

Frederick Pryme, 115, Hashemy

Researched by Marcia Watson

Names used: Frederick Prime/Pryme, James Smith, Frederick Perkins

Baptism	1809 -1813
Parents	
Parent's marriage	
Siblings	
Wife	Caroline Susannah Wieland
Married	
Children	Sophia Ann Perkins (1844) James Oliver Perkins (1845)

April 1847. Bedworth Robbery:

Shortly after nine o'clock, **Frederick Prime, aged 34**, James Burnby, aged 34, Caroline Susannah Wieland, aged 26, and Mary Ann Wieland, aged 19, were placed at the bar and arraigned, the former prisoner on a charge of having stolen, the 9th day of February last, at the parish of Bedworth, in the county of Warwick, ten pounds of tea, value £1. 10s., ten yards of silk, value £1, and various other articles, the goods and chattels of John Shaw, of Bedworth, and the latter three prisoners with receiving the same, knowing them to have been stolen. There were also several other indictments, which was one charging Frederick Prime and James Burnby with jointly stealing, in February last, various articles, the goods and chattels of John Shaw, and Caroline and Mary Ann Wieland with receiving the same, knowing them to have been stolen. The prisoners severally pleaded Not Guilty.

Mr A. Adams conducted the case for the prosecution, Mr Miller for Prime, and Mr O'Brien for Bumby. Mr Adams opened the proceedings by stating the case to the Jury, full account which gave in our paper of Friday, 12 February last, on the committal of the prisoners to take their trial. Mr Adams then proceeded to call -

Inspector George Bedworth, who, on being sworn, said—I knew Prime in February last: he was then Mr Shaw's shopman; on Friday, 5 February last, was induced watch Prime; in the evening I saw him walk from towards the prisoner Burnby's lodgings, at the Nottingham Arms, Collycroft; I then knew him by the name of Webb, which was the name by which he passed at his lodgings; has since called himself Burnby; I saw Prime into Burnby's lodgings he remained there for an hour; the following morning (Saturday) I saw Burnby get an omnibus for Coventry, and when he was on the omnibus a carpet bag and a hamper were handed to him; we proceeded to the Coventry Station; Burnby came into the station, and porter carried the bag and hamper in after him, and put them down ready for the train, and Burnby covered them over; Vice, the Coventry Inspector, followed me up; Burnby went out for a short time, and we opened the bag and hamper; in a quarter of an hour Burnby returned, and I apprehended him; told him it was for receiving goods knowing them to have been stolen: he said, "I hope not"; I left him with Vice, and proceeded Bedworth with the goods, and sent for Mr Shaw.

John Shaw, examined—I am draper and grocer, at Bedworth; the prisoner Prime was my shopman; he came on 16 November last; a friend of mine wrote respecting him, and I engaged him it was his duty to sell the grocery goods: I had a younger brother also in the shop; Prime told that the other prisoner's name was Webb; addressed him that name in consequence; on the 6 February I went to Meakin's house, and saw a number of things, amongst others teas, sugars, and coffee; they were my property.

John Vice, Inspector of the Coventry Police, examined— On 6 February I went to the Coventry Railway Station-house; saw Meakin and Burnby, and also a hamper bag; I searched the carpet bag, which now produce, and the articles then contained, 5bs. of tea, sugar, cigars, cotton reels, 2 pieces of cloth for

trowsers. 1 ditto waistcoat, 30 penny pieces, 36 halfpence, and 18 or 19 farthings; after we had searched the bag, Burnby returned, and Meakin told him he apprehended him on suspicion of receiving stolen property; he said, "I hope not"; we took him to the Police Station Coventry; I asked him his name; he gave that of George Webb; went over to Bedworth with Meakin; saw the articles examined by Mr Shaw; on my return to Coventry I said to Burnby that there were articles in the we examined that Mr Shaw had identified; he said what he had he purchased of the shopman.

Cross-examined Mr Miller—I think he said something about Mr Shaw, but not recollect anything about the youngest Mr Shaw.

Cross-examined by Mr O'Brien—The reason I spoke to him was because he had spoken to me of going to Bedworth.

Hannah Laban, wife Thomas Laban, of the Nottingham Arms, was called, but did not appear at this stage of the proceedings.

Charles Ivens, book-keeper in the employ of Williamson and Cheadle, examined—I know the prisoner, who was called Webb; I have seen him my masters' office; the first time was on 12 December; brought a hamper; the weight of was 44lbs.; it was directed Wieland, London; he paid the carriage; he came again the 16th, and brought a hamper, directed the same as the other, weight, 32lbs.; he came again on the 22nd the weight was 22lbs.; he came again on the 29th; on 11 January he brought a hamper, 28lbs, for Wieland, Walworth; again on the 29th, with a hamper directed for Wieland, Walworth; and again on the 1st of January; again the 5th; again on the 8th, the weight 54lbs.; came on the 14th, with hamper 60lbs.; on the 20th. hamper 26lbs.; the 25th, with hamper 36lbs.; on 3 February, with one 22lbs.; I have once received trunk from him, but I believe it was directed in some different manner, all the packages are described in book as baskets; I remember a trunk being brought similar to the one I see.

Cross-examined by Mr O'Brien—Are your employers doing much business? We are; we receive 100 parcels per day, and confident received a trunk from Burnby.

Meakin recalled—I went London on the night of Saturday, the 7 February, with a search warrant, accompanied by Mr Shaw; on our arrival we went to the Police Office, and obtained the assistance of Morton, one of the Metropolitan Police; on the Sunday we to No. 4, Bronte-place, East-street, Walworth; found the two females residing there; we also found quantity of hampers and two trunks, containing a variety of goods, consisting of grocery and drapery goods, tea, tobacco, flannels, linens, calicoes, soap, candles, sugar, pins, hooks and eyes, reels cotton, youths' caps, cigars, gloves, silks, &c.; it was a private house, no shop attached; there were two trunks, nearly 12 hampers, some of them full of goods; I should think the weight of grocery we found was upwards 2 cwt.; we returned to Bedworth on the Monday, and went to the place where the prisoner Burnby lodged; there I found a brush and a green bag; when searching the premises in London I found two females; do not recollect finding any name on the house.

Moreton, the London Police, examined—I went with Meakin to a house in Walworth, occupied by the two female prisoners; I have ascertained their names to be Caroline Susannah, and Mary Ann Wieland; I searched the house with Meakin saw several hampers and the trunk I now see.

Hannah Laban, wife Thomas Laban, of the Nottingham Arms, examined—I know both prisoners by sight; Mr Webb, as they used to call him, used to lodge at my house; he came December; do not knew whether he was in any business in Bedworth; never perceived that he was; I have seen him with hampers I have seen him go by the omnibus from our house, and he generally took a hamper and bag; the hamper often appeared heavy; I have seen the other prisoner at my house, sometimes three times in the week; I not think he ever came before Webb came to lodge with us; I never noticed Webb and Prime together apart from the company at our house; they sat in the public kitchen amongst others; the first time I ever saw Prime at my house was consequence of Mr Shaw's sending him with goods which I had purchased of him, and he afterwards said coming to my house at another time, "you are customer of my master, it is my duty to spend what I have to spend with you "; have seen this bag before Webb's possession; he used take

hamper full with him on the omnibus, and returned with one empty, which he sometimes carried with a stick over his shoulder.

Sarah Wright, Hill-street, Walworth, Surrey—I know **Prime** first knew him last summer: was then living Hill-street, Walworth; **he then went the name of Perkins**; I know the two females; **I have seen the oldest female with him, they were living together, and Prime called her Mrs. Perkins**, which was the name then went by, and the other female called Mary Ann, and treated her as a servant.

Thomas Pointer, porter, in the employ of Messrs. Horne and Chapman, deposed to having delivered many hampers of goods at No. 4, East-street, Bronte-place, East-street, Walworth, us directed the name of Wieland, some of which were received by older, and others by the younger female, whom he supposed to have been the servant; they were all marked “carriage paid.”

Mr Shaw, recalled—I never took stock during the time Prime was with me, but I did in fortnight alter he was apprehended, and I found a deficiency amounting to £130 which could not accounted for; I began business in November last, which was the time Prime entered my service; I missed several articles during the time he was with me, and asked him respecting some of the missing things, particularly a travelling cap, which he said he had sold to a boy, but which was found in London.— [The cap and some gloves were here produced, and identified by Mr Shaw, and they still bore his private mark.] —Mr Shaw continued—In grocery I have missed lump sugar, 20 to 30 lbs., tea, candles, raw sugar, broom heads, &c; packages or bags containing raw sugar, which were found at Walworth, and which I now see, are labelled, and I have doubt the writing is Prime’s; the words are, “For the House”, and “This is for the House”; I never sold anything to Burnby except hat and waistcoat.

Cross-examined by Mr Miller—I feel confident the writing is Prime’s.

Cross-examined by Mr O’Brien—It was some time in January when I had the cap; it was not usual for me or my shopman to enter down the sale any articles sold for cash; at night the money received in the day was entered; I know the gloves were never sold by me; there is nothing in the cloth cap which would lead to think was sold; I am sure it is mine; I had but three of them; there nothing peculiar in the tea or sugar; the diaper little more than three yards; I did not sell it; it is cut off in an irregular angle.

Thomas Shaw examined—I am the brother of the last I served in the shop with him; my brother, myself and Prime were the only persons who served in the shop; I know the prisoner Burnby; I never sold him any tobacco and cigars. This closed the case for the prosecution, upon which

Mr Miller rose and submitted to his Lordship that no case had been made out against Prime.

Mr Adams contended that he had shown that the goods were keeping three persons, Mr Shaw, his brother, and Prime; and he had also shown that two of the persons had not sold them, and therefore considered the fair inference was, that he, the third party, was the party which had stolen them; he therefore submitted that there was a case for the Jury.

His Lordship remarked that such a conclusion would be very dangerous, if three persons were entrusted with the care of goods, and two of them declared that they had not sold them, that the third must inevitably be charged with robbery. He did not consider there was any case for the Jury.

Upon which Mr Adams exhibited an indictment against Prime and Burnby, which charged them with jointly stealing goods, the property of John Shaw.

Mr O’Brien objected to a second charge on the same evidence, but this was overruled by his Lordship, and the case proceeded.

Mr Meakin and Mr Shaw were again called in, the former of whom spoke to the contents of a hamper seized at the Coventry Railway Station, and the latter identified some of them as his property.

Richardson sworn—I live at Bedworth; I know Mr Shaw’s shop; I know Burnby; I saw him in the streets about one o’clock on 5 February last; he was coming from his lodgings, and went Shaw’s shop: he did not appear to have anything with him, but when he came out had a green bag and paper parcel containing goods; went towards his lodgings; Prime also came out of the shop, and looked up the road Burnby had

taken; I had seen him twice before; I never saw him with anything with him on his going in, but usually a large green bag with something in it, and at other times a box, on coming out. This evidence closed the second charge.

Mr Miller again asked the Judge whether he thought there was any case for the Jury.

His Lordship replied in the affirmative.

Mr Miller then addressed the Jury on the behalf of Prime. After which Mr O' Brien addressed them on the behalf of Burnby.

His Lordship commenced summing up, and observed that they had a difficult duty to perform, and would be for them to dismiss from their minds the evidence that had been presented to them on the previous charge. But there was rule on which Juries were every day acting, which was, in cases where property had been recently stolen, to charge the guilt of stealing upon those persons in whose possession the stolen property was found, unless they could give a proper account of the manner which they obtained the property so found.

The Jury, after deliberating nearly three-quarters of an hour, returned a verdict of Guilty against Prime and Burnby.

A copy of previous conviction, for felony, in the county of Somerset, dated the 16 October, 1844, was then put against Prime.

A gentleman of the name James Budget appeared, and deposed that Prime had been in his service in the county of Somerset, in the name James Smith, and that in October, 1844, he was convicted of robbing him, and sentenced to eight months' imprisonment.

The Learned Judge, in passing sentence, said to Prime, it appears to me that you obtained this situation for the purpose of committing this depredation, and with the view of better accomplishing the object, you have advertised through the medium the *Evangelical Magazine*, the conductors which are liable, like other persons, to be imposed upon. The service you sought was not service for its own sake, but for that plunder; and then, after entering upon the situation, the other prisoner comes down, which leads to suppose that it was scheme of robbery from beginning to end. The sentence of the Court upon you, Frederick Prime, is, that you transported for fourteen years, and you, James Burnby, for seven years.

Mr Adams then said there were circumstances that led him to think he should be serving the country perhaps much if did not offer any further evidence against the prisoner Burnby, as a receiver, or against the Weilands, and especially the younger, who was inclined to look upon the dupe of the parties.

No further evidence was offered, and the Jury returned a verdict of Not Guilty against the female prisoners.¹

Part of another newspaper report. Bedworth, Extensive Robbery.

In November last, a person advertised through the medium of the *Evangelical Magazine*, for a situation as an assistant to a grocer and provision dealer; the advertisement set forth that a young man of respectability, and perfect master of both branches of the business, was in want of a permanent situation, and a pious family would be preferred, and that three years' reference would be given from the situation the party was leaving. Upon which, Mr John Shaw, grocer, provision dealer, and draper of Bedworth wrote to the referee, and received from a person of the firm of J Gallaway and Co., wholesale grocers and cheesemongers, East-street, Walworth, Surrey, the promised testimonials, which led to an engagement with his late shopman, Prime, about 17 November last, and he entered upon his duties, and boarded and lodged with the family. In the early part of December, the prisoner Burnby, engaged lodgings, in the name of Webb, at the house of Mr Laband who keeps the Nottingham Arms beer-house, Bedworth. Shortly afterwards, he was seen by Mr Shaw at his shop, and recommended by the shopman and a hawker of teas,

¹ Coventry Herald, 02 April 1847, p2

with whom it would be desirable to do business for small profits. No suspicion, therefore, was attached to his frequent visits to the shop, which appear to have been frequent, and in which he appears to have been provided with a large green bag, which he folded up at his lodgings, and placed in his hat until he left the house, to which he generally returned in a short time, with it sometimes half and at others three times full, and then went directly through the passage to his private room, and deposited the contents in a hamper, kept by him for that purpose, and usually went by the omnibus to Coventry once or twice a week. Most of his meals were taken with the family; and he was very prompt in his payments for them with his lodgings, which were generally made in copper. For some weeks past, Mr Shaw had an impression on his mind that his goods were leaving his premises much quicker than the cash was coming in, and as he missed articles, he frequently asked the shopman respecting them, who said they were sold, and particularly a travelling cap, which he said he sold to a boy passing.²

Previous conviction

October 1843, Somerset Michaelmas Adjourned Sessions:

James Smith, aged 30, was charged with stealing two half-crowns, the property of his master, James Budgett. Mr Prideaux was for the prosecution: and Mr Edwards defended the prisoner. The prosecution is a draper and grocer at Paulton, and the prisoner was employed by him as an assistant. In consequence of a suspicion resting on the prisoner, some marked money was put in the till by the prosecutor, and also by one of the shop assistants. The half-crown having been missed, the prisoner was taxed by the prosecution with having taken them, when he fell on his knees, and said he was "a guilty sinner". The prisoner was found guilty, the foreman stating that a small part of the jury recommended him to mercy. Eight months' hard labour.³

Wilton Gaol, Somerset, from Wells Adjourned Sessions 16 October 1843.

James Smith, 30, 5'3", dark brown hair, hazel eyes, sallow complexion, no marks, single, born Worcester, grocer & draper, last residence was Paulton, Somerset. James could read and write well. He was in Chewton Gaol before being sent to Wilton Prison.⁴

In between his crimes as James Smith in 1843, and Frederick Pryme, in 1847, he 'married' as Frederick Perkins.

Although no marriage has been found yet, Frederick Perkins 'married' Caroline Susanna Wieland. Caroline was the daughter of Thomas and Sarah Wieland, born in 1820; and her father was a watchmaker.

Frederick and Caroline Perkins had two children.

1. Sophia Ann, born on 25 February 1844 and baptised on 25 August 1844 at St Luke, Finsbury, London, daughter of Frederick and Caroline Perkins. They lived in Radnor Street, and Frederick was a traveller.

[Sophia would have been conceived about the end of May 1843]

2. James Oliver Perkins, born on 30 December 1845 and baptised on 1 February 1846 at St Luke, Finsbury.

Frederick Pryme was among the third consignment of 133 convicts who arrived at the newly opened Portland Prison on the steamship *Driver* from Portsmouth. Although they arrived late, just before sunset on 22 December 1848, the convicts fared much better than the second consignment of convicts. Blankets or rugs and bread were supplied for the voyage from Portsmouth. According to the Governor, several convicts were weak or suffering from ill-health, and those from Millbank were 'mere boys' according to the Governor.

The second consignment of convicts, 116 from Wakefield Prison, arrived at Portland Prison on a week earlier on 15 December 1848. The group left Portsmouth at 6 am on the steamship *Driver* in atrocious

² Coventry Herald, 12 February 1847, p2

³ Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette, 26 October 1843, p3

⁴ South West Heritage Trust; Taunton, Somerset; Reference Number: Q/AGW/15/5, Q/AGW/14/3, Q/AGI/14/6

weather. The convicts, sitting on the deck, were exposed to the wet and cold weather, without blankets or rations. They arrived at Portland Prison in the dark at 8 pm. During the 2-3 mile walk on a track from Castle pier, twenty convicts lost their shoes in the mud near the prison. The Governor had not received a warrant to receive the convicts, but Colonel Jebb gave assurance that the prisoners could be received.

While in Portland, Frederick was reported for irregularity on 5 May 1850, and disposed of as in Report Book and Misconduct Book. Unfortunately, the reason for the report is unknown.⁵

At Portland Prison in 1848, Frederick was recorded as 35 years old, married with two children. On the quarterly return in March 1849 he was recorded as 40 years old! By the time he left in July 1850 he was 38 years old. His age varies in all the records but it appears he was born between 1807 and 1813.

Frederick boarded the *Hashemy* on 19 July 1850 for the voyage to Fremantle.⁶

His description on arrival at Fremantle in October 1850 was:

115. Frederick Pryme, 41, 5'5½", black hair, hazel eyes, long thin face, whiskers, sallow complexion, slight, built, no marks, warehouseman, married with 2 children.⁷ He was also rather stooped.⁸

Casual sick list, Fremantle.⁹

Feb C.C. = fever of unknown origin

Pryme	4 November 1850	Bad neck	Opening mixture
Pryme F	21 November 1850	Cold	Mixt: fever, three times a day
Prime Fred	5 December 1850		Opening mixture
Pryme Fredk	2 January 1851	Cold	Mixt Feb: Dovers powder
Pryme F	7 January 1851	Diarrhoea	Rhubarb & Magnesia, 20grs of each; Ginger 20 grains
Pryme Fred	8 January 1851		Similar treatment, Dovers
Pryme Fred	11 January 1851		Infus Quassia
Pryme Fredk	20 January 1851		
Pryme Fredk	24 January 1851		
Pryme Fredk	25 January 1851		
Pryme Fredk	26 January 1851		
Pryme Fred	28 January 1851		Continue
Pryme Fred	30 January 1851	Sore mouth	Gargle
Pryme Fred	31 January 1851	Sore mouth	Gargle
Pryme Fred	1 February 1851	Bad legs **	Dressing and poultice
Pryme Fred	2 February 1851	Sore mouth	Gargle
Pryme Fred	3 February 1851		Fever mixture
Pryme Frederick	4 February 1851	Debility	Rhubarb & Magnesia
Pryme Frederick	6 February 1851	Debility	
Pryme Frederick	7 February 1851	Debility	Continue Quin
Pryme Fredk	8 February 1851	Febr	Continue Quin
Pryme Frederick	9 February 1851	Debility	Pulv. Rhub & Magnesia
Pryme Fredk	10 February 1851		Included Opium and Ricine
Pryme Frederick 115	11 February 1851	Feb. C.C.	No medicine
Pryme Frederick 115	12 February 1851	Feb. C.C.	Discharged

Frederick received his Ticket of leave on 10 February 1851 and worked for:

10 February 1851 – Frederick Crofts, merchant, at Perth as a warehouseman. Crofts owned a shop until 1855.¹⁰

⁵ Portland Prison. Governor's Journal, 24 November 1848 to 9 August 1850. PCOM 2/354

⁶ HO8/105

⁷ SROWA Acc 128/40-3

⁸ SROWA Cons 1386

⁹ SROWA Acc 1156 CS1

¹⁰ Rica Erickson's noted, PD Vol 1

12 April 1851 – transferred to Guildford and employed by Jonathan Jones, publican. Jones had the Guildford Hotel in 1851 to July 1852. Frederick worked as a warehouseman, and his rate of pay was 25s per month.¹¹

On 12 March 1852, Guildford:

Frederick Prime was charged by Mr J. Jones with having grossly abused Mrs Jones and some females, and having threatened to cut Mrs Jones' throat. W. Pugsley also laid a charge against Prime for having maliciously slandered him, and struck him on the face with a brick. A great number of witnesses were produced on both sides, and the evidence was of course contradictory. The Bench sentenced the defendant to two months' confinement in the Establishment.¹²

Frederick was received at Fremantle Prison on 15 March and discharged on 18 May, to North Fremantle Station.¹³

A Conditional Pardon was granted on 5 July 1856.¹⁴

Someone made enquiries about Frederick. The Comptroller General's Office, Perth, 5 October 1869: The undermentioned men, respecting whom letters of inquiry have been received, are requested to communicate with this office. [Comptroller General Office]

Reg. No 115 Frederick Pryme, who received a Conditional Pardon on 5 July 1856.¹⁵

August 1889. The following names were added, on Saturday, to the daily list of persons for whom unclaimed letters are lying at the General Post Office. –Fred Prime.....¹⁶

Western Australian Biographical Index: PRYME, Frederick. b. 1809 (expiree). Arr. 25.10.1850 per Hashemy, wife & 2 chd in UK. Employed 3 T/L men, a carpenter in 1864 & 2 labourers in 1870 at Busselton.

¹¹ 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

¹² The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News (WA : 1848 - 1864), 19 March 1852, p4

¹³ SROWA Acc 1156 RD1-2

¹⁴ SROWA Acc 1156 R21B

¹⁵ Government Gazette, 12 October 1869.

¹⁶ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 26 August 1889, p3

Caroline Susannah Wieland, wife of Frederick Pryme, convict 115

Baptism	3 September 1820, St Giles Cripplegate, London
Parents	Thomas Wieland and Sarah Robotham
Parent's marriage	2 June 1810, St Giles Cripplegate, London, by banns
Siblings	Edward (1811-1816), John Thomas (1813), Ann Catherine (1816), Sarah (1818), Susannah (1823), Mary Ann (1828)
Husband	Frederick Perkins
Married	
Children	Sophia Ann Perkins (1844) James Oliver Perkins (1845)

Caroline Susannah was born on 10 July 1820. The family lived at White Cross Street, Islington, where her father was a watchmaker.

She cohabited with Frederick Perkins, also known as Frederick Prime/Pryme and James Smith. From the various records available, they lived together for several years. Nothing is known about Frederick's early life or his real name.

Frederick, as James Smith, was sentenced to eight months in prison for stealing two half-crowns at Wells, Somerset, in October 1843. According to the prosecutor, a draper and grocer in Paulton, James fell on his knees and said he was a guilty sinner when accused of stealing. He could read and write well, suggesting he was well educated.

Caroline gave birth to Sophia Ann Perkins was born in February 1844 while Frederick was in gaol. The birth was not registered, so it is unknown if Sophia was born in Somerset or London, although census records indicate Sophia was born in London. When she was baptised in August, the register said her father, Frederick Perkins, was a traveller. The following year, James Oliver Perkins was born in December 1845.

In November 1846, Frederick placed an advertisement in the *Evangelical Magazine*. According to a newspaper report, Frederick said he was a young man of respectability and truly Christian, moral, and religious habits and wanted a situation in a business of a grocer or provision dealer in a pious family. The advertisement caught the attention of Mr Shaw, and he replied. After receiving a satisfactory reference, Shaw employed Frederick on 17 November. On the first night he arrived at Bedworth, Frederick requested permission of Mr Shaw and his family to pray alone before retiring to rest. His act was so convincing that he soon acquired the character of a pious young man while at the same time engaged in plundering Shaw's shop. When Shaw found his goods disappearing fast without an adequate return, he spoke to Prime, who, according to a newspaper report, replied in a conventical whine, assured him that all things were right in the sight and fear of the Lord.

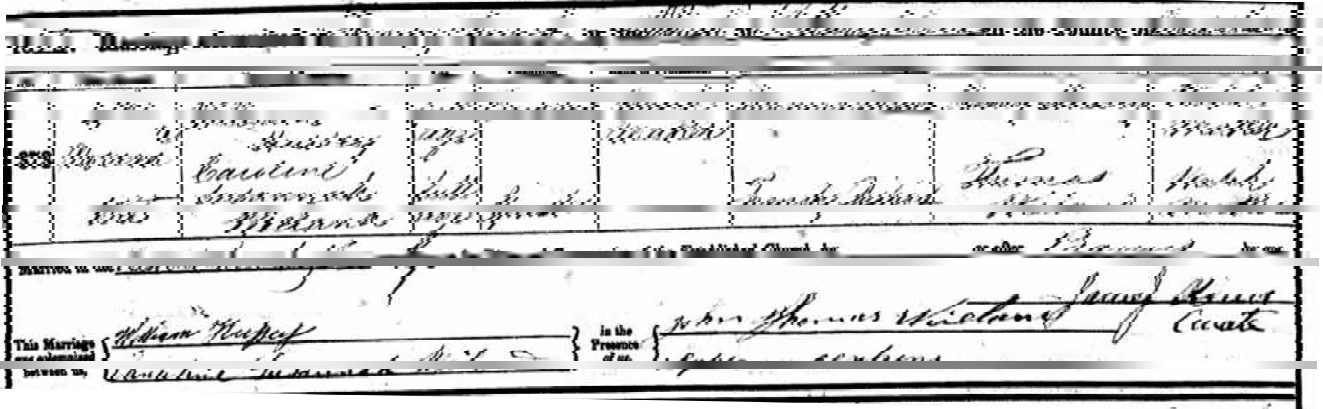
In April 1847, at the Coventry Assizes, Frederick Prime 34, James Burnby 34, Caroline Susannah Wieland 26, and Mary Ann Wieland 19 appeared in court. Frederick, charged with stealing on the 9 February, at the parish of Bedworth, Warwickshire, ten pounds of tea, value £1 10s., ten yards of silk, value £1, and various other articles, the goods and chattels of John Shaw, of Bedworth. The other three prisoners were charged with receiving, knowing the goods to have been stolen. There were also several other indictments of a similar nature. The prisoners all pleaded not guilty. One witness, Sarah Wright, of Hill-street, Walworth, Surrey, said she knew Prime from last summer; he was then living Hill-street, Walworth and by the name of Perkins. She knew the two females and the oldest female lived with him. Prime called her Mrs Perkins. The younger female called Mary Ann treated like a servant by Prime. On further inquiry, the police discovered at least eleven packages of very considerable weight had been forwarded by railway to the women's residence in East-street, Walworth. The jury, deliberating for nearly three-quarters of an hour, returned a

verdict of Guilty against Frederick and Burnby. He was sentenced to be transported for fourteen years, Burnby received seven years, and Caroline and her sister were acquitted.

In 1851, Caroline *Perkins* and her two children lived in Sidney Street, Islington, in London. Caroline described herself as 30, a widow and an ironer. She said both her children were born in Middlesex.

The following year, her sister Mary Ann Wieland married, and Caroline Perkins was a witness.

Caroline Susannah Wieland married 4 November 1855, Trinity Church, St Marylebone. The witnesses were John Thomas Wieland, her brother, and Sophia An(*sic*) Perkins, who appears to be her daughter.



The family lived at 79 Rakese Street, St Luke, London, in 1861.

William Hussey, head, 34, watchmaker, born St Pancras, Middlesex, England

Caroline Hussey, wife, 40,

James O Perkins, son, 15, apprentice to watchmaking, born St Luke's, Middlesex, England

Sophia Perkins, daughter, 17, book folder, born St Luke's, Middlesex, England

By 1871, William and Caroline had moved to Brighton and lived at 38 Egremont Place, Brighton, Sussex. Living with them was Caroline's granddaughter Amy Field 6, her nephew Oliver King 23, and two lodgers. Oliver King was an imbecile from birth on census records, was the son of Ann Catherine King née Wieland, who passed away in 1865.

Ten years later, Caroline and William still lived at the same address in Brighton. Living with them were three of Caroline's relations, Amy S Field, 16, pupil-teacher, Martha S Field, 12, scholar, Oliver King, 33, and two lodgers.

On 22 August 1882, an officer on duty in Smithfield heard an explosion at St Bartholomew's Hospital. He found William Hussey lying on the hospital steps, bleeding from the nose and mouth. Finding Hussey was insensible; he took him into the hospital. Shortly afterwards Hussey rallied, and said that he had filled his mouth with gunpowder and applied a lighted match to it, with the object of destroying his life, and he regretted it had not "finished him." William died the following day.

The city coroner held an inquest at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, into extraordinary circumstances under which William Hussey, aged 56, came by his death.

Caroline Hussey, a lodging housekeeper residing at 38 Egremont Place, Brighton, identified the deceased as her husband. He had been a watchmaker by trade and had led a very dissolute life. During the 25 years which they had been married, they had lived very unhappily together. The deceased left home about a fortnight ago, she believed, because he was in debt and had no money.

Several letters were found on the deceased, from which the coroner read the following extracts: —"15 August, 82. Mrs Hussey, I write this last letter to you as I have no wish to live in this world. You have not been a wife to me for years. My home has been wretched. What have you done by leaving my bed. Your object has been to go to live with your brother-in-law: now you can and live with him. When I married you and gave you a name I thought you should be happy. I have worked hard to bring up our two children, but you have stopped me. I have wandered about miserable, and in so doing I heard all about King. You have

been a curse to me. You have been the pest of the family. Go to the Kings and see how they will serve you; I hope you will be well punished." (Caroline's brother in law, Oliver Waterloo King, died eighteen months earlier in April 1881)

The coroner asked Caroline if her husband had complained of her going with a man named King and having given evidence that resulted in a man sent to penal servitude for 14 years. Caroline denied both questions. Pressed to the reason the deceased had for leaving home, Caroline said that she did not know, but he had complained of pains in his head. Her husband had been a very hard drinker for many years, and he had attempted suicide three times, the last by taking poison for which he was in the Brighton Hospital two months. Caroline said she had heard her husband had called on some of her relations since leaving home. Her son James Perkins of Bowman's Place, Holloway, testified Hussey had been living with him for about a fortnight. He had been greatly distressed in not getting some money from a Jew for whom he had been working. The jury returned a verdict of suicide while in a state of unsound mind.

One of William's previous suicide attempts was in 1852 before he married Caroline Wieland. He swallowed sulphate of iron. Luckily his sister observed it, and William was rushed to hospital, where he received an antidote. He was seriously ill for some time.

In 1889, her granddaughter Amy Field married Henry Dingle at Brighton. They moved to Avon House, High Street, Batheaston, Bath, and Caroline, Oliver King, and Martha Field went with them to Bath. Caroline was 'living on her own means.'

Caroline Susannah Hussey of Avon House, Batheaston, Somerset, was buried on 27 August 1904, aged 84, at St John the Baptist church in Batheaston.

Children

Sophia Ann Perkins had ten children, of whom six were still living in 1911. On her marriage certificate, she said her father was Frederick Perkins, a traveller. Sophia died in 1920.

1863. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Islington in the County of Middlesex								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
101	25 Dec.	George James Field	full age	Bachelor	Warehouseman	2 Sidney Grove	William Field	Lawyer
	1863	Sophia Ann Perkins	Minor	Spinster	—	11 Sidney St.	Frederick Perkins	Traveller
Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by _____ or after <u>Banns</u> by me, _____ <i>Lawrence Reynolds</i>								
This Marriage was solemnized between us, { <u>George James Field</u> } in the Presence of us, { <u>William Hussey</u> } { <u>Sophia Ann Perkins</u> } { <u>Elye Gray</u> }								

James Oliver Perkins and Caroline Hill were living together in Shoreditch on the 1871 census. James was a coachman. They married in 1875, and James said his father was James Perkins, a traveller.

1875. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Shoreditch in the County of Middlesex								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
24	2 nd May	James Oliver Perkins	full	Bachelor	Coachman	8 Ashford Street	James Perkins	Traveller
	1875	Caroline Hill	full	Spinster	—	24 Beveridge	James Hill	Artist
Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by _____ or after <u>Banns</u> by me, _____ <i>J. P. Parnall</i>								
This Marriage was solemnized between us, { <u>James Oliver Perkins</u> } in the Presence of us, { <u>George William Smith</u> } { <u>Caroline Hill</u> } { <u>Elizabeth Ann Trist</u> }								

The marriage did not last as, by 1879, James began living with Mary Agnes Hedrick; their first son, James Oliver Perkins, born in 1880. On the 1881 census, the family were living in Islington, and James was still a coachman. By 1891, he was a painter's labourer and subsequently became a house painter. James finally married Mary Agnes Hedrick in 1895. He said his father was William Perkins, deceased! According to the 1911 census, James and Mary had been married 32 years (from 1879) and had 15 children, of whom nine were living. James died in 1913.

1852. Mary Ann Wieland, one of the people on trial in 1847 with Frederick Pryme, married in 1852. Caroline Perkins, her sister, was a witness.

Frederick Pryme, 34, married, could read and write well, shopman, was convicted on 29 March 1847 at Coventry Assizes of stealing from a shop and sentenced to 14 years transportation. He had one previous conviction for felony. Frederick was received at Millbank Prison on 22 April 1847. He was transferred to reading House of Correction, Berkshire, on 5 August 1847.¹⁷ Sixteen months later, Frederick was removed to Portland Prison, on 22 December 1848.

¹⁷ HO24/3; PCOM2/383, p66