

Joseph Ware, 416, *Pyrenees*

Researched by Marcia Watson

Other names: Joseph Thomas.

Joseph was born about 1827, probably in Devon, England.

The first record of Joseph was at the County Sessions, Devon, 17 October 1847:

Joseph Ware was charged with stealing from John Matthews, of Dartington, or rather from his wife Mary Matthews, who said that on 1 September she went to Totnes races, and stood a little way from the stand. The prisoner was behind her. She felt something pressing against her side and put her hand to it two or three times, but did not feel anything. On going away, she found that there was money, 16s, gone from her pocket.

A woman, who kept a stall on the course, said she saw the prisoner take a purse out of the first witness's pocket.

Verdict guilty. Sentence to six months' hard labour and to be whipped.¹

The following year, Joseph Thomas, understood to be known to the police, was brought up on charge of having, in concert with a female, picked the pocket of Sarah Heale, of Summerland-street, of two half-crowns and a shilling, on Saturday night (29 July 1848), at the corner of South-street. Heale was purchasing mackerel when her pocket was picked by one party, and the plunder handed to the other. This woman, however, made her escape, but in the course of the same night, getting into a fray in Preston-street, she received such injury as rendered it necessary she should be taken to the Hospital. This coming to the knowledge of the police, Heale was taken to there, and identified the woman, who gave her name as Rebecca Wildman. They were both committed for trial. One newspaper said Joseph Thomas was from Newton Bushell, now part of Teignbridge, Devon.²

At the Exeter City Sessions, 17 October 1848:

Joseph **Thomas**, 22, and Rebecca Wildman, 29, were found guilty of stealing two half-crown pieces and a shilling from the person of Sarah Heale. Thomas was sentenced to be transported 7 years and Wildman to be imprisoned 6 calendar months' hard labour.³

The Criminal Register shows at the County Sessions, Devon, on 17 October 1848:

Joseph **Ware**, 22, read and write imperfectly, larceny from the person, before convicted of felony, 7 years.

Rebecca Wildman, 29, read and write imperfectly, larceny from the person, 6 months.

The Prison Register records show that Joseph Ware, 22, single, read and write imperfectly, blacksmith, was convicted at Exeter on 16 October 1848 of stealing money from the person after a previous conviction of a like offence and sentenced to 7 years. He was received at Millbank Prison on 5 January 1849 from Exeter and removed to the *Wye* hulk at Woolwich on 22 June 1849. In the March quarter of 1850, he was transferred to the *Warrior* hulk at Woolwich. Joseph boarded the *Pyrenees* on 5 March 1851 for the voyage to Western Australia.⁴

Upon arrival at Fremantle, Western Australia, on 28 June 1851, Joseph was assigned number 416, issued a Ticket of Leave, and a physical description was recorded.

416. Joseph Ware, 23, 5'4¾", dark brown hair, light hazel eyes, oval face, dark complexion, two scars on right arm, a blacksmith and single.⁵

¹ Exeter and Plymouth Gazette, 23 October 1847, p7; Exeter and Plymouth Gazette, 23 October 1847, p8

² Exeter Flying Post, 03 August 1848, p3; Western Times, 05 August 1848, p6; Exeter and Plymouth Gazette, 05 August 1848, p7

³ Exeter Flying Post, 19 October 1848, p8

⁴ The National Archives (TNA), UK: HO24/4; HO8/100; PCOM2/29; HO8/103

⁵ SROWA, Acc 128/32

The Superintendent's Orders show:

1 July 1851. The following 50 prisoners, from hulks, will be received from the ship *Pyrenees* and located in Division No.3, including 416 Joseph Ware.

5 July 1851. Wilson McGormick will this day proceed to the Mill at Perth with these nine prisoners from the ship *Pyrenees* and one from the *Scindian* to prepare it for a Station, to be called the Mount Eliza Station, taking provisions, etc.. The men from the *Pyrenees* included 416 Joseph Ware. ⁶

In July 1851, Ticket of Leave men at Mt Eliza Station, including 416. Joseph Ware, Assistant to a Blacksmith. ⁷

By December 1852, Joseph had paid back £6 15s, with an allowance of 15s, of his passage money i.e. he had paid back the £7 he owed.⁸

A Conditional Pardon was granted in February 1854, and his sentence expired in October 1856.

No further information found.

⁶ SROWA, Superintendents Orders, So1-So3, p46, p52

⁷ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 18 July 1851, p2

⁸ CO 18/File 69. AJCP Reel No: 455-456, see <https://waconvicts.fhwa.org.au/ui886.htm>