



Crime and Punishment

Woodborough

Joseph Plank – House Breaking - 1832

Salisbury Assizes

Tuesday –

Joseph Plank was indicted for breaking and entering the dwelling-house of Thos. Shipman, at Woodborough, on the 29th of August last, and stealing therefrom a cloth, two pairs of scissors, and other articles, his property. Verdict, Guilty. Death recorded.

The Salisbury and Winchester Journal – Monday, 12 March 1832

On Monday last the following convicts were removed from Fisherton gaol, and on Tuesday they were placed on board the Captivity hulk, Devonport: - ...Joseph Plank ... for housebreaking, sentenced to be transported for life. The whole of the above were convicted at the last Assizes, and had sentence of death recorded against them.

The Salisbury and Winchester Journal – Monday, 21 May 1832

OPC Notes

Although Joseph Plank was initially sentenced to death, this was commuted to transportation for life. Joseph was held in the prison hulk Captivity in Devonport pending a ship for transportation. The prison hulk registers record that Joseph Plank was 43 years of age and was held on the Captivity until 25 September 1832, being disposed of by transportation to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania). Joseph was one of 192 convicts transported on the Circassian, which departed for Van Diemen's Land on 4 November 1832. The Convict Muster Records state that Joseph died on the voyage and never arrived in Australia.

Aged 43 in 1832, Joseph Plank was baptized in Marden, Wiltshire on 13 September 1789 the son of William and Sarah Planck (nee Maslen), who had been married in Marden the previous year. There is no record of Joseph having a family of his own.
