

ROBERT STARLING. [3246]

AGE - years
HEIGHT -
HAIR COLOUR -
COLOUR OF EYES -
SHAPE OF FACE -
COMPLEXION -
BUILD -
DISTINGUISHING FEATURES - ⁽¹⁾

Robert Starling was the son of Englishman, Charles Starling.

The Winter Gaol Sessions opened at York on Saturday the 11th. The learned judges, Mr Justice Williams and Mr Justice Talford, sought guidance by their attendance at a religious service in the cathedral on the Sabbath, then, after breakfast on the morning of Monday, 13th, their Lordships proceeded to the Castle at noon. Mr Justice Williams, as senior judge, sat in the criminal court in charged of the Grand Jury. The calendar contained the names of eighty-nine prisoners in custody and twenty out on bail, thus was considered heavy numerically and in the nature of the offences. Categorized, the cases included four of murder, two of rape, two of forgery and seven were to be tried for cutting and stabbing. Twenty-eight were accused of robbery, nine of manslaughter, eight of burglary and there was one supposed arsonist. Four men had been branded as horse thieves, one was said to have been night poaching and one individual was accused of concealment of birth. Five prisoners were to appear on charges of perjury and the remainder were minor breaches.⁽²⁾ With his reputation already tarnished by a conviction for the receipt of stolen property, Robert Starling had a history of three months internment.

Again convicted of robbery, this time in the company of others in a fracas in which innocent people were wounded, he received a fifteen year sentence and spent thirteen months in mandatory solitary confinement. He arrived in Western Australia on board *Stag* with Thomas John Kirkup. Imprisoned at Wakefield, on the hulk, *Warrior*,⁽³⁾ and cell No 10 in Division 4 at The Establishment. On 9 July 1855, he was placed on bread and water for seven days and the privilege of attending classes was forfeited for three months. That punishment was not completed before a second class-suspension, again for three months from 24 September. Transferred to the North Fremantle Depot on 9 January 1856, he was moved to Mt Eliza on 13 June that year.

LITTLE KNOWN FACTS.

Though not a rich man, Robert Starling generously donating 10/- to the Irish Relief Fund on 9 April 1880,⁽⁴⁾ roughly two and a half years before he died on 4 September 1882. It was his brother-in-law, George Wright, who registered Robert's death⁽⁵⁾

(062) General Register of Deaths. Reference No 11467, 1882.

(080) "The Victoria Express," 12 May 1880.

REFERENCE:-

(001) Comptroller General's Office, Fremantle. Personal & Other Description of Men Belonging to Convict Department of Western Australia per Ship *Stag*.

(002) The London Times, Wednesday 15 December 1852.

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married another of the Osborne girls, Beula Emily.