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GEORGE GIBSON, JAMES EDWARDS, JAMES FLAWN.

Theft: theft from a specified place.

22nd May 1822

Reference Number	t18220522-50
Verdict	Guilty > with recommendation ; Guilty ; Not Guilty
Sentence	Death ; Death

Related Material

-  [Associated Records](#)
-  [Digital Panopticon](#)
[George Gibson](#) b. 1805, 7 records

815. GEORGE GIBSON , the said JAMES EDWARDS , and JAMES FLAWN , were indicted for stealing, on the 18th of April , at St. Martin in the Fields, four copper plates, value 2 l. the goods of Joseph Matthews , in his dwelling-house .

JOSEPH MATTHEWS . I rent a house in the parish of St. Martin in the fields . I lost four copper plates about the begining of April; none of them were worth less than 5 l. Edwards lodged in

my house with his father. I think I have seen Flawn in his company. The plates were kept in a place adjoining the kitchen. I found these four at the office.

JAMES BEACHEY . I have four plates which I got from the prisoner Gibson, in Dartmouth-street, Westminster. I first saw him on the 19th of April, about half-past seven o'clock at night, standing under an archway in Dartmouth-street, with Flawn and Edwards - I asked what they were doing, they immediately got up - Gibson and Flawn ran away; they had nothing then. I suspected and watched them, and as I came up the street, about eight o'clock that evening, I saw Gibson offering these plates for sale at a shop; I went in and asked what he had in the bag, which stood by his side; he hesitated, and then said it was copper. I found it contained four copper plates of Morland's works; he said his father had sent him to sell them; that his father was a cabinet maker, and lived at No. 9, Great Compton-street - I found he did live there. I asked how his father came by the plates, he said he took them for a bad debt of one Jameson - I asked where Jameson lived; he said it was no use to look for him, he was gone to America. I took him in custody.

ALEXANDER MITCHELL . I belong to the Police Vessel. Gibson was brought there on the 19th of April - I went to his father, and next morning his father came on board. I asked Gibson in his father's presence, whether the story he told the night before of his father's sending him to sell them, was true; he said No, it was not - that his father knew nothing of the transaction - that he would tell the truth; that himself and two boys, (whom he named) had got them out of a house on Thursday, where the father of one of those boys lived; they all three took them to George-street, St. Giles's that night, and next morning all three took them to Westminster, and were waiting for the money when the officer took him. I apprehended Edwards in consequence of information, and told him I took him for stealing a quantity of copper plates; he at first said he knew nothing about them, but afterwards, that he was in company with the boys when the plates were got, but he did not steal them. He was speaking of these four plates; he named Gibson as one of the two boys. He said they were taken on Thursday night to George-street, and they were all waiting at Westminster, when they saw the officer pass.

CHARLES GREEN . I am an officer. I apprehended Flawn on the 22d of April, and told him it was for stealing copper plates; he said Edwards and the other boy knew all about them, but he knew nothing.

MR. MATTHEWS. They are mine. The four would cost 20 l. engraving; they would now sell for 5 l. each. I do not think Gibson was ever in the house, he might have been in with Edwards.

One witness gave Gibson a good character.

GIBSON - GUILTY - DEATH . Aged 17.

EDWARDS - GUILTY - DEATH . Aged 49.

The Jury and Prosecutor recommended Gibson to Mercy, on account of his character and Youth, and believing it to have been his first offence.

First Middlesex Jury, before Mr. Justice Bayley

MAGNAY, Mayor.

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Fifth Session, 1822.

WILLIAM HAMMERTON was indicted for feloniously receiving the same, well knowing them to have been stolen.

JOSEPH MATTHEWS. I live in Hunt's-court, Castle-street, Leicester-fields. I know the prisoner Edwards, his father, mother, and himself lodged at my house—I am a copper plate engraver—I missed nothing till the 20th of April, when in consequence of what Mitchell told me, I examined my stock, and missed four or five copper plates, and afterwards twenty-two. I have seen four at Shadwell Office, in Mitchell's possession; they are part of those I missed. They were safe at the beginning of April, I know. The whole I have lost are worth 5*l.* each plate, and some of them 10*l.*, but none less than 5*l.* I had frequently met Edwards on the stairs and when he saw me, he always turned back again. He was going towards where the plates were kept, which is separated from the kitchen; he appeared confused, but I suspected nothing then.

Cross-examined by Mr. LAW. Q. You saw him on the kitchen stairs—A. Yes. I have no lodgers but his family.

ALEXANDER MITCHELL. I am a surveyor of the Thames Police. On the 20th of April, I apprehended Edwards at Mr. Matthews's house, about some plates, and on the 21st, Mr. Matthews made a communication to me, in consequence of which, I went to Edwards on board the Police ship; I told him Mr. Matthews had missed more plates, and asked if he knew any thing about them; he voluntarily said, "I do, I in company with another boy, took a quantity of plates from Mr. Matthews's house at different times—the first plate we took, we employed a boy named Gagger, who took the plate to a house up a court in Drury-lane, and there sold it, and brought us part of the money—we afterwards took a quantity more, which were carried by myself and another boy to the same place." In consequence of this I searched the house of the prisoner Hammerton, but found nothing there relating to the plates. I took Hammerton on board the ship to Edwards, who said, "That is the man I sold the plates to," Hammerton said, "You scoundrel, you know nothing of me;" Edwards said, "I do, you bought the plates; you gave me 6*d.* a lb. for the first lot, and 4*d.* for the rest." I took Hammerton in custody.

Cross-examined by Mr. LAW. Q. He denied all knowledge of them—A. Yes.

JAMES BEACHEY. I am a surveyor of the Thames Police. I was with Mitchell, and searched Hammerton's house, and then took him on board the vessel to Edwards—Mitchell called him up, and asked him if he knew any one standing on the fore-castle, he looked and pointed to Hammerton; Mitchell called him forward, and Edwards said to his face, that he was the man who bought the plates; he denied it, and called him a d—d rascal.

CHARLES GREEN. I am an officer of the Thames Police. I apprehended Flawn in George-street, St. Giles's, on the 22d of April, and asked him if he knew what I wanted him for, he said he did not; I said I wanted him for stealing copper plates; he immediately asked if Edwards was in custody, I said he was; he said Edwards and another boy knew all about them—I asked if he ever carried any plates along with the other boy, he said he did, to an old iron shop under an archway in Drury-lane;

that he should know the man by sight, but did not know his name—I asked if he meant Shorts gardens, he said he did—I asked if he took the plates into the house; he said No, but that Edwards carried them in, as the person would only admit one person into the house at a time—that he had taken some plates on the Saturday week previous, and on that day Edwards brought one half-crown from the man, and on the Monday following he received 14*s.*, which they shared among them; but Edwards had the best share. I took him to the office, and he pointed out Hammerton from among six or seven other people, as the man who received them; he denied it. Flawn said the plates came from Hunt's-court, Castle-street; that he was not in the house on any occasion, but waited outside in the street.

WILLIAM HALL. I work at a butcher's in Clare-market. I am called Gagger. I know Flawn, and have seen Edwards in his company passing our shop. About a month or five weeks ago, I was in Clare-market—Edwards and Flawn brought me a copper plate, tied in a blue apron; Edwards gave it me, and said it was a copper plate, and could I sell it, I said No—they shewed me an old iron shop in Short's gardens, and I took it in; Hammerton took it—he said nothing, but put it in the scale directly, and said, "Here is your money," and gave me a half-crown, which I brought out, and gave to Edwards—they gave me sixpence.

Cross-examined. Q. Have you been in custody before this—A. No. I job about as a drover.

RUSSELL PONTIFEX. I am a manufacturer of copper plates for engravers, and live in Lisle-street, Soho. I think I have seen Hammerton before; I have a very strong suspicion on my mind that he is the man who called on me about the beginning of April to ask what I would give for old copper plates; it was about a fortnight before Mr. Matthews called on me; I told him the price, but he never brought any. The impression is so strong on my mind that if your Lordship said I must swear either that he is or is not the man, I should rather swear that he is.

Q. How long were you with him—A. About two minutes. I described him to Mr. Matthews before he was apprehended.

MR. MATTHEWS. I have recovered none of this property: the value of one plate is from 8*l.* to 10*l.*; they were Ward's Sketchings, and some engravings; they were as good as new—the lowest value of any one of them could not be less than 8*l.*; they would not sell for less than 5*l.* at an auction of the trade, if fair notice was given—old plates always have the engravings erased.

EDWARDS'S Defence. I leave it to my counsel.

HAMMERTON'S Defence. I do not know the boys.

Four witnesses gave Edwards a good character.

EDWARDS—GUILTY—DEATH. Aged 49.

FLAWN—NOT GUILTY.

HAMMERTON—GUILTY. Aged 49.

Transported for Fourteen Years.

First Middlesex Jury, before Mr. Baron Garrow.

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FLAWN—NOT GUILTY.

The Jury and Prosecutor recommended Gibson to Mercy, on account of his character and Youth, and believing it to have been his first offence.

First Middlesex Jury, before Mr. Justice Bayley

816. **JAMES MILLER** was indicted for stealing, on the 4th of May, one cruet-frame and castors, value 3*l*., the goods of Robert Enkell, in his dwelling-house.

ROBERT ENKELL. I live in Duvall's-lane, Islington. On Saturday the 4th of May, I was sitting at the back part of the house, and heard a noise behind the house—I then heard two men in my employ cry Stop thief! I ran to the gate, and saw two lads in blue coats running. The cruet-frames were missing—the prisoner was brought back five minutes after, and he had a blue coat on; a neighbour brought the castors in. The thieves had got in at the parlour window; there were the marks of their feet in a chair. Another man was brought back with the prisoner, but he escaped.

JOHN FREETHY. I live in Duvall's-lane, about one hundred and fifty yards from the prosecutor's. I was standing at my gate, two boys passed me running; one said, "Go it Joe." I saw one of them throw something away, I pursued and picked up the cruet-frame and part of the glass. The two men were both stopped in my sight, and brought back; the prisoner was one—I had seen them an hour before at the prosecutor's gate, sitting on some gravel.

JOHN CONWAY. I am a constable. The prisoner and another man were given in my charge. They were taken before the Magistrate, and the other man escaped.

JOHN ENKELL. I am the son of the prosecutor. On the 4th of May, I was coming out of a field into the road, and saw one of the men get out of our window—he then handed the frame out, and put it under his coat. I called for assistance, and saw them brought back without losing sight of them. The prisoner was one. The other got out of the window.

Prisoner's Defence. I went with a boy to Highgate, he left me, returned in a quarter of an hour, and called to another boy who was with us—they ran away and I after them.

NOT GUILTY.

First Middlesex Jury, before Mr. Baron Garrow.

817. **CATHERINE JONES** was indicted for stealing, on the 3d of May, one watch, value 3*l*.; one chain, value 6*d*., and one key, value 2*s*., the goods of Humphrey Sullivan, in his dwelling-house.

SUSANNAH SULLIVAN. I am the wife of Humphrey Sullivan. The prisoner is my sister; I live at No. 3, Seaman's-court, Chandlers-street—she is a married woman. On Sunday the 3d of May she came to our house about five o'clock in the afternoon, and stopped till ten o'clock; my husband was in the room all the time, he took the watch out of his sabb and gave it her to put on the mantle-piece which she did; it laid there till near ten o'clock. I was busy washing—my husband asked me the time; I said, "Kitty look at the watch;" she said it was half-past nine, and put it on the nail again; it remained there—she was making some patchwork, and opened her work to fold it up, and put the work under her arm and walked out with