



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 - Emerson Lewis Bartholomew

Victim - Rose Pavis

Accused	Surname	Given Names	Age	Trade or Occupation	Degree of Instruction	
	Bartholomew	Emerson Lewis	18	Labourer		
Alias			Date of Birth		Place of Birth	
			Year	Date		
			1896	04-May	Great Bedwyn	
Physical Description						
Height	Complexion	Hair	Eyes	Affliction	Marks, Tattoos or Scars	
Committing Magistrates	Surname	Given Name	Title	Address		
	Morrison	J.	Esq.	Ardle Bank, Marlborough		
Name of Victim or Victims						
Surname	Given Names	Surname	Given Names	Surname	Given Names	
Date of Warrant	1914	When Received into Custody	01-Aug	1914	14-Oct Surrendered	
Details of Trial						
Date of Trial	1914	Quarter Session Court	14-Oct	Salisbury		
Offence as Charged in the Commitment						
Unlawfully did attempt to have unlawful carnal knowledge of a certain girl, under the age of 13 years, to wit Rose Pavis at Burbage on the 25th July 1914						
Before Whom Tried	Surname	Given Names		Title		
	Atkin			Mr. Justice		
Verdict of	Confessed attempted carnal knowledge of girl under 12					

Jury					
Particulars of Previous Convictions Charged in the Indictment and Proved in Court					
Sentence or Order of the Court	3 months imprisonment			Prison to Which Sentenced	
Dates when Penal Servitude Ended or Supervision Commenced or Liberation					
Penal Servitude		Supervision Commenced		Liberation	
Year	Date	Year	Date	Year	Date
Intended Address on Release				Intended Occupation upon release	
Other Crimes Committed and Sentence Received					