

Thomas Deacey, 2193, Robert Small

Researched by Marcia Watson

Alias and name variations Deacy, Deasey, Duffy, Higgins, Darcy, O'Malley, Dasy, Dasey

Convicted at Mayo Summer Assizes at Castlebar, 23 July 1851.

Thomas Deacy, Patrick Deacy, John Nestor, Catherine Deacy, and Bridget Deacy were convicted of killing sheep and sentenced to 7 years transportation. ¹

The four Deacy children were aged: Thomas 21, Patrick 24, Catherine 20, and Bridget 26. John Nestor was 40.

The Richmond Prison Register records:

Thomas Deacy, from county Mayo, was convicted at Castlebar on 23 July 1851 of killing sheep and sentenced to 7 years transportation. He was 21, 5'5", had grey eyes, brown hair, a fair complexion, was single, could not read or write, was a labourer, and was Catholic. On 15 January 1852, he was sent to Mountjoy prison. Never before been convicted. ²

At some stage, Thomas was transferred to Spike Island Prison near Queenstown, Cork, in readiness for the voyage to Western Australia. The *Robert Small* arrived on 20 April 1853 from Deptford and, after embarking 309 convicts, sailed on 1 May. Six convicts died before the ship reached Fremantle on 19 August 1853, and several convicts were admitted to hospital over the next few days.

On arrival on 30 August 1853, he was described as:

2195. Thomas Deacey, 22, 5'6¾", black hair, grey eyes, round face, sallow complexion, stout, scar on the left side of the nose, labourer and single. ³

Thomas received a Ticket of Leave on 30 May 1854. The day before, the Prison Superintendent wrote in his diary:

The undermentioned propris [probationary prisoners] will be discharged on T of L tomorrow, the 30 instant.

2193. T Deacy

2532. P Deacy (his brother Patrick)

Thomas received a Conditional Pardon on 24 December 1855.

Thomas said he came to Victoria per *Carrier Dove* in 1857. The ship carried immigrants from England; no Deacey or similar name is on the passenger list. He possibly did arrive in Victoria around this time and travelled to the Bendigo (previously known as Sandhurst) area.

In January 1881, the Ballarat Star reported: A miner named Thomas Deacy, who was working in the Duke's Hurdsfield Company's mine, met with a severe scalp wound about 2 o'clock on Thursday morning through a piece of dirt falling on his head. He went to the Hospital, where he received the necessary treatment, after which he went away. The sufferer was so weak from the loss of blood that he staggered and fell near the Hospital gate. ⁴

¹ Mayo Constitution, 29 July 1851, p3

² Dublin-Bridewell (Richmond) Prison General Register 1847-1883, Book no 1/13/42, item 3

³ SROWA, Acc 128/1-32

⁴ The Ballarat Star, 28 Jan 1881, p2

From the time of his injury, Thomas's life took a downturn, and perhaps he was unable to continue with regular work. Later in the year, Thomas Deacey was charged with having by means of false pretences obtained a bottle of rum from Hannah Carter at Leichardt on the 23rd instant and also with having in a similar manner obtained on the same date a bottle of rum from Mary Ann Lewis at Marong. He was remanded to the Eaglehawk Police Court on Saturday next.⁵ At the Eaglehawk Police Court: Thomas Deacy, remanded from Sandhurst on a charge of obtaining bottles of rum from different people, was brought up under the Vagrant Act for imposing on certain people. The prisoner had obtained the rum from Mrs Mary Ann Lewis and from Mrs Hannah Carter. He was sentenced to one month's imprisonment on each charge.⁶

He was hardly out of Gaol when he was back in the court in October. The Victoria Police Gazette reported his release from Sandhurst Gaol in the week ending 31 October 1881. Dasy, Thomas alias Deacey, tried Durham Ox on 17 October 1881 for stealing a brace and was sentenced to 14 days. He was from Mayo, a labourer, born 1832, 5'9¼", sallow complexion, brown hair, blue eyes, head bald, second conviction here.

In 1883, the newspapers reported several crimes in the Eaglehawk area. During the past few months, several of the publicans in the borough have been victimized by an elderly man named Thomas Deacy, whose modus operandi was to present orders, purporting to be written by Mr Louis Crameri, hotelkeeper Whipstick, for bottles of grog, which were given to him without hesitation. When Cremeri was asked to settle his account, he denounced the documents as forgeries. After giving the Police some trouble, the offender has been arrested, and it is now discovered that he is an old hand at such little games. It has been proved that he is guilty of several petty thefts in Eaglehawk and at Myers Flat. The Police recognised the old offender, who, about 12 months since, was sentenced to two months imprisonment for obtaining goods under false pretences. Deacy was remanded until Saturday.⁷

At his trial, Thomas Dacey said he was intoxicated at the time and did not know what he was doing. Some time ago, he was struck on the head by a falling limb of a tree, and since then, he has been weak in the head. The Police said that in August 1881, he received a sentence of two months imprisonment for false pretences, and some time afterwards, he was sentenced to 14 days on a similar charge at Durham Ox. Dacey, who is a labourer, had been working on the new line from Eaglehawk to Mitiamo and has been greatly addicted to drink. He was sentenced to 3 months of hard labor.⁸

The Police Gazette shows the prisoners discharged during the week ending 30 March 1885 from Geelong Gaol: Duffy, Thomas alias Thos Deacey, was tried in Sandhurst on 5 May 1884 for forgery and uttering and sentenced to 12 months. He was from Ireland, a labourer, born in 1832, with the same description as before. He had three previous convictions and was given the prison number 20225.

⁵ Bendigo Advertiser, 29 Jul 1881, p2

⁶ Bendigo Advertiser, 8 Aug 1881, p3

⁷ The Argus, 6 Mar 1883, p6

⁸ Bendigo Advertiser, 12 March 1883, p2

Two years later, by the week ending 20 September 1886, the list of offences committed by Thomas had grown to six.

Deacy, Thomas alias Darcey, alias Duffy, alias Dasey, alias Deacey, tried at Kerang on 8 June 1886 for vagrancy and sentenced to 3 months in Sandhurst Gaol.

On the week ending 21 February 1887, Thomas was released from Sandhurst Gaol. Thomas Darcy alias Darcey, Duffy, Dasey, and Deacey, 20225. Convicted at Pyramid Hill Petty Sessions on 16 November 1886 of false pretences and sentenced to 3 months. Seven previous convictions.

It was not long before he was convicted again at the Sandhurst General Sessions on 18 April 1888. Deacy, Thomas alias Duffy alias Higgins 20225, was tried on two charges of uttering. He received nine months and six months cumulative. Again, he was described as from Ireland, a labourer, born 1832, 5'9¼", sallow complexion, grey hair, blue eyes, and eight previous convictions. He was released in May 1889 from Sandhurst Gaol.

A few weeks later, Thomas was back in court and received a longer sentence this time at the Daylesford General Sessions on 3 July 1889. Thomas O'Malley, alias Thomas D'Arcy, alias Duffy, and alias Higgins was charged with forging and uttering at Woodend on 7 June 1889. The prisoner pleaded guilty to uttering but said he knew nothing of the forgery. Thomas went to a store, bought clothes, and handed a cheque for payment. His Honor said, from the prisoner's previous convictions, that he undoubtedly knew what he was doing. The prisoner was under the influence of drink, but that was no excuse. Thomas was sentenced to 18 months hard labor.⁹ He was discharged from Pentridge Prison on 15 December 1890.



Thomas Deasy applied for a Pension Certificate, approved on 16 January 1901, granted 10/- per week. Then, in March 1902, he applied for the Old Age Pension and was granted 8/- per week from the 15th instant.

Thomas Deasey, born about 1832, died or was buried on 3 March 1907 at Ararat General Cemetery in Roman Catholic grave 2041. He was 76, a resident of Ararat, a labourer and died of senile decay. No parents are named on the Victorian BDM Index.

Siblings

Catherine Deacy, 20 and Bridget Deacy, 26, were sent to Tasmania per *Martin Luther*, that sailed on 8 June 1852 and arrived at Hobart on 1 September 1852. On Tasmanian Convict records, they only mention their two brothers as family. Possibly, the parents were dead.¹⁰

⁹ The Woodend Star, 9 Jul 1889, p2

Bridget, 23, married Patrick Reardon, 26, at Hobart in 1855. Witnesses at the marriage were Catherine Deacy and James Wallace. Bridget and Patrick had six children, and she died in 1904, aged 83.

Catherine Deacy, 23, married convict James Wallace, 35, in Hobart in 1854. Bridget Deacy was a witness to the marriage. Catherine and James had one daughter, and Catherine died in childbirth in 1859 in Hobart.

Patrick Deasey 2532 arrived in Western Australia, per *Phoebe Dunbar*, three weeks after Thomas arrived. No trace has been found of Patrick after he received his Conditional Pardon on 24 December 1855.

John Nestor, who was convicted with the Deacy family, was transferred to Spike Island Prison and appears to have stayed in Ireland.¹¹

¹⁰ Dublin-Grangegorman Female Prison General Register 1840-1853, Book no 1/9/7, item 3

¹¹ Dublin-Grangegorman Female Prison General Register 1840-1853, Book no 1/9/7, item 3