday, November 12th, about a quarter to 12 o'clock, the five prisoners passed me near the three-mile stone on the Ridgway-hill, going towards Dorchester. I met Louisa Haine where the old road joins the new road. The prisoners were about 200 yards from me. I was going with a horse and cart to Upwey. Louisa Haine complained that she had been illtreated by five persons who were then in sight.—**Mr. William Manfield, jun.,** stated that he was driving near Monckton Gate, on Monday, November 12th, at a quarter to one, when he saw the five prisoners, who begged of him, but he did not give them anything.—**Sergeant Vickery** received information of an attempted highway robbery between Upwey and Dorchester. He went to Upwey and saw the young woman, Louisa Haine, who described the four men and the female prisoner, whom she said she could swear to. The woman she knew by having a mark on her left eye. He returned to Dorchester, and found the five persons, answering the description given to him, at the King's Head, Fordington, where they lodged. He went up stairs and found Davis in bed, and the woman, Elizabeth Davis, sitting by the side of the bed mending a pair of trousers. As they answered the description given to him, he charged them with an attempted highway robbery. In a room adjoining, he found the other three men. He then brought them to the station, and upon searching them found 4s. 4d. upon James Lucas.—The whole of the prisoners were then committed for trial at the next assizes.

Henry Gale, for feloniously and violently assaulting Louisa Haines, and putting her in bodily fear with intent to steal moneys from her person, at Bincombe—Seven years' penal servitude. Elizabeth Davis, James Lucas, John Davis, and Richard Sullivan, who were included in the same indictment, 18 calendar months' hard labour each.

RE HENRY GALE, DECEASED.
TENDERS are invited for the purchase of Lot 19, part of Loc. 353, off King-road, Albany, fronting Kelly-street, containing one acre. The land is partly cleared. Tenders should be in the hands of Curator of Intestate Estates, Perth, by October 5, 1921. Terms, cash. No tender necessarily accepted.
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It is believed that land on which the former brick kilns operated by the late Joseph Stokes in Kelly Street in Albany were on land purchased from Henry Gale but not the land advertised above. All the land mentioned is now in the Albany suburb of Orana. Note King Street was renamed Chester Pass road.

Submitted by Harold Coppock Member No. 7983

Sources:

The Salisbury and Winchester Journal (Salisbury, England), Saturday, November 24, 1860; pg. 7;

The Salisbury and Winchester Journal (Salisbury, England), Saturday, March 9, 1861;

W.A. Museum Photo ALB-104-21-Copy of original supplied to W.A. Museum 3/11/1987;

Interview Mrs. Myra Mallaby of Nanarup W.A.;
Albany Advertiser 21 September 1921, page 2.

Editor's note: Thank you Harold for your ongoing contributions to the Convict Links . They are always very interesting!