

Maurice Perry, 228, Mermaid

Port Adelaide: Monday. June 27, 1864.

[Before Mr. B. Douglas, S.M.]

John Durrel, steward of the steamer *Rangatira*, was charged by Inspector Peterswald with knowingly concealing one **Maurice Perry**, a convict from the colony of Western Australia, and aiding him to land in the province. Mr. Dempster appeared for the defence. J. Saby, police-constable, stated that he came from Western Australia in the *Alexandra* on the 15th April, and was present at the Adelaide Police Court on the 25th May, where he saw Maurice Perry, whom he knew in Western Australia as a prisoner of the Crown. James McInnes stated that he was a steerage passenger from King George's Sound in the *Rangatira*. The defendant was steerage steward. Maurice Perry was on board, and the defendant brought him his meals to his bunk, which was next witness saw Perry on deck one night. By Mr. Dempster— Did not know that Perry was ill. Mr. Dempster submitted that there was no evidence to show that the defendant had knowingly concealed Perry or that Perry had not a conditional pardon. The defendant must therefore be dismissed. His Worship concurred, and dismissed the information.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Tue 28 Jun 1864, p3

Police Court, Adelaide, 25 May 1864.

Edward Jones, otherwise called Maurice Perry, appeared to the information of Inspector Peterswald for that he did, being under sentence for a transportable offence in the colony of Western Australia, come to this province not having served the full period of his sentence, and not having received from Her Majesty a free pardon or remission of sentence. (His Worship here informed Inspector Peterswald that the information must be amended by the substitution of an English word for alias. The Inspector having inserted 'otherwise called' for alias, the case was proceeded with.) Constable Badman said that he arrested the prisoner between 12 and 1 o'clock at the Shamrock Hotel, Currie-street, on Tuesday, May 24. The prisoner was in bed at the time, and in answer to the questions put to him said his name was Edwd. Jones, and that he lived at the hotel at which he was then staying. Badman then enquired how long he had been in the colony, and the reply was 'six weeks,' and that he came in a ship or steamer.

On being asked which of the two, with some hesitation and confusion he replied 'that it was a steamer.' In the course of further enquiries, the police-constable after some difficulty elicited some statements, from which it appeared that the prisoner came from King George's Sound in the *Rangatira* mail steamer, and that Callao was the port of his original departure. Having obtained these answers, Badman told the prisoner that he answered the description of the man he wanted, but did not tell him the nature of the charge until they were outside the hotel. When they arrived at the Police Station, witness asked prisoner where his pass was, to which he replied 'that it was torn up.' Prisoner then declined to say any more, alleging that he (witness) knew too much for him. As the Inspector wished to see the prisoner, witness conducted him to the charge room, where, in answer to the Inspector's enquiries, prisoner again said he had torn up his pardon.

James Lahgy, who said he lived at the Shamrock Hotel, stated that he had been a constable in Western Australia for about five years. Knew the prisoner, whose name Maurice Perry, to be a conditional pardon man. By His Worship— Had known for four or five days that prisoner was a conditional pardon man, because prisoner had himself said so in the course of some conversation at the Shamrock Hotel. James McGuinness stated that he was a pensioner, and lived in the Shamrock Hotel. Had come from Albany to Adelaide in the *Rangatira* mail steamer. Had seen the prisoner on board. He told witness that he was a 'stowaway.'

Prisoner had also stated that, he was unable to obtain his clearance from Albany because he was a conditional-pardon man, and also that he had given the steward £10 to aid him in his concealment. Was on deck once only— at night time— during the passage hither, and obtained his food from the steward, who took it to his hiding-place.

By the prisoner— Knew he was a conditional pardon man because prisoner told him so. The prisoner here said that the very man who was in the witness-box against him had been maintained and treated like a gentleman at his expense. By His Worship—Knew the prisoner when in Fremantle. He was a quarryman there. Witness was a pensioner. .Sergeant Dyke, of the Port police, said he boarded the *Rangatira* on the

11 May in the usual manner and took the passengers certificates. Did not see the prisoner.

The passengers were ordered on deck, after which he searched the steamer himself, and prisoner was not on board to the best of his knowledge. By His Worship- Where could he be then! Sergeant Dyke— He might have left the steamer while I was mustering. There, were many hiding-places on board a steamer. He remembered an instance of a person stowing himself away so near the screw of the vessel that, had it made but one revolution, it would have crushed him to death.

Constable Badman, who was recalled, stated that the prisoner had the letters P.W. with C.S. under on his right arm. Asked him how the marks came there, and prisoner said he had pricked them in when a boy. Prisoner explained the meaning of the letters, and said that the pricking them was a folly of his youth. Inspector Peterswald stated that that was his case, and he was instructed to ask that, if the charge should be proved, the prisoner might be conveyed back to Western Australia. Prisoner here made a statement to the effect that there were plenty of persons in Adelaide who could give testimony which would prove his innocence. He repeated that there were persons in Adelaide some of whom he mentioned— who could verify his statement that he was a free-pardon man. He said that he arrived in Western Australia in May, 1816 (sic), in the ship *Mermaid*, and that he had completed his servitude of 15 years for arson. The case, on the prisoner promising to bring witnesses to show that he had obtained a free pardon, was adjourned till this morning.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Thu 26 May 1864, p2

Sent back to Albany

The Swan River Convict Perry. — Through the kindness of Mr. F. S. Dutton, M.P., we are enabled to state that official information has been received that **Maurice Perry**, convicted of being a convict illegally at large in this province, was duly handed over to the authorities at Albany, Western Australia, on the 2nd July; and being there convicted of having unlawfully left that colony without having his conditional pardon endorsed, or holding a certificate of freedom, was sentenced to be imprisoned with hard labour for five months in the gaol at the Convict Depot, Albany.

South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), Mon 18 Jul 1864, p2

THE CONVICTS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—The South Australian Government have received official information that Maurice Perry, from Swan River, convicted of being a convict illegally at large in South Australia, was duly handed over to the authorities at Albany, Western Australia, on the 2nd July; and being there convicted of having unlawfully left that colony without having his conditional pardon endorsed, or holding a certificate of freedom, was sentenced to be imprisoned, with hard labor, for five months, in the gaol at the convict depôt, Albany.

Bendigo Advertiser (Vic. : 1855 - 1918), Mon 25 Jul 1864, p2