

Born	27 May 1810
Baptism	2 September 1810, St Mary, Everton with Tetworth, Bedfordshire
Parents	William and Elizabeth
Parent's marriage	
Siblings	Thomas (~1819), James (~1822), John (~1822)
Wife	Mary Bumbery
Married	16 March 1837, Potton, Bedfordshire
Children	Eliza Bumbery (1834, step-daughter), Thomas (1837-1839), Fanny (1840), Elizabeth/Betsy (1841), Mary (1845), Thomas (1848)

William Mace married Mary Bumbery on 16 March 1837, Potton, Bedfordshire.

At the time, Mary had a daughter, Eliza Bumbery, baptised on 2 April 1835 at Potton.

William appears to have a reputation as he was committed to the House of Correction in March 1839 by the Rev J Hull, for three calendar months hard labour, as a rogue and vagabond.¹

1841 census, Moons Corner, Potton, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire.²

Mary Mace 23, Eliza Bumbery 7, Fanny Mace 2, Elizabeth Mace 5 months, all born in the county.

In October 1841, after the census was taken in June, a newspaper reported assaults on Constables. Wm Mace was indicted for an assault on a policeman. Wm Burns, police 18, deposed that in May last he had a warrant for the apprehension of the prisoner. On the night of 10 May, he saw him coming out of a field near Everton and told him he had a warrant for him. Prisoner said, "Is there nobody about but you? for I shan't go with you, without you are a better man than myself". He had a fork in his hand, and when the witness went to take him, he struck it through his coat into his belly. He let go of the prisoner, who then made his escape. Guilty, six months' imprisonment.³

The Bedfordshire Gaol Index adds more information:

William Mace, 31, 5'4", can read, born Everton, resides Potton, committed on 13 October 1841 for assaulting a constable, tried Michaelmas Session, and sentenced to 6 months hard labour.⁴

Then, in 1843, the three Mace brothers were involved in a disturbance. Wm Mace and John Mace of Everton were charged with attempting to rescue Thomas Mace from the custody of J Forrester and Wm Bakewell, police officers. It appeared that the constables were compelled, on account of the threats and violence of the mob, in which the prisoners were most active, to leave their prisoner in the custody of the parish constable of Everton, who allowed him to escape, discharged with a reprimand.⁵

Just over two months later, William Mace, of Potton, was charged with having in his possession a great coat, belonging to Samuel Manning of Sandy. The prisoner was remanded for further examination at Bedford. 1843.⁶

The Gaol Index adds:

William Mace, 33, can't read or write, born Everton, resides Potton, received 21 June 1843 and committed on 24 June for stealing a great coat, tried Midsummer Session and sentenced to 1 year hard labour, prison work – Mill. Discharged on 26 June 1844.⁷

¹ Bedfordshire Mercury, 02 March 1839, p4

² The National Archives (TNA) UK: HO107/2/23

³ Northampton Mercury, 23 October 1841, p2; Cambridge Independent Press, 23 October 1841, p4

⁴ Bedfordshire Archives and Records Service, BLARS QGV10/2, record 6761 <https://apps.bedford.gov.uk/grd/>

⁵ Hertford Mercury and Reformer, 08 April 1843, p3

⁶ Hertford Mercury and Reformer, 24 June 1843, p3

In 1848, stealing wheat at Potton:

William Mace, aged 30 (sic), was a labourer in Potton and was indicted for stealing on 30 March four bushels of wheat of the value of 15s, the property of John Skinner of Potton.

Mr Tozer conducted the prosecution and Mr Fitzpatrick the defence.

Several witnesses were called and cross-examined, also Policeman Shaw, who stated that he searched the prisoner's house three times, once in October, and November 1847 and 30 March 1848, there was no wheat in the house the first and second time he searched.

Two female witnesses deposed that they had seen the wheat in the prisoner's house some considerable time, but the evidence of these witnesses was much doubted. The prisoner was found guilty, and he, having been previously convicted of a felony, was sentenced to seven years' transportation.⁸

The Gaol index adds:

William Mace, 30 (sic), can't read or write, committed 4 April 1848 for stealing wheat, sentenced to 7 years transportation, removed to Millbank Prison 22 May 1848, very good conduct.⁹

The Prison Registers record that William Mace, 40, stealing wheat & previous conviction, convicted on 4 April 1848 at Bedford, sentenced to 7 years. William was received at Millbank Prison on 22 May 1848 from Bedford Gaol, and on 3 January 1849, was removed to *York* hulk at Gosport.

His physical description shows he had brown hair, hazel eyes, sallow complexion, oval face, stout, 5'4¼", labourer, was Protestant, born Everton, married with 5 children. He has a very hairy breast, on left arm an anchor, flags, wreaths; scar on left wrist & left thumb; very hairy back; scars on shoulder and back of neck; 2 scars on right cheek and one on right wrist; right arm anchor. His wife Mary 35, Eliza 15, Fanny 8, Mary 3, Thomas 14 months, living at Potton, Bedfordshire. William boarded the *Pyrenees* from the *York* hulk on 10 March 1851 for the voyage to Western Australia.¹⁰

On arrival at Fremantle, Western Australia, on 28 June 1851, William was assigned number 475, issued with a Ticket of Leave and a physical description was recorded.

475. William Mace, 43, 5'4¾", dark brown hair, brown eyes, long face, fair complexion, anchor on right and left arms, cross, calons, wreath, scars on leg, hair all over, labourer, married with 6 (sic) children.¹¹

The Superintendent's Journal shows:

4 July 1851. The following prisoners will be received from the *Pyrenees* and located in division No. 3 - 45 men from *York* hulk, Gosport and 12 men from *Stirling Castle* hulk, including 475. William Mace.

12 July 1851. George Brain and William Mace will (bottom of page missing)¹²

By June 1852, William had paid £4.15 towards the cost of his passage to Western Australia. He added £4 cash in December 1852, making a total of £6.15 paid. A Conditional Pardon was granted on 23 April 1853, and no further payments for the cost of passage were found.¹³

There was an unclaimed letter for William Mace at the GPO on 26 January 1854.¹⁴ Perhaps it was from his wife telling him she was moving to London.

No further information found on William Mace.

⁷ Bedfordshire Archives and Records Service, BLARS QGV10/2, record 7275; BLARS QGV11/2, record 15100

⁸ Bucks Gazette, 08 April 1848, p3

⁹ Bedfordshire Archives and Records Service, BLARS QGV10/2, record 8554

¹⁰ TNA: PCOM2/136; HO24/4

¹¹ SROWA, Acc 123/32

¹² SROWA, Superintendents Orders So1-So3, p52, p56.

¹³ Convict Establishment Half Year Returns (AJCP Trove)

¹⁴ Western Australian Government Gazette, 31 Jan 1854

Family in England

1851 census, Horselow Street, Potton:

Mary Mace, head, 36, on parish relief, Fanny, 11, Betsy, 10, Mary 5, Thomas 3, and Edmond Bumbery, father, widower, 66, shoemaker. ¹⁵

By 1861, Eliza and her family had moved to London.

1861 census, 22 Bemerton Street, Islington, London:

Mary Mace, head, widow, 45, needlewoman, born Wrestlingworth, Bedfordshire, Mary Mace, daughter, 16, servant, born Potton, Thomas, son, 14, errand boy, born Potton. ¹⁶

Fanny Mace was a servant in Clerkenwell, St James.

Elizabeth Mace married William James Bumbery in London in 1865.

1871 census, 22 Bemerton St, Islington, five apartments at this address:

Mary Mace, head, widow, 57, needlewoman, born Wrestlingworth, Bedfordshire; and Alfred Cox, his wife and baby. ¹⁷

Mary died in 1876, aged 61, at Islington.

William's Brothers

Thomas Mace, 40, single, was convicted on 29 June 1857 at Huntingdon of sheep stealing, and John Mace, 34, married with 2 children, was convicted of receiving a quantity of mutton knowing it to have been stolen. Thomas was sentenced to 6 years penal servitude and John to 4 years penal servitude.

Thomas had been summarily convicted 4 times and was sent to Portsmouth Prison on 11 March 1858. He arrived in Western Australia per *Edwin Fox* on 20 November 1858 and was assigned number 5187. Thomas received a Certificate of Freedom on 26 December 1863, and he returned to England by 10 October 1866 when:

John Mace and Thomas Mace, labourers, Gamlingay, were charged by Thos. Housden, gamekeeper, with trespassing in pursuit of game, at Everton, on the 7th inst, and violently assaulting him and threatening his life. Fined each 40s and 13s costs, or two months for the trespass; committed. For the assault, they were fined 21s each, or one month, committed. ¹⁸

The Bedfordshire Gaol Index shows:

Thomas Mace, 49, committed on 10 October 1866 for Game Laws and Assault, and sentenced to:

(1) 2 Calendar Months Hard Labour or pay 53/-,

(2) 1 Calendar Month Hard Labour or pay 21/-.

One previous conviction and once in Huntingdon, where he received penal servitude. Discharged on 9 January 1867. ¹⁹

John had one conviction and 3 summary convictions, totalling 8½ months in gaol. He was removed from Huntingdon Gaol to Millbank Prison on 23 September 1857. After six months, he was transferred to Portland Prison on 5 March 1858, and was discharged by License on 29 September 1860. He returned to his wife, Isabella, at Everton. ²⁰

The Gaol Index shows:

John Mace, 49, committed on 10 October 1866 for Game Laws and Assault, and sentenced to:

¹⁵ TNA: HO107/1753

¹⁶ TNA: RG9/131

¹⁷ TNA: RG10/263

¹⁸ Bedfordshire Times and Independent, 13 October 1866, p6

¹⁹ Bedfordshire Archives and Records Service, BLARS QGV12/1, record 26550.

²⁰ TNA: HO24/7; PCOM3/79

(1) 2 Calendar Months Hard Labour or pay 53/-,

(2) 1 Calendar Month Hard Labour or pay 21/-.

He had 5 previous convictions, including one in Huntingdon where he received penal servitude.

Discharged on 9 January 1867.²¹

²¹ Bedfordshire Archives and Records Service, BLARS QGV12/1, record 26551.