

JOHN HAYWARD (HAYWOOD)

John Hayward grew up in Stourpaine, Dorset, England, a part of a large family. His father was a farm labourer.

Nineteenth century Stourpaine was in the grip of extreme poverty, with cramped living conditions – large families sharing one small room, and children being kept out of school to grow food on the allotments. A good deal of cottage property belonged to landlords who were not particular about their tenants.

<http://www.opcdorset.org/StourFiles/Stourpaine/Stourpaine.ht>

The 1851 census lists 10 members (comprising three generations) of the Hayward family living at the one address, including 23 year old **John** and his 21 year old brother, James. Both had been sent out to work as soon as they turned nine. The family lived in two rooms, one downstairs and the other upstairs over it.

In October 1851 a warrant was issued against **John** and James Hayward for poaching, but this was not the only illegal activity they were involved in.

At 7pm on Sunday 19th October 1851 the clerk of the parish locked up the Durweston Church, after placing the church plate in a locked chest. Durweston and Stourpaine are neighbouring villages just over a mile apart.

On Monday morning the clerk found a pane of glass had been removed from the window of the church and silverware had been taken. Chisel marks were on the window and vestry door.

On the same day two constables were searching for the Hayward brothers and came across them in the nearby hamlet of Ash. As the policemen approached they heard a gun and a sound like the clinking of metal. The brothers were arrested and searched. A pheasant, some candles and a chisel was found. The chisel matched the marks in the church.

On Wednesday a search was made around the area the brothers were arrested and a piece of silver plate was found. The next day the rest of the missing church property was discovered amongst bushes covered with grass and some pheasant feathers.

The brothers were committed to trial at the Dorchester Assizes in March 1852 where they were also charged with burglary of a house in Stourpaine. The Hayward brothers both received sentences of 15 years transportation.

John was transferred from the Dorchester lockup to the prison hulk *Warrior* on the Thames at Woolwich on 30th June 1852. His conduct was reported as good, and in



late May 1854 he was transferred to the *Ramillies*, arriving in Fremantle in August 1854.



Christine Carter holding the stolen chalice in Durweston Church, Dorset.

(Photo: courtesy, Bevan Carter)

Information about the **Hayward brothers'** lives prior to their arrival at Fremantle has been generously shared by **John Hayward (Haywood)'s** descendants in Perth, Win Bryant and Bevan Carter.

JOHN HAYWARD (HAYWOOD)

Number: 3091

Born: 1828

Died: 13th May 1902

Arrival date:

7th August 1854

Ship: *Ramillies*

Ticket of Leave:

12th January 1856

Expiree:

12th March 1867

Certificate of Freedom:

29th July 1872



John Hayward (Haywood) in later life (Photo: courtesy, Win Bryant)

- Sentenced in 1852 at Dorchester, Dorset, England for sacrilege – 15 years
- Had previous convictions prior to sentencing
- Unmarried, labourer
- Semi-literate
- In 1865 was at Toodyay
- In 1866 believed to have married widow Winifred Pierce (nee Kelly)
- Had four children with Winifred – John, Annie, Sarah, William
- In 1891 purchased land at Avon Loc. 1692



- Changed surname from Hayward to Haywood
- Died at his farm "Mount John", at Nunile and is buried in the Toodyay Public Cemetery