

Richard Dorricutt/Donicutt/Dorricott, 724, Minden

Marcia Watson

Probable family:

Richard Doricott, son of Mary, residing at Coleham, born 1 June 1830, baptized 21 October 1832, at Shrewsbury, St Julian's, Shropshire, England.

Possible family:

Richard Dorricott, son of John and Mary, residing at Pontesbury Hill, baptized 15 March 1830 at Pontesbury, father a miner

1841 census: Torn Walls, St Chad, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, England ¹

Mary Donicutt, 30, born in the county

Richard Donicutt, 11, born in the county

Thomas Lewis, 46, putor, born in the county [possibly a porter]

1851 census Masons Court, Mardol, St Chads, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, England

Thomas Lewis, 53, unmarried, porter, born Shrewsbury

Mary Dorricott, 40, unmarried, servant, born Condoover, Shropshire

Serving a Landlord out. John Plimmer, nailer, was charged by Mr. William Clayton, landlord of the Green Dragon, Hill's Lane, with wilfully breaking a pane glass in his house, of the value of 5s. He stated that on Saturday night defendant came into his House, and called for a glass of ale ; when he had finished he commenced drinking another man's ale ; the person remonstrated with him, and was assailed with a volley of abuse, whereupon quarrel ensued between them, and Plimmer struck the other man in the face; witness then turned him out of doors; after this defendant turned back, and smashed a pane of glass in the door leading to the kitchen, sending his arm quite through. **Richard Dorricutt**, who had been drinking in the house, and Margaret Jones, servant to the complainant, also proved that the defendant broke the window. Plimmer denied the charge, and produced two witnesses, named Charles Thomas, nailer, and John Rees, who endeavoured to prove that **Dorricutt** was the person who broke the window, and that Plimmer, though had been taken for the offence, was as "innocent as the child unborn," but the magistrates disbelieved their story, and fined defendant 5s. (the damage of the window), and 7s. 6d. costs, or month's imprisonment.

Eddowes's Journal, and General Advertiser for Shropshire, and the Principality of Wales - Wednesday 01 December **1847**, p2

Shrewsbury Police

Old Offenders. John Reece and **Richard Dorricutt**, two notorious characters, were charged Mr. John Wilton with vagrancy. He found the two that morning asleep his hay loft, and gave them into custody, because had repeatedly cautioned them against the practice. The Chief Constable proved the defendants were disorderly characters and Reece was sentenced one month, and Dorricutt to 14 days' imprisonment. While Dorricutt was being conveyed to gaol, by police-officer Finch, and near the door or the prison, he contrived to slip the handcuffs, and made his escape, taking the direction for Canal Buildings and Uffington. As soon as Finch had delivered his other prisoner he followed in pursuit, but missed the scent, and was fault before had reached the New Bridge on the Canal towards Uffington. However, the scent was regained, the prisoner having been seen take the Sundorne road at Pimhill farm, towards which direction the pursuers

¹ HO107/926/3, p33

followed, but with no better success; the Sundorne covers were drawn in vain, and the pack called off, because it was seen that to continue the chase would be useless, the prisoner being too fleet of foot for the "blue coat." Dorricutt regained the town way of Uffington and Atcham, and was found next morning quietly ensconced in the Rookery, Frankwell, from whence he was taken, and after appearing before the magistrates, transferred into safe custody on the Dana.

Eddowes's Journal, and General Advertiser for Shropshire, and the Principality of Wales - Wednesday 01 March 1848, p4

Shrewsbury Quarter Sessions

STEALING THREE POUNDS WORTH COPPER. John Tomlins, alias Rees, aged 23, and **Richard Dorricutt**, aged 18, were charged with having broken into the warehouse belonging to James Weaver and another, outlie 11th of September last, and stealing therefrom certain copper coin the realm, of the value three pounds: and Joseph Howells, shoemaker, was charged with receiving the same, knowing it to be stolen. Tomlins and Dorricutt pleaded guilty, Howells not guilty and he was put upon his trial.

Mr. Phillimore prosecuted, and in the course of his address to the jury, stated that though two of the parties had pleaded guilty, it was necessary that the whole story this extraordinary and daring robbery should be brought before them. He called:

Mr. John Braxier, agent to Messrs. Crowley and Co. James William Weaver, and Benjamin Hicklin, and another called Charles Brony; they trade as Crowley and Co. carriers; on the 11th of September last I received from Mr. Morley, three pounds worth of copper, packed in 5s papers: put the copper in tin box, which I placed desk and locked it up; counting house in the warehouse in Mardol: the door opens into the warehouse, and then into the street; locked the warehouse and office door about half-past seven at night, and delivered the keys the next morning at half-past six o'clock; Hollis made a communication to at eight o'clock, and my going to the counting house, I found the desk had been broken open and the copper gone. John Hollis, porter in the employ of Crowley and Co. Was on the 12th of September last, about half-past six o'clock received the keys of the warehouse from Mr. Brazier; examined the place, and found the desk was broken open; saw a back door had been opened, and after looking about saw that some bricks near the top roof had been removed, and placed back; the robbers got into the counting house by breaking a wooden panel out of the window place.

Joseph Owen, in the employ of Mr. Newton, next to Messrs Crowley's warehouse, found a bark peeler on the roof of the warehouse.

William Harper, chief constable of police—On the 12th of September I apprehended the prisoners; on the 14th I went with the prisoner Dorricott into the Dingle, and he went into the water, and pulled out four packets of copper; searched Dorricott and found 3s. ½d , and 2s. 8d. on Tomlins.

Mr. John Owen, clerk to Mr. Cooper, clerk the Shrewsbury Magistrates, was present when Joseph Howells was before the magistrates; there was no inducement held out to him to make declaration; signed the document. The declaration was here read, and ran follows:

Rees overtook in the Quarry on last fair day; it was Tuesday's fair: he asked me how I was after my drink; I had been very tipsy the day before; I told him it was very bad. He said "Take this and get a drop of drink, and it will cure you." He gave two 5s papers of a pence. I told him I want them, but he said "Take them, you are very welcome." I replied "I suppose you have been on again, then?. I went away, and threw the 5s papers into the river, and went to my work. I did not tell anybody what had occurred. The first robbery was in the short days. I was working by candle light when Rees and Dorricott sent for some ale to my house. I accused Dorricott with committing the robbery, and he told me he had done it. I said to Dorricott "If I was in your place I would try to get some work, as if you don't leave off the game it will be worse for you".

Mr. Phillimore then said—This closed the case for the prosecution.

Mr. Kenealy, who appeared for the prisoner, submitted there was no case for the jury.

The Recorder, after looking through the declaration, decided the case should the jury.

Mr. Kenealy then addressed the jury on behalf of the prisoner at some length, and called the following witnesses to prisoners character;

Benjamin Poole, shoemaker, who had known the prisoner for upwards of thirty years as an honest man.

John Hughes, hairdresser, who also had known the prisoner for twenty years.

The Recorder summed up, and said it was a question entirely for the consideration the jury, whether they could impute felonious intentions to the prisoner.

The jury after a short consultation, found the prisoner guilty, accompanied with recommendation to mercy.

Howells said hoped the court would merciful to him, as he was led into it these men; he declared he was innocent any man the court, and what the prisoners had stated about him was untrue.

Dorricott and Tomlins were sentenced to transported for seven years, and Howells to three months imprisonment.

Eddowes's Journal, and General Advertiser for Shropshire, and the Principality of Wales - Wednesday 18 October 1848, p2

Richard Dorricott, 18, single, can't read or write, labourer, received at Millbank on 3 February 1849 from Shrewsbury Gaol, once before been summarily convicted, transferred to the Warrior hulk on 15 August 1848.²

Richard Dorricott, 18, from *Warrior* Hulk, boatman, good on the voyage.

He had £3 3s on arrival, consisting of 5s private cash and £2.18 convict earnings.³

Description.

Richard Donicutt 21, 5'1", dark hair, brown eyes, long face, sallow complexion, healthy, no marks, labourer and single.⁴

Possible references to Richard:

POLICE COURT—PORT ADELAIDE, Thursday. 9 Nov **1854**

Richard Dorricott, fisherman, charged with being drunk on the North Parade, at 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Fined 10s.

Unclaimed letter for Richard Dorricott in South Australia, Jan **1856**.⁵

There is a Richard Dorricott who died 5 July **1881**, buried same day at Aramac Cemetery near Longreach in Queensland. First burial at the town took place only 3 years before. Mostly cattle and sheep properties in the area.

² Millbank Prison, HO 24/4

³ SROWA Acc 128/14

⁴ SROWA Acc 128/1-32

⁵ South Australian Government Gazette, 1856, p104