

INCORRIGIBLE ROGUE

NAME INC ALIASES:

Louis Godfrey

NATIVE PLACE:

London, England

RELIGION:

Presbyterian ?

OFFENCE:

Idle and disorderly

SENTENCE:

12 months

The fine decorative work on First Church, the Grand Hotel, Lanarch Castle and a range of other imposing Victorian buildings was carried out by the skilled carver Louis Godfrey, assisted by his two sons.

By the early years of the twentieth century, however, demand for fine carving had dropped off markedly, and one of the sons, Louis Marmaduke Mortimer Godfrey, was down on his uppers.

In 1909 he was charged with being an 'incorrigible rogue' with no visible means of support, with 34 previous convictions, starting in 1898; he was sentenced to twelve months in this

prison. Louis' wife Amelia had sued him for divorce in 1903 on the grounds of his drunkenness and bad character.

He was described as a jaunty, dapper man with a 'high colour', who talked 'as a brook chatters over pebbles'. Before the judge managed to shut him up he explained: 'I've been fishing, oystering, and ferning a little for a living. Is there any 'arm in that? I plead not guilty... I make six or seven shillings a day, you see, fishing and ferning. Sometimes I take a bed somewhere. Last week I stayed in an old tent place. I can't get my work.'

