



## *Prison Registers in Institutions And Organisations*

Prisons were often in old buildings, such as castles. They tended to be damp, unhealthy, insanitary and over-crowded. All kinds of prisoners were mixed in together, men, women, children; the insane; serious criminals and petty criminals; people awaiting trial; and debtors. Each prison was run by the gaoler in his own way. He made up the rules. If

you could pay, you could buy extra privileges, such as private rooms, better food, more visitors, keeping pets, letters going in and out, and books to read. If you could not, the basic fare was grim. You even had to pay the gaoler to be let out when your sentence was finished.

Law and order was a major issue in Victorian Britain. Victorians were worried about the huge new cities that had grown up following the Industrial Revolution – how were the masses to be kept under control? They were worried about rising crime. They could see that transporting convicts to Australia was not the answer and by the 1830s Australia was complaining that they did not want to be the dumping-ground for Britain's criminals.

Discovering your ancestor in prison records doesn't necessarily make them a hardened criminal, nineteenth century law was harsh and children as well as adults were imprisoned for minor misdemeanours. These records are often very detailed and can include physical descriptions of height, weight and eye colour.

### **Accused - Mary Ann Allen**

### **Victim - None Named**

Accused	Surname	Given Names	Age	Trade or Occupation	Degree of Instruction
	Allen	Mary Ann	56	Dressmaker	Read and Write imperfectly
Alias			Date of Birth		Place of Birth
			Year	Date	
		1820			
Physical Description					
Height	Complexion	Hair	Eyes	Affliction	Marks, Tattoos or Scars
Committing Magistrates	Surname	Given Name	Title	Address	
	Saunders	T. B.	Esq.	The Priory, Bradford	
Name of Victim or Victims					
Surname	Given Names	Surname	Given Names	Surname	Given Names
Date of Warrant	1875	14-Dec	When Received into Custody	1875	15-Dec
Details of Trial					
Date of Trial	1876	05-Jan	Quarter Session Court		
Offence as Charged in the Commitment					
Being Bailee of ten yards of bed tick, unlawfully did convert the same to her own use, at Bradford, on the 10 December 1875					
Before Whom Tried	Surname	Given Names	Title		
	Chaloner	T.	Esq.		

<b>Verdict of Jury</b>	Pleaded guilty of converting to her own use a chattel of which she was Bailee				
<b>Particulars of Previous Convictions Charged in the Indictment and Proved in Court</b>					
<b>Sentence or Order of the Court</b>	Imprisonment with hard labour for two calendar months in the County Prison			<b>Prison to Which Sentenced</b>	
				Devizes	
<b>Dates when Penal Servitude Ended or Supervision Commenced or Liberation</b>					
<b>Penal Servitude</b>		<b>Supervision Commenced</b>		<b>Liberation</b>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Intended Address on Release</b>				<b>Intended Occupation upon release</b>	
<b>Other Crimes Committed and Sentence Received</b>					
<b>Other Crimes Committed and Sentence Received</b>					