

Baptism	22 May 1831, Sandford Orcas, Somerset
Parents	Stephen White and Naomi Lamb
Parent's marriage	18 May 1823, Corton Denham, Somerset by Banns
Siblings	Robert (1824), Anne (1826), Samuel, Harriet, Winifred (1834-1837)

Stephen's father, also named Stephen White, 25, was tried at Wells Sessions on 14 January 1822 for stealing a pollard tree and was sentenced to one calendar month of hard labour in the House of Correction, with two separate weeks in Solitary Confinement, discharged 14 February 1822. <sup>1</sup>

His parents, Stephen White, a sojourner, and Naomi Lamb, both of Corton Denham, were married by banns on 18 May 1823 at Corton Denham; both made their marks. Witnesses Henry and Harriet Jenkins made their marks.

Their first two children, Robert and Anne, were baptised in Corton Denham. The following three children, Samuel, Harriet and Stephen, were all baptised the same day at Sandford Orcas. The last child, Winifred, was baptised at Milton-Clevedon, Somerset.

Then, in 1838, Stephen White, 44, a labourer, was charged with breaking into an Outhouse and stealing 26 cheeses from Sarah Harding, as well as three pairs of stockings from Patience Hill and a pair of gaiters from George Butler. Tried at Wells Spring Sessions on 26 March 1838, guilty, he was sentenced to 18 calendar months in the House of Correction and 6 weeks' Solitary confinement. He was removed from court to Shepton Gaol. A previous conviction in 1822 was noted.

On the 1841 census, at Cats Lane, Bruton, Somerset:

Naomi White, 55, Ann, 14, Harriet 11, Stephen 8, all born in the county. <sup>2</sup>

Then on 21 October 1845, an examination of James Willis, labourer, of Witham Friary, Somerset, John Andrews, labourer, John Evans, constable, and Edward White, plasterer, all of Bruton, Somerset in relation to a charge against Stephen White the Elder and Stephen White the Younger of stealing linen and flour from James Willis at Bruton. <sup>3</sup>

At the Somerset Quarter Sessions, at Wells on 6 January 1846:

Stephen White, the elder, for stealing a quantity of flour and some linen, the property of James Willis. Fifteen years transportation. (More on Stephen, the elder, follows)

Stephen White, the younger, for stealing a quantity of flour and some linen, the property of James Willis. One month's imprisonment.<sup>4</sup> The Criminal Register shows that Stephen White, jun, 15, can't read or write, was convicted of larceny, sentenced to one month imprisonment and to be whipped.

Young Stephen was again in trouble on 22 December 1847. An examination of Anne Couzens, daughter of John Couzens, a butcher of Bruton and Mary Biss, daughter of William Biss, a labourer living at Bruton, in relation to a charge against Stephen White and Benjamin Thompson, both late of Bruton, of stealing 10 pounds weight of meat from John Couzens' shop in Bruton. <sup>5</sup>

At the Somerset Epiphany Sessions, on 4 January 1848:

Stephen White, 16, and Benjamin Thompson, 16, old offenders, were convicted of stealing ten pounds of beef, the property of John Couzens, and received seven years' transportation.<sup>6, 7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> South West Heritage Trust; Taunton, Q/AGI/14/2

<sup>2</sup> The National Archives (TNA) UK, HO107/934/3; HO107/962/11

<sup>3</sup> Somerset Heritage Centre, Q/SR/547/71

<sup>4</sup> Taunton Courier and Western Advertiser, 14 January 1846, p2

<sup>5</sup> Somerset Heritage Centre, Q/SR/561/32

<sup>6</sup> Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette, 13 January 1848, p4

At the trial, a Certificate of Conviction, dated 1 January 1848, certified that at Wells Quarter Sessions on 6 January 1846, Stephen White the younger late of the Parish of Witham Priory labourer was convicted of (with another) with force and arms stealing 4 pounds weight of flour and other articles from James Willis the younger at Witham Priory on 20 October 1845 and sentenced to 1 months hard labour and to be once privately whipped. JP: Edwin Lovell, Clerk of the Peace. <sup>8</sup>

The Gaol Register shows that Stephen White, 16, 4'10½", fresh complexion, grey eyes, light brown hair, single, two fingers on left hand have been burnt, born Sanford, resides Bruton, labourer, was received on 7 January 1848 at Taunton Gaol.

Stephen was transferred to Millbank Prison on 8 February 1848 from Taunton Gaol, and on 17 April 1848, he was sent to Parkhurst Prison. These two registers indicate that he was single, could read, a labourer, and had once been convicted and whipped. Stephen boarded the *Pyrenees* on 13 March 1851 for the voyage to Western Australia. <sup>9</sup>

On arrival at Fremantle, Western Australia, on 28 June 1851, Stephen was assigned number 610, issued with a Ticket of leave and a physical description was recorded. He had grown almost 7 inches while in Prison in England.

610. Stephen White, 19, 5'6½", light hair, hazel eyes, long face, sallow complexion, stout, two deformed fingers on left hand, burn on knee, labourer, and single. <sup>10</sup>

The Superintendent's Journal shows:

16 July 1851. The following 71 men will be received today from the ship *Pyrenees* and will be located in No. 3 division, including 610. Stephen White. <sup>11</sup>

By December 1852, Stephen had paid £6 15s 5d of his passage money back to the Government. <sup>12</sup>  
A Conditional Pardon was granted in June 1853.

No further information has been discovered, but as more records are indexed, it may become clear what happened to him. Perhaps he tried to reach his father in Tasmania.

### Parents:

Stephen White: At his trial in 1846, a Certificate of Conviction certified that at Wells Quarter Sessions on the 14 January 1822 Stephen White of Milton Clevedon, Somerset, labourer, was convicted of with force and arms on the 9 January 1822 stealing one pollard tree from William Alford and sentenced to one month hard labour in the House of Correction at Ilchester, Somerset, including two separate weeks in solitary confinement: Edward Coles, Clerk of the Peace, 3 January 1846. <sup>13</sup>

The Prison Registers show that Stephen White, 52, married with four children, can't read or write, a labourer, was convicted on 6 January 1846 at Wells Sessions for stealing flour and linen after a previous conviction, and sentenced to 15 years, received at Millbank Prison on 3 February 1836 from Taunton Gaol. Twice previously convicted of a felony, imprisoned for 1 month and 18 months. On 21 April 1846, he was transported to Tasmania per *Palmira* (*Palmyra*). <sup>14</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Benjamin Thompson was sent to Tasmania per *Maria Somes* (2), arriving on 9 August 1850. He died on 3 November 1868 of softening of the brain at Hobart.

<sup>8</sup> Somerset Heritage Centre, Q/SR/561/123

<sup>9</sup> TNA, HO24/15; HO24/4

<sup>10</sup> SROWA, Acc 128/32

<sup>11</sup> SROWA, Superintendent's Orders, So1-So3, p61

<sup>12</sup> TNA, CO18/69

<sup>13</sup> Somerset Heritage Centre, Q/SR/547/74

<sup>14</sup> TNA, PCOM2/25

Stephen arrived at Hobart on 22 August 1846. He was assigned convict no. 18983. He said he was married with four children; his wife's name was Nahome (*sic*). He was born in Milton, where he had a brother and a sister living. Stephen received a Conditional Pardon on 19 December 1854. He died the following year on 13 May 1855 in Hobart of gastralgia; he was 62 years old.

Stephen's mother, Naomi White, died at Bruton, Somerset, at the age of 75, and was buried on 28 March 1862.