

Denis Williamson, 3645, Adelaide

Researched by Marcia Watson

Denis Williamson, 19, nailer, no fixed abode, was charged with robbery and assault of a farm servant on the last day of the Paisley races, in September 1852. Found guilty at Glasgow Court and with previous convictions, he received 14 years transportation. Denis arrived at Fremantle in 1855.

By 1864, Denis had returned to England. While serving two months in the House of Correction at York, the Prison Governor suspected he was a returned convict and made enquiries with the Home Office. Denis was then when charged with being a returned convict. He said: *that whilst at Fremantle, Swan River, in 1860, and after he had served seven years and six months, he obtained a free pardon, which he threw away when he left the country. He had been "sailing" since then, and he had visited England three times.*

Denis received six years' penal servitude, to commence at the expiration of his former transportation sentence. After a short period in Millbank Prison, he was transferred to Chatham Prison to serve his sentence. Over the next three years, he had his status reduced to Probation class several times for misdemeanours such as refusing to work, stealing a candle or insolence.



In 1869, Denis was transferred back to Millbank to receive a license to be at large. The conditions of the license were:- Preserve his license and produce it when called upon by a magistrate or police officer; abstain from any violation of the law; must not habitually associate with notorious characters, such as thieves and prostitutes; must not lead an idle and dissolute life without visible means of an honest livelihood. If the license is forfeited, he was liable to undergo a term of penal servitude equal to the remaining unexpired sentence when the license was granted. In Denis's case, one year and one month.

Additional information in the 1864-9 records: Denis/Dennis Williamson, *alias* John Craig, 31, was a Roman Catholic but Protestant on reception at Millbank in 1864. He also had syphilis. Denis did not name a next of kin. The London Aid Society was to assist him when released. No further information has been found.

Photo from PCOM3/248 on Findmypast.com