

Baptised	19 January 1820, St Mary de Castro, Leicester
Parents	William Wade and Sarah Horton
Parent's marriage	1811, St Mary de Castro, Leicester
Siblings	<i>Hannah (1812), Sarah (1816), Harriet (1817) (all baptised St Mary de Castro)</i> <i>Sarah (1823), George (1823), William (1829) (all baptised St Margaret's)</i>
Wife	Elizabeth Moulding
Married	7 June 1845, Registry Office, Leicester
Children	James Moulding Wade (1841), Edward Moulding Wade (1845), Caroline (1847), George (1849)*

* George possibly died soon after birth

Note. The siblings listed for James Wade are possible siblings. There seems to be more than one couple called William and Sarah. Wade is a common name in Leicestershire and Yorkshire.

When James was born, the family lived in Greens Lane, Leicester, and his father was a wool comber.

At the Epiphany Session for Leicester Boro, in 1834, there is a possible conviction of James. Whipping usually handed out to children.

James Wade, larceny, one month and whipped.

On the 1841 census, Leicester House of Correction. ¹

James Wade, 20, prisoner, wool comber, born in the county.

W. Richardson and James Wade were charged with being found on the premises of Mr Birkley, with intent to commit a felony and were committed for one month to hard labour. ²

January 1843. James Wade, John Castles, and John Henson, remanded from Tuesday last, were again brought up on a charge of stealing, on Sunday evening last, from the house of James Dilks, framework-knitter, of Bath-street, a silver watch, with a steel chain, a steel key, and one and a half seal; 35s were also gone, two old shillings, and a silk handkerchief. The prisoners were apprehended in Castle's house, in Pork-shop yard by Police-constables Haines and Smith, who, in consequence of information, had followed them from Lancelot's (the Orange Tree) on Monday evening; the watch, handkerchief, and chain and seals, being found in the possession of Henson and Castles. Some money was also found in Henson's shoes when the prisoners were searched in the Station-house, and it was identified as the prosecutor's. On Wade, nothing was found but a shilling—Committed for trial. ³

At the Leicester Boro Sessions, 24 January 1843.

James Wade, 23, can't read or write, housebreaking, 6 months.

His co-accused, Henson, was transported for 10 years and Castles for 15 years.

James married in the Registry Office, district of Leicester Union, Leicester, on 7 June 1845.

James Wade, full age, bachelor, woolcomber, resides Belgravegate, father is William Wade, a woolcomber

Elizabeth Moulding, full age, spinster, resides Belgravegate, father is John Moulding, framework knitter.

Both made their marks; witnesses included John Moulding and Sarah Moulding.

¹ The National Archives (TNA) UK, HO107/605/3

² Leicester Journal, 28 May 1841, p3

³ Leicester Journal, 20 January 1843, p3; Leicestershire Mercury, 25 February 1843

7 October 1846. Both James Moulding Wade and Edward Moulding Wade were baptised at St Mary de Castro, Leicester.

James was back in court in 1849.

James Wade, 29, and Laurence Grain, 23, were severally charged, the former with burglariously entering, on 22 December 1848, the house of Richard Pratt, and stealing a quantity of pork; the latter with receiving the same. The quantity stolen was 180 pounds of pork and 20 pounds of beef. Richard Pratt said he was a farmer living at Wanlip. On 22 December, he had some pork and beef salted in the dairy. He heard a noise in the morning about 1:30 am; he got up and found the dairy doors open and the meat gone.

The witnesses' evidence focused on seeing four men and a dog on the night in question. No meat was found at Wade's house.

The prisoners were convicted of receiving. With three previous convictions, Wade was sentenced to 14 years' transportation. Grain had a bad character and minor offences; he was sentenced to 10 years' transportation. ⁴

The Prison Registers show that James Wade, 29, married with 3 children, can't read or write, a woolcomber, was convicted on 24 July 1849 at Leicester of receiving stolen pork and sentenced to 14 years. His wife, Elizabeth, lives at Orchard Lane, Leicester. James was received at Millbank Prison on 22 October 1849 from Leicester Prison. He had been previously convicted twice and summarily imprisoned five times. He was transferred to Pentonville Prison on 22 December 1849, and on 11 June 1850, he was sent to Portland Prison.

James boarded *Mermaid* on 28 December 1850 for the voyage to Western Australia. ⁵

On arrival at Fremantle, Western Australia, on 13 May 1851, James was assigned number 278 and a physical description recorded.

278. James Wade, 33, 5'7", dark brown hair, hazel eyes, long face, sallow complexion, cut on right leg, J.W.T.C. on right arm, quarryman, married with 3 children. ⁶

A note in a register says: 24 July 1851, a letter humbly and piously written to his wife and family. ⁷

James received a Ticket of Leave Register on 16 November 1852, and began working in the Perth district:

16 November 1852. Worked for self in Perth.

December 1854. Gone to Bunbury, returned 16 April 1855.

A Conditional Pardon was granted in August 1856.

What became of James is unknown.

There is another convict and a Pensioner Guard called James Wade in Western Australia around the same time.

Family trees on Ancestry claim he was back in England by 1881. This is difficult to prove.

⁴ Leicester Journal, 27 July 1849, p1

⁵ The National Archives (TNA) UK, HO24/4, PCOM2/30, PCOM2/383, HO8/104

⁶ State Records Office of Western Australia (SROWA), Acc 128/1-32

⁷ SROWA, ACC 1156/R21A

Back in England.

His wife Elizabeth was left with three children. She began living with Benjamin Brown soon after James left England.

1851 census, 31 George Street, Leicester (St Margaret's parish) ⁸

Benjm Brown, married, 34, labourer (all born in Leicester)

Elizabeth Brown, wife, 33, seamer

James Brown, son, 9, seamer

Edward Brown, son, 5

Caroline Brown, daughter, 3

Six months after the census was taken, Elizabeth gave birth to a daughter, Mary, in September quarter 1851. The mother's previous name was given as Moulding.

In 1861, it appears Elizabeth gave the census taker the information about the family and forgot they were called Brown!

1861 census, Nag's Head yard, Sheffield, Yorkshire. ⁹

Benjamin Wade, married, 43, outdoor labourer

Elizabeth Wade, wife, 44

James Wade, son, 19

Edward Wade, son, 15

Caroline Wade, daughter, 12

Mary Wade, daughter, 10, born Leicester

Sera[Sarah] Wade, daughter, 8, born Leicester

Clara Wade, daughter, 2, born Sheffield

1871 census, 60 Birstall Street, Leicester. ¹⁰

Benjamin Brown, married, 52, labourer

Elizabeth Brown, wife, 53, tiller

Clara, daughter, 13, tiller, born Sheffield

Mary Pauley [Brown], 18, Samuel Pauley, 21, and daughter Elizabeth 3 - all unmarried and 6 others at the same address.

1881 census, 35 George Street, Leicester ¹¹

Benjamin Brown, married, 63, labourer, bricklayer

Elizabeth Brown, wife, 63, house duties

Mary Pawley, daughter, married, 28, factory hand

Samuel Pawley, son-in-law, 30, shoe finisher

Elizabeth, granddaughter, 12, scholar

Clara, granddaughter, 7, scholar

Frank, grandson, 3

Samuel, grandson, 1

Elizabeth Brown, wife of Benjamin, died 13 September 1887, aged 71, in the Union Workhouse, of senile decay. Her daughter, Mary Pawley, of 37 George St, was present at death.

⁸ THA UK, HO107/2088

⁹ TNA UK, RG9/3489

¹⁰ TNA UK, RG10/3277

¹¹ TNA UK, RG11/3169