

Henry Perkins, 5897, *Lincelles*

Researched by Marcia Watson

Henry Perkins grew up in St Mary Redcliffe parish, Bristol, Gloucestershire.

He is possibly the son of James and Maria Perkins, baptised on 7 August 1825, at age 1 month. The family lived in St Philip's parish, where James worked as a labourer. St Philip's church is about 2 km from St Mary Redcliffe church.

On 29 November 1847, Henry married, according to the rites of the Established Church by Banns, at Trevethin, Monmouthshire.

Henry Perkins, 22, bachelor, miner, residing in Trevethin; his father was James Perkins, deceased.

Elizabeth Truebody, 25, spinster, residing in Trevethin; her father was William Truebody, deceased.

Both signed the register.

Although Elizabeth is recorded as a spinster, she appears to have had a child, Henry, around 1841 in Saltford, Somerset.

Children of Henry and Elizabeth Perkins:

Elijah 1849-1853

Susannah 1850

Rachael 1852-1855

Lucy 1854

Agnes 1857 - 1878

Elizabeth 1859

The 1851 census, 226 New Colliers Row, Ebbw Vale, Bedwellty, Monmouthshire. ¹

Henry Perkins, 25, Collier, born Bristol, Gloucestershire

Elizabeth, wife, 28, born Saltford, Somerset

Henry, son, 10, born Saltford, Somerset

Elijah, son, 2, born Bedwellty, Monmouthshire

Susannah, daughter, 7mths, born Bedwellty, Monmouthshire
and 3 lodgers.

In February 1860, the newspaper Monmouthshire Breacon reported:

The Rape at Ebbw Vale.

Henry Perkins, a big stout Fellow of a most sinister aspect, is a Somersetshire collier, 34 years of age. He has a wife and four children and has worked in Ebbw Vale for the last 12 years. The nine violations of which he is accused commenced in April 1859, in the locality between the two mountains on the road from Tredegar to Blains.

Some of the victims are highly respectable, all of virtuous character, and consequently unwilling to confess their misfortune. For what woman would betray her shame when the villain under whose brute force she succumbed was unknown and untangible. But crime will out. Two young men, Henry Lewis and William Job, captured the villain on an open mountain, where he was lying in wait for another victim. They conveyed him to Ebbw Vale and handed him over to the police.

The committal hearing at Tedegar began on Friday, 28 January 1860, and the following Monday heard further evidence because of the large number of witnesses. The proceedings were strictly private, and no reporter was admitted to the court.

The court records named the women.

Prisoners in the House of Correction, at Usk, for Trial at the next Assizes.

Henry Perkins, 34, Collier, read and write imperfectly, was committed by Thomas Brown, Esqr, Ebbw Vale. A Warrant was issued on 23 January 1860, and the following day he was taken into custody. He was charged with violating:

Susannah Stephens, at the parish of Aberystroth on 29 July 1859.

¹ The National Archives (TNA) UK. HO 107/2448

Ann Wood, at the parish of Bedwelty on 14 October 1859.
Hannah Lewis, at the parish of Aberystroth on 9 November 1859.
Elizabeth Withers, at the parish of Aberystroth on 9 November 1859.
Ann Lamb, at the parish of Aberystroth on 10 November 1859.
Jane Powell, at the parish of Aberystroth on 6 December 1859.

And assaulting:

Mary Davies, with intent, at the parish of Aberystroth on 21 April 1859.
Harriet Banfield, with intent, at the parish of Aberystroth on 1 September 1859
Elizabeth Thomas, with intent, at the parish of Aberystroth on 15 December 1859.

At the Monmouth Spring Assizes on 26 March 1860, the attacks on three women by Henry were reported in detail in the newspapers. The jury found Henry guilty on each account and recommended mercy. His employer gave him a good character reference, saying he was one of the best and steadiest workers and an exemplary husband, father, and worker until his apprehension. Henry earned about £8 per week.

The prosecutor then stated there were other charges against the prisoner. Still, he would not go into them unless his Lordship thought it necessary. The judge agreed and said he did not think it expedient to go into them.

His Lordship then proceeded to pass sentence upon Henry, remarking that it was to be hoped for the sake of humanity that he was suffering from some maniacal or other impulse, observing it was necessary to make an example of such a person. Henry was sentenced to penal servitude for life. ²

Elizabeth had not only been left to raise four young children, but she was also subject to a removal order, as Henry had not applied for settlement in Bedwelty. The newspapers reported:

Order for Removal. Depositions of the mother and wife of Henry Perkins, recently convicted of rape at the Monmouth Assizes, and transported for life, were taken, by which it appeared that he was born and brought up in the parish of St Mary Redcliffe, Bristol, and that he never gained another settlement. An order for the removal of his family (wife and four children) to the above parish was made.

The family was still living in Bedwelty in March 1861, so Elizabeth may have applied for settlement, or the decision may have been reversed.³

1861 census, 50 Waterfall Row, Ebbw Vale, Bedwelty. ⁴

Elizabeth Perkins, widow, 37, green grocer, born Saltford, Somerset
Henry, 20, coal miner, born Saltford, Somerset
Susannah, daughter, 10, scholar, born Ebbw Vale
Lucy, daughter, 7, scholar, born Ebbw Vale
Agnes, daughter, 3, born Ebbw Vale
Elizabeth, daughter, 1, born Ebbw Vale
and 3 lodgers

1871 census. 6 Waterfall Row, Bedwelty. ⁵

Elizabeth Perkins, widow, 48, Housekeeper, born Somerset
Lucy, daughter, 17, labouring at Iron Works, born Monmouthshire
Agnes, daughter, 14, scholar, born Monmouthshire
Elizabeth, daughter, 11, scholar, born Monmouthshire
and a family of 3 living in the other half of the house.

² Monmouthshire, Wales, Quarter Session Records, 1790-1940 [Ancestry]; Monmouthshire, Brecon, 11 February 1860; Star of Gwent, published Saturday, 31 March 1860; Monmouthshire Merlin, 31 March 1860

³ Merthyr Telegraph, and General Advertiser for the Iron Districts of South Wales, 21 April 1860

⁴ TNA, RG9/4004

⁵ TNA, RG10, 5324

Henry Perkins spent 3½ months in Usk prison before being transferred to Leicester Prison, where he spent 8½ months. On 16 January 1861, he was transferred to Portsmouth Prison, where he spent 9½ months. He boarded the *Lincelles* for Western Australia, where he was to work on public works on 18 September 1861. He said his wife, Elizabeth Perkins, lived at 309 Waterfall Row, Ebbw Vale, Monmouthshire.⁶

He arrived in Western Australia on 27 January 1862, as convict number 5897, per *Lincelles*.

5897. Henry Perkins, 36, 5'6½", with brown hair, hazel eyes, a long face, swarthy complexion, stout stature, freckled, scar on back left hand, labourer, and a widower with 4 children.

Special remission of 6 months was granted by His Excellency the Governor for good conduct on the voyage. According to the Surgeon Superintendent on the *Lincelles*, Henry Perkins was educated at Sunday and private schools.

He earned "marks" for his good behaviour and being in the choir while working on public works.

Henry returned to Fremantle from the Surrey working party on 14 July 1864 and was discharged to a Ticket of Leave on 21 July 1864.⁷

From 22 July 1864, Henry worked as a general servant, labourer or chainer in the Perth District. He often worked for Charles Evans, Assistant Surveyor of the Survey Department.

Henry employed about 10 Ticket of Leave men, mostly sawyers, at Perth and Canning in 1868-1870.

On 30 June 1870, he worked again for Charles Evans in Albany as a chainer or general servant.

Henry returned to Perth in May 1871, after Evans died in March 1871.

On 12 April 1872, Henry was granted a Conditional Pardon. He was not allowed to return to England, although many convicts did.

Henry Perkins left Perth in 1873.

28 April 1873. *Deux Freres*, barque, 380 tons, J. Magneur, for Shanghai. Passengers: Rev. V. d'Apreda, Mr and Mrs Perkins, and Mr E. Hale. The cargo was 558 tons of sandalwood to Asia.⁸

Previous year, 1872.

At Perth, on 12 February, Robert Britton, a superannuated warder and a pensioner from the 83rd Regiment, died suddenly of heart disease, aged 51.⁹ Later in the year, around July-August, Robert's widow, Margaret, married **Henry James Perkins** at Perth. In his Will, Robert Britton left everything to Margaret, and, upon their marriage, it became Henry's.¹⁰

Mr H. Perkins, Henry Perkins, or Henry J. Perkins, placed several newspaper advertisements in 1872 and 1873.

November 1872.

The Wines, Beer, and Spirits Sale Act 1872.

To the Worshipful the Justices of the Peace, acting in and for the district of Perth, Western Australia. I, Henry Perkins, storekeeper, married, now residing at Hay Street, in the city of Perth, do hereby give notice that it is my intention to apply at the next Annual Licensing Meeting, to be holden for this district, for a License for the sale of wine, beer, and other fermented liquors, the produce of the colony, in the house and appurtenances thereunto belonging, formerly the property of the late Robert Britton, of Perth, with stockyard and stabling, now my property and occupied by myself; the said license applicable to an inn or place of resort for travellers, as referred to in Clause 18 of the Ordinance 36 Vic No. 5.

⁶ TNA, PCOM2/109

⁷ State Records Office of WA (SROWA), Acc 1156/R11, Acc 1156/R5, Acc 128/1-32, Acc 1156/R&R3-R&D4

⁸ The Herald, 3 May 1873, p2

⁹ The Perth Gazette and West Australian Times, 1 March 1872, p2; The Inquirer and Commercial News, 28 Feb 1872, p3

¹⁰ Western Australia, Australia, Letters of Administration, 1832-1947

Robert Britton, deceased, held a Colonial Wine Retail license for these premises for one year. Given under my hand this 12th day of November 1872. Henry Perkins.¹¹

December 1872.

Henry was granted an Eating, Boarding, and Lodging House License, under the new Act on 2 December 1872.¹²

Wines, Wines, Wines

THE undersigned is prepared to supply the public with any quantity of superior Red and White Wines at 5s 6d per gallon, or 1s per bottle. HENRY J. PERKINS, Hay Street. West Perth, 17 December, 1872.

For Sale.

ABOUT twenty young pigs, about six weeks old, fit for Christmas Roasters; also a number of very fat Ducks. HENRY J PERKINS, Hay Street, West Perth.¹³

April 1873.

Wednesday, 2nd April 1873, 11 o'clock.

Alexander Cummings & Co have received instruction from Mr H. Perkins (who is leaving this part of the colony) to sell by public auction at his residence, the last house in Hay Street west, opposite the Barracks, on Wednesday, 2 April next, the whole of his Household Furniture and effects consisting of: Tables, Chairs, Pictures, Ornaments, Bedsteads, Mattresses, Washstand, Dressing table, Crockery, Glassware, Kitchen utensils, Knives and Forks, Safe. Double-barrel Gun, Powder &c, Paper Bags, Show Glasses, Weights and Scales. Also, Surplus stores consisting of Tea, Sugar, Salt, Oatmeal, Colonial Wine, Tubs, Pails &c; Cow and Heifer, two Fat pigs (superior), &c.

Terms Cash. Perth 25 March 1873.

P.S. All debts due to Mr Perkins must be paid forthwith to him or the undersigned, and all claims must be sent in at once for immediate payment. Alexander Cummings & Co.¹⁴

Both Henry Perkins and his wife Margaret probably returned to England. The marriage did not last; in 1878, Margaret married William Davies in Paisley, Scotland. Only her first marriage is recorded on the certificate. They returned to Western Australia in October 1882, according to *Helena Mena*.¹⁵ Margaret Davis/Davies married Con Morgan in 1903. She ran a boarding house, Auld House, at the corner of Pier and Murray Streets from 1905. Margaret died on 6 October 1906 of heart failure and is buried in the East Perth Cemetery.

Henry Perkins probably returned to Wales and was reunited with his first wife Elizabeth.

Their son-in-law, Thomas Hughes, 42, went to the USA from Liverpool per Adriatic, arriving on 30 May 1879. Susanna and the surviving children arrived on 17 April 1880 aboard the City of Chester from Liverpool.

The arrival of Henry Perkins, wife Elizabeth and daughter Elizabeth in America has not been identified.

They were in Indiana by the 1880 census.

Census taken 4 and 5 June 1880, for Knightsville, County of Clay, Indiana.

5556 Perkins, Henry, white, male, 54, married, miner, born England.

Perkins, Elizth, white, female, 56, wife, keeping house, born England.

Perkins, Elizath, white, female, 20, daughter, single, at home, born England.

¹¹ The Inquirer and Commercial News, 13 November 1872 - Page 3

¹² The Express, 5 Dec 1872, p3

¹³ The Inquirer and Commercial News, 18 Dec 1872, p3;

¹⁴ The Perth Gazette and West Australian Times, 28 Mar 1873, p2

¹⁵ John Knowles, EPG Project. <https://enrolledpensionerforcewa.org.au/epf-profiles/b/britton-brittain-robert-83rd-regiment/>

Living next door:

5657 Hughes, Thomas, white, male, 34, miner, can read and write, born Wales.

Hughes, Susanah, white, female, 30, wife, keeping house, born Wales.

Hughes, Elizath A, white, female, 10, daughter, can read and write, born Wales (in 1870).

Hughes, Thomas M, white, male. 7, son, born Wales (in 1873).

Hughes, John, white, male, 4, son, born Wales (in 1876).

Knightsville, Indiana is a historic coal-mining and iron-manufacturing town in Clay County, from 1867.

Last Will of Henry Perkins, Knightsville, Clay Co, Indiana, 28 September, 1891.

I, Henry Perkins, do hereby certify that I am of sound and sane mind at the time and date that I write this my last will and Testament.

1st, First I leave all to my wife Elizabeth Both Personal and Real Estate if she do survive me for her benefit for her natural life. 2nd. After her and my death, all personal property belonging to either of us to be equally divided, to wit - All household effects, all wearing apparel, clothing of any description, also all moneys if any left to be equally divided between my three daughters namely - Mrs Susanna Hughes, Mrs Lucy Jones, Mrs Elizabeth Aitken

3rd. Mrs Aitken to receive my large fur rug

4th. My Real Estate lot No. 5 in Barnett and Witttiys addition Knightsville Clay Co, Indiana, with all the improvements on it is to go to my oldest daughter Mrs Susanna Hughes as her own private property and no dispute to be about it. And lastly I do nominate and appoint Henry J. Short and Martin Roghrig¹⁶ of Clay County Indiana to be the executors of this my last will and testament. In witness whereof I the said Henry Perkins have to this my last will and Testament consisting of one half sheet of commercial note paper, subscribed my name and affixed my seal this eleventh day of November in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety One. Henry Perkins (Seal) Signed sealed published and declared by the said Henry Perkins as and for his last will and Testament. In the presence of us at his request and in his presence and in the presence of each other have subscribed our names as witness hereto. Sidney Monk, Residing at Harmony Ind.

Thomas E. Monk, Residing at Harmony Ind, Geo W. Finley, Residing at Harmony Ind.

The State of Indiana, Clay County SS. Be it remembered, that on 15 May 1900, Sidney Monk one of the subscribing witnesses to the within and foregoing last will and Testament of Henry Perkins late of said County, deceased, personally appeared before Charles L. Mace Clerk of the Circuit Court of Clay County, in the State of Indiana, and being duly sworn by the Clerk of said Court, upon his oath declared and testified as follows, that is to say: That on 11 November 1891 he saw the said Henry Perkins sign his name to the said instrument in writing as and for his last will and Testament, and that this deponent, at the same time heard the said Henry Perkins declare the said instrument in writing to be his last Will and Testament; and that the said instrument in writing was, at the same time, at the request of the said Henry Perkins and with his consent attested and subscribed by the said Sydney Monk, Thomas E. Monk and Geo W. Finley in the presence of each other as subscribing witnesses thereto and that the said Henry Perkins was, at the time of signing and subscribing of said instrument in writing, as aforesaid of full age (that is more than twenty one years of age) and of sound and disposing mind and memory, and not under any coercion or restraint, as the said deponent verily believes, and that said Henry Perkins died January 1892 and further deponent says not. Sydney Monk.

Sworn to and subscribed by the said Sydney Monk before me C.L. Mace, Clerk of the said Court, at Brazil the 15th day of May 1900. Charles L. Mace, Clk

The Will and Testament was then admitted to probate.

¹⁶ Martin Rohrig married Elizabeth Ann Hughes in 1888.

Elizabeth Perkins, Will.

In the name of the Benevolent Father.

I, Elizabeth Perkins of the County of Clay, and the State of Indiana, being of sound mind and disposing memory to hereby make and declare this my last Will and testament hereby revoking and making void all former Wills by me at anytime heretofore made.

First I order and direct that at my death my daughter Lucy Perkins (Jones) and daughter Elizabeth Aitkens shall have in equal proportions all my personal property of what ever kind.

Second I give and bequeath to my daughter Susanna Hughes my Real Estate, described thus Lot number five in Barnett and Whitteys addition to the town of Knightsville Clay County, Indiana. I have subscribed my name this 28th day of September 1899. Elizabeth Perkins, her mark.

The above and foregoing instrument was at the date thereof signed published and declared by the said Elizabeth Perkins as and for her last Will and Testament and a revocation of all former wills heretofore by her at anytime made in the presence of us who at her request and in her presence and in the presence of each other have subscribed our names as witnesses.

Robert L. McCowan, Knightsville, Ind

Geo Rohrig

The State of Indiana, Clay County SS. Be it remembered, that on 18 May 1800, George Rohrig one of the subscribing witnesses to the within and foregoing last will and Testament of Elizabeth Perkins last of said County, deceased, personally appeared before me C.L. Mace, Clerk of the Circuit Court, County of Clay, in the State of Indiana and being duly sworn by the Clerk of said Court upon his oath, declared and testified as follows - That is to say: That on 28 September 1899 he saw the said Elizabeth Perkins sign her name to the said instrument in writing as and for her last will and Testament and that this deponent at the same time, heard the said Elizabeth Perkins declare the said instrument in writing to be her last Will and Testament; and that the said instrument in writing was at the same time, at the request of the said Elizabeth Perkins and with her consent attested and subscribed by the said Robert McCowan and George Rohrig in the presence of each other as subscribing witnesses thereto and that the said Elizabeth Perkins was at the time of signing and subscribing of the said instrument in writing as aforesaid of full age (that is more than twenty one years of age) and of sound and disposing mind and memory and not under any coercion or restraint, as the said deponent verily believes and that said Elizabeth Perkins died May 1900 and further deponent says not. George Rohrig.

Sworn to and subscribed by the said George Rohrig before me Chas L. Mace, of the said Court, at Brazil the 18th day of May 1900. Charles L. Mace, Clerk.

Admitted for probate.

Harmony Cemetery, Clay County, Indiana.

Henry Perkins, born 1825, and died 26 January 1892.

Elizabeth Perkins, born 26 May 1822, and died 3 May 1900.

