

Hugh Morgan, 514, *Pyrenees*

Researched by Marcia Watson

Nothing is known about Hugh Morgan's early life. There is no report in the newspapers of his trial. However, John Murphy was tried for a similar offence at the same time and sentenced to 7 years' transportation; they may have been partners in the crime. Both men arrived in the *Pyrenees* in 1851.

At the Chester County Assizes, 16 October 1848: Hugh Morgan, 30, imp, fraud, 7 years.¹

The Prison Registers show that Hugh Morgan, 30, obtained money by false pretences, was convicted at Knutsford on 16 October 1848, and sentenced to 7 years' transportation. He was received at Millbank Prison on 9 January 1849 from Knutsford Prison. Here, the Register shows he was married, could read and write imperfectly, was a labourer, Catholic, had been convicted twice for felony, once summarily and once for aggravated misdemeanour. On 22 June 1849, he was transferred to the *Wye* hulk at Woolwich. His behaviour was very good and he was transferred to the *Warrior* hulk on 29 December 1849. He boarded the *Pyrenees* on 5 March 1851 for the voyage to Western Australia.²

On arrival at Fremantle, Western Australia, on 28 June 1851, Hugh was assigned number 514, issued with a Ticket of Leave and a physical description was recorded.

514. Hugh Morgan, 33, 5'1½", dark brown hair, hazel eyes, long face, fair complexion, stout, freckled, seven dots on left arm, a commercial traveller and warehouseman, married with one child.³ Records in England indicate that he had three children.

The Superintendent's Journal shows:

14 July 1851. The following men will be received today from the ship *Pyrenees*. The 44 men will be located in the 3rd Division, including Hugh Morgan 514.

15 July 1851. The following 40 men will proceed to North Fremantle Station tomorrow, taking with them their beds, blankets, knives, spoons, plates, rations, and tools, including 514 Hugh Morgan.⁴

The newspapers advertised men who were available for hire. Ticket-of-Leave-Men at North Fremantle Station, included: 514, Hugh Morgan, Warehouseman.⁵

The Perth District, Ticket of Leave Registers show:

Hugh Morgan, 514, 33 years, *Pyrenees*.

Began working for the Commissariat on 1 August 1851.

Trade or Calling - Warehouseman

Wages 10/6 per week.⁶

This Register records that a Conditional Pardon was granted on 21 February 1853. However, Hugh does not seem to have received it until 23 April 1853.

Shipping records that could be for Hugh Morgan:

27 July 1857, the schooner *Preston* sailed for Champion Bay and Port Gregory with passenger H. Morgan.⁷

19 August 1858, the barque *Success* sailed for Adelaide with passenger Mr Morgan.⁸

What became of Hugh Morgan is unknown.

¹ The National Archives (TNA) UK, HO 27/84, p130

² TNA, HO8/102, HO8/107; HO24/4; PCOM2/29

³ SROWA, Acc 128/32

⁴ SROWA, Superintendent's Orders, So1-So3, p58, p60

⁵ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 25 July 1851, p2

⁶ SROWA, Perth TOL Register Cons 1386/1, p67

⁷ The Inquirer and Commercial News, 29 July 1857, p2

⁸ The Inquirer and Commercial News, 25 August 1858, p2