

John Brodigan, 2211, Robert Small

Dundalk, Louth, Quarter Sessions, 8 April 1850

Burglarly – John McQuillan, Bernard (sic) English and John Brodigan were indicted for having, on the 24 February, burglariously entered the dwelling house of Thomas Boylan, at Rinklestown: and for stealing therefrom a blue cloth cloak, a bag, soap, bread, eggs, tobacco, and other articles.

Case detailed in newspaper...

One witness said he believed all the prisoners lived in Drogheda.

His worship charged the jury who returned a verdict of guilty against McQuillan, and not guilty in the case of Brodigan and English.

Brodigan and English were kept in custody as there is a charge pending against them in another county.

Dundalk Democrat, and People's Journal - Saturday 13 April 1850, p2

Meath Assizes, 7 July 1850

John Brodigan and Bryan English were indicted for burglariously entering the house of James Comisky of Hordstown, on the 12th of March, last, and feloniously stealing therefrom several gowns, petticoats, blankets, and other articles of clothing.

James Comisky sworn—I recollect the 12th of March when the robbers came to my house, they got in through the thatch, which they stripped off; I was in bed with my wife; they got in and were breaking open the door of the bed room; one of them had an iron weapon like the peddle of a plough; he knocked a piece off the dresser with it; he cut me on the head with the weapon; I got a cut on the knee too; I shouted three times for help; got out of the room and found the door shut against me; saw the house stripped and the window open; I got through the hole and went to the neighbours for help; had nothing on me but my shirt; I left the robbers in the house after me; when we came back they were gone; they took coats belonging to my wife, and other clothing : did not know any of the men, saw the clothes after they were recovered.

Anne Comisky corroborated her husband's story; the robbers also said they would take his life if he did not give up the money; her husband made his escape, and she got out of bed; they took a large quantity of her clothes, and told her to give up the money; when she said she had no money, or she would give it to them willingly; she had to give them her husband's clothes too.

John Davis, an approver, sworn—Knew the two prisoners; was working with them for about eight months; went with them and two more to rob Comisky's house; they tore the thatch off; McCollum went in and I staid at the door; we tied the neighbours doors with cords that they might not get out; Comiskv was shouting for his life, and ran out of the house; I let him away; I saw John Brodigan stoop and lift the clothes; saw Brodigan, English, and John McCollum throw out the clothes; we went into Drogheda and made a division of the property; I was arrested seven or eight days after.

To the Court—I gave my information seven or eight days afterwards; they were tried before at Dundalk, and some of them sent off; I gave evidence against them; I saw Brodigan give my wife some of the gowns, but could not say what.

Catherine Davis sworn—Knew John Brodigan; he gave me a couple of gowns and a shift that day four months; would know them if I saw them (the gowns being exhibited the witness identified them); I went to pledge them.

Constable Campion arrested the prisoners; found the plaid gown with English about four o'clock in the morning; He was in bed at the time; got some of the property in Dundalk at the pawnbrokers. The prisoners said they never saw the informer before, or the policemen till he arrested them.

Patrick Graham was examined for the defence, and swore that he was in English's house on the 13th of March, when a woman came in with a bundle of clothes, and asked his wife would she buy them; she bought them for 3s 6; they were rolled up in a plaid dress; it was the 13th of March; kept it in his memory;

thinks it was on Friday; was pretty sure of it; could not tell if the Almanack would be right if it said Wednesday was the 13th; lived near Slane himself, and knew the Islay, as he was a tailor, and had to keep his customer's accounts.

Cross-examined—Could not tell how he knew it was the 13th of March; kept no account; could not tell exactly what day it was. (This witness in endeavouring to be too particular, completely destroyed his own credibility.)

Nicholas McCann gave the prisoner English an excellent character, knew him from his childhood; did not know Davis at all; English was a carpenter; for the 8 months preceding the transaction did not know where English was.

The jury retired for a short period and brought in a verdict of guilty against both prisoners. The court then sentenced them to 10 years transportation.

Meath Herald and Cavan Advertiser - Saturday 13 July 1850, p3

Ireland description.

Government Prison

466. John Brodigan, convicted at Meath of Burglary and Robbery, 10 years, on 9 July 1850. Aged 20, 5'7", grey eyes, brown hair, fresh complexion, single, can't R or W, labourer, received at Dublin (Newgate) Prison on 25 October 1850 and sent to Spike Island on 10 May 1851, not convicted before, character good.

DUBLIN-NEWGATE (RICHMOND) PRISON GENERAL REGISTER 1849-1858, Book no 1/12/3, Item no 3

Richmond Male Convict Depot

399. John Brodigan, similar information as above; catholic, sent to Spike Island on 17 May 1852.

DUBLIN-BRIDEWELL (RICHMOND) PRISON GENERAL REGISTER 1847-1883, Book no 1/13/42, Item no 3

WA description:

23, 5'7½", dark brown hair, dark grey eyes, round face, sallow complexion, stout, scrofulous mark on right side of neck, a carter and single.

13 July 1856. 2211, J Brodigan, C.P. doubtful & passage account unpaid

SROWA, ACC 1156/S1-S3

23 May 1854. 2211, John Brodigan, conjunctivitis

1 June 1854. 2211, John Brodigan, conjunctivitis

6 June 1854. 2211, John Brodigan, constipation, purgative

SROWA ACC 1156/M14-M16

11 June 1858. Worked for George Haysom of Perth

Rica Erickson files

Perth Police Court

MASTER AND SERVANT.—John Brodigan, was charged by his servant, George Taylor, with refusing to supply him with proper food. The case was dismissed. Subsequently the same person charged Brodigan with having made use of obscene and threatening language to him. As this charge was evidently preferred against Brodigan by his man, for the purpose of being freed from the engagement into which he had entered, his Worship sent him to the Establishment for one month.

The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News (WA : 1848 - 1864), Fri 3 Feb 1860, p3