

June 1849. At the Court House, Bradford, a young man named John Wood, was charged with having, on the 2 June, stolen a horse, the property of Mr Richard Atkinson, of Yeadon, and also with having, on the 21 June, stolen a pony, the property of Mr Thomas Manby, of Bilton-with-Harrogate.

The prosecutor in the first case, Mr Richard Atkinson, is a farmer, publican, and post-master, at Yeadon. The prisoner was formerly in his service. On the 2 June, a youth in the prosecutor's service was in the course of his round, on horseback, delivering letters in the township of Yeadon, when he was overtaken by the prisoner who requested to be permitted to ride the horse. The young man consented to allow the prisoner to ride the horse forward to the next public house. On reaching there some time afterwards, he ascertained that the prisoner had not been there. The horse was the same day sold by the prisoner in Vicar's Croft, Leeds, to one George Porter, a cab driver, for £6 and afterwards found at Bradford.

On the 21 June, the prisoner hired a pony of Mr Thomas Manby, of Bilton-with-Harrogate, on the pretence that he was going on an errand to Beckwithshaw, a village in that neighbourhood. The prisoner never returned, and it was found that on the following day, he sold the pony at Charlestown, near Baildon, to Mr Samuel Mortimer, for £3.

The prisoner was also charged with stealing a watch, the property of James Hobson, of Morton Banks. The prosecutor is in the employ of Mr Rishworth, maltster of Morton Banks, and sleeps in a cottage adjoining his premises. About eleven o'clock on the night of 1 June, he was aroused by the prisoner, who requested to be permitted to sit by the fire. The prisoner had been in service in the neighbourhood, and the prosecutor was not aware that he had been discharged. His request was granted, and in the night, the prisoner left the house, taking away the prosecutor's watch, which he afterwards sold for 7s to Mr Thomas Burroughs, watchmaker of Yeadon. John was committed to York Castle for trial at the assizes. <sup>1</sup>

At the Yorkshire Summer Assizes, on 14 July 1849:

John Wood, 25, who could not read or write, was case 133 of 157 cases being tried at the Assizes. He was indicted for burglary at Morton and horse stealing at Yeadon and Bilton-with-Harrogate.

John pleaded guilty to having:

1. Stealing a silver watch on the 2 June from the dwelling house of James Hobson, at Morton.
2. At Yeadon on 2 June, stolen a gelding, the property of Richard Atkinson.
3. On 21 June at Bilton-with-Harrogate, stolen a mare, the property of Thomas Manby. <sup>2</sup>

He was sentenced to 15 years transportation.

John was received at Wakefield Prison on 26 November 1849 from York Castle. He was transferred to Portland Prison on 18 July 1850 and embarked on the *Mermaid* on 28 December 1850.

On arrival at Fremantle in May 1851, his description was:

307. John Woods, 26, 5'6", light hair, grey eyes, round face, fresh complexion, cut on second finger of the left hand, a farm labourer and single.

John presented himself as sick on 22 June 1851. No cause was given, but it was a Sunday. Perhaps he did not want to go to church.

He received a ticket of leave on 7 January 1853 and a Conditional Pardon on 12 January 1856.

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<sup>1</sup> Bradford Observer, 28 June 1849, p5

<sup>2</sup> York Herald, 28 July 1849, p7; Calendar of Prisoners, York Quarter Sessions, Y/ORD/1/1 - 1842-1851