

Edward Pever, 4898, Lord Raglan

Researched by Marcia Watson

Edward Pever, *alias* Pevin, *alias* Pebin, *alias* James Pevin, *alias* Thomas Jones.

Born	25 April 1836, Birmingham, Warwickshire *
Baptism	22 August 1836
Parents	William Peever and Mary Lyndon
Parent's marriage	17 September 1832, Edgbaston, Birmingham
Siblings	John (1840)

* According to the Register, Edward was born 25 April 1825, but the year is a mistake.

William was a porter, and the family lived in Suffolk Street, St Martin parish, Birmingham.

By 1840, the family lived in Wharf Street.

1851 census: 11 Court house 2, Wharf Street, St Thomas, Birmingham. ¹

William Pever, head, married, 50, labourer, born Birmingham [age 50 on 1861 census]

Mary, wife, 30, born Birmingham [age 43 on 1861 census]

Edward, son, 16, button maker, born Birmingham

John, son, 12, scholar, born Birmingham

Warwick Winter Assize. Garrotte Robbery at Birmingham.

Edward Pever, 20, labourer, was charged with violently assaulting William Wilkes, and stealing from him the sum of £2 10. The prosecutor stated that he was a boatman, residing in Tewkesbury. On 29 July, he arrived with his boat at Birmingham, and while standing on the Worcester wharf there, at a quarter to eleven o'clock at night, the prisoner and another man came up to him. Pever asked him the way across the wharf. He was about to reply, when a man seized him by the throat from behind, and the accused struck him a blow on the head which knocked him down. He was rendered insensible by the pressure upon his neck, and the robbers stole from him £2 10. He had known the prisoner five years. In cross-examination by the advocate for the prisoner, Wilkes said he swore to a man named Walton, as the man who seized him by the neck, but the Magistrate dismissed him. Detective Kelly said he apprehended the prisoner on receiving an accurate description of him and his name from the prosecutor. For the defence, it was urged that Wilkes might be mistaken in the identity of Pever, as it was manifest the magistrates considered he had been in the identity of Walton. Guilty. Mr Hillyard, the governor of Birmingham gaol, stated that the prisoner had been convicted three times before. The learned Judge sentenced the prisoner to be transported for life, saying he was determined, if possible, to put down these disgraceful offences. ²

He was convicted on 17 December 1856 at Warwick Assizes of highway robbery with violence.

Edward had a long record –

15 January 1852, summary, felony, 1 calendar month, hard labour

July 1852, stealing a watch, 13 calendar months, hard labour

20 September 1854, summary, stealing fruit in a garden, 3 calendar months, hard labour

¹ The National Archives (TNA) UK, HO107/2052

² The Birmingham Daily Mercury, 20 December 1856, p4; Weekly Times Echo, London, 28 December 1856.

16 December 1854, summary, vagrancy, 3 calendar months, hard labour
Edward arrived on the *Lord Raglan* on 1 June 1858.

Edward worked in the Wellington District, mostly in Bunbury, York and Greenough, as a labourer and miner. He received a Conditional Pardon on 23 April 1867, and was not allowed to return to England.

On 4 February 1868, *Hougoumont*, 875 tons, Capt. Cosens, left Fremantle for Madras, via Champion Bay. Passengers in cabin-Mrs. Brockman and 2 children, Dr Smith, Mr, Mitchell; in steerage-Mr and Mrs Frogatt and 4 children, P. Brien, A. Donoghue, E. Peevar, W. Woods, and T. Chambers. Cargo - 40 horses, 7 rams.³

A Returned Convict

At the Warwickshire Assizes, on Monday, before Mr Justice Brett, Edward Pevan (35), a labourer, was charged with being at large in the borough of Birmingham without lawful cause, having been sentenced to penal servitude for life. Samuel Jeffries, a warder at the Birmingham Borough Gaol, was called and proved that the prisoner was convicted at the Warwick Assizes in 1856, before Mr Justice Willes, of highway robbery with violence, and sentenced to penal servitude for life. In the early part of the present year, the witness saw him leaving the Borough Gaol with a hand up to the side of his face. Witness said to him, "I thought you were dead". He answered, "you don't know me". Information was afterwards given to the police, and in May last prisoner was taken into custody by Police Constable McCrohon, in Fordrough-street. He was very violent, and assistance had to be procured before he was safely lodged in the police station. The jury found him guilty of the charge. The prisoner made a long statement to the Judge as to his career since his conviction. He said: "I went from Warwick Gaol to Millbank Prison, and stayed there eight months. I went to Dartmoor Prison, and left there on 1 March 1857.

On 1 June 1858, I arrived in Australia and served six years on the Swan Bank (sic) River in Western Australia. I got a Ticket of Leave on 9 January 1862. Four years later, I received a conditional pardon, and I went about the colony. I got my pardon on 9 March 1866 from Mr De Sackey [Durlacher], a resident magistrate in Champion Bay. I cannot read or write; the Magistrate read it to me when he gave it to me, and he said, "We have done with you".

I worked in the colony, and in 1868 I left Australia and went to India on the *Hougoumont*, to take care of 110 horses. I came over to this country in the *Marchioness of Londonderry*. I first went to the Cape. I arrived at London Docks on 24 February 1869. I stayed in London until 12 March, when I tried to find a ship to America. I went to Birmingham Borough Gaol to see Mr Birt, the chaplain, and asked him to help me get money to go to America. I lost my pardon in coming over, and with it three letters. The pardon was signed by Governor Hampton"

The Judge said he should take care to inquire carefully into his story; and if it were true, the sentence he was about to pass would be only nominal. If, however, it proved incorrect, nothing could be done on his behalf. The statement would be forwarded to the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with a request that steps might be taken to ascertain if it were

³ The Perth Gazette and West Australian Times, 7 Feb 1868, p2

correct; and if it were true, he would no doubt have the benefit of it. In the meantime, the Court sentenced him to penal servitude for life.⁴

Edward Peven, alias Pever, alias Pebin, alias Thomas James, alias James Pevin, was sent from Warwick Gaol to Pentonville Prison on 11 April 1870, and from there to Chatham on 18 May 1870. He was then transferred to Portsmouth Prison on 26 September 1870.

27 months after being sentenced a second time to penal servitude for life, Edward was given a Conditional Pardon on 3 October 1871.

No further trace of Edward has been found.

⁴ Beverley and East Riding Recorder, 17 July 1869, p4