

Langley Southerden, 5837, Palmerston and 7555, Lord Dalhousie

Researched by Marcia Watson

Name variations: Longley, Sotherden, Sutherden, Sutherdan, Southerdon

Daniel Stephens *alias* Sutherland

Born	12 June 1842, Rye, Sussex [Longley Sotherden]
Parents	Daniel Southerden (widower) and Mary Anne Heath Daniel first married Jane Turk in 1820, and she died in 1835.
Parent's marriage	6 November 1835, Rye, Sussex
Siblings	Half-siblings: George (1821), Caroline (1822), Ellen Jane (1824). Siblings: Daniel Henry (1836), Spencer Walter Herbert (1838), Stephen (1840), Mary Jane (1846)
Wife	
Married	
Children	

On the 1841 census, living at Tower Street, Rye, Sussex, were:

Daniel Southerden, 42, coach maker; Mary Ann, 31; Ellen, 17; Daniel, 4; Spencer, 3; Stephen, 1 - all born in Sussex. ¹

A year later, Longley was born, and he was baptised six weeks after his birth on 22 July 1842.

By 1851, the family had moved to Cliff Cottages, Saint Michael parish in Hastings, Sussex.²

Daniel Southerden, 52, coach maker, born Winchelsea, Sussex; Marianne, 41, born Rye, Sussex; their children Daniel, 14, Spencer, 12, Stephen, 11, Langley, 8 and Mary Jane, 5, were all scholars.

The three younger boys joined the Royal Navy. Spencer and Stephen³ joined the *Victory* on 20 March 1855, and Longley joined the *Victory* on 5 June 1856 as a boy 2nd class. The three boys were to serve ten years from the age of 18. Longley was 4'11¼" and had a brown complexion, brown hair and hazel eyes.⁴

This is to Certify, that we have examined the before-mentioned Boy as to his fitness for Her Majesty's Navy, and we find as follows:—He is a well grown, stout lad; of perfectly sound and healthy constitution, free from all physical malformation, and intelligent, and we consider him fit in all respects for Her Majesty's Service.

The consent of his parents or friends has been obtained in writing, and they are willing and desirous that the boy should be entered for 10 years continuous and general service from the age of 18, in addition to whatever periods may be necessary till he attains that age; and the boy himself is willing and desirous to enter the Royal Navy under these conditions, as attested by his signature attached hereto.



Longley signed

¹ TNA HO107/1109/5

² TNA HO107/1635

³ Spencer was authorized to be discharged on 19 November 1861, and Stephen was not in navy by 1861.

⁴ TNA ADM 139/198/19759; 139/198/19760; 139/299/29813

Longley or Langley was not happy in the Royal Navy.

Naval Court Martial at Devonport.

A court-martial was held on board the *Impregnable* guard ship in Hamoaze on Thursday, 5 May 1859, to try Langley Southerdon, a supernumerary boy of the 1st class, for insubordination, and using violence towards his superior officers whilst a prisoner on board the *Impregnable*.

George Sarah, a gunner's mate of the *Impregnable*, said on the 29 April last, between the hours of four and six o'clock p.m., he was standing on the lower deck, mid-ship by the capstan. Charles Carr, a boy belonging to the same ship, was sitting on a stool nearby crying. Witness inquired of the boy what he was crying for, and when he replied, the lower deck sweeper (the prisoner) had struck him. He said it was for heaving shavings out on the deck. Witness went to the prisoner and told him he had no right to strike Carr, and I reported him to the corporal who had charge of the boys. Witness afterwards ordered the corporal to take prisoner on deck, and the corporal told the prisoner that he would report him to the commanding officer in the morning. The witness and the corporal then went to the mess together. While there, the prisoner came in and said something to the corporal which witness could not understand. The witness told him to go away and said that if "the corporal forgave him, he would not"; he would report him to the commanding officer in the morning. The prisoner then left the mess and, going to the other side of the gun, used threatening language towards the witness and declared that he would not sweep the deck for any person. Witness walked towards him and ordered him on deck. The prisoner refused to go on deck and put himself into a boxing attitude. Witness laid hold of him by the shirt sleeve, and when the prisoner struck witness in the face. A scuffle ensued, which resulted in the prisoner releasing himself, and going to his own mess. The corporal (Sims) followed the prisoner and ordered him to go on deck. The prisoner then attempted to strike the corporal, and the witness again took hold of him, and a second struggle ensued near the gangway. The prisoner hove the witness over the guard iron of the main hatchway on the lower deck, fell on him, kicked him on the breast, and declared with an oath that he would throw him down the hatchway and break his neck. The master-at-arms interfered and freed the witness from the prisoner and ordered the latter on deck.

Cross-examined by the court: when the prisoner first struck the witness in the face, he followed up the blow by declaring with an oath that he would kill the witness if he could.

The prisoner, in reply to the court, said he had nothing to offer in his defence.

The court was then cleared, and on it being re-opened, it was announced that the prisoner Langley Southerden, having pleaded guilty, and the court having heard the evidence of the witness George Sarah in support of the charge, the court did adjudge that the said prisoner should be hanged by the neck, until he was dead, at the yard arm of one of her Majesty's ships, at such time as the Lord Commissioners of the Admiralty should direct.

The prisoner is about 21 years of age, about 5ft 8ins in height, slightly built, of a sallow complexion but a muscular frame, and of a very determined cast of countenance. He formerly belonged to the *Leopard*, from which vessel he deserted at this port, and enlisted in the second battalion of the 17th Regiment, from which regiment he was claimed by the Naval Authorities here and taken on board the *Impregnable* to await passage to the *Leopard*, that vessel having left this port for South America.

On the sentence of the court martial being pronounced upon the prisoner, and as he was to be taken from the court to the condemned cell, he attempted to possess himself of the sword of the master-at-arms, who had charge of him. He drew the sword about halfway out of the scabbard but was fortunately seized by the bystanders before he could accomplish his object. From his well-known character in the service for determination and violence, the worst consequences might have been apprehended had he secured the weapon. He now awaits the results of the determination of the Lord's Commissioners of the Admiralty on his sentence, but we presume that he will hardly be capitally punished. - *from Plymouth Journal*.⁵

The Seaman Sentenced to Death.—The Admiralty has commuted the sentence of death recently passed upon L. Southerdon by the Court-Martial at Devonport, to ten years penal servitude. ⁶

Langley spent from his trial on 5 May 1859 until 2 June on board a ship and was then transferred to Millbank Prison on 3 June 1859, where his behaviour was good. From 23 July until 19 April 1860, he was at Pentonville Prison. While here, he refused to give his sentence when asked, wilfully damaged his shoe and struck a fellow prisoner, all resulting in punishment. On 20 April 1860, he was transferred to Portland Prison until boarding the *Palmerston* on 3 November for the voyage to Western Australia.⁷

His description on arrival in Western Australia on 11 February 1861:

5837. Langley Southerden, 18, 5'7¼", dark brown hair, dark hazel eyes, an oval face, dark complexion, stout, has a square, compass, heart, crucifix, flagstaff etc., on his left hand and arm, a mariner and single.

He escaped in 1861 and was captured in Lima, Peru.

11466. Longley Southerden or Daniel Stephens *alias* Sutherland, an escaped English convict from Western Australia, was brought to Ireland by ship *Flower of the Forest* from Callao and received into this Prison temporarily. See correspondence Reg. 523/7. Handed over to Constabulary at 1 pm, 11 April 1862 for removal to ... (page cut off in microfilming). ⁸

The newspapers listed three ships as leaving Western Australia for Callao in 1861 – *Lady Blaney* in July, *Rocklight* in August and *Malakoff* in October. The *Lady Blaney* was at Callao by November, possibly the ship he left Western Australia on.

The *Flower of the Forest* left Callao on 28 November 1861 with about 1200 tons of guano from Chincha Islands⁹ off Peru. She arrived at Cork on 8 March 1862.

Langley was formerly here (Portland Prison) as Reg. 9803 and was sent to Western Australia on *Palmerston* on 3 November 1860. He escaped and was retaken at Lima, forwarded to Queenstown, sent to Spike Island, and then to Millbank Prison in London. He arrived at Millbank on 12 April 1862, where his behaviour was good; was transferred to Pentonville Prison on 25 April

⁵ Jersey Independent and Daily Telegraph - Monday 16 May 1859, p2

⁶ South Eastern Gazette - Tuesday 24 May 1859, p3

⁷ TNA PCOM2/371, HO24/17

⁸ Mountjoy Prison Convict Classification 1857-1866, Book number 1/11/23, item 1

⁹ Chincha Islands are about 230km south of Lima.

1862, where his behaviour was bad; and then sent to Portland Prison on 17 February 1863. He boarded *Lord Dalhousie* on 17 September 1863 for the voyage back to Western Australia.¹⁰

On arrival back in Fremantle on 28 December 1863, his description was slightly different: 7555. Langley Southerden, 22, 5'7¾", dark brown hair, dark hazel eyes, an oval face, dark complexion, stout, has a sailor, female and three flags on his left arm, is a sailor and single.

He was released to Ticket of Leave on 28 July 1866.

Determined not to stay in Western Australia, Langley escaped again on 17 July 1868, and no further trace of him has been found.¹¹

¹⁰ TNA PCOM2/390; HO24/9

¹¹ Police Gazette, 22 January 1890, p18