

William Calderhead, 608, *Pyrenees*

Researched by Marcia Watson

William Calderhead was born in 1833 in the West Indies, probably Barbados. Prison records show that he lived most of his life in Scotland, but he was not found on the 1841 census.

His mother was Ann Tait or Calderhead, and from prison records, William appears to have 1 or 2 siblings.

At the High Court of Justiciary, on 13 December 1847:

William Calderhead and Thomas McCafferie were convicted of stealing a cotton gown. The former, being by habit and repute a thief, was sentenced to seven years' transportation. Thomas was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment.¹

The Scottish Criminal Index shows:

William Calderhead, typefounder, Toddrick's Wynd, High Street, Edinburgh, Midlothian, crime was theft by habit and repute at Keir Street, Edinburgh. However, on other prison records, William has no trade or occupation.

Thomas McCaffrey, his co-accused, was a printing press operator, St Mary's Wynd, Edinburgh.²

Prison Registers show William Calderhead, 15, single, can read and write imperfectly, has no occupation, was convicted 13 December 1847 at Edinburgh of theft and previous conviction, and was sentenced to seven years. He was received at Millbank Prison on 7 January 1848 from Edinburgh. William had been convicted 9 times previously (six thefts, one disorderly and two vagrancy). On 8 February 1848, he was removed to Parkhurst Prison from where he boarded the *Pyrenees* for the voyage to Fremantle, Western Australia, on 13 March 1851.³

William was in prison numerous times as follows. All the places of residence are close to each other, in the old part of Edinburgh.

¹ Caledonian Mercury, 16 December 1847, p4

² Scotland, NRS Reference AD14/47/589; JC26/1847/701

³ The National Archives (TNS) UK: HO24/115; PCOM2/28; HO24/4

Date	Committed by	Name	Age	Born	Resides	Most of life in	Height	Complexion	Hair	Eyes	Offence
6 December 1841	Police	Ann Tait or Calderhead and 2 children	31	West Indies	James Court	Scotland	5'0"	Fair	Brown	Grey	Vagrants
6 December 1841	Police	William Calderhead	9	Scotland	James Court	Scotland	3'10"	Fair	Dark	Grey	Vagrant
3 February 1842	Magistrate	William Calderhead	8	West Indies	Lawn Market	Scotland	3'6"	Fair	Brown	Brown	Theft [with William or Wilson Cowie 8]
2 March 1842	Police	William Calderhead	9	East Indies	Lawn Market	Edinburgh	4'1"	Fair	Brown	Grey	Theft by housebreaking of 8 Plum cakes [with Wilson Cowie, 8 and John Shearer, 12] #
19 August 1842	Police	Ann Tait or Calderhead or Rice and child	33	Barbados	Lawn Market	Scotland	5' ½"	Sallow	Light	Dark	Vagrant
19 August 1842	Police	William Calderhead	10	Barbados	Lawn Market	Scotland	4'2"	Fair	Brown	Dark	Vagrant
30 September 1842	Police	Ann Tait or Calderhead and children	33	West Indies	Lawn Market	Edinburgh	5'1"	Sallow	Brown	Grey	Vagrant
16 December 1842	Police	William Calderhead	10	West Indies	Lawn Market	Scotland	4'3½"	Fair	Brown	Hazel	Theft [with David Somerville, 11 and Alexander Somerville, 14]
18 December 1845	Bailie in Police Court	William Calderhead	12	West Indies	Edinburgh	Edinburgh	5'1"	Pale	Black	Hazel	Theft
24 July 1846	Bailie in Police Court	William Calderhead	15	Edinburgh	High Street	Edinburgh	4'9"	Dark	Brown	Grey	Theft
12 November 1847	Sheriff Police Court	William Calderhead	13	West Indies	Grassmarket	Edinburgh	5'0"	Dark	Dark Brown	Hazel	Theft [with Thomas McCaffrey, 15]
13 November 1847	Sheriff	William Calderhead	15	West Indies	Toddicks Wynd	Edinburgh	4'11"	Fair	Brown	Grey	Theft of a gown [with Thomas McCaffrae ,15]

Also possibly with David Somerville, 10 - record unclear.

Records from Scotland's People, Prison Registers

On arrival at Fremantle, Western Australia, on 28 June 1851, William was assigned number 608, issued with a Ticket of Leave and a description taken.

608. William Calderhead, 18, 5'6½", dark brown hair, hazel eyes, long face, fresh complexion, stout, flattened nose, labourer and single. ⁴

The Superintendent's Journal shows:

16 July 1851. The following 71 men will be received from the ship *Pyrenees*, and located in No. 3 division of the prison, including 608 Wm Calderhead.

22 July 1851. 40 men with their trades proceeding this day to York, including 608 Wm Calderhead, farm labourer. ⁵

Within the next few months, William was in trouble again. On the Half-Yearly Returns of Magisterial sentences on Ticket of leave holders ending December 1851:

608 William Calderhead, convicted of disobedience at York, had his Ticket of Leave temporarily suspended. He returned to Perth Prison. ⁶

William appears in the Superintendent's Journal on:

10 December 1851. No. 608 William Calderhead and No. 542 Robert Grundy, received this day from Fresh Water Bay.

6 January 1852. No. 608 William Calderhead will be sent up the country when opportunity offers.

15 January 1852. No. 608 William Calderhead and 594 William McCarty will be released from the Association and forwarded to Fresh Water Bay under the charge of overseer McGall. ⁷

A Conditional Pardon was granted in June 1853, and his sentence expired in December 1854.

No further information found on William Calderhead in Australia or his mother in Edinburgh.

⁴ SROWA, Acc 128/32

⁵ SROWA, Superintendent Orders, So1-So3, p61, 66

⁶ TNA, CO18/69.

⁷ SROWA, Superintendents Orders, So1-So3, p116, 117, 128, 133