



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.

Frank Angell or Edwards 1913-1914

	Surname	Given Names	Age	Trade or Occupation	Degree of Instruction			
Accused	Angell	Frank	37	Dealer				
	Alias Edwards							
Birth Year	1877							
	Surname	Given Name	Title	Address				
Committing Magistrate (1)	Harris	H.G.	Esq.	Castle House, Calne				
Committing Magistrate (2)	Coles	J. C.	Esq.	Chippenham				
Name of Victim (1)	Joyce	Eva Laura						
Name of Victim (2)								
Date of Warrant	1913	24-Oct						
When Received into Custody	Surrendered from bail court		Date of Trial	1914	06-Jan			
Offence as Charged in the Commitment	Unlawfully and indecently, did assault and ill-treat Eva Laura Joyce on 8th October 1913							
	Surname	Given Names	Title					
Before Whom Tried	Colston	C. E .H. A.	Esq.					
Verdict of Jury	Not Guilty of Indecent Assault - Discharged							
Sentence or								

Order of the Court						
Other crimes Committed	Nil					