



## *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.

	Surname	Given Names	Age	Trade or Occupation	Degree of Instruction		
<b>Accused</b>	Baker or Miller	Charles	32	Ships Cook			
<b>Birth Year</b>	1878						
	Surname	Given Name	Title	Address			
<b>Committing Magistrate (1)</b>	Hinwood	T. L.	Esq.	Ferndale Terrace, Malmesbury			
<b>Court</b>	Marlborough						
<b>Name of Victim (1)</b>	Burt	Sidney C.					
<b>Date of Warrant</b>	1910	14-Sep					
<b>When Received into Custody</b>	1910	16-Sep	On Remand	<b>Date of Trial</b>	1910	11-Oct	
<b>Offence as Charged in the Commitment</b>	Feloniously did break and enter the warehouse of the Great Western Railway Company and therein feloniously did steal the sum, of £1 0s. 2d. of the moneys of Sidney C. Burt, and the sum of 3s.4d. of the moneys of the Great Western Railway Company, at Malmesbury, The Abbey, on the 3rd September 1910						
	Surname	Given Names	Title				
<b>Before Whom Tried</b>	Colston	C. E. H. A.	Esq.				
<b>Verdict of Jury</b>	Confessed to Warehouse breaking after previous conviction						
<b>Particulars of Previous Convictions Charged in the Indictment and Proved in Court</b>	Borough of Abingdon Petty sessions 10th March 1909						
<b>Sentence or Order of the Court</b>	6 Calendar months hard labour						

<b>Other crimes Committed</b>	21 Days by H. L. Molton at the Petty Sessions on 20th March 1905 (stealing a cake) as Charles Miller. 6 weeks Hard Labour at Abingdon Petty Sessions on 10th March 1909 (stealing a pair of boots) Taken into custody summarily for begging and travelling on railway not having paid his fare from 1905 to 1910
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