



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.

John Amey

	Surname	Given Names	Age	Trade or Occupation	Degree of Instruction				
Accused	Amey	John	21	Soldier	Read And write imperfectly				
Birth Year									
	Surname	Given Name	Title	Address					
Committing Magistrate (1)	Swayne	H. J. F., Esq.		Wilton					
Committing Magistrate (2)									
Date of Warrant	1869	13th April							
When Received into Custody	1869	13th April		Date of Trial	1869	30th June			
Offence as Charged in the Commitment	Feloniously stealing a horse, the property of Malachi Martin and another, at the parish of Martin, on the 31st August 1868								
	Surname	Given Names	Title						
Before Whom Tried	Hussey	James, Esq.		The Close Salisbury. Chairman of the second Court					
Verdict of Jury	Pleaded guilty of horse stealing								
Particulars of Previous Convictions Charged in the Indictment and Proved in Court									
Sentence or Order of the Court	Imprisonment with hard labour for six calendar months in the prison at Devizes								