

George Shanes, 1941, *Pyrenees*

Researched by Marcia Watson

Name variations: Sheen, Shenn, Shann, Shane, Shen, Schonn, Schinn

Baptism	17 October 1824, Boldre, Hampshire
Parents	Philip Schonn and Elizabeth Baverstock, both of Lymington, Hampshire
Parent's marriage	29 November 1810, Boldre, Hampshire
Siblings	Caroline Schonn (1811), Henry Shane (1816), Stephen Sheen (1817), Elizabeth Shann (1819), Catherine Shane (1822), Philip Shen (1829-1843)
Wife 1	Elizabeth Hampton
Married	2 October 1843, Milford, Hampshire
Children	William Shanes (1846-1921), Emily Sheen (1848-1848), Richard Sheen (1849)

George's father, Philip Schonn, entered the Foreign Artillery at age 25 on 14 April 1806. No place of birth was recorded, and he served two years as a private and eight years as a corporal. He was stationed in the West Indies, with extra time added for overseas service; his total service was 12 years. Philip was discharged from the Royal Foreign Artillery Corps on 15 October 1816 due to Chronic Rheumatism and was admitted on the Pension List at 10d, from 16 October 1816.

The family initially lived at Sandy Down in the Parish of Boldre, Hampshire, and by 1841, they lived at Milford, Hampshire.

The first record found of George is his marriage in 1843.

At Pennington Church in the Parish of Milford, on 2 October 1843, George Shenn, 19, bachelor, labourer of Pennington, his father was Philip Shenn, a labourer to Elizabeth Hampton, full age, spinster of Pennington, her father James Hampton was a labourer. George made his mark, and Elizabeth signed the register. Witnesses were Henry Shenn and Sarah Shenn.

George and Elizabeth had three children. No baptism for William or Emily Shanes/Sheen has been found. Richard Sheen was born on 15 December 1849 and baptised on 2 March 1850. The family lived at Lymington, and George was a labourer.

In 1850, George Shanes, 25, read imperfectly, and Charles Ford, 25, read and wrote imperfectly were committed on 1 January 1850, at the Parish of Lymington, feloniously stolen one hundred-weight of lead, then and there being fixed to an unoccupied dwelling house the property of Elizabeth Fluder. George Shanes was further charged with having, in concert with Sophia Cott, 57, on the 21 November 1849, at the parish of Lymington, feloniously broken and entered the dwelling house of John Mitchell and stolen one feather bed and divers other articles, the property of John Mitchell. George Shanes, seven years transportation and Charles Ford, four calendar months with hard labour. Sophia Cott, two years of hard labour. She died in 1851.¹

George Sheen, 25, married with two children, reads, a labourer, was tried on 28 February 1850 at Hampshire Lent Assizes for housebreaking and sentenced to seven years. George had been imprisoned once for poaching. He was received at Reading Prison from Winchester Gaol on 10 April 1850 and transferred to Dartmoor Prison on 25 February 1851.²

He boarded the *Pyrenees* on 28 January 1853 for the voyage to Western Australia.³

On arrival at Fremantle, he was described as:

¹ TNA UK, PCOM2/418

² TNA UK, HO23/12

³ TNA UK, HO8/115

1941. George Shanes, 28, 5'9¾", dark brown hair, hazel eyes, full face, dark complexion, stout, pockmarked, a labourer, married with two children. He received a ticket of leave on arrival.

George spent various lengths of time in Fremantle Prison Hospital with:

22 January 1854. George Sheen (1941), Ophthalmia

22 August 1854. George Sheen (1941), Cynanche Tonsil, to hospital.

1 February 1855. George Sheen (1941), 31, sawyer, 2nd Pyrenees, Ophthalmia

3 March 1855. George Sheen (1941), constipation, purgative

He was granted a Conditional Pardon on 2 August 1856, and his sentence expired the following year.

George was convicted, mostly of theft, on a number of occasions:

17 June 1861. George Sheen, C.P., larceny of bran from G Gooch, tried at Supreme Court, not guilty, discharged 3 July 1861.

16 January 1863. Geo Sheen, 34, expiree from the *Pyrenees*, convicted of stealing a bag of bran from the teamster of J.T. Cook at Northam, sentenced to 6 months, Anglican, discharged 15 July 1863.

Gratuities proposed to be paid to Local prisoners for discharge during the month of July 1863:

George Sheen, amount of credit £6.

16 December 1871. Sheen G, age 47, expiree (1941), Protestant, stealing a box of tea, six months at York Court, discharged from Fremantle Prison on 16 June 1872.

January 1878. The court case of Thomas Andrews at York mentions George Sheen's premises at Mount Bakewell.

4 July 1878. William McInnes, on remand, and George Sheen (1941) were jointly charged with feloniously stealing three logs of sandalwood, the property of Mr. J. H. Monger. The York Court found George Sheen guilty of stealing a log of wood, the property of Mr J. H. Monger and adjudged him to be imprisoned for one calendar month with hard labour at Perth Gaol. George, aged 53, was discharged on 4 August 1878. The case against William McInnes was dismissed.

27 December 1878. George Sheen was summoned to York Court on the information of Thomas Terry for allowing a horse to trespass on the land of Mr Brown. Adjourned.

15 July 1879. George Sheen, Thomas Tomkinson, William Marwick, Nathaniel Shaw, James Bryan, John Keating, Joseph London, Noel Edgar, and William Eaton were severally summoned by the Chairman of the Roads Board for not complying with the Roads Board Act with reference to driving their horses abreast. They were each mulcted in costs amounting to 4s. 6d.

2 January 1883. George Sheen, charged with stealing two loads of sandalwood from Knockabilly, East York, the property of William Nelson, was discharged, the evidence being insufficient to support the charge of felony.

8 December 1884. Police Court, York. George Shanes, charged with using obscene and profane language, was fined 10s.

February 1885. A man named George Sheen was on Saturday last sentenced to fourteen days of hard labour for stealing a bushel of wheat from the premises of Mr W. L. Hoops.

24 February 1891, York Police Court. A man named George Sheen was charged with stealing a horse collar, the property of Mr W. T. Craig. Mr Craig said he lent the collar to Francis Kirk jun, and he did not return it. He said no hard feelings existed between Sheen and himself. He was certain Sheen stole the collar without a felonious intent. It was not the first time the accused had been charged with theft.

Kirk used the collar and, when finished, hung it on the fence. Sheen said he took the collar as a 'lark, as he had a little drink in me'.

When the police went to Sheen's premises with a search warrant, George said it was in the cart as he was going to return it. He was sentenced to one hour's imprisonment.

April 1891. Unclaimed letter for George Sheen at the York Post Office. It was still unclaimed in May.

1903 Electoral Roll, York. George Sheen, Waterkerry, farmer.

George Sheen, aged 77, died near York in 1904. Parents are unknown.

Family in England

1851 census: 73 Waterford, Lymington, Hampshire. ⁴

Elizabeth Sheen, married, 32, laundress, born Milford.

William Sheen, 4, born Lymington; Richard Sheen, 1, born Lymington, and Maria Bran, servant and a nurse.

Richard Shanes possibly died in 1855, aged 5 [Scanes, New Forest Reg District]

1861 census, Buckland, Lymington, Hampshire. ⁵

Elizabeth Sheens, widow, 40, laundress, born Pennington

William Sheens, son, 14, labourer, born Pennington

Mary Jane Sheens, daughter, 10, scholar, born Lymington

Flora Sheens, daughter, 3, scholar, born Lymington

Elizabeth remarried on 26 January 1862 at the Parish Church, Lymington

Henry Smith, widower, labourer of Lymington, father was unknown Smith, an officer to Elizabeth

Shanes, widow of Lymington, father was James Hampton, a salt Both made their marks.

⁴ TNA UK, HO107/1666

⁵ TNA UK, RG 9/663