

## Richard Whitehorn, 1154, *Marion*

Researched by Marcia Watson

Name variation: Whitehorne, Whittle, Whithorne

Baptism	19 May 1831, Haresfield, Gloucestershire.
Parents	William Whitehorn and Harriett Mills
Parent's marriage	21 September 1826, Haresfield, Gloucestershire
Siblings	Henry (1827), Anne (1829), Eliza (1833), Sarah (1836), Hesther (1838), Thomas (1840), Mary (1843), George (1846), Frederick (1848)

When Richard was baptised at Haresfield, the family lived at Standish. His father, William, was a labourer. By 1833, the family lived at Coldthorpe, often written Colethorp, Coldthrop or Coldthorp.

The 1841 census - All that part of the parish of Standish called Colethorp, which lies to the north and east of the parish of Haresfield, together with a detached part adjoining the parish of Pitchcombe.<sup>1</sup>

Residing at Coldthrop, all within 7 miles of Glebe P.B. were:

William Whitehorne, 35, ag lab and his wife, Harriet, 30.

Children - Anne 12, Richard 10, Eliza 8, Sarah 5, Esther 3, Thomas 1, all born in the county.

The first criminal record for Richard is at the Gloucester City Sessions, on 12 January 1848.

Richard Whittle, imp, 16, larceny from a wharf, sentenced to one week and to be whipped.

Soon after being released from gaol, the newspaper reported a case of stealing bread and cheese. Richard Whittle, aged 16, was charged with stealing a loaf of bread and a pound of cheese, the property of William Scott. This boy was convicted at the preceding sessions of this city of petty theft and sentenced to a short period of imprisonment. Not long after his liberation he went to the shop of the prosecutor, in Longsmith Street, and asked for a sixpenny loaf of bread and pound of cheese, which were placed upon the counter, and on Mrs Scott turning her back to reach a piece of paper to put round the cheese, the prisoner snatched up the cheese and loaf and ran out of the shop and as fast as he could go up the street with his booty under his arm; but being closely followed by a pack of little boys who were playing in the street, and, seeing the transaction, gave chase, and the prisoner, finding himself closely pressed, lightened himself of ballast by dropping the loaf of bread on the ground, and, for the time, effected his escape, whilst his pursuers stopped to pick up the abandoned loaf. He was, however, soon afterwards caught by the police.<sup>2</sup>

At the Gloucester City Sessions on 6 March 1848, Richard was found guilty and sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment.

Then, in March 1849, the newspapers reported: Housebreaking. On Sunday 11 March, the Rev. Niblett, of Haresfield, on returning with his housekeeper to the parish church, was surprised to find several articles of plate strewn upon the floor of his study. He immediately obtained assistance from the village, and, on searching the house, a man was detected concealed under a back dressing room, and in his pocket, a pruning knife belonging to Mr Niblett was found. The fellow, whose name is Richard Whitehorne, belonging to Standish, had entered the house by breaking two panes of glass in the study window, and this unfastened it. He was handed over in custody of a policeman, and on Tuesday was committed for trial at the next Quarter Sessions. Whitehorne was discharged from the Gloucester city prison only at the beginning of the month, after undergoing a year of imprisonment for stealing cheese.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The National Archives (TNA) UK, HO107/378/16, Standish, part 2, Coldthrop.

<sup>2</sup> Gloucester Journal, 11 March 1848, p7

<sup>3</sup> Bristol Mirror, 24 March 1849, p2

Calendar of the Prisoners for Trial at the Easter Sessions to be held at Gloucester on 20 March 1849. No.122. Richard Whitehorn, 17, read imperfectly, committed 13 March 1849 by D.J.Niblett, esq, for breaking and entering the dwelling house of the Rev. E.H. Niblett, at Haresfield, on 11 March, and stealing therefrom a silver spoon and other articles, his property.<sup>4</sup>

Richard was found guilty and sentenced to 7 years' transportation. The Gloucester Gaol register shows that Richard Whitehorn, 17, can read imperfectly, labourer, from Coldthorp, he was 5'5¼", with brown hair, grey eyes, oval face, fresh complexion, cut scar lower right arm, five dots back of left hand, and Anglican He was convicted Easter Sessions on 20 March 1849, seven years transportation. Richard was transferred to Millbank Prison on 13 June 1849. He said his father works for Mr Lewis; my mother also. I have been working for Mr Clifford of Sudbrook, Gloucester. Richard was orderly while in prison.

There was an outbreak of cholera at Millbank Prison, and some of the prisoners were transferred to Shorncliffe in the October-December quarter of 1849, including Richard Whitehorn. On 8 October 1850, he was moved to the *Justitia* hulk at Woolwich. Richard boarded the *Marion* on 22 October 1851 for the voyage to Western Australia.<sup>5</sup>

On arrival at Fremantle, Western Australia, on 30 January 1852, Richard was assigned number 1154, issued with a Ticket of Leave and a physical description was recorded. 1154. Richard Whitehorn, 21, 5'7", dark brown hair, brown eyes, oval face, dark complexion, stout, small scar left corner of mouth, labourer, single.<sup>6</sup>

By December 1851, he had repaid £1.18.5 of his passage money (£7).<sup>7</sup> Presumably, he repaid the rest, as a Conditional Pardon was granted in April 1854. His sentence expired in March 1856.

No further trace has been found of Richard Whitehorn.

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<sup>4</sup> Gloucestershire Archives; Reference: Q/SG2/1841-1860

<sup>5</sup> TNA, HO24/4, PCOM2/30

<sup>6</sup> SROWA, Acc 128/32

<sup>7</sup> TNA, CO18/69