

William Hill or Hills was born in 1796-8 in Essex. The first record found for William Hills dates back to 1837.

Essex Adjourned Sessions, Chelmsford, 28 November 1837.

William Hills, 39, a labourer, was indicted for stealing three pigs belonging to Colonel Kersteman at Canewdon.

Abraham Spooner, examined. I live at Steeple. On 11 November, the prisoner asked me to lend him a pail to give his pigs some water. I asked him whose they were, and he said they were his. If he did not sell them, he should drive them to Bradwell. He asked 36 shillings for the three. They were put into my mother's stable, and I agreed to buy them, but suspecting they were stolen, I did not pay him the money. I told him of my suspicion, and he said he bought them of Mr Gale, of Fambridge Hall.

The constable of Steeple, brother of the last witness, asked the prisoner about the pigs, and told him if there was anything wrong to say so. The prisoner said they belonged to a gentleman who would never miss them, for he had lost some before and had not missed them. He afterwards said they belonged to Col. Kersteman, at Canewdon. Witness observed they had been driven a long way, and prisoner replied they had been driven 30 miles.

W. Clarke, servant to Col. Kersteman, proved going to Spooner's at Steeple, and identifying the pigs belonging to his master. Guilty. Six months' hard labour. ¹

William appears to have kept out of trouble until 1848.

Maldon. 4 December 1848.

Wm. Hills, labourer, Burnham, was charged before Joseph Pattisson, Esq. with stealing pig, some carpenter's tools, and quantity of potatoes, the property of Mr. George Cox, carpenter, of Burnham. The prisoner was seen by the wife of the prosecutor putting the pig into a cart on the previous Saturday evening. When questioned about it, he said he intended to bring the money to Mr Cox. The tools and potatoes were found in the prisoner's lodgings by Inspector Rance. Committed to Springfield Gaol for trial. ²

Crown Court, Chelmsford, 2 January 1849.

William Hills, 52, a labourer, was convicted of stealing a pig, the property of George Cox, at Burnham, and sentenced to seven years' transportation; a second charge was withdrawn. ³

Removal of transports. On Saturday, 28 April 1849, the following convicts for transportation were removed from the county gaol, Springfield, in pursuance of their sentences, as follows: William Hills, 52, for stealing a pig at Burnham. ⁴

The Prison Registers show that Wm Hills, 53, larceny by a servant, convicted 2 January 1849 at Chelmsford, and sentenced to 7 years. William had once been convicted of stealing pigs. He was received at Millbank Prison on 28 April 1849 from Springfield Gaol. After eight months, he was transferred to the *Stirling Castle* hulk at Portsmouth. William was born in Essex, had dark hair, blue eyes, a large nose and mouth, a fresh complexion, a long face, was stout, single, 5'5" tall, a labourer, had no marks and could not read or write. He had a sister living in Hulthorne [Althorne], Essex. William boarded the *Pyrenees* on 10 March 1851. ⁵

¹ Essex Standard , 01 December 1837, p2; Chelmsford Chronicle, 01 December 1837, p3

² Chelmsford Chronicle, 15 December 1848, p4

³ Chelmsford Chronicle, 05 January 1849, p3

⁴ Chelmsford Chronicle, 04 May 1849, p4

⁵ The National Archives (TNA) UK, PCOM2/134, HO24/4

On arrival at Fremantle, Western Australia, William was assigned number 490, issued with a Ticket of Leave and a physical description was recorded.

490. William Hills, 53, 5'4½", dark grey hair, hazel eyes, long face, dark complexion, bald crown of head, missing three teeth, very hairy, a labourer and single. ⁶

4 July 1851. The following prisoners will be received from the ship *Pyrenees* and located in Division No. 3. 45 men from the York hulk at Gosport, and 12 men from the Stirling Castle hulk, including William Hills, 490.

7 July 1851. The following men holding passes will be detached from the Establishment and proceed to Mount Eliza Station by boat on 10 July. The men will be assigned to a Mess that will include a Boatswain and 6-7 men. Mess number 3 included the boatswain, a clerk and 7 other men, including 490. William Hills. ⁷

Ticket-of-Leave-Men at Mount Eliza Station, available for hire:
490 William Hill, Ploughman. ⁸

By the end of December 1852, William had paid back £7 10s of his passage money. ⁹
The following year, he received a Conditional Pardon on 23 April 1853.

William led a trouble-free life in Western Australia. He appears to have died in 1885 and was buried in the East Perth Cemetery.

An inmate of the Invalid Depôt, named Wm. Hill, died at the institution on Saturday last, having reached the extreme patriarchal age of 90 years.

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East Perth Cemetery:

William HILL, died on 19 December 1885, buried on 20 December 1885, aged 89.

⁶ SROWA, Acc 128/32

⁷ SROWA, Superintendents Orders, So1-So3, p51-2, 53

⁸ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 18 July 1851, p2

⁹ TNA, CO18/69

¹⁰ The Daily News, 21 December 1885, p3