

Daniel McKay, 580, *Pyrenees*

Researched by Marcia Watson

Name variation: McRay

On the 1841 census, in the House of Industry and Refuge, Aberdeen, a young lad was possibly the convict Daniel McKay.

Daniel McKay, 8, inmate, not born in the County.¹

Daniel had five convictions by 1849; this may be one of them:

Sheriff Criminal Court, City of Aberdeen, 18 December 1846,

Daniel McKay, residing in Albion Street, was charged with stealing a cotton smock from Mr A.

Mowat, a clothes dealer on Virginia Street, aggravated by a previous conviction. Panel pled not guilty, but after hearing evidence, the jury brought in a verdict of guilty, and he was sentenced to 15 months imprisonment.

Aberdeen Press and Journal, 23 December 1846, p2

Circuit Court of Justiciary, Spring Circuit Court, Aberdeen, 24 April 1849.

Daniel McKay, 15, of no fixed abode, by habit and repute a thief and previously convicted, was next placed in the dock. He was accused of theft in September last, having stolen from the pocket of Mary Jolly or Wright, wife of And. Wright, the sum of 1s 0½d. The prisoner pled not guilty, and the case went to a jury, who found him guilty as libelled and sentenced him to 7 years transportation.

On leaving the dock, the convict laughed, cursed, and swore in a shocking and disgusting manner – crying out loudly, “I don’t care a ----- for it,” and “Go to -----”.^{2,3}

Daniel McKay, 18, single, read and write imperfectly, no occupation, was convicted on 24 April 1849 at Aberdeen for theft, with previous convictions and sentenced to 7 years transportation. On 6 September 1849, he was received at Wakefield Prison from Aberdeen Gaol. Daniel had four convictions for theft and one for vagrancy. On 4 April 1850, he was transferred to Portland Prison. On 13 March 1851, he boarded the *Pyrenees* for the voyage to Western Australia.⁴

On arrival at Fremantle, Western Australia, Daniel was assigned number 580, issued with a Ticket of Leave and a description taken of him.

580. Daniel McRay, 19, 5'7½", light hair, hazel eyes, long face, fair complexion, stout, no tattoos, a labourer and single.⁵

71 men were removed from the *Pyrenees* and located to division 3 of the Fremantle Prison on 16 July 1851, including 580 Daniel McCoy (McKay written above it).⁶

A Conditional Pardon was granted to Daniel in May 1854.

¹ Scotland's People, 168/A 18/ 3

² Aberdeen Press and Journal, 25 April 1849, p5; Aberdeen Herald; 28 April 1849, p3

³ Scotland Criminal Database, NRS Reference JC26/1849/15; JC26/1849/15

⁴ TNA, UK, HO23/14; PCOM2/383

⁵ SROWA, Acc 128/1-32

⁶ SROWA, Superintendents Orders, So1-So3, p 61