



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.

Alfred Andow or Jennings 1914

	Surname	Given Names	Age	Trade or Occupation	Degree of Instruction		
Accused	Andow	Alfred	40	Labourer			
Alias	Jenning	Alfred					
Birth Year							
	Surname	Given Name	Title	Address			
Committing Magistrate (1)	King	W .E.	Esq.	Donhead Lodge, Salisbury			
Committing Magistrate (2)							
Name of Victim (1)	Hoole	Frederick William					
Name of Victim (2)	Follett	William					
Date of Warrant	1914	30-May					
When Received into Custody	1914	16-May	On Remand	Date of Trial	1914	30- Jun	
Offence as Charged in the Commitment	Feloniously and burglariously did break and enter the dwelling house of Frederick William Hoole, and therein feloniously and burglariously did steal a certain quantity of cigarettes, of the goods and chattels of the said Frederick William Hoole, at Alvediston, on the 14th May, 1914 Feloniously and burglariously did break and enter the dwelling house of William Follett and therein feloniously and burglariously did steal a bottle whiskey, and the sum of 18s. 5½d. in money, the property of the said William Follett at Berwick St. John, on the 14th May, 1914						
Before Whom Tried	Surname	Given Names	Title				

	Radcliffe		Judge, His Honour, K.C	
Verdict of Jury	Pleaded Guilty of Burglary after previous conviction			
Particulars of Previous Convictions Charged in the Indictment and Proved in Court	Oxfordshire Quarter Sessions 1st July 1913			
Sentence or Order of the Court	Prisoner received two sentences for the above crime 2 Calendar months hard labour for both crimes to be served concurrently			
Other Crimes Committed	3 Months: Somerset Assizes, 18th Jan 1908 (Burglary, 5 Indictments)			
	5 Months: West Sussex Quarter Sessions 22nd Oct 1908 (Burglary as Alfred Jennings)			
	12 Months: Taunton Quarter Sessions, 30 June 1909 (Burglary etc)			
	18 Months: Wells Quarter Sessions 19th Oct, 1910 (Burglary etc)			
	4 Months: Hard Labour, Oxon Quarter Sessions 1st July 1913 (Housebreaking and Stealing food)			