

## William Jones, 156, *Hashemy*

Researched by Marcia Watson

William Jones was born about 1828, whereabouts and parents unknown. Jones is a prevalent surname in Wales. Unfortunately, the records give no personal information on William.

Interestingly there is a William Jones, baptised on 23 December 1827 at Haverfordwest, son of Thomas and Mary. Thomas was the gaoler at Haverfordwest Gaol, where we first meet young William.

At the Haverfordwest Adjourned Quarter Sessions, Pembrokeshire, Wales in February 1847: William Pitt, mason, and William Jones, labourer, pleaded guilty to having feloniously entered a house in Prendergast. William Jones was sentenced to eight calendar months with hard labour.<sup>1</sup>

Then at the Cardiganshire Quarter Sessions, held at Aberayron in July 1848: William Jones, George Davies, William Hickey, and Henry Davies, for house-breaking and larceny. In this case, only three of the prisoners were in custody, the other having escaped from gaol, but the four were joined in the indictment. On the first day of the sessions, the Clerk of the Peace suggested a difficulty which arose from the form of the indictment and the absence of one of the parties against whom it was found, and the court ordered the prisoners to be brought up the following morning.

The next day Mr Lascelles moved that a *nolle prosequi* be entered as to George Davies and that the other three prisoners should be put on their trial. But after consulting with the Clerk of the Peace, he decided that a *noli prosequi* could not be entered under the present indictment in the absence of George Davies. The indictment, therefore, was quashed, and the three prisoners were discharged, but on leaving the sessions House, they were again apprehended and taken before a magistrate, who took the depositions of the witnesses anew and committed the prisoners to take their trial at the next assizes.<sup>2</sup>

At the Cardiganshire Summer Assizes. Tuesday 1 August 1848: William Jones, William Hickey, and Henry Davies, three tramps, were indicted for having on 24 April last, broken and entered the house of David Jones, of Longhouse, in the parish of Penbryn, and with stealing therefrom one hat, two pieces of moleskin, and four handkerchiefs, his property. His Lordship summed up, and the jury returned a verdict of Guilty against all the prisoners. A former conviction was proved against the prisoner William Jones, when he was sentenced to eight calendar months imprisonment at Haverfordwest, for breaking into a house, stealing a watch, and other property. William Jones was then sentenced to be transported for twelve years. William Hickey to be imprisoned and kept to hard labour for the term of twelve months. Henry Davies to be imprisoned and kept to hard labour for the space of eight months.<sup>3</sup>

Twenty-year-old William was transferred to Millbank Prison, received from Cardigan Gaol on 16 August 1848. The register notes William was single, could read and write imperfectly and was a labourer. Nearly two months later, on 3 October, he was removed to Pentonville Prison. The Pentonville register has (Westcott) under his name, suggesting he had an alias. This is the only reference to 'Westcott' found.<sup>4</sup> A year later, on 31 October 1849, William was removed to Portland Prison on the Isle of Portland in Dorset. He was now 23 years old, and his health and behaviour were good, or very good, from December quarter 1849 to September quarter 1850. He boarded the *Hashemy* on 19 July 1850 for the voyage to Western Australia.<sup>5</sup>

William was sick during the voyage:

<sup>1</sup> The Pembrokeshire Herald and General Advertiser, 26 February 1847, p2

<sup>2</sup> The Principality - Friday 07 July 1848, p7

<sup>3</sup> The Principality - Friday 11 August 1848, p6

<sup>4</sup> HO24/4; HO24/16, p99

<sup>5</sup> HO8/102-105

Folio 3: William Jones, aged 23, prisoner; pneumonia; put on sick list, 3 September 1850, discharged 7 September 1850 well.<sup>6</sup>

On arrival in Western Australia, his description was recorded:

22, 5'3", dark brown hair, hazel eyes, long face, dark complexion, stout, labourer and single. He had one cut on the back of the left hand over 4<sup>th</sup> finger, one ring round middle finger; anchor, crucifix, and horse on the right arm, 2 pipes, glass and bird, with a ship in full sail, and bust of a woman on left arm; a man and a woman, with wreath overhead, on the chest.<sup>7</sup>

William is probably the Wm Jones who appears on the casual sick list at Fremantle on 14 November 1850, with several other convicts from the *Hashemy*, suffering from nyctalopia. The remedy was 'shade'. Nyctalopia is a condition characterised by an abnormal inability to see in dim light or at night, typically caused by vitamin A deficiency.<sup>8</sup>

On 22 November 1850, William was admonished for talking to a female.<sup>9</sup>

He received his ticket of leave on 26 May 1851. William was assigned as a labourer to Mr Sewell in the Toodyay district. His rate of pay was £1 per month.<sup>10</sup>

NOTE: William Jones WAS NOT reconvicted in 1860. See following notes  
His sentence expired in May **1861**.

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<sup>6</sup> The National Archives UK, ADM 101/32/6/1-6

<sup>7</sup> SROWA Acc 128/40 - 43

<sup>8</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 CS1

<sup>9</sup> AJCP. CO18/58, p245

<sup>10</sup> Further correspondence on the on the subject of Convict Discipline and Transportation. Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of her Majesty. 30 April 1852, p196

**Who is this, William Jones?** The Convicts in Western Australia book says he is William Jones, 156. 1860. A William Jones was reconvicted in 1860, although the newspapers called him John Jones. Perth Police Court. Stealing from a dwelling house.

J Sullivan, c.p. and **John (sic) Jones**, expiree, were charged with having feloniously entered the dwelling house of George Barton, on the night of Saturday, the 18<sup>th</sup> instant, and stealing therefrom 6 £1 WA Bank Notes, and a coat. The prisoners were arrested on Sunday morning by Police Constable Harrison, for sleeping in the limekiln, and on their being searched at the Station, 2 notes were found, which were identified by Barton, as his property. The prisoners were fully committed to trial at the Quarter Sessions.<sup>11</sup>

At the Quarter Sessions, 4 and 5 April 1860: J. Sullivan and **J. Jones** were found guilty of entering the dwelling house of George Barton and stealing £6. Sentence — 4 years penal servitude.<sup>12</sup>

However, Character Book for Nos 4508 – 5585, (R8) indicates **he is William Jones, 4444**, who arrived on the *Clara* (1) in 1857. William Jones, 156, had tattoo's which are not mentioned in his description.<sup>13</sup>

Regt. No., Name, Date of Reception, and from what Prison	Age	Married or Single	Reads	Writes	Religion	Date and Place of Conviction, Nature of Offence, and Sentence.	Period already passed in separate Confinement.	Character and special information received with a Prisoner as to previous Convictions, &c.
Colonial No 5572 William Jones Recd. 10 April 1860 from Perth Quart. Sessions	28	✓	✓	✓	M.	4 April 1860 Perth. W. A.  Bt. in from the Dwelling House of Barton at Perth and stealing £6 & 1/2.  4 Years P.S.		7 Years Transportation for larceny after pre: con: of Felony - Vide Capt. 4444 ↑

#### Descriptions of the William Jones

No	Age	Height	Hair	Eyes	Face	Complexion	Build	Marks
156 in (1850) Hashemy	22	5'3"	Dark brown	Hazel	Long	Dark	Stout	One cut on back of left hand over 4th finger, one ring round middle finger; anchor, crucifix, and horse on right arm, 2 pipes, glass and bird, with ship in full sail, and bust of a woman on left arm; a man and a woman, with wreath over head, on chest
4444 in (1857) <i>Clara</i> (1)	30	5'2"	Brown	Grey	Oval	Florid	Middling stout	Lump corner of right eye
5572 in (1860)	33	5'2"	Light brown	Dark Hazel	Long	Fresh	Middling stout	Scar on left cheek

William Jones, 4444, was reconvicted in 1870.

9970 <i>Clara</i> (1)	42	5'2'	Light brown	Brown	Square	Florid		No marks
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<sup>11</sup> The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News (WA: 1848 - 1864), 2 March 1860, p3

<sup>12</sup> The Inquirer and Commercial News (Perth, WA: 1855 - 1901), 11 April 1860, p3

<sup>13</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 R8, Character Book for Nos 4508 – 5585