

These early encounters with the law might be the same James Douglas.

Midsummer Quarter Sessions, Scarborough, 5 July 1837

James Douglas was charged with stealing a silver watch. No bill found.¹

Scarborough Easter Sessions, 27 March 1839

James Douglas and Joseph Cook were next brought up, charged with feloniously entering Mr George Taylor's butcher's shop, and stealing therefrom a quantity of beef, and offering the same for sale. Douglas was sentenced to twelve months' hard labour at Northallerton, and Cook to one month.²

Then, at the Michaelmas Quarter Sessions for the Borough of Scarborough, held at the Town Hall, on Monday, 23 October 1848.

James Douglas, aged 33, and Samuel Ward, aged 24, were charged with stealing 5 shillings from the person of Thomas Kelly, a second-hand dealer. Douglas, having been previously convicted, was sentenced to seven years' transportation, and Ward to be imprisoned for nine calendar months, with hard labour.³

Scarbro', departure of prisoners.

On Wednesday, 1 November 1848, the following prisoners, committed at the recent quarter sessions, were conveyed from the borough gaol in the custody of the chief police constable. James Douglas, to York Castle, previously to being removed to the penal settlements for seven years' transportation; Saml Ward to the House of Correction, at Northallerton for nine months.⁴

The Prison Registers show that James Douglas, 33, single, can read, labourer, stealing money from the person, was convicted at Scarborough on 23 October 1848 and sentenced to 7 years. He was received at Leicester Prison on 11 April 1849 from York Castle. James had been previously convicted of felony and three times summarily. On 5 April 1850, he was transferred to the *Warrior* hulk at Woolwich. Gaolers of the Prison and hulk said James's character was "a very decent man" and "exemplary, a well-disposed man, a Warder". From the *Warrior* hulk, he boarded the *Pyrenees* on 5 March 1851 for the voyage to Western Australia.⁵

On arrival in Fremantle, Western Australia, on 28 June 1851, James was assigned number 424, issued with a Ticket of Leave and a physical description was recorded.

424. James Douglas, 35, 5'7", dark brown hair, blue eyes, oval face, sallow complexion, slight stature, right arm short, scar on left leg, labourer, single, no children.⁶

The Superintendent's Journal shows:

1 July 1851. The first 50 men from the ship *Pyrenees* will be received at the Prison and located in No 3 Division, including 424 James Douglas.⁷

The newspapers reported, later in July, Ticket-of-Leave-Men at North Fremantle Station, available for hire, included 424, James Douglas, Agricultural Labourer.⁸

James had already been hired, as the Perth District Ticket of Leave Register shows.⁹

¹ Hull Packet, 07 July 1837, p3

² Hull Advertiser, 05 April 1839, p3

³ Hull Packet, 27 October 1848, p5

⁴ York Herald, 04 November 1848, p3

⁵ The National Archives (TNA) UK, HO8/107; HO23/4. SROWA, Acc 1156/R1A-R1B

⁶ SROWA, Acc 128/32

⁷ SROWA, Superintendent's Orders, So1-So3, p45

⁸ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 25 July 1851, p2

424. James Douglas, 35, *Pyrenees*

Trade or Calling: Farm labourer

James was hired by William Finlay, Freshwater Bay, on 22 July 1851.

Wages: £1 per month.

On 9 August 1851, a 14-day pass to Fremantle to boat firewood from Freshwater Bay.

September 1851, reported by Mrs Finlay to have voluntarily returned to the Establishment at Fremantle.

James appeared at the Perth Police Court on 13 November 1852. He had been found sleeping in an outhouse after hours: dismissed with costs.¹⁰

30 November 1852. James was engaged by William Budge for 6 months at £1.3s per month.

He returned to the Establishment under punishment for 1 month on 1 March 1853 and returned 1 April 1853.

His punishment was for being out after hours, breaking into Mr Towton's house, and resisting the police. He was tried at Perth on 26 February 1853 and sent to the Establishment for one month.¹¹

The Prison records show:

1 March 1853. 424 James Douglas received at the Prison from Perth.

1 April 1853. 424. Jas Douglas was discharged from Prison.

He obtained a Conditional Pardon on 5 April 1853, according to the Perth Ticket of Leave Register.

At the Perth Police Court on 25 January 1854, James Douglas t.l. was charged with forcibly entering the dwelling-house of Catherine Smith and was fined 5s.¹²

What became of James Douglas is unknown.

There is a James Douglas buried in the East Perth Cemetery that might be him:

James Douglas died at Perth, date of death unknown, aged 60, cause of death unknown, and was buried on 20 November 1871.

⁹ SROWA, Perth TOL Register Cons 1386/1 1851 - Aug 1854, p56

¹⁰ Inquirer, 2 December 1852, p3

¹¹ Inquirer, 2 March 1853, p3

¹² Inquirer, 8 February 1854, p1