

William Revell, 378, *Mermaid*

Baptism	22 April 1832, St Saviour, Southwark, Surrey
Parents	William Revell and Frances
Parent's marriage	
Siblings	Mary Ann (1818), William (1822-1824), George (1825), Caroline (1829), Alexander (1827)
Wife	Maria Egen
Married	16 September 1858, Adelaide, South Australia
Children	Frances (1859) "Fanny" Elizabeth (1862) William Alexander (1864) Mary Ellen (1867) Simon James (1870) Caroline Augusta (1873)

The family were from St George parish in Southwark, where the father, William Revell, was a labourer. He died in April 1833, aged 43. His address was Falstaff Yard, Southwark.

In 1841, living at Falstaff Yard, St George, Southwark were:

Frances Revell, 50, hawker; Mary, 22; Caroline, 10; George, 12; Alexander, 10; William, 8.

Note: the ages for the children are not accurate.

In 1851, Fanny Revell, 60, charwoman, and her daughter Caroline, 22, a hawker of fruit, lived at 9 Falstaff Yard. Alexander, 24, a hawker of fruit, lived at 2 Falstaff Yard.

Mary Ann Revel never married and was also a hawker of fruit. She was in and out of the workhouse in the 1860s, destitute or suffering from Erysipelas.

In 1844, at the Central Criminal Court, Alexander Revell, 16, from New Kent Road, was indicted for stealing 1 watch-guard, value 1s.; 1 cross, 1s.; 2 keys, 6d.; 1 reticule, 1s.; 2 half-crowns, 2 shillings, 2 sixpences, 3 pence, and 4 halfpence, the property of Sarah Shirley; from her person. He received a good character reference and was sentenced to 3 months imprisonment.

His brother William was not so lucky. At the Newington Adjourned Quarter Session, on 9 July 1849, William Revell, 16, who could not read or write, faced court. He had been committed on 6 June 1849, charged with stealing 1s 2½d from Elizabeth Bewley at Christchurch. He was sentenced to 7 years transportation.¹

Petition

Received 11 August 1849.

The Right Honorable Sir George Grey, Secretary of State for the Home Department

The Humble Petition of Fanny Revell, widow of No 9 Falstaff Yard, Easham Place, Kent Road
Sheweth

That your petitioner is the mother of one William Revell who was tried at the Surry Sessions for picking the pocket of one Elizabeth Bury, and was sentenced to seven years Transportation.

That your petitioner is an Aged Woman and she humbly begs the to state that the above named unfortunate youth who is now only seventeen years of Age did by his hard labour assist her towards her support and he was much respected by many individuals that knew him from his infancy for his good behaviour and civility to them and also his duty to his widowed mother. That your petitioner solemnly

¹ Calendar of Prisoners. Surrey Quarter Sessions at Newington Gaol. March 1848 to December 1853.
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assures your Honor that her son is totally innocent of the Crime for which he is convicted and (which he loudly asserted on his being Tried) and that the prosecutor is totally wrong in her identity of him and had your petitioner been acquainted with the proper mode of procedure she could have produced the real thief or could have pointed him out as there are individuals who can swear that he actually told them of the Robbery and in what manner it was done which your petitioner having heard of she went to the Clerk of the Southwark Police Court and related the Case to him and asked whether the real thief ought to be apprehended when her ridiculed her statement and said it would be useless as the prosecutor had sworn to her son (who was not apprehended till above a fortnight after the Robbery and was sworn to merely from the memory of the prosecutor) therefore finding all her endeavours to save her son useless she was obliged to submit and the result was as above stated that he was sentenced to Seven years Transportation the worthy Chairman remarking at the time that he did not think him a hardened criminal and he now lays under sentence in the Isle of Wight.

Your petitioner, therefore, humbly prays your Honor that you will humanely condescend to enquire into the matter and that you will condescendingly please to see whether you cannot recommend the prisoners care to Her Majesty's Royal notice and if you do not think it entitled to a full pardon that you will be pleased to Commute his sentence for a shorter period for which kindness you will have the prayers of a distressed mother for the happiness of yourself and family both in this world and hereafter.

And your petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray &c

The underwritten individuals humbly beg to recommend this Case as one they think worthy of Notice. Signed by 12, mostly business people from around the area where the Revell family lived.

Cover: 249/43

William Revell, 16, Surrey Qr Sess, Newington July 1849

Stealing from person

Gaol report - in prison before

Nil HW

Answered 14 August 1849.

On 31 July 1849, William Revell, 16, a fruit hawker, was transferred from Horsemonger Lane Prison to Parkhurst Prison. According to the Register, he had two previous convictions, presumably summary convictions, as he is not in the Criminal Registers.² William embarked on the *Mermaid* on 28 December 1850 for the voyage to Western Australia.

On arrival at Fremantle in May 1851, he was described as:

378. William Revell, 20, 5'6", dark hair, grey eyes, long face, fresh complexion, no marks, single and a carter.

At Guildford, on 25 August 1852, William Revell, was fined 15s for causing an uproar in the depot, and being insolent to the Overseer.³

William received a Conditional Pardon in 1855 and two years later left for South Australia per *Henry and Mary* in September 1857.

The following year, at the Port Adelaide Court on 27 August 1858:

A Swan Riverite – William Revell was charged with being a Swan River convict illegally at large in this province. Police-constable Ford deposed – He had seen him at Guildford, at Swan River, at the end of 1855 and at the beginning of the following year. He was at work for a Mr Welbourn, a publican. Witness had been in the police but resigned on account of being shifted. At the beginning of March 1856, he was in the police force again. The prisoner was then at work as a sawyer and splitter. The prisoner is the man pointed out to him; he could not say if he was a free man, and he could not say if his name really was Revell.

² HO25/15, p127

³ Inquirer (Perth, WA : 1840 - 1855), 1 September 1852, p2

On being taken into custody, Revell denied he had been a prisoner of the Crown. He said he had been working at the Port for £3 10s a week. The prisoner said he was a free man, that Captain Martin of the *Henry and Mary* (in which vessel he came from the Swan River) could prove it. Captain Martin being absent, the case was remanded for a week.⁴

A few days later, on 1 September 1858:

Charles (*sic*) Revell was charged with being illegally at large as a prisoner of the Crown. Captain Martin of the cutter, *Henry and Mary*, was in King George's Sound in September 1857, and the prisoner came to this colony with him as a passenger. Before taking any passengers on board, he asked the Magistrates for instructions and was told to be very cautious. The prisoner came on board after that and gave him a written certificate which he had retained and now handed to the Magistrate. The certificate was read. The evidence of the police showed that the prisoner had been working for a living and had not been charged with any offence since his arrival, which was considered in his favour. On Monday, Sergeant Dyke, onboard the *Success*, found two men on board, free by servitude, who were furnished with printed documents signed by the Comptroller of Convicts and contained all particulars of crime &c. The Magistrate considered the only doubt to be whether the prisoner was free by servitude or had received a conditional pardon; but as the testimony of the police showed him to be industriously disposed, he would give him the benefit of the doubt upon entering his own recognizance to appear when called upon. In the meantime, the Government of Western Australia would be communicated with to procure the necessary evidence of freedom.⁵

William Revell married Maria Egen on 16 September 1858 at Adelaide. William worked as a sawyer in Port Adelaide. Their fathers were William Revell and Eimon Egen.⁶

On 17 May 1886, William Revell, 56, was admitted to Adelaide Hospital with diarrhea. The Register says he was a widower, Church of England, from London, 36 years old when he came to South Australia in 1855, and cannot remember the ship he arrived on. He spent 30 days in the hospital before being discharged on 15 June. William's wife, Maria, died on 5 August 1883.

Then on 12 July 1886, he was admitted again with a curvature of the spine. He said he was 31 years old when he arrived in South Australia in 1855. William spent 258 days in the hospital before being transferred to the Destitute Asylum. This Register says his last abode was Cannon Street, Port Adelaide. They deemed it necessary to obtain a spring wire mattress for him in consequence of his condition.

William said he had two married daughters (one in Sydney and one at Bridgewater), two single daughters in service at Port Adelaide, also two sons aged 19 and 17, William and James Revell at Port Adelaide.

William Revell died on 13 April 1887 and is buried at Cheltenham Cemetery with his wife. He was a member of The Brothers of the Loyal Duke of York Lodge G.U.O.O.F.

⁴ Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 – 1904, 4 September 1858, p4

⁵ The South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), 2 September 1858, p3

⁶ Information from Index on Ancestry.com