

## WILLIAM SANDLANT (1769 ~ circa 1849)

By Douglas Hall  
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William Sandlant was born about 1769 in Ashby-de-la-Zouche, Leicestershire, England to parents Allan Sandlant and Hannah Buck. He was the great-grandfather of Helen Sandlant who came to Australia with her parents when aged 3 years in 1857 and later married William Topp in 1871.

Ashby-de-la-Zouch, — Zouch being pronounced /'zu:ʃ/ "Zoosh" — often shortened to Ashby, is a small market town and civil parish in North West Leicestershire, England, within the National Forest. "Ashby" is a word of Anglo-Danish origin, meaning "Ash-tree farm" or "Ash-tree settlement". The Norman French addition dates from the years after the Norman conquest of England, when the town became a possession of the La Zouche family during the reign of Henry III.



Figure 1: Leicestershire, England

Ashby de la Zouch Castle was built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The town and castle came into the possession of the Hastings family in 1464 and William Hastings, 1st Baron Hastings enhanced its fortifications from 1473. In the English Civil War the town was one of the Royalists' chief garrisons under the control of Colonel Henry Hastings, 1st Baron Loughborough and commander of the North Midlands Army. When the town fell after a long siege in March, 1646 it was counted a great relief to the surrounding towns and villages.

Ashby-de-la-Zouch castle was of importance from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the town became a spa town and before the growth of Coalville it was the chief town in north-west Leicestershire. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century its main industries were ribbon manufacture, coal mining and brickmaking. The town was served by Ashby Canal from 1804 and the Leicester to Burton upon Trent Line of the Midland Railway from 1845.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of May 1794 William married Mary Knight and they apparently had six children:

Catherine Sandlant, born 1798;  
James Sandlant, born 1799  
William Sandlant, born 1800  
Anne Sandlant, born 1802

Thomas Sandlant, born 1808

Mary Sandlant, born 1810

William's occupation was as a wool or jersey comber. From his occupation employed combing Jersey wool before spinning William received the nickname of "Billy Jersey".

Woolcombing was part of the process of worsted manufacture. In the manufacture of woollen textiles the raw wool was carded to lay the tangled fibres into roughly parallel strands so that they could be more easily drawn out for spinning. Wool used for worsted cloth required more thorough treatment for not only had the fibres to be laid parallel to each other but unwanted short staple wool also had to be removed. This process was called combing. It was an apprenticed trade, a seven year apprenticeship being the norm in the mid 18th century with apprenticeship starting at about the age of 12 or 13.

The comb, which was like a short handled rake, had several rows of long teeth, or broitches - originally made of wood, later of metal. The broitches were heated in a charcoal fuelled comb-pot as heated combs softened the lanolin and the extra oil used which made the process easier. The wool comber would take a tress of wool, sprinkle it with oil and massage this well into the wool. He then attached a heated comb to a post or wooden framework, threw the wool over the teeth and drew it through them repeatedly, leaving a few straight strands of wool upon the comb each time. When the comb had collected all the wool the comber would place it back into the comb-pot with the wool hanging down outside to keep warm. A second hank of wool was heated in the same way. When both combs were full of the heated wool (about four ounces) the comber would sit on a low stool with a comb in each hand and comb one tress of wool into the other by inserting the teeth of one comb into the wool stuck in the other, repeating the process until the fibres were laid parallel. To complete the process the combed wool was formed into slivers, several slivers making a top, which weighed exactly a pound. The noils or noyles ( short fibres left after combing) were unsuitable for the worsted trade so were sold to manufacturers of baize or coarse cloth.

However, in the early part of his life in about 1793 William became involved with a person of dishonest character (identity unknown) and by 1815 he was supplementing his income becoming involved in unlawful activities, mainly stealing, becoming well known to the local constabulary and received a conviction.

By 1838 it seems that William was a complete rogue involved in large scale larceny with a gang of thieves. In March 1838, at the age of 69, William and his gang were captured and arrested for stealing a large quantity of wool, sugar and gin. Refer to the newspaper reports of the arrest and trial at Figure 3 to 7.

For his part as ring leader of the gang William Sandlant was found guilty as charged and sentenced on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 1838 to life imprisonment and transportation to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania). On the 20<sup>th</sup> of July 1838 William was transferred to the prison hulk "JUSTITIA" moored on the Thames River at Woolwich (SE20), Greater London. On the 16<sup>th</sup> of August 1838, William was loaded together with 210 other prisoners onto the prison ship "AUGUSTA JESSIE" and set sail for Van Diemen's Land, arriving 114 days later at Port Arthur on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December 1838.

From the goal records we find that William Sandlant was married with six children and could neither read nor write. He was described by his jailer as, "*convicted of previously offences*" and "*bad in every respect - orderly*". The records also describe his appearance as follows:

Trade:	Wool comber
Height without shoes:	5' 51/2"

Age:	70
Complexion;	Sallow
Head:	Round
Hair;	Black to Grey
Whiskers:	Ditto
Visage:	Round
Forehead:	Low
Eyebrows:	Black to Grey
Eyes:	Blue
Nose:	Wide
Mouth:	Wide
Chin:	Small
Remarks:	None

In the *New South Wales Tasmania Australia Convict Muster* records we find William Sandlant:

Year	Police Number	In What Service or How Employed
1841,	2618	Mr. Wilde Mo??????
1846		3 <sup>rd</sup> class pass, Outlaws Depot (?)
1849	2618	Impression Bay Station

(Impression Bay is located at Premaydena on the peninsula near the Port Arthur prison and was used as a Probation Station)



**Figure 2: Impression Bay Probation Station, c 1850 (W.L. Crowther Library, SLT)**

The Probation System was an experiment in penal discipline unique to Van Diemen's Land. Introduced in 1839, it was modified several times from 1846 until it was abandoned altogether following the abolition of transportation to the colony in 1853.

The assignment system which preceded it – although widely regarded in the colony as an effective system of both punishment and reform (and one which suited the economic interests of the colonists) – had by the 1830s attracted much criticism in Great Britain. It was felt to be too inconsistent in its application, chiefly because the treatment assigned convicts received was more often determined by the character of their masters, rather than the nature of their crimes. It could either be too harsh, little removed from slavery, or too lax, with the convicts

enjoying better physical conditions than they had left at home and subject to little discipline. In this view, assignment neither reformed the prisoners nor provided a deterrent to potential offenders in Britain.

Probation shared a theoretical base with the penitentiary system; the key principles being that both punishment and reform could be achieved by separate confinement and a regime of hard labour, religious instruction and education. The system sought to punish with a just but dread certainty. It required all prisoners to be classified according to the severity of their offences, with the separation of individuals and classes employed to contain the corrupting influence of the more hardened offenders. All convicts were to be subjected to successive stages of punishment, commencing with a period of confinement and labour in gangs: at a penal settlement for life-sentenced prisoners, or at a probation station for all others. If they progressed satisfactorily through several stages of decreasing severity, they received a probation pass and became available for hire to the settlers. Gangs of passholders awaiting employment remained at the stations and continued to labour on public works. Sustained good conduct eventually led to a ticket-of-leave or a pardon. More than eighty probation stations operated in various locations, for varying periods, throughout the settled districts. Often hastily and poorly built, few remain, and most of those in ruins.

In practice the scheme was a disastrous failure, undermined by poor planning and administration, inadequate funding, huge numbers, and an unforeseen economic depression. With little demand for the labour of the passholders, the system was overwhelmed. For the prisoners it brought increased misery and for the colonists it brought the worst of both worlds: increasing numbers of convicts among them, whose potentially corrupting presence was no longer offset by their economic contribution. Far from achieving its reform objectives, the system bred idleness, disorder and vice, not least of which for contemporaries was an allegedly dramatic increase in 'unnatural crime'. Furthermore, the entire system became an increasing burden to them as London sought to transfer more and more of the costs of transportation to the colony. The failure of probation was largely responsible for the downfall of Lt-Governor Eardley-Wilmot, and it turned the majority of colonists into implacable opponents of transportation itself.

*(Further reading: I Brand, The convict probation system, Hobart, 1990.)*

No further trace of William Sandlant can be found at this time and it is assumed that he may have died in Tasmania sometime after 1849 when he is recorded in the muster, when he would have been over 80 years old. His wife Mary and children apparently remained in England.

## Detection of a Gang of Burglars

AT ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH.

A system of robbery has been in existence at Ashby, and in the neighbourhood, for nearly ten years, which has been conducted with astonishing success and audacity, by a number of men, some of whom have been almost openly known in the town as the guilty parties. The remainder of the number, against whom evidence has been adduced, were unsuspected by their neighbours. The master-spirit, or presiding-genius, of this gang of rogues, is an old man named Sandlant, frequently called "Billy Jarsey," who is supposed to have acquired this nick-name from having been originally a jersey-cumber. Sandlant, in the early part of his life, some forty five years ago, learnt his business from a man of dishonest character, and he has been a noted character ever since. At a late examination before the Magistrates, which, we are informed, led to the exposure of the whole scheme of villainy, a witness present said that Sandlant had been charged with an offence forty years ago. "No," replied he, "it was no such thing—it was only thirty years ago!" He is between sixty and seventy years of age. Sandlant was in the habit of buying and selling small lots of wool with farmers, and this gave him a plausible appearance of respectability, and would account for his having been in the possession of wool in large quantities, which he had stolen from neighbouring farmers. Thomas Pickering, another individual who figures in the report underneath, had lived with some of the farmers, and bore a fair character with them, previous to his first connection with Sandlant, seven years ago. He and Knott were suspected of having lived by poaching.—Whether this system of robbery has gone on thus unchecked from the neglect of the local police, or the cunning of the thieves, we are unable to state, but to say the least of it, it is remarkably strange, that no more prompt and effective steps have been taken to detect them.—Persons in a better condition of life, than might have been suspected, are said to have been the regular purchasers of the stolen articles. The names of those who have been before the Magistrates, as principals, are Thomas, Henry, and John Pickering, William Knott, Moses Kirby, William Sandlant, and Elizabeth Bodell. Another or two have been discharged. We present to our readers a report of the examination on Friday, before the Magistrates (the Rev. John Piddocke and William Wootton Abney, Esqrs).

**STEALING WOOL AT NORMANTON.**—WILLIAM SANDLANT and THOMAS PICKERING, labourers of Ashby, were both charged with having broken into a building, at Normanton-le-Heath, on the 30th of August last, and stolen therefrom 84 lbs. weight of wool, the property of Robert Green, Esq. of Sweptstone.

The prosecutor stated, that early in July last, about 175 fleeces of wool were deposited in his granary at Normanton, the property of his late father, Valentine Green, Esq. Mr. Bourne's man came to look at the wool, for the purpose of purchasing it, and it appeared less in bulk, but he (prosecutor) did not suspect any of it had been stolen: it was sold about that time, and a person came ten days afterwards to weigh it. They then counted the fleeces, and found a considerable quantity missing—witness was sure there were thirty-three fleeces missing: sold it at 35s. the tod.

George Thompson, waggoner to the late Valentine Green, Esq. remembered putting a quantity of wool in the granary, but could not speak as to the precise number of fleeces. Witness went occasionally to the granary, but did not notice the wool, as the shutters were closed in that part of the granary. When Mr. Bourne's man came, he (witness) assisted him in packing the wool. He said he thought there was not so much wool as Mr. Green expected: they unpacked the wool, and found a considerable quantity missing.

Thomas Mount and James Palfrey, two youths—the latter a brick-yard boy—both stated that they met Sandlant and Pickering, about one o'clock one morning last corn-harvest, coming on the footpath between Packington and Ashby, with bags on their heads, which they pulled over their faces as they came by them, and also turned their heads away. The bags appeared to be full of something.

Pickering voluntarily confessed that about the month of August last, he and Sandlant went to Mr. Green's granary, at Normanton. They picked the lock, and took away about seven fleeces: as they were returning with the fleeces on their backs in bags, they met two boys near Mr. Fisher's mill, at Ashby, whom they did not know. A few nights after, he, and Sandlant, and Knott, went to Normanton again, and once after that: they brought away 23 fleeces altogether, and carried the wool on their backs. Sandlant and himself (Pickering) took the wool to Sandlant's house. They took the wool from the granary on Wednesday night, and went again the next night, but it was gone: on the Friday morning about one o'clock, they left Ashby with the wool, and went to Leicester. They took the wool, intending to sell it to a person named Cooper, who lived near the Fish and Quart, but not in the same street: they waited for Mr. Cooper, but he did not come, and another man came up and asked the price of the wool. This man's warehouse was near to Cooper's, on the opposite side of the street, and he gave him (prisoner) 28s. 6d. a tod: the lot came to £18. Prisoner got about £5, and Sandlant the rest. Cooper came up, and they told him they had sold the wool. He made them promise to bring him the next load, and they said they would.

**ANOTHER CASE OF STEALING WOOL.**—The same prisoners were examined on a second charge of having stolen out of a building adjoining the house of Messrs. Davy, wine-merchant, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, 100 lbs. weight of wool, and two gallons of gin in a cask, the property of the said Messrs. Davy, on the 17th of March.—Pickering was charged with feloniously receiving some of the articles.

Mr. J. Davy deposed that, in March last, he had upwards of 100 lbs. weight of wool, in his warehouse at Ashby, and missed it in the April following. On the morning of the 17th of March, a cask of gin was missed from a cart in the yard. The cask was numbered in a book he kept: it was never delivered, nor was the party ever charged with the gin. The cask now produced by Thomas Price, the constable, was identified by the witness, as the one which had been entered in his book, and contained the gin: he had no doubt whatever respecting it.

Thomas Price, constable, stated that he searched Sandlant's house, on Monday, the 4th of June, and found there the cask produced.

Pickering voluntarily confessed to the truth of this charge, and proceeded to give some of the particulars connected with the robbery. Sandlant brought the wool to him, and told him of the robbery. It appeared by Pickering's confession, that he had been more of a receiver than a thief.

**STEALING GROCERY.**—The same parties were charged with having broken into a building occupied by Mr. C. R. Crossley, grocer, Ashby, on the 1st of February, and stolen therefrom 28 lbs. of sugar, 2 lbs. of tobacco, five brushes, some soap, and other articles.

Mr. Crossley stated that he missed the articles in January or February. The brushes produced by Price were his property.—The prosecutor's son gave similar testimony.

Thomas Price, constable, said that he found the brushes, along with several skeleton keys, in Sandlant's house, on the 4th of June.

Pickering again confessed that he and Sandlant committed the robbery, and detailed the particulars. Sandlant told him (Pickering) he had sold the sugar to old Mrs. Bodell, of Swadlincote.

Sandlant denied the charge altogether.

**STEALING GLASS, ASHBY.**—WILLIAM SANDLANT was then charged with stealing ninety-four glasses, the property of James Cliffe, of Swadlincote, on the 1st of May, from a warehouse in Ashby.—This case was proved from the fact of the glass being found at Sandlant's house, and from Pickering's confession.

There was a second charge against SANDLANT alone, for stealing 100 pieces of earthenware belonging to Thomas Litherland, of Ashby, on the 9th of November. This was similar in character to the last case, and was proved by the witnesses.

Sandlant was committed to Leicester County Gaol after this day (Thursday's) examination; and was brought in custody of Mr. Goodyer, Superintendent of Police, who had been engaged in assisting to bring the above parties to justice.—Pickering was also committed.

Figure 3: The Leicester Chronicle, 16 June 1838

**Most Extraordinary Gang of Robbers.**—Great excitement has been caused at Ashby-de-la-Zouch, during the last week, in consequence of the apprehension of eight robbers, who have been secretly preying on the tradesmen of Ashby for 20 or 30 years. The depredators were discovered in the following manner:—

Three men broke into the house of Mr. Okey, butcher, of Packington, one of whom, (Thomas Pickering) being recognized by the inmates, was apprehended, and who made such disclosures as speedily to place inurance vile two of his relatives named Henry and John Pickering, William Knott, Moses and James Kirby, Elizabeth Rodell, and William Sandlant, alias "Billy Jersey." In the house of the latter, (who is 70 years of age) an enormous number of skeleton keys were discovered, which at once explained how the stock of nearly every tradesman in Ashby had silently disappeared during the last 20 or 30 years. The Ashby magistrates have been busily engaged, for several days past, and on Thursday, Mr. Goodyer, (Superintendent of the Leicester Police) was sent for by them. Yesterday, Messrs. Piddocke and Ashby fully committed Sandlant on five distinct charges, and Mr. Goodyer brought him to the County Gaol last night. The parties he stands charged with robbing are, Messrs. Crossley, Cliff, Davis, Litherland, and the Executors of — Green of Normanton. The other seven prisoners were remanded, not for want of evidence, but for want of time to commit them. Mr. Hassell, we understand, has lost no less than 500 fleeces in an extraordinary manner—but now the matter is explained.

Figure 5: The Leicestershire Mercury, 9 June 1838

**THE ASHBY ROBBERIES.**

WILLIAM SANDLANT was charged with having stolen 100lbs. weight of wool, and a cask of gin, the property of Messrs. John and Thomas Davys, of Ashby, on the 17th March.—Mr. John Davys deposed to the gin having been missed, and Charles Lee, assistant to the prosecutors, stated that he assisted in putting the cask on the cart. A youth who was employed to drive the cart, said that he went about nine miles on the road from Ashby towards Tatan Hill, where the cask was ordered to be left, before he missed it. He was cross-examined as to whether he passed through any villages—this he admitted.—Price, the constable, searched the prisoner's house and found in it a cask, which he produced. There were on it some burnt marks.—Thomas Pickering deposed that Sandlant brought two bags of wool to his house at Ashby-de-la-Zouch, about twelve months last March, early in the morning, and said he had had them from Mr. Davys' at Ashby. He left the wool at witness's house, and brought a keg of gin as well. Sandlant burned the letters out of the cask.—Cross-examined by Mr. Burnaby for the defence: Witness has been in custody on this charge; has come from gaol to give his evidence; is in custody on several charges. The witness underwent a rigid examination as to his transactions with Sandlant.—Re-examined by Mr. Hildyard for the prosecution: Had never paid the cask as part of his debt to Sandlant, nor the keys.—The prosecutor identified the cask.—Mr. Burnaby addressed the jury to the effect that the principal witness was a person of bad character, and there was no other evidence to convict the prisoner.—The Chairman concurred with respect to the evidence, and stated further that there was nothing to convict as to the wool; but the jury found the prisoner guilty, and a previous conviction in 1815 was proved. There were several other cases against the prisoner, and the hour being too late to commence them, the Court was adjourned till next morning.

(Before Mr. Harrison, Esq.)

Figure 4: The Leicester Chronicle, 7 July 1838

Wednesday, July 4.

(Before C. W. PACE, Esq. M.P., Chairman.)

WILLIAM SANDLANT was again arraigned on a charge of breaking into the warehouse of Mr. Crossley, grocer, of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, and stealing therefrom several brushes, a quantity of sugar, tobacco, and soap; and ELIZABETH BODELL (an old woman) was also charged with receiving a portion of the same, well knowing the articles to be stolen.

Mr. Hildyard conducted the prosecution, and Messrs. White and Burnaby the defence.

Thomas Pickering, an accomplice, was admitted Queen's evidence, and deposed that about midnight last he accompanied the prisoner Sandlant to the warehouse of Mr. Crossley, which they entered by means of skeleton keys, about twelve o'clock at night. Sandlant struck a light, after which

they took the articles in question, and put them in a bag and carried them away.

Thomas Price, constable, stated that in consequence of some information given to him, he searched the house of Sandlant, on the 4th of June, where he found five sweeping brushes, and a quantity of skeleton keys, concealed in a hole in the roof. Witness also searched Mrs. Bodell's, where he found a sweeping brush and bag, afterwards found to be the property of the prosecutor.

Thomas Astle saw the prisoner Sandlant at Swadlincote in June, having with him a bag, which he took to Mrs. Bodell's. There were some people in the shop, and Sandlant did not go in. Sandlant and the man went another way to the shop, and witness judged they left the bag there, but did not see them do it. They walked backwards and forwards before the shop for two hours; they afterwards went in the shop. Witness could not tell what was in the bag.

Cross-examined by Mr. White: I watched them because I thought they were suspicious characters. It was Saturday night—a busy night in the village.

Reuben Newbold corroborated the last witness's testimony in part. Cross-examined: Did not know Sandlant.

Mr. Dewes, attorney for the prosecution, having been sworn, Mr. White objected to his testimony. Mr. Hildyard replied, and after several remarks, the witness proceeded to state that he went to Mrs. Bodell to request her to attend at the magistrates' room during the examination. He would swear that Mrs. Bodell had acknowledged that his evidence was true. On hearing the deposition read, she stated that she had not known Sandlant for three years past; she had not thought anything of him in her life; and she did not know Pickering. He (witness) made notes of these statements before her.

Mr. Crossley, grocer, of Ashby, deposed that he had some brushes in his warehouse. Those produced in Court were his property. Witness missed the brushes from the warehouse about January, and some sugar from a warehouse below. Knew the bag produced very well. Had never sold one to anybody. Cross-examined: Had no customers from Swadlincote, and never sold any brushes to Mrs. Bodell.

Mr. Rudford, a lodger at Mrs. Bodell's, said he had seen Pickering come to the shop two or three times with potatoes. Thomas Pickering underwent a long and rigorous examination by Messrs. Burnaby and White, as to his transactions with Sandlant, and his own criminal offences. Several facts were stated by him, nearly all implicating himself. He stated that he wished to ease his conscience by a confession.

Mr. Burnaby addressed the jury on behalf of Sandlant, remarking that the prosecutors in this case proceeded with relentless vengeance, not content with having already proved a charge against him which would take him out of the country, but wishing to heap punishment upon punishment. He also dwelt on Pickering's evidence.

Mr. White appeared for Mrs. Bodell, and made a similar address. He then called

Marianne Woodward, who stated that she knew Pickering, and recollected him bringing some potatoes and some malt, in a bag, which he never said he brought from Sandlant's. — Cross-examined: Witness does Mrs. Bodell's char-work and other little jobs.

Two or three other witnesses were examined, who deposed to the fact of Mrs. Bodell having purchased potatoes, brushes, and malt, of different parties. Two or three witnesses were also called to character.

Mr. Hildyard, in reply to Mr. Burnaby's remark about the vindictive character of the prosecution, stated that by the conviction of yesterday he was liable to transportation for life, and therefore an additional conviction would not add weight to the punishment. Besides, the case against the prisoner Bodell depended upon the conviction of Sandlant.

The Chairman commented on the evidence, and took the edge off the remarks made by Messrs. Burnaby and White in a considerable degree, while dwelling on particular points in the evidence.

The jury found the prisoners guilty, and Sandlant was sentenced to transportation for life—Mrs. Bodell to nine months hard labour.

This case occupied the attention of the Court, from the opening, until two o'clock.

JOHN PICKERING was not put upon his trial, though mentioned in the calendar. We believe that he and others of the Ashby burglars were taken to Derby for trial.

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Figure 6: The Leicester Chronicle, 7 July 1838

### The Ashby Gang.

WILLIAM SANDLANT, 69, was charged with stealing a quantity of wool and a cask of gin, belonging to Messrs. John and Thomas Davys, of Ashby, on the 17th of March. Mr. John Davys and Charles Lee (assistant to Messrs. D.) having deposed to the gin being sent by a boy, in a cart, the latter stated that he did not miss the cask till he had got nine miles from Ashby towards Stapenhill. Price (the Ashby constable) produced the cask, which he found in the prisoner's house. Thomas Pickering (an accomplice brought from gaol to give evidence) said that Sandlant brought the cask of gin and some wool to his (Pickering's) house in Ashby, and said that he had got the property from the prosecutors. There were several marks on the cask which Sandlant burnt out. Pickering underwent a very severe cross-examination by Mr. Burnaby (Mr. Hildyard being for the prosecution) who showed clearly that Pickering was a thorough-paced villain. Notwithstanding the marks had been erased, the prosecutors identified the cask. Mr. Burnaby, in addressing the Jury, commented on the fact of Pickering being a person of very bad character, and also that his evidence was unsupported, in which the Chairman, in a great measure coincided, but, notwithstanding, the Jury found the prisoner Guilty. A previous conviction was then proved against the prisoner, but owing to there being several other charges against him, his sentence was deferred.

SANDLANT was again arraigned for stealing several brushes, and a quantity of other articles, from the shop of Mr. Crossley, grocer, Ashby, and an old woman named ELIZABETH BODELL, was charged with receiving some of the goods, knowing them to be stolen. Mr. Hildyard again conducted the prosecution, and Messrs. White and Burnaby defended the prisoners. Pickering (being again admitted Queen's evidence) said that, about last Michaelmas, he and Sandlant got into the prosecutor's warehouse about midnight, by means of some skeleton keys, and carried off the goods in question. Price (the constable,) deposed to finding some of the stolen property in the houses of both the prisoners. Thomas Astle said that he saw Sandlant and a companion go towards the female prisoner's house, at Swadlincote, with a bag in his hand, which, from their suspicious motions, (Sandlant and his companion having walked before the door for some time while there were other persons in the shop,) he supposed they left there. Reuben Newbold having corroborated the last witness's evidence, Mr. Dewes (attorney for the prosecution) was sworn, whose testimony was objected to by Mr. Hildyard, but eventually he was allowed to give his evidence, which was to the effect that the female prisoner, when before the Magistrate, stated that she had never bought anything of Sandlant in her life, that she had not known him for three years, and that she knew nothing of Pickering. Mr. Crossley identified the property as that which he had missed from his warehouse, and said that he had never sent any goods to Swadlincote. William Radford, a lodger at the female prisoner's, said that Pickering had repeatedly come to Mr. Bodell's shop with potatoes. After Pickering had been very roughly handled by the Learned Counsel for the defence, both gentlemen addressed the Jury for their respective clients, (Mr. Burnaby urging that the prosecution was vindictive, considering that Sandlant had been convicted,) and Mr. White (on behalf of Bodell) called her charwoman, (Marianne Ward) who said that Pickering had brought some malt and potatoes to the house in a bag, but that he did not say he brought them from Sandlant. Two or three other witnesses deposed to the fact of Mrs. Bodell having purchased potatoes, malt, &c. from various parties, and others were called to her character. Mr. Hildyard, in his reply, denied that the prosecution was vindictive, remarking that the case against the female depended on the conviction of the male prisoner, and that, Sandlant being already liable to transportation for life, a second conviction would not be of much consequence, as far as he was concerned. The Chairman having summed up at considerable length, the Jury found both prisoners Guilty, when Sandlant was sentenced to transportation for life, and Bodell to nine months' hard labour.—This case alone occupied the Court nearly five hours. Pickering, being admitted Queen's evidence, was not tried: we suppose he will be detained in custody until he has given evidence against the remainder of the gang, (which embraces some of his near relations,) who, we believe, have been sent to Derby for trial. The four other indictments against Sandlant were not pressed.

Figure 7: The Leicestershire Mercury, 7 July 1838