

## William Travis, 189, *Mermaid*

Researched by Marcia Watson

William said his mother, Jane Travis, lived at Prince William Street, Liverpool. There were at least two births for a William Travis in 1831, in Liverpool, with a mother called Jane.

He is probably the William Travis, 17, convicted of larceny on 5 February 1849 at Liverpool Borough Sessions and sentenced to five months and whipped.

Then at the Police Court, Liverpool, on 8 October 1849:

Stealing a Watch.—Ann Ringrose was charged with robbing James McKey of his watch in a house in Henderson-street. The case being proved, she was committed for trial. Another prisoner (a boy) who had hurt himself in a fall has yet to be brought up. [It is not clear if the two are connected] <sup>1</sup>

At the Liverpool October Sessions, on 22 October 1849:

The following is a list of the prisoners tried at the October Sessions before Gilbert Henderson, Esq., Recorder, with their respective sentences: Elizabeth Catterall, 15; Jane Carr, 18; William Morton, 16; William Travis, 18; Ann Ringrose, 33, for stealing a watch, &c., the property of James McKee. Catterall received ten months, Carr eleven months, Morton and Ringrose ten months, and Travis, ten years.<sup>2</sup> The Criminal Register said William Travis had a previous conviction for a felony.<sup>3</sup> Another register noted he had been twice convicted and nine times in prison before being transported.

William Travis, 18, single, cannot read or write, a carter, weighed 8 stone 9 pounds, and was received at Millbank Prison on 16 January 1850. He was transferred to Pentonville Prison on 5 March 1850. The Gaol report was good. He embarked on the *Mermaid* on 20 December 1850 for the voyage to Western Australia.

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

189. William Travis, 26, 5'3", light hair, grey eyes, round face, fresh complexion, freckled, single and a carter.

On 21 February 1853, at the Perth police Court, William Travis, t.l. out after hours; fined 6s and 1s costs.<sup>4</sup>

At the Quarter Sessions, on 2 April 1856, William was a witness for the defence in the trial of Alexander Taylor, accused of stealing 10 pieces of timber and 100 bricks, the property of the Queen, at Guildford. William said - About eighteen months ago, I delivered to Mr Taylor several joists 12 to 13 feet long, 5½ to 7½ inches wide and about 2½ deep; I partly built the lean-to to Mr Taylor's house; some of the bricks were brought from Waylen's. I left some bricks at Mr Taylor's for building purposes; they were not old or new. Taylor was found not guilty.<sup>5</sup>

William received a Conditional Pardon on 22 November 1856.

No further trace has been found of William.

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<sup>1</sup> Liverpool Standard and General Commercial Advertiser - Tuesday 09 October 1849, p8

<sup>2</sup> Liverpool Mercury - Tuesday 06 November 1849, p4

<sup>3</sup> HO24/16; HO24/4; PCOM2/63

<sup>4</sup> The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News (WA : 1848 - 1864), 25 February 1853, p2

<sup>5</sup> The Inquirer and Commercial News (Perth, WA : 1855 - 1901), 9 April 1856, p2