



FORMER PRISONERS

Individual Prisoners' Record Details

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|----------------------------|---|
| Full Name - | McDONALD, Hector |
| Reference - | AD 14/57/360 |
| Age - | 30 |
| Status - | Married |
| Address - | Ernal or Kirkpoll |
| Town - | Isle of Tyree |
| Area - | Argyll |
| Crimes - | Murder |
| Conviction - | Unknown |
| Occupation - | Unkown |
| Trial Date - | 17 April 1857 |
| Tried by - | Admitted February 1857 |
| Sentence | Life |
| Sail Date - | 26 August 1858 |
| Transported | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Arrive Date - | 20 November 1858 |
| Ship - | Edwin Fox |
| Where - | Western Australia |
| Other Information - | Jane Seaton married Hector McDonald in 1854. He was a crofter at Baleful, Tyree, but lost it and in the Spring of 1855 moved into his |



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| | <p>Mother-in-Law's house at Kirkapoll. The marriage was not a happy one and Christina Seaton feared for her daughter's safety. McDonald was extremely jealous and accused Jane of bearing a child by another man. He was several times before the Kirk session promising not to repeat the accusation at Jane's request, but it seemed to make little difference. One night Christina Seaton was wakened "by a great noise from the end of the house occupied by the prisoner which made me think that the wall of the house had tumbled in". She opened the partition door and saw her daughter unable to stand and being supported by McDonald. He maintained she had fallen. Jane was carried to her bed, but expired within ten minutes and her husband flung himself around melodramatically crying "Oh, she is dead! I'll throw myself in the sea!" Red marks were noticed around Jane's neck, but McDonald was in a hurry to get her buried and no post mortem was performed until later when witnesses came forward to give evidence about his brutality. The body was exhumed and a doctor certified that there were pressure marks around the neck. "I am quite satisfied the deceased did not die from natural causes. I am also quite satisfied that she died of asphyxiation produced by manual strangulation. I arrive at this opinion from the injuries described on the throat." McDonald denied the murder and claimed his mother-in-law had borne him ill-will for some time.</p> <p>In 1860 a comment in his record noted that "[he] is simple minded and likely to be made the sport of his fellow prisoners". On 9th July 1860 he received 10 days bread and water and 3 months separate confinement for absconding. Received his Ticket of Leave on 7th January 1864. The following year he was sent to the convict hospital suffering from consumption and died on 18th February 1865.6</p> |
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Inveraray Jail, Argyll, Scotland, PA32 8TX --- Tel: 01499 302381 --- Fax: 01499 302195 --- E-mail: info@Inverarayjail.co.uk