



## *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>	Barnard	Benjamin	57	Labourer			
<b>Birth Year</b>	1857						
	Surname	Given Name	Title	Address			
<b>Committing Magistrate (1)</b>	Williams	S. S.	Esq.	Harnham House, Salisbury			
<b>Committing Magistrate (2)</b>	Macklin	J.	Esq..	Salisbury			
<b>Court</b>	Marlborough						
	Name of Victim (1)	Name of Victim (2)	Date of Warrant	When Received into Custody	Date of Trial		
	Jackson	John	1914	08-Sep	On remand	1914	09-Oct
<b>Name of Victim (1)</b>	Jackson	John	Sir; Ltd.				
<b>Name of Victim (2)</b>							
<b>Date of Warrant</b>	1914	08-Sep					
<b>When Received into Custody</b>	1914	03-Sep	On remand	<b>Date of Trial</b>	1914	09-Oct	
<b>Offence as Charged in the Commitment</b>	Feloniously did steal, take and carry away a box containing twelve tins, each containing six pounds weight of pressed corned beef, of the goods and chattels of Sir John Jackson, Ltd on the 22nd September 1914						
	Surname	Given Names	Title				
<b>Before Whom Tried</b>	Colston	Charles Edward Hungerford	Esq.	Roundway Park Devizes Chairman of the second Court			
<b>Verdict of Jury</b>	Guilty of Larceny						
<b>Particulars of Previous Convictions Charged in the Indictment and Proved in Court</b>							
<b>Sentence or Order of the Court</b>	Bound in his own recognizance in £5 to appear and hear judgment when called on within six calendar months, and be of good behaviour and discharged						
<b>Other crimes Committed</b>							