

HMS Racehorse (1702) – Full Description

HMS Racehorse, under the command of Captain William B Suckling, was ordered from the Plymouth station to the Isle of Man, as convoy for the naval cutter Vigilant, Lieutenant Read, which had been badly damaged on Conister Rock in Douglas Bay on Sunday 6th October 1822 and was obliged to cut away her mast and throw her guns overboard; she was with much difficulty taken into Douglas harbour. After undergoing a temporary repair she was to proceed to Plymouth in company with HMS Racehorse.

HMS Racehorse left Holyhead early on the morning of Saturday 14th December 1822, bound for Douglas. She made the Calf Lights at 5.00 p.m., with another light being distinguished shortly afterwards, which the pilot concluded to be that on Douglas pier head.

Captain Suckling gave orders to haul windward and reef the topsails, with the brig's head offshore, but before the command could be executed, she struck upon a rock, which they would later find out was adjacent to the Skerranes, at Langness Point. It was dark and cloudy, the sea running high in a fresh southwesterly wind and she was thrown violently against the rocks.

Guns of distress with rockets, false fires, and other signals were made to attract assistance from the shore but there was no response. Captain Suckling ordered the cutter, under the command of Lieutenant Mallock, and full of men, to reach shore to seek assistance.

Difficulty was experienced in getting the cutter out and every effort used to get the stream anchor into it, in order to carry it out, but the breakers rendered the idea impracticable. It was at this moment that the commander and officers became certain that the Racehorse was badly holed and would not survive.

The galley, also, was dispatched, manned by Mr Curtis, the purser, Mr Edwards, a midshipman and seventeen men. At 11.30 p.m. the galley was rowed into a gulley at Fort Island, from where the men could land and they proceeded immediately to Castletown to seek help. At 1.00 a.m. the cutter also reached land at Port Grenaugh further up the coast.

Meanwhile the flood tide continued to rise and heavy seas began to sweep right over the brig. All hopes of saving the brig gone, the officers concentrated on saving the crew.

Unknown to the crew of the Racehorse their distress signals had been seen and heard in Castletown. The subsequent rescue of the remaining crew of the Racehorse and the capsizing of the rescue boat only seconds from safety on its final trip back from the wreck is eloquently described in a letter by George Quirk, Water-Bailiff, to his brother James, also a Water-Bailiff, which forms part of the Atholl Papers. George Quirk observed the rescue events first hand:

*"Sunday morning
8 o'clock*

Dear James

The loss of His Majesty's brig Racehorse which took place upon the Point of Langness last night was attended with very lamentable circumstances. I shall endeavour to give you a brief detail. About half past five I heard the first gun, in a few minutes another was repeated. I went down to the pier and from the light which the rockets and blue lights afforded I could see a corner of the land within the ship and that she was ashore upon the most dangerous

part of the coast – the Skerranes. Guns were now fired and rockets discharged in rapid succession and though it was then low water we managed to send off three boats from the harbour. A strong party of the officers of the Customs and others including Thimbbly and myself went by land. It was an extreme dark night. When we reached the Point we found Lucas and Brine who had come across the bay in one of the boats. The tide of flood had commenced and the sea was very heavy. Two of the boats nearly filled in going around the Point and put back - the other was more successful got close to the windward of the ship but did not dare to go alongside and ran along the land into Dreswick Harbour. A boats crew were however encouraged to make another attempt. I give you their names Quayle/Bobby Sam/Christian/Bully's Son/Kelly of the Green/Tom Hall and Robert Martin. They succeeded in getting alongside and to take away 12 or 14 of the people and landed them at extreme risk in Dreswick Harbour. They went out and returned four times and proceeded the fifth time to take away the captain, first lieutenant and some of the other officers a few of the people in all 14 persons - including the boats crew 19 were in the boat. A light had been placed upon the south point of Dreswick to direct the boat and about 50 yards within the Point some bundles of straw were lit fire to. The boat approached – Lucas, two of the officers, myself and five or six boatmen were upon the rock ready to assist them. There was occasionally a high surf. The tide had flowed over some flat rocks and the opening into what is called the Harbour (a large gullet) appeared wider – in rounding the south point the ran the boat too close and her bilge took the rock and overset. It was a most dreadful spectacle and their cries were most appalling. The oars and boat hook were instantly thrown upon the rock and those who supported themselves in the water were dragged ashore. The Captain and his First Lieutenant were the first who gained the rock. A master's mate was drowned and several others of the ship people. Two only of the boat's crew were saved – Quayle, Hall and Bridson were not seen at all – they must have been confined under the water by the boat. The boat was righted when she reached the rock but a hat only floated out of her. The active assistance of Lucas was invaluable. My principle object in writing is to ask if some provision cannot be procured from the British Government for the widows and children of the boatmen – voluntarily subscription will be merely a temporary relief. Subscriptions however ought to commence immediately in a public format way. I will expect your aid.

*Truly yours
George Quirk."*

On the reverse side of the second sheet of the letter is written:

"The ship's cutter and yawl which left the ship early in the evening with about 30 of the people and for whom fears were entertained – got into Port Grenaugh all right.

The ship left Holyhead yesterday having a pilot on board from Milford. Made the land and Calf Lights. The pilot was a most ignorant fellow of this coast."

Captain Suckling and Lieutenant Faulkner, being good swimmers, reached the rocks safely but were much bruised from their escape from drowning. Seven other man, a mixture of the fishing boat's crew and the Racehorse's crew, safely reached the rocks too. Unfortunately eight men, three of them local men, were drowned. The five crewmen from the Racehorse who were drowned were: John Grundy; Thomas Mein Bone, 24 years, mate, of London;

Charles Caggett; James White; and William Stewart. The three local men who drowned were Norris Bridson, Thomas Hall and Robert Quayle. William Millett, boy, had been drowned earlier while attempting to get into one of the boats. The widow of Robert Quayle had just had the couple's eighth child.

A statement from Robert Kelly, High Bailiff, Castletown to the Duke of Atholl dated 22nd December 1822 gave details of the three Castletown fishermen's families:

"The following is a correct statement of the respective families and children's ages of two of the unfortunate Manx seamen who were drowned on the night of the 14th December 1822 when saving the officers and crew of His Majesty's Brig Racehorse –

*Catherine Quayle, widow of Robert Quayle
Jane Quayle their daughter aged 15 years
Robert Quayle their son aged 12 years
Ellinor Quayle their daughter aged 9 years
Thomas Quayle their son aged 6 years
Isabella Quayle their daughter aged 4 years
John Quayle their son aged 7 weeks*

The deceased was a poor man, and were it not for charitable relief since his death, the above widow and children would be in the greatest distress.

*Margaret Hall, widow of Thomas Hall
Ellinor their daughter aged 3 years
Margaret their daughter aged 1 year*

Certified as above.

*Ann Bridson, sister of Norris Bridson, a bachelor who drowned upon the above occasion.
Robert Bridson her son aged 14 years
John Bridson her son aged 9 years*

The daily exertions of the deceased Norris Bridson were in part the support of his sister and her two children above named.

*All which is certified by
Robert Kelly, High Bailiff
Castletown, 21st December 1822."*

A letter from Robert Kelly, High Bailiff, Castletown to the Duke of Atholl dated 31st December 1822 shows the initial reaction of the Admiralty towards awarding pensions to the families.

"Castletown the 31st December 1822

My Lord Duke

I have this day received a letter from the Admiralty Office, a copy of which I have taken the liberty of transmitting to you Grace. In answer to which letter I have given the same information as that contained in my letter to your Grace of the 21st instant.

*I have the honour to remain
My Lord Duke
Your Grace's
Most obedient & very humble servant*

Robert Kelly."

The letter from J W Croker, Admiralty Office, London, to Robert Kelly, High Bailiff, Castletown, dated 24th December 1822.

"Admiralty Office 24 December 1822

Sir

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having learned that three seamen of Castletown have been lost in their humane and courageous endeavours to save the crew of His Majesty's late Sloop Racehorse, and his Lords intending to recommend to His Majesty to grant a pension to the widows of these men if they have left any. I am commanded to request you will be so good as to inform me of the names of each of these individuals so unhappily lost and whether they have left widows and children, and if children, the number and ages.

*I am
Sir
Your most obedient servant
J W Croker"*

A letter from the Admiralty dated 25th January 1823 gave details of pensions to be paid to the widows of the local men who died. £15 yearly as a pension was to be paid to the widow of Robert Quayle, and £10 each to the widow and sister of Thomas Hall and Norris Bridson. In addition the residents of the Isle of Man ran a subscription fund:

*"NOTICE.
A MEETING of the SUBSCRIBERS who have so handsomely contributed towards the Relief of the Widows and Children of the Boatmen who perished, and for a Compensation to the Survivors who so bravely and meritoriously hazarded their lives in rescuing the Officers and greatest part of the crew of H. M. Brig Racehorse, is requested at the GEORGE HOTEL. Castletown, at 6 o'clock on the Evening of Saturday next, for the purpose of appointing a Committee to collect the Sums unpaid, and to distribute the Subscriptions as may be deemed advisable. Castletown, 5th May. 1823."*

A letter from Robert Kelly, High Bailiff, Castletown to the Duke of Atholl dated 23rd April 1823 confirmed the money advanced to the families by the Duke of Atholl prior to the start of the Admiralty pensions on 15th March 1823.

"Castletown 23rd April 1823

My Lord Duke

At your Grace's desire I advanced to the widows of Quayle and Hall and the sister of Norris Bridson 3s 6d each to the former, and 2s to the latter per week. Commencing 21st December last and ending the 15th March last, on which day the above three persons received their quarterly allowance of His Majesty's Bounty, and a considerable sum of money that had previously been collected by way of subscription for their relief, so that they are now very well provided for; indeed more so than when their husbands and brother were alive.

The money advanced as above is £5 17s 0d

Out of which received from your Grace £1 15s 0d

Leaving a balance of £4 2s 0d

As per the a/c herewith.

I remain My Lord Duke

Your Grace's

very humble servant

Robert Kelly."

The pilot, William Edwards was imprisoned as detailed in this letter from High Bailiff Robert Quayle to the Duke of Atholl:

"Castletown the 20th December 1822

My Lord Duke

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Grace's letter of this date and in answer I beg to leave to say that your Grace's orders shall be duly expected.

Captain Suckling of HM Brig Racehorse sent his first lieutenant to me this morning with a request that I would imprison the Pilot, in order to secure his appearance to answer the charges which may be brought against him. I immediately proceeded to carry the request into execution, and the Pilot (Edwards) is now in gaol, in which proceeding I trust your grace will approve of the conduct of him who has the honour of subscribing himself.

Your Grace's

Most obedient & very humble servant

Robert Kelly."

A letter from Robert Kelly, High Bailiff, Castletown to the Duke of Atholl dated 26th December 1822 confirms that HMS Racehorse has become a total wreck.

"Castletown the 26th December 1822

My Lord Duke

I beg leave to inform your Grace that the hull of HM Brig Racehorse was completely broken up by the violence of the sea last night and this morning and a considerable part thereof has already floated on shore. The crew of the brig and others have been and now are busily employed in saving and putting into stores the most valuable part of the wreck in the first instance, and when that is done I understand that the most trifling part will be secured.

*I have the honour to remain
My Lord Duke
Your Grace's
Most obedient & very humble servant*

Robert Kelly."

However the Duke did not receive the letter and Robert Kelly wrote to him again on 30th December 1822.

"Castletown the 30th December 1822

My Lord Duke

I had the honour of addressing your Grace on or about the 26th instant on the subject of the total wreck of the hull of HM late brig Racehorse which took place on Wednesday night and on Thursday morning last, which letter I duly forwarded by Gordon the carrier and on his return he informed me that he had safely delivered such letter to Mr McCrone when in company of your Grace near Castle Mona.

I find by the Rev Thomas Kewley who called once this morning that your Grace had not received my letter. I now therefore beg leave to inform your Grace that the hull of the brig went to pieces on the night of the 25th and during the morning of the 26th instant, and that a considerable part of the wreck came on shore soon afterwards.

The officers and crew of the brig and others were busily employed in saving the most material parts in the first instance, and afterwards the most trifling parts were taken by them and stored.

Your Grace will perceive by my report of Saturday last that one of the crew of the brig is in gaol for stealing copper from the wreck, and that the person to whom he sold it is also in gaol. Captain Suckling is very anxious that their trial, and also the trial of another man of the name of Richard Quayle who is also in custody for stealing copper from the wreck, should take place immediately as his stay here is now uncertain in consequence of HM sloop Fly having been ordered to proceed to the Island to take him and his officers and crew to Plymouth.

I found on search in the house of Daniel Collins of this town 21 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb of copper which he had purchased, although he must have well known it was stolen from the wreck. Collin's wife purchased part thereof and she is in gaol but Daniel Collins has not yet been apprehended.

*I have the honour to remain
My Lord Duke
Your Grace's
Most obedient & very humble servant*

Robert Kelly."

Inquests were held for four of the bodies of the drowned men (the others haven't been located in the Enquest Files yet):

"We whose names are hereunto subscribed being a coroner's inquest convened and sworn by James Clague, coroner of Rushen, sheading to find out and discover the cause of the death of Charles Keiggart (Caggett) who was found dead amongst the rocks at Langness Point on the night of the 15th of December instant, having examined sundry witnesses adduced before us do find and say that the said Charles Keiggart was one of the crew of His Majesty's brig Racehorse which was cast away on a reef of rocks near Langness Point aforesaid on the night of the 14th instant, that the said Charles Keiggart with others attempted to save their lives in a small boat and that the said boat in approaching the shore upset and sank in consequence of which the said Charles Keiggart was drowned, and this we give as our verdict in the premises this 16th December 1822.

*William Gavison
Charles Bell
John Kinnish
Paul Taggart
John Comish
James Clark."*

"We whose names are hereunto subscribed being a coroner's inquest convened and sworn by James Clague, coroner of Rushen, sheading to find out and discover the cause of the death of John Grundy who was found dead amongst the rocks at Langness Point on the night of the 15th of December instant, having examined sundry witnesses adduced before us do find and say that the said John Grundy was one of the crew of His Majesty's brig Racehorse which was cast away on a reef of rocks near Langness Point aforesaid on the night of the 14th instant, that the said John Grundy was drowned by upsetting of a small boat in attempting to save his life with others from the wreck of the said vessel, and this we give as our verdict in the premises this 16th December 1822.

*John Comish
John Kinnish
Paul Taggart
Edward Lawson
John Cain
Samuel Radcliffe his mark.*

At Castle Rushen the 16th December 1822 the inquest returned the verdict to me

J Gawne"

"We whose names are hereunto subscribed being a coroner's inquest convened and sworn by James Clague, coroner of Rushen, sheading to find out and discover the cause of the death of James White who was found dead in a gulley of water near Langness Point on the morning of this day, having examined sundry witnesses adduced before us we do find that the said James White was boatswain's mate of His Majesty's late brig Racehorse which was cast away on reef of rocks near Langness Point on the night of 14th December instant, and that he was accidentally drowned in consequence of the upsetting of a small boat on approaching the shore by the violence of the sea, and this we give as our verdict in the premises this 20 December 1822.

*Paul Taggart
Richard Cullen
Robert Cain
John Fargher
Robert Clague
William Kinnish*

At Castle Rushen the 20th December 1822 the inquest returned the verdict to me J Gawne."

"We whose names are hereunto subscribed being a coroner's inquest convened and sworn by James Clague, coroner of Rushen, sheading to find out and discover the cause of the death of Thomas Hall of the parish of Malew in the Isle of Man who was found dead in a gulley of water near Langness Point on the morning of this day, having examined several witnesses adduced before us we do find and say that the said Thomas Hall was one of a boat's crew who at the imminent risk and peril of his life succeeded in saving the lives of a great portion of the officers and crew of His Majesty's brig Racehorse which was cast away on a reef of rocks near Langness Point aforesaid on the night of the 14th of December instant and but for which exercise the greater part of the officers and crew of the said vessel would in all human probability have perished, that the said Thomas Hall with his crew returning from the said vessel with what remained of the officers and crew the small boat which they were crew, on approaching the rocks occasioned by the violence of the waves in consequence thereof the said Thomas Hall lost his life and this we give as our verdict in the premises this 21st day of December 1822.

*Paul Taggart
Richard Callow
Robert Caine
John Fargher
Robert Clague
William Kinnish*

At Castle Rushen the 21st December 1822 the inquest returned the verdict to me J Gawne."

His Majesty's sloop of war Fly, arrived off Douglas harbour on Friday 17th January 1823, for the purpose of convoying the Vigilant to Plymouth, but in consequence of the cutter being neaped in the harbour, the Fly (after taking on board the crew of the Racehorse), proceeded to Kingstown (Dun Laoghaire), and it was planned for her to return to Douglas on Sunday 26th January 1823, for the purpose of accomplishing her mission.

Court martial proceedings enquiring into the loss of the Racehorse were held aboard HMS Superb on Wednesday 12th February 1823. The following witnesses were called: First Lieutenant Faulkner; Lieutenant John Mallock; Charles Gouch, boatswain; John Curtis, purser; William Brown, seaman; Quarter master Ferguson; and Alfred Cranley, midshipman.

First Lieutenant Faulkner's statement confirmed that given by Captain Suckling, but both statements did not reveal the exact cause of the navigational error, which had led them both to believe that the lights they observed were that of Douglas harbour when in fact they were those of Castletown harbour.

Lieutenant John Mallock's statement finally made sense of the error. He stated that he relieved the late Thomas Bone at 4.00 p.m. The master, Henry Hodder, and pilot, William Edwards, were on deck discussing the ship's course, with the master saying they had better alter course one point to starboard, the pilot hesitated saying there was no need to alter course, then changing his mind he altered the ship's course easterly by half a point. After the vessel struck the rocks, the pilot stated that the ship must have struck Clay Head (more than nine miles away).

The master related that the pilot had told him that they were well to the eastward of the Isle of Man as the Calf Light had been bearing north-northwest when sighted. In fact, the Racehorse had sailed straight into Castletown Bay from the south and was not to the east of Langness as thought.

William Edwards appears to have anticipated the Court's ruling and had previously submitted a letter pleading his cause and giving various explanations for his uncertainty about the exact position of the Racehorse prior to her hitting the rocks:

"To the Honourable Gentlemen Comprising of the Members of this Court Martial

I trust this court will be pleased to notice the following statement of facts and take it into their serious consideration.

I have been upwards of seventeen years acting as Master and Pilot, and never did any accident happen to any vessel put under my charge before – on the 14th December 1822 at 3.40 made the Isle of Man (with the wind southwest) but not very distinctly, the weather being very hazy all the afternoon, at 4.10 saw Douglas Head bearing NNE ½ E – at 4.25 turned up the watch and took in studding sails – at 4.40 turned up the hands to reef topsails, and foresail, when the man stationed on the cat head to look out, was without my knowledge, sent aloft, without another being sent to relieve him, in consequence of which the land was not discovered as soon as might other ways have been done. It became about this time very thick and dark when I stated to the master that I thought it would be better to haul the Brig offshore, and go around the Calf to have the channel open, during this time the topsails had been reefed, and hoisted and were lowered down to be hoisted a second time, when Mr Gouch, the boatswain discovered breakers on the starboard bow, I immediately ordered the helm to starboard when in a few minutes the Brig struck.

I beg leave to observe that the light which deceived me, was right over Langness Point and is called Scarlett House, the Gentleman who occupied it (a Captain Thompson) died on that day

so the house was well lighted up which occasioned me to take it for Douglas Pier Light, and on account of the haziness of the weather I took that light to be a greater distance – I further beg leave to state that, that light has before deceived many, and have been the occasion of several vessels being lost.

I have stated before the length of time I have acted as Master and Pilot, and having a Wife and seven children depending on my endeavours, I humbly hope this court will take their distressed state and may case into their consideration.

William Edwards.”

The enquiry found that no blame could be attached to Captain Suckling nor his officers, but the master, Henry Hodder, and the pilot, William Edwards, were to blame through navigational error and were reprimanded.

A quantity of the wreck, consisting of the boats and various other articles, were sold by public auction on Saturday 23rd August 1823. However, shipwreck looters were also recovering valuable items from the wreck and some were apprehended.

“Castletown December 28, 1822

My Lord Duke

As your Grace condescends to offer your advice and assistance in any circumstance in which it might be required, I beg leave to state to your Grace that on the 28th instant having found one of my seamen (Michael Driscoll) had sold copper to a woman of Castletown (Elizabeth Collins), also a Richard Quayle who was found with copper in his possession, I have caused them to be confined until the pleasure of your Grace be known to them. But as I have intimation of HM Sloop Fly being ordered to convey the Vigilant cutter to Plymouth and to receive my people, and the uncertainty as to the arrival of the said sloop, I am induced to request that your Grace will appoint an early period for their trial.

Most respectfully

I have the honour to be

Your Grace’s

Most obedient & very humble servant

William B Suckling.”

“Castle Mona 1 January 1823

Sir

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ult. in reply to which I have to say that Elizabeth Collins and Richard Quayle the persons in whose possession the stolen property was found ought to be imprisoned in Castle Rushen under a warrant from Deemster Gawne. You had therefore wait upon the Deemster & mention the circumstances to him and he will give the necessary instruction to the proper officer how to act.

Signed

Atholl."

The Copper Bolt Theft Cases (One)

"Whereas Elizabeth Collins of Castletown has been apprehended and imprisoned in Castle Rushen by James Clague, coroner of Rushen Sheading, with having feloniously taken and carried away a quantity of copper bolts, copper spikes and other articles, the property of our Sovereign Lord the King, part of the wreck of His Majesty's late Sloop of War Racehorse wrecked near Langness Point on the night of the 14th of December last past which copper bolts, copper spikes and other articles are about the value of ten shillings, your [missing] therefore hereby ordered and required to summon six good and lawful men, two out of each and every parish of the said Sheading to appear at a court to be holden at Castle Rushen on Saturday next at 11 o'clock in the forenoon to try the said Elizabeth Collins for the felony and larceny aforesaid, when and where you will have the body of the said Elizabeth Collins and whereof all parties and witnesses to have due herein.

*Given this 6th of January 1823
J Gawne.*

At a Court holden at Castle Rushen the 16th January 1823.

[first part unreadable] ...prisoner is not guilty of the felony and larceny wherewith she stands charged, and we do therefore acquit the prisoner.

Witness our names this 16th January 1823

*William Gick
Charles Cowell
Robert Shimmin
Matthew Bridson
John Kermode
John Maddrell*

*At Castle Rushen the 16th January 1823 the said jury delivered their verdict in Court.
J Gawne."*

"This day William Benjamin Suckling Esquire Captain of HM late brig Racehorse personally appeared before me and under oath on the Holy Evangelist deposeth & saith that a quantity of copper bolts, copper spikes, sheet copper and iron bolts have this day been exhibited unto the deponent by William Craige, the turnkey of Castle Rushen, and Robert Kelly, High Bailiff of Castletown, and deponent has carefully inspected the same and this deponent saith that the same severally and respectively are the property of His Majesty King George the Fourth and to the best of his knowledge and belief forms a part of HM Brig Racehorse and that they

severally and respectively were taken from the wreck of the said brig without this deponent's knowledge, privity or consent.

As witness his subscription this 2nd day of January 1823.

William Benjamin Suckling

Taken & sworn before me:

Robert Kelly."

"This day Robert Kelly, High Bailiff of Castletown, appeared before me and made oath on or about the Holy Evangelists saith that on Friday the 27th day of December past the deponent accompanied by Lieutenant John J Mallock of HM late sloop Racehorse proceeded to the house of Daniel Collins of Castletown for the purpose of ascertaining whether one of the sailors of the said sloop of the name of Michael Driscoll as deponent had since heard, had been selling copper bolts part of the said wreck at the house of the aforesaid.

That as this deponent and the said John J Mallock were proceeding towards the said house they met the said Michael Driscoll who was ordered by the said John J Mallock to return with him to the said house.

That upon this deponent interrogating Elizabeth Collins the wife of the said Daniel Collins whether she had purchased any copper from the said Michael Driscoll who was then present the said Elizabeth Collins at first denied having done so but after a good deal of hesitation she admitted having purchased from the said Michael Driscoll two pieces of copper bolts which she then delivered to deponent and for which she said she had paid the sailor meaning the said Michael Driscoll as deponent ? thirteen pence.

That deponent was accompanied by William Craige, the turnkey of Castle Rushen, soon afterwards on the same day proceeded to search the said house of the said Daniel Collins, and the said Elizabeth Collins delivered some more copper bolts to deponent and upon search the said deponent and the said William Craige discovered a further quantity of copper bolts, spikes etc. which are now in the custody of deponent and this deponent saith to the best of his knowledge and belief the copper is delivered to deponent and found on search as aforesaid is above the value of ten shillings.

That the two pieces of copper bolts which the said Elizabeth Collins alleged she had purchased from he said Michael Driscoll are under the value of ten shillings as deponent believes.

Robert Kelly

*Taken and sworn before me this 6th January 1823.
J Gawne.*

William Craige, turnkey of Castle Rushen, this day personally appeared before me and sworn by oath on he Holy Evangelists saith that on the 27th day of December last past two men brought to the said gaol a man of the name of Richard Quayle charging the said Richard Quayle with having in his possession and then on said person a quantity of sheet copper, iron bolts & some iron nails part of the wreck of HM late sloop Racehorse and assisting the

deponent to receive as a prisoner. That deponent found on the person of the said Richard Quayle the several articles aforesaid and deponent saith that the said sheet copper, iron bolts and iron nails are under the value of ten shillings – as witness his hand this 2nd January 1823.

William Craige

Taken & sworn before me.

Robert Kelly.”

“In the Court of His Majesty’s deemster

Be it remembered that James Quirk Esq. His Majesty’s acting attorney general of this Isle who prosecuteth for and in the name of His Majesty doth give this Court here to understand and be informed that Michael Driscoll a mariner on board His Majesty’s Brig Racehorse on the 27 day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty two with force and arms at the parish of Malew four pounds weight of copper of the value of two shillings lawful money of Great Britain and which said copper is of the goods and warlike and naval stores of our said Lord the King feloniously did steal, take and carry away against the form of the statute in that case made and provided against the peace of our Sovereign Lord the King his Crown and dignity.

Therefore the said attorney general doth pray the consideration of this Court in the premises, and that an order may issue for the apprehension and trial of the said Michael Driscoll according to law.

*Robert Quirk
Acting Attorney General.”*

“With the information you are duly ordered to summon six good and lawful men to out of each parish of Rushen sheading to appear at a Court to be holden at Castle Rushen on Thursday next to be sworn a jury to try Michael Driscoll for the petit larceny herein named and to verdict in the premises according to law whereof the said Michael Driscoll and all others where it may concern to have due ?

*Given this 13 January 1823
J Gawne*

To the coroner of Rushen Sheading and all where it may concern.”

“At a Court holden at Castle Rushen this 16th January 1823 the names of the jurors sworn to by Michael Driscoll for the petit larceny wherewith he was charged in and by the foregoing information.

*Malew
John Fargher*

Robert Clague

Arbory

Robert Taggart

Charles Clague

Rushen

William Cannell

Thomas Qualtrough

Which jurors upon their oath say that the prisoner is guilty of the petit larceny wherewith he stands charged and in manner and form as charged against him, witness their names

Robert Clague

John Fargher

Charles Clague

Robert Taggart his x

William Cannell

Thomas Qualtrough

At Castle Rushen the 16 January 1823. The jury delivered this verdict in court to me.

J Gawne."

"In the Court of His Majesty's deemster

Be it remembered that James Quirk Esq. His Majesty's acting attorney general of this Isle who prosecuteth for and in the name of His Majesty doth give this Court here to understand and be informed that Richard Quayle of the parish of Malew labourer on the twenty seventh day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty two with force and arms at the parish of Malew four pounds weight of copper and five and one half pounds of iron the said copper and iron being of the value of five shillings of good and lawful money of Great Britain and which said copper and iron are the goods and warlike and naval stores of our said Lord the King feloniously did steal take and carry away against the form of the statute in that case made and provided against the peace of our said Lord the King His Crown and dignity.

Therefore the said attorney general doth pray the consideration of this Court in the premises, and that an order may issue for the apprehension and trial of the said Richard Quayle according to law.

Robert Quirk

Acting Attorney General."

"With the information you are duly ordered to summon six good and lawful men to out of each parish of Rushen sheading to appear at a Court to be holden at Castle Rushen on Thursday next to be sworn a jury to try Richard Quayle for the petit larceny herein named

and to verdict in the premises according to law whereof the said Richard Quayle and all others where it may concern.

*Given this 13 January 1823
J Gawne."*

"At a Court holden at Castle Rushen this 16th January 1823 the names of the jurors sworn to by Richard Quayle for the petit larceny wherewith he was charged in and by the foregoing information.

*Malew
John Brew
John Taylor*

*Arbory
Robert Taggart
Charles Clague*

*Rushen
William Cannell
Thomas Qualtrough*

The prisoner having been put upon his trial admitted that he was guilty of the petit larceny wherewith he stands charged and we do therefore find him guilty of the said larceny accordingly. Witness our names this 16 January 1823.

*John Bell
John Taylor
Charles Clague
Robert Taggart his x
William Cannell
Thomas Qualtrough*

At Castle Rushen the 16 January 1823. The jury delivered this verdict in court to me.

J Gawne."

Whereas Richard Quayle of the parish of Kirk Malew has been apprehended and imprisoned in Castle Rushen by James Clague coroner of Rushen Sheading for having feloniously taken and carried away a quantity of sheet copper, copper spikes and iron bolts and other articles the property of our Sovereign Lord the King part of the wreck of His Majesty's late sloop Racehorse which was wrecked on or near Langness Point on the night of the 14 December last past.

You are therefore hereby ordered and required to summons six good men & lawful men two out of each parish of the said Sheading to appear at a court to be holden at Castle Rushen on Saturday next by 11 o'clock in the forenoon to try the said Richard Quayle for the felony and

larceny aforesaid and where you will have the body of the said Richard Quayle and others of all proper parties and persons are to have notice.

Given this 6th January 1823.

J Gawne

To the Coroner of Rushen Sheading & others who in ? concern this to execute.

“Depositions of witnesses taken before a jury of six good and lawful men of the Rushen Sheading convened by virtue of His Honourable Deemster Gawne’s warrant and by him sworn in presence of James Quirk Esquire His Majesty’s Acting Attorney General to find out and discover a matter of felony charged against Elizabeth Collins a prisoner in Castle Rushen this 16th of January 1823.

Robert Kelly Esquire sworn saith that on the 27th of December last the deponent accompanied by Lieutenant John Mallock of His Majesty’s late sloop Racehorse proceeded to the house of Daniel Collins and of the prisoner to discover whether out of the sailors of the said sloop had sold to her any copper a copper bolt both belonging to the said vessel, that upon the prisoner being interrogated after considerable hesitation she admitted having purchased two pieces of copper bolts [? f19p8] which she then delivered to deponent and for which she said she had paid ten pence.

That the deponent accompanied by William Craige proceeded to search the prisoner’s house and the prisoner then delivered some more copper bolts to deponent and when search there was discovered on a shelf in the prisoner’s house behind some ware a further quantity of copper bolts, spikes etc now produced, that the copper bolts spikes and other articles produced are in the deponent’s opinion worth above the value of ten shillings.

Cross examined saith the deponent believes the prisoner is a married woman and that her husband is Daniel Collins with whom she resided at the time, that there was a sign over the door up to the time purporting that Daniel Collins the prisoner’s husband purchased copper and other article, that the deponent believes the sign produced was the sign so placed over the said door.

Robert Kelly.”

“Lieutenant John Jervis Mallock late of His Majesty’s late sloop Racehorse sworn saith in consequence of a message from the last witness he on the 27 December last past proceeded to the house of the prisoner to discover if she had purchased any copper or copper bolts from a sailor their prisoner that after a great deal of hesitation she produced two copper bolts by deponent identified and said she had purchased from a sailor named Michael Driscoll, that deponent then left the house of the prisoner.

Cross examined saith that the deponent saw the sign produced over the prisoner’s door before the occasion aforesaid that the deponent cannot say whether the said sailor is to be tried here for selling the said copper to the prisoner.

John J Mallock.”

“William Craige Turnkey of Castle Rushen sworn saith that on the 27 of December last he accompanied the High Bailiff to the house of Daniel Collins who he understands is the husband of the prisoner to search for copper part of the wreck of His Majesty’s late sloop Racehorse. That the prisoner produced two pieces of copper bolts which she said she had purchased from a sailor of the said vessel, that the deponent was present when the prisoner gave some more copper to the High Bailiff, which she took from a dresser, that afterwards when search the deponent found some more copper on a shelf behind some rocks in the said house, that all the copper found was later in charge of the High Bailiff, that after the High Bailiff left deponent when further search deponent found another copper bolt produced which he took in charge.

Cross examined that Daniel Collins the prisoner’s husband was in the habit of buying articles of the description aforesaid – that the prisoner had three small children in tail with her.

William Craige.”

“William Benjamin Suckling late captain of His Majesty’s late sloop Racehorse sworn saith he has looked when certain copper and copper bolts produced which he has inspected and he views the same to be part of the King’s stores and part of the wreck of the said vessel.

William Benjamin Suckling.”

“On part of the prisoner Mary McLaughlin, of Castletown sworn saith she was present when Daniel Collins was married to the prisoner in the County of Cavan in Ireland, that said Daniel Collins is the ? of Mary McLaughlin.”

“Whereas Michael Driscoll has been apprehended by James Clague coroner of Rushen Sheading charging with stealing a quantity of copper bolts and other articles a part of the wreck of His Majesty’s late ship Racehorse. You are therefore asked to summon six good and lawful men of Rushen Sheading to appear at a Court holden at Castle Rushen on Thursday next to be sworn a jury to try the said Michael Driscoll for the offence whereof with he stands charged. Whereof all proper parties to have due notice.

Given this 14th January 1823

J Gawne.”

“Depositions of witnesses taken before a jury of six good and lawful men on the Rushen Sheading convened virtue of the Honourable Deemster Gawne’s warrant and by him sworn in presence of James Quirk Esquire His Majesty’s Attorney General to enquire into a matter of larceny charged against Michael Driscoll taken this 16 January 1823.

John Jervis Mallock an officer in His Majesty’s navy late lieutenant of His Majesty’s sloop Racehorse sworn saith that on or about the 27 December last past the deponent met the prisoner coming out of the house of Daniel Collins, that deponent taxed the prisoner with selling copper in the said house and asked him what quantity, that he acknowledged having sold two copper bolts part of the wreck of the said vessel to Elizabeth the wife of the said

Daniel Collins and upon going the house of the said Daniel Collins the said Elizabeth Collins hid two more copper bolts now exhibited to deponent in Court, and which ? discover who examined in the said house and acknowledged having sold to the said Elizabeth Collins that one of the said bolts is marked with the broad arrow and is the property of our Sovereign Lord the King – that when the ? in question the deponent was accompanied by the High Bailiff of Castletown.

Cross examined saith that deponent met the prisoner coming from Collins' house and made him a prisoner then on notification of theft having good information to warrant it.

John Jervis Mallock

Robert Kelly High Bailiff of Castletown sworn saith that on the 27 December last the deponent accompanied the last witness to the house of Daniel Collins, that near the said house they met the prisoner who the last witness ordered back to the said house, that when in the said house the prisoner after some time confessed he had sold some pieces of copper bolt to Elizabeth the wife of the said Daniel Collins, which she then and not before produced in presence of the prisoner and he did not deny it. And the two pieces of copper bolt ? were delivered to deponent as the copper bolts she had purchased from the prisoner, and for which she informed the deponent she had paid the prisoner thirteen pence as he best recollects.

Robert Kelly

Elizabeth Collins wife of Daniel Collins sworn saith that on or about the 27 of December last past the deponent purchased two pieces of copper bolt from a sailor, that she delivered to the High Bailiff the copper bolts she had purchased from the said sailor, and the said sailor was present when she delivered to the High Bailiff the copper she had so purchased from him, and for which she had paid thirteen pence.

Elizabeth Collins her x

By Henry Hall

For the part of the prisoner Jonathan Faulkner late lieutenant of His Majesty's late sloop Racehorse sworn saith the prisoner was on board the said vessel he was never accused of theft, but was a very lazy man – that the prisoner is a married man.

Jonathan Faulkner

*Sworn before me
J Gawne."*

The Copper Bolt Theft Cases (Two)

"We whose names ensue jurors of our Sovereign Lord the King of the Rushen Sheading sworn by the Honourable Thomas Gawne one of His Majesty's Deemsters ? our oaths present that Patrick William Kastigan alias Patrick William Kastigan Frances of the Parish of Malew

labourer on the tenth day of February in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty three with ?? Castletown in the parish of Malew aforesaid unlawfully and unjustly did buy and receive fifty pounds weight of copper of the value of one pound five shillings British lawful money of Great Britain the goods and chattels of our Sovereign Lord the King when lately before feloniously taken and carried away by Patrick [section missing].

Whereas Patrick William Hartigan Frances has been apprehended by James Clague, Coroner of Rushen Sheading, on suspicion of him having stolen a quantity of copper of the goods and chattels of our Sovereign Lord the King. You are therefore ordered and required to summon six good and lawful men of our Sovereign Lord the King of the Rushen Sheading to appear at a court to be holden at Castle Rushen on Monday next to be sworn a jury to enquire into the said matters of felony charged against the said Patrick William Hartigan when and where you will have the body of the said Patrick William Hartigan, and whereof all proper parties and witnesses to have due notice.

Given this 3^d of March 1823

T Gawne."

"At a Court holden at Castle Rushen the 10th March 1823.

Upon consideration of the petitioners and affidavit of Patrick William Hartigan this court is adjourned until Friday next at 11 o'clock.

T Gawne."

"Depositions of witnesses taken before a jury of six good and lawful men of the Rushen Sheading convened by virtue of the Honourable Deemster Gawne's warrant, decreed by him sworn in the presence of James Quirk Esquire His Majesty's Acting Attorney General of this Isle to enquire into a matter of felony charged against Patrick William Hartigan Frances alias Patrick William Hartigan taken this 14th March 1823.

John White of Douglas, brazier, iron monger and feriman sworn saith he knows the prisoner at the Bar, that on the 10th day of February last the deponent was called from his workshop to his shop when he found the prisoner and James Johnston, that the prisoner asked the deponent if he purchased copper, whereupon the deponent asked him if it was King's copper, the prisoner replied not and added that it belonged to the brig Maria, that the bag which contained the copper was then put on the shop counter, and the deponent when opening the bag took out two or three sheets of copper which he examined to see if there was any marks on them but finding none he concluded a bargain with the prisoner for the said copper, and paid him four pounds one shilling British for the lot, at a rate of six pence British per pound, that the paper writing marked 'A' was the receipt passed on the occasion by the prisoner, that the copper was then by the deponent's desire put into a cask the deponent's property along with other copper the deponent had previously purchased, that the cask now in Court is the cask into which the said copper was put, that the prisoner put the whole of the said copper into the said cask at two different times where it has remained ever since, that the

copper in the said cask which the deponent had previously purchased was old copper part hammered together, that shortly after the said purchase, Thomas Christian and Charles Fayle, Constables, came to the deponent's shop and enquired whether the deponent had bought any copper, he told them he had and showed them the copper he purchased in the cask now produced, that the copper now produced in the cask in Court is the copper the deponent purchased from the prisoner, that after the Constables had left deponent's shop on the same day the Coroner came to deponent's house and locked up the room containing the copper and a day or two afterwards the Coroner called and sealed up the cask which contained the copper in which state it has remained ever since until opened this day before the jury in Court, that the copper now produced is the copper the deponent purchased from the prisoner.

Cross examined saith that he thinks but is not quite certain the prisoner came to deponent's shop previously to purchase something and deponent knows but little of the prisoner, that the deponent is not certain as to the hour of the day he purchased the copper from the prisoner but is quite certain it was after three o'clock in the evening, and before candle light, that the copper he purchased from the prisoner was purchased on the 10th February last and the officers came to search the Sunday after and the copper was sealed up a day or two after, that part of the copper purchased from the prisoner was taken out of the cask by the Coroner and put into the box now produced, that the deponent is frequently in the habit of buying old copper it being part of his business, that the deponent was taken into custody by the Coroner Mr Brine on the said Sunday but was at large on bail until the Wednesday, or Thursday following when he was imprisoned in Castle Rushen where he remained a week or more but is not certain as to this time, that the deponent was examined by the proper authority and discharged when given bail to give evidence on this enquiry, that before the deponent purchased the copper the prisoner told him it was not King's copper and added do not take my word for it but examine it yourself, that the deponent did examine the copper, and after such examination made the purchase aforesaid believing it was not the King's copper, that the deponent never purchased copper from the prisoner before, that the deponent believes the said copper was not weighed by candle light, that there was no person present at the time of purchase but the deponent, his wife and Johnston, but there was a lady in the adjoining room, that there were no other persons present at the purchase or weighing of the said copper, that the deponent believed to it not being King's copper when he made the purchase from the prisoner arose from the circumstances of the prisoner having assured the deponent that it was not the King's copper, but part of the brig Maria and also from the deponent having examined part of it and found no marks on it.

John White."

"Jane White, being the wife of the last witness, being sworn and examined saith that on Monday 10th February last (1823) James Johnston a carrier came to deponent's shop and asked her if her husband was in the habit of buying copper. Deponent replied he was but that it depended on the description of copper and the deponent then asked him if it was King's copper, he assured the deponent it was not, that the deponent then said it was of no use to call her husband into the shop for it is was King's copper he, her husband, would having nothing to do with it, that the said James Johnston then said that the young man that owns it is at the door, and then called the prisoner in, who upon being interrogated assured the deponent that it was not King's copper that it was part of a vessel laden with timber and the

deponent thinks he mentioned the name of the brig Maria, that upon such assurance the deponent called her husband into the shop, who concluded a bargain with the prisoner for the copper at a rate of six pence per pound and paid him five pounds one shilling for the lot a half pence deduction being made for the dirt and rubbish attached to it, that the copper purchased from the prisoner was by him carried and put into the cask now produced where it remained and the constables came to search on the Sunday after and was then locked up in the room in which was the cask that contained the whole of the copper purchased from the prisoner, that the Coroner came the said Sunday after and searched the house and the Coroner Mr Brine came on the Monday or Tuesday following and sealed up the cask.

Cross examined saith that it was on the Monday or Tuesday after the officers searched the house and Mr Brine sealed up the cask to the best of her recollection but she is not quite certain, that it was in the afternoon and just before dusk the prisoner and Johnston left the shop after the purchase that the deponent was not in the shop the whole time the copper was weighing, that it was the prisoner put it onto the scale and the last witness weighed it, that her husband examined part of the copper before the purchase, and saw no marks on it, if he had seen marks on it, he would not have purchased it, that the deponent's husband employs a man and a boy in his trade, that the copper purchased from the prisoner was not locked up in a room from the time of the purchase until after the officers came and searched, that the deponent did not hear the prisoner defy her husband to examine the copper before the purchase, that the deponent was present when the prisoner asked six pence half per pound for the copper, when the deponent's husband said he would only give six pence, that the parties were in treaty for the bargain in deponent's presence but deponent is not quite sure whether or not she was present when the bargain was finally concluded, but was present when five pounds one shilling was paid for the copper to the prisoner, that the deponent was not present during the whole of the time the copper was weighing, that the shop of the deponent's husband is a very dark shop.

Jane White."

"Charles Fayle of Douglas Constable sworn saith in consequence of a communication from the High Bailiff of Castletown and a search warrant sent to Mr Cleator Chief Constable of Douglas who was then undisposed this deponent went to the house of John White if he had purchased any copper, when Mr White informed the deponent he had purchased some copper from the prisoner and showed it to the deponent in the cask now produced, that thereupon the deponent locked up the rooms which contained the cask and copper now produced, and sent for the Coroner to who he delivered the key on the same day he made the search that one part of a sheet of copper which was in the said cask and now produced the deponent marked and now identifies in Court, that the deponent was present when the cask containing the said copper was weighed and was removed and placed on a cart to be conveyed to Castletown, that the deponent accompanied the said cask part of the way and Thomas Christian and Thomas Wears accompanied the said cart the whole of the way to Castletown as deponent understood.

Charles Fayle his x."

“Thomas Christian of Douglas sworn saith that the deponent accompanied the last witness to the house of John White a former deponent where they saw the cask and copper now produced the head of which cask was afterwards sealed by Mr Brine in full view of the deponent, that the deponent accompanied the said cask to Castletown where it was deposited in the custody of Mr Brine, that the deponent had looked at the cask containing copper now produced to him in Court, that the said cask is the same cask containing the copper that the deponent accompanied to Castletown aforesaid.

Thomas Christian.”

“William Leece Coroner of Middle Sheading being sworn and examined saith that in consequence of a search warrant sent to hi the deponent went to the house of John White a former deponent to search for stolen copper, that the deponent went upstairs in Mr White’s house tea room that was locked the key of whereof the deponent received from Charles Fayle constable, that in the said room was the copper and cask now produced which copper the said John White showed to the deponent as the copper he purchased from the prisoner that the deponent then locked up the room and kept possession of the key thereof, and he was present afterwards when Mr Brine sealed the cask containing the said copper, that the cask now produced is the same cask that was sealed by Mr Brine in deponent’s presence and is by him identified in Court, which cask was afterwards by deponent’s direction whereof the deponent received from Charles Fayle constable, that in the said room was the copper and cask now produced which copper the said John White showed to the deponent as the copper he ha purchased from the prisoner that the deponent then locked up the room and kept possession of the key thereof, and he was present afterwards when Mr Brine sealed the cask containing the said copper, that the cask now produced is the same cask as that sealed by Mr Brine in deponent’s presence and is by him identified in Court, which cask was afterwards by deponent’s direction conveyed to Castletown.

Cross examined saith that he committed the said John White to Castle Rushen for having the said copper in his possession but cannot exactly say what day he brought him to jail, that previous to Mr White being brought to jail he was at large upon bail from the Sunday previously.

William Leece.”

“Thomas Brine of Castletown, Esquire, being sworn and examined saith he knows the prisoner at the Bar and the deponent was confidentially employed by Captain Suckling of His Majesty’s late Sloop of War Racehorse after the wreck of the said vessel to save and protect the wreck and stores of the said vessel, that the deponent sent the Bill Man or public Crier of Castletown to caution and warn the public not to purchase any copper belonging to the said vessel, and the deponent called at the house of the prisoner but is not certain whether or not he saw the prisoner there where he gave a familiar warning, and the deponent also caused printed bills to be posted up in all the public parts of the town cautioning the public against buying any copper belonging to the said vessel, that the deponent has been in the service of His Majesty for many years and has had charge of King’s stores on many occasions that the deponent was entrusted with the charge of that part of the wreck of the said vessel that was

saved, that the deponent has looked upon the copper now produced to them in Court, and the deponent is confident the same is the property of His Majesty that no part of the wreck of the Racehorse was sold by Captain Suckling or the deponent or by any person wider than them, that the deponent was agent for the underwriters and superintended the management of the wreck of the brig Maria, that the said vessel was copper sheathed, and copper fastened, and no part of the copper belonging to the said vessel bore the King's mark commonly called the Broad Arrow, and that the same is never used in the merchant service, that the deponent has examined a number of copper bolts produced to him in Court, that from several of such bolts the King's Mark appears to be defaced, that the fifty six pounds weight of copper now weighed, and also a large quantity of copper produced to the in Court is the property of His Majesty and is worth six pence British per pound at the very least, that the deponent sealed the cask in which the copper produced was placed and the cask now produced is the same cask the deponent saw sealed as aforesaid which he identifies in Court, that upon the deponent quitting the said cask under his possession he handed it over to James Wilks, Esquire, Collector of Customs in Castletown, that the deponent was present when the prisoner when being called by the Attorney General and Deemster to account for the way in which he got the said copper confessed that he had purchased the same from Elizabeth Collins after she had been tried for stealing copper and acquitted.

Cross examined saith he cannot say whether or not any of the pieces of copper produced that do not bear the King's Mark or Broad Arrow are or are not the property of His Majesty, that there no naval stores on the Island, that the deponent saw said one hundred weight of the copper bearing the King's Mark.

Thomas Brine."

"John Fitzsimmons Jailer of Castletown sworn saith that he was present when the prisoner was called upon in the court room by the Deemster and Attorney General to account for the copper he had sold to John White a former deponent when he confessed he had purchase the same from Elizabeth Collins the wife of Daniel Collins, that the said Elizabeth Collins was previously tried for stealing copper and the ground of defence taken up on her behalf by her counsel was that she was a married woman and could not be tried in the absence of her husband who had left the Island, that the said Elizabeth Collins was acquitted of the charge and set at liberty.

Cross examined saith that it was on or about the 10th February last the said John White was imprisoned in Castle Rushen from where he was released on the 24th of the said month giving bond to give evidence at this trial, that the deponent has known the prisoner for many years and always considered him to be an industrious hard working man and heard nothing against his character until the present occasion, that the deponent has been looking when some of the pieces of copper he decreed on the whole of which pieces he cannot discover the King's Mark.

John Fitzsimmons."

“James Johnston of Castletown Carrier sworn saith he knows the prisoner at the Bar, who employed him to bring down to Douglas a quantity of copper in a cask to the house of John White a former deponent, that the prisoner spoke to the deponent to take a cask for him to Douglas which he told deponent was at Ballasalla, that the deponent took the said cask in his cart at Ballasalla and conveyed it from thence to Douglas to the shop of Mr White, that on getting there the prisoner sent the deponent into Mr White’s shop if he would purchase it, that the prisoner then went into the shop made a bargain with Mr White for the copper and received he price fixed on which was six pence English per pound the whole of the copper sold at which late came to five pounds one shilling which the prisoner received from Mr White, that the prisoner on that occasion told Mr White that the said copper was part of the copper of the brig Maria that he got it as such and would sell it as such.

Cross examined saith that the prisoner told Mr White not to take his word that the said copper was not King’s copper but to examine it himself before the bargain was made, and Mr White did examine the most of the said copper both sheet and bolt, that the deponent saw the copper weighed and it netted two hundred and six pounds weight, that previous to the purchase and when the prisoner and Mr White were ? and that Mr whit had examined the copper he said he would give the prisoner six pence English per pound for it as he saw no King’s mark on it.

James Johnston.”

“Thomas Brine being re-examined by the Court saith that he has examined upwards of fifty pounds weight of copper produced in Court, each piece of which copper bears the king’s Mark on it.

Thomas Brine.”

“On the part of the prisoner.

Charles Collins of Castletown sworn saith he was present lately wen the prisoner purchased from Elizabeth Collins about two hundred weight of old ship copper for which he paid near four pounds.

Cross examined saith that it was after Elizabeth Collins was released from jail under a charge of stealing copper and for which she was acquitted her husband having left the Island, that the prisoner purchased the said copper from her, that it was at night after dark the copper was conveyed by deponent to prisoner’s house and when the bargain was concluded upon.

Charles Collins his x.”

“William Harrison of Castletown Dealer sworn saith he has known the prisoner many years and has had dealings with him and always considered him until the present occasion honest and industrious.

William Harrison.”

The Silver Watch Theft Case

“We the jurors of our Lord the King George impanelled and sworn by Thomas Gawne Esquire His Majesty’s Deemster to enquire into a matter of felony alleged to have been committed by Henry Tall late a mariner on board His Majesty’s late brig Racehorse do present and say when on oath that the said Henry Tall did on the fourteenth day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty two at and within the parish of Malew in the Isle of Man feloniously steal, take and carry away one silver watch of the goods and chattels of Thomas Mein Bone now deceased, being of the value of twelve shillings lawful money of Great Britain, one other silver watch of the value of twelve shillings lawful money of Great Britain he property of a certain person or persons to us the jurors of our Sovereign Lord the King unknown, feloniously did steal, take and carry away against the form of the statute in each case made and proceeded, and against the peace of our said Lord the King his Crown and dignity. And we do therefore verdict the said Henry Tall for the felony aforesaid as witness our subscriptions this sixteenth day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty three.

*Kirk Malew
William Gick
Charles Cowell*

*Kirk Arbory
Robert Shimmin
Matthew Bridson*

*Kirk Christ Rushen
John Maddrell
John Kermode*

At a court holden at Castle Rushen the sixteenth day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty three. The jurors delivered this their indictment in court to me.

J Gawne.”

“Robert Kerr of Castletown Watch Maker being sworn and examined deposeth and saith that a few days subsequent to the wreck of HM late brig Racehorse which happened on the 14th December last past the deponent purchased from Henry Tall (who is now present at the tie of this deponent’s examination) a silver ? watch at and for the sum of twelve shillings British which sum was then paid to the said Henry Tall between the hours of 11 and one o’clock in the day.

That previous to and at the time of the purchase of said watch the said Henry Tall informed deponent that the said watch belonged to him the said Henry Tall, that he was

compelled to sell it as he had nothing to eat or drink and that he wanted shoes and a pair of trousers.

That the watch now exhibited by deponent is the same watch which deponent purchased as aforesaid.

Robert Kerr

Taken and sworn before me the 14 January 1823

Robert Kelly."

Thomas Harris being sworn and examined deposeth and saith he knew and was well acquainted with the Thomas Mein Bone master's mate on board HM late sloop Racehorse who was drowned on the night of the 14th December last past. That the deponent now looked upon a silver ? watch exhibited unto him by Robert Kerr of Castletown watch maker. That to the best of his knowledge and belief the said watch was the property of the said Thomas Mein Bone at the time of his death.

Thomas Harris

Taken and sworn before me this 14th January 1823

Robert Kelly."

"John Gallagher of Castletown being sworn and examined deposeth & saith that a few days subsequent to the wreck of HM late brig Racehorse which happened on the 14th December last past he was present when Robert Kerr of Castletown purchased from a young man who deponent believes to be one of the crew of said brig, a silver watch at and for the sum of twelve shillings British. That there was at the same time of the purchase aforesaid another young man present in company with the person who sold and delivered the said watch. That the said watch was purchased and paid for between the hours of 11 and one o'clock in the day as deponent best recollects as to the time. That young man now pointed out to the deponent understands to be Henry Tall is to the best of this deponent's belief the person from whom the said Robert Kerr purchased the watch in question and to who the said sum of twelve shillings British was aid.

John Gallagher

Taken & sworn before me

Robert Kelly

14 January 1823

Whereas Henry Tall has been apprehended by James Clague coroner of Rushen Sheading & charged with stealing a silver watch from the corpse of Thomas Mein Bone, when lying on the sea shore in the parish of Malew. You are therefore adduced to summon six good and

lawful men of our Sovereign the King two out of each parish of Rushen Sheading to appear at court to be holden at Castle Rushen on Thursday next to be sworn a jury to inquire into the said matter of felony charged against the said Henry Tall. When and where you will have the body of the said Henry Tall. And whereof His Majesty's Attorney General and all others who it may concern all to have due notice.

*Given at Ballagawne this 14th January 1823
J Gawne*

To the Coroner of Rushen Sheading and all whom this may concern.

Depositions of witnesses taken before a jury of six good and lawful men of Rushen Sheading convened by virtue of the Honourable Deemster Gawne's warrant and by him sworn in presence of James Quirk Esquire His Majesty's acting Attorney General to enquire into a matter of felony charged against Henry Tall, late one of the crew of His late Majesty's sloop Racehorse taken this 16 day of January 1823.

Robert Kerr of Castletown watch maker being sworn and examined saith that some days after the wreck of His Majesty's late sloop Racehorse the prisoner came to the deponent's shop and offered the watch now produced for sale which he said he had purchased from a Jew at either Plymouth or Portsmouth for thirty shillings and for which it being wet he asked fifteen shillings, that the deponent purchased the said watch for twelve shillings British which he paid to the prisoner though the said watch cost about three guineas and a half.

That John Gallagher was present when the prisoner received the said sum from the deponent, that the watch now produced is the watch so purchased from the prisoner and the deponent to the best of his recollection purchased the said watch from the prisoner the day after the funeral of William Mein Bone who was one of the officers of the said vessel.

Robert Kerr

John Gallagher of Castletown dealer being sworn and examined saith that the deponent was present when the prisoner and another boy came to the shop of the last witness and sold him a watch for twelve shillings British saying at the tie he had neither money meah? shoes or stockings and was not provided for, and the deponent paid the money to the prisoner on behalf of the last witness and in his presence and took place about three weeks ago.

John Gallagher

Thomas Harris late Captain's Clerk of His Majesty's late sloop Racehorse sworn and saith that he knew and was well acquainted with Thomas Mein Bone Master's Mate of the said vessel, that the watch now produced to the deponent belonged to, and was the property of the said Thomas Mein Bone at the time of his death, who was drowned at the wreck of the said vessel.

Thomas Harris

Henry Hodder late Sailing Master of His Majesty's late sloop Racehorse sworn saith that he saw the watch now produced on the person of Thomas Mein Bone on board the said vessel about half an hour before he was drowned, that the prisoner was one of the crew of the said vessel.

Cross examined saith that the said Thomas Mein Bone did not reach the shore alive and the deponent has no doubt the said watch was taken from the person of the said Thomas Mein Bone after he perished.

H Hodder

Charles Gooch late Boatswain of His Majesty's late sloop Racehorse sworn saith that the said vessel was put in commission in February last that nearly the whole of the time since that period the prisoner was the deponent's servant, on board the said vessel, that the deponent has left money and different articles lose frequently under the charge of the prisoner and never missed to the value of a pin.

Cross examined saith that the prisoner was once punished on board the said vessel for neglect of duty.

Charles Gooch

*Taken & sworn before me
J Gawne."*

On Thursday 27th June 1844 the smack Argyle, of Jersey, belonging to a company in the west of England, arrived in Castletown Bay with a celebrated diver, apparatus, etc, for the purpose of taking up the brass guns and other parts of the wreck of the Racehorse. On Wednesday 3rd July 1844, in glorious weather, and in front of a large crowd watching from the shore and from a large number of small boats, the Argyle succeeded in taking up about thirty tons of pig iron, a large quantity of copper, and a large anchor and chain. There was no mention of any brass cannon being recovered.