

John Beeson, 161, Hashemy

Researched by Marcia Watson

Baptism	16 September 1832, Aston upon Trent, Derbyshire
Parents	Joseph Beeson and Mary Lacey
Parent's marriage	23 April 1826, Aston upon Trent, Derbyshire.
Siblings	William (1826)
Wife	Sarah Woodward
Married	1860
Children	Mary Anne (1860) Sydney (1865) Henry (1867) Charlotte Elizabeth (1870) Joseph Eli (1872) Trinity Sarah (1875) Adelaide May (1878) Selina Ellen (1880)

Although John Henry Beeson was baptised at Aston upon Trent, the family lived at Shardlow. His father was recorded as a painter at the baptism.

His mother, Mary Beeson, was buried on 12 May 1851, St Peters, Derby. She was 37 years old and lived in Waterloo Street.

On the 1841 census, taken in June, at Waterloo Square, Parish of St Werburgh, Derby were: Joseph Beeson, 35, carpet weaver; John, 5. His brother William Beeson was in gaol.

John appeared at the Police Office Derby in early March 1846:

Thomas Buckley and John Beeson were severally convicted of being rogues and vagabonds and were committed to the House of Correction for fourteen days.¹

He was just out of gaol when at the Derbyshire Easter Quarter Sessions, at Chesterfield in April: John Beeson, aged 15, and John Tomlinson, aged 16, were charged with having on 30 March last, at the township of Litchurch, feloniously stolen 22 pounds weight of brass, the property of the Midland Railway Company.—Pleaded Guilty—one-month imprisonment.²

Then, at the Police Office on 11 July 1846: John Bott and John Beeson were convicted of being rogues and vagabonds and were committed to the House of Correction for two calendar months each.³

John continued to be in trouble. At the Police Office Derby on 20 February 1847:

John Beeson, George Johnson, and John Dawes were committed for trial at the next Borough Sessions, charged with stealing 110 lb s of old iron, the property of Messrs. Pegg and Co., from their colour manufactory, in the Morledge, in this town.⁴ At the Borough of Derby Easter Sessions, in April:⁵

John Beeson, 14, George Johnson, 17, and John Dawes, 19, were charged with having on 18 February 1847, at the parish of All Saints, feloniously stolen one hundred and ten pounds weight of iron, the property of Robert Pegg and another. They were all three found Guilty. A previous conviction against Beeson, at the Chesterfield sessions, in 1846, for stealing brass, the property of the Midland Railway Company, having been proved, they were severally sentenced to imprisoned and kept to hard labour for one year each.

¹ Derby Mercury, 11 March 1846, p3

² Derbyshire Courier, 11 April 1846, p2

³ Derbyshire Advertiser and Journal, 17 July 1846, p3

⁴ Derby Mercury, 24 February 1847, p3

⁵ Derbyshire Courier, 24 April 1847, p4

John's brother William was released from gaol in June 1847. When John finished his prison sentence in April 1848, they met up and were quickly in trouble. In July, the pair were committed to stand trial in Staffordshire: William Beeson and John Beeson, charged with stealing one pair boots, the property of Edward Cox, at Burton-upon-Trent.⁶ At the Staffordshire Adjourned Sessions in July:

William Beeson and John Beeson, two brothers, whose appearance bespoke their character, were indicted for stealing a pair of boots, the property of Edward Fox, at Burton. John Beeson pleaded guilty to the indictment; the other prisoner was placed on trial.

It appeared from the evidence of the prosecutor and other witnesses that he kept a shoe stall at Burton market and that on 1 June, the prisoners were seen near the stall. On the following morning, about two o'clock, they were found sleeping in a pig-stye, at Derby, by a police officer, and upon the feet of the younger brother, there was a pair of Blucher boots, without lace holes. The prosecutor and his workman identified these boots as his property, both from the workmanship, and the fact that the holes in Butcher boots sold by him were never punched until sold. The prisoner William Beeson was found guilty. The learned Chairman then told the prisoners that the Court had very little difficulty in dealing with them, for they seemed to be extraordinary persons. On their own declaration, they had been committed five times each. William Beeson twice for vagrancy, once for stealing books, once summarily convicted, and had also been sentenced to seven years transportation, part of which time he had served and was then discharged. The younger prisoner had also been in gaol five times, one instance for a period of twelve months. They were then each sentenced to be transported for fourteen years.⁷

John Beeson, 17, single, can read, a labourer, was convicted on 20 July 1848 of stealing boots at the Stafford Sessions and sentenced to 14 years transportation. He had been imprisoned four times previously. He was received at Millbank Prison on 9 October 1848, from Stafford Gaol, where the gaoler's report was good. John weighed 8 stone 11 lbs; he said he was born at Shardlow near Derby; and his father Joseph Beeson was a painter living in Liversedge St, Derby.

John was transferred to Pentonville Prison on 3 May 1849. Here he was recorded as a factory labourer, and the gaoler's report was indifferent. A year later, he was transferred to Portland Prison on 1 May 1850. From Portland, he boarded the Hashemy on 19 July 1850 for the voyage to Fremantle.⁸

During the voyage, John was placed on the sick list:

Folio 4: John Beeson, aged 20, prisoner; sick or hurt, diarrhoea; put on sick list, 27 September 1850, discharged 1 October 1850 well.

Folio 4: John Beeson, aged 20, prisoner; sick or hurt, ulcer; put on sick list, 4 October 1850, discharged 8 October 1850 well.⁹

On arrival at Western Australia in October 1850, he was described as:

161. John Beeson, 21, 5'6¼", light brown hair, light hazel eyes, an oval face, fair complexion, stout, marked with smallpox, a painter and single.¹⁰

General Register:

161 John Beeson, 21, single, Gimp maker, Church of England, went to National School, can read well but his writing and maths are indifferent. John said his father, Joseph Beeson, painter and grainer, Liversedge St, Derby. (A grainer is a painter who specialises in painting inexpensive wood to appear like more expensive wood.)

Attended Divine Service? Attendance better in earlier days than latterly

Received Sacrament? Never

⁶ Staffordshire Advertiser, 15 July 1848, p8

⁷ Staffordshire Advertiser, 22 July 1848, p8

⁸ HO24/4; HO24/16; HO8/105

⁹ ADM 101/32/6/1- (transcribed by National Archives, UK)

¹⁰ SROWA Acc 128/40-3

Habits? Sober and attentive to work usually
 Intellect? Sound
 State of Mind? Hopeful
 Knowledge, Secular? Very limited
 Knowledge, Religious? Limited
 Alleged Cause of Crime? Bad company
 Name of Person referred to for Character, &c. Mr Madely, Silk manufacturer, Derby¹¹

On 9 December 1850, John had his tobacco stopped for three days due to idleness.¹²

John appears on the Casual sick list, Fremantle Prison.¹³

Beeson Jno	12 November 1850	Sore throat	Gargle, Dovers powder
Beeson	13 November 1850	Headache	Op: medicine
Beeson J	15 November 1850	Sore throat	Continue medicine, Quinine powder
Beeson	16 November 1850	Sore throat	Continue medicine
Beeson John	10 December 1850	Costive	Pilul & draught
Beeson	10 February 1851	Constipation	Pulv Purg
Beeson John	17 February 1851	Bad eye	Opening medicine, lotion
Beeson John	19 February 1851		Discharged
Beeson Jno	28 February 1851	Bad eye	Lotion
Beeson John	7 March 1851	Bad eyes	Ap: med, lotion
Beeson John	8 March 1851	Bad eyes	
Beeson John	19 March 1851	Bad eyes	Lotion zinc suplh
Beeson John	20 March 1851	Bad eyes	Continue lotion
Beeson John	21 March 1851	Bad eyes	Continue Gutts Argent
Beeson John	22 March 1851	Bad eyes	Continue lotion
Beeson John	31 March 1851	Bad eye	Lotion
Beeson John	10 April 1851	Bad eyes	Lotion
Beeson John	11 April 1851		Continue lotion
Beeson John	16 April 1851	Bad eyes	Gut. Argent Ni.....
Beeson John	17 April 1851	Bad eyes	Continue lotion
Beeson John	29 April 1851	Bad eyes	Gutt:
Beeson John	1 May 1851	Bad eyes	Gutt:
Beeson John	2 May 1851	Weak eyes	Gutt:
Beeson John 161	18 May 1851		Hicking plaister

John received a ticket of leave on 10 November 1851.

On 19 June 1858: 161, John Beeson, ticket of leave, was admitted to Fremantle Prison hospital with a fractured base of the skull. He was discharged on 30 July. When discharged, the register records him as "161 James Beeston, ticket of leave".¹⁴

He was granted a Conditional Pardon was granted on 13 August 1859.

At the Resident's Court, Geraldton, on 14 July 1881:¹⁵

William Criddle, John Beeson, and John Beswick were severally charged with infringing the by-laws of the roads board by neglecting to drive their teams double yoked. The charges were admitted, but it was stated in defence that the road board had rescinded the by-law.

¹¹ SROWA Acc 1156 R21A

¹² AJCP. CO18/58, p245

¹³ SROWA Acc 1156 CS1

¹⁴ SROWA Acc 1156 RD1-2; M32

¹⁵ Geraldton Observer (WA : 1880 - 1881), 19 July 1881, p3

His Worship remarked that the by-law had not been repealed, there was a proper course to observe, and until the by-laws are legally repealed, they must be adhered to. In these cases, His Worship would inflict no fine beyond the cost of summons; but no other case would be allowed to pass.¹⁶

On 27 December 1889, JH Beeson arrived at Fremantle, per *Rob Roy*, from Geraldton.¹⁷ The family possibly moved to Fremantle in the late 1880s as two daughters married at Fremantle in 1890-1.

John applied for relief for his family, at Fremantle, in 1894.¹⁸

In 1901, the newspaper mentioned: Probates.— Walter Spiller (in the will erroneously called William Spiller), late of Fremantle, carter, died and John Henry Beeson was the executor (Robert Holmes, the other executor, having renounced). Walter has 'adopted' James McGlocklin, a tramster, who was living with him and was commonly known as James Hake. On the death of James, everything was to go to his wife, Trinity Sarah McGlocklin [McLoughlin/McLaughlin] during her lifetime. Trinity was the daughter of John Henry Beeson. Value of estate - £79 19s 3d.¹⁹

Deaths of wife in August 1903.²⁰

BEESON.-On the 22nd inst, at Fremantle, Sarah, the beloved wife of John Henry Beeson; aged 65 years; a colonist of 50 years.

BEESON.-The Friends of Mr John H. Beeson are respectfully invited to follow the remains of his late beloved wife, Sarah, to the place of interment, the Wesleyan portion of the Karrakatta Cemetery. The Funeral is appointed to leave his residence, No. 181 Attfield-st., South Fremantle, on TUESDAY MORNING, 25th inst., at 10 o'clock. Friends wishing to attend the Funeral may travel by train, leaving Fremantle at 11.30 o'clock. ARTHUR E. DAVIES and Co., Undertakers, Market-street, Fremantle. Tel. 225.

A year later, John Henry Beeson died in August 1904 at North Perth.²¹

BEESON.-The Friends of the late Mr John Henry Beeson are respectfully invited to follow his remains to the place of interment, the Wesleyan Cemetery, Karrakatta. The Funeral is appointed to leave Messrs. Bowra and O'Dea's Undertaking Establishment, 155 Pier-street, Perth, at 10 THIS (Monday) MORNING per road. Friends wishing to attend the Funeral may proceed by the 11 o'clock trains leaving Perth and Fremantle. BOWRA and O'DEA, Undertakers, 195, Pier-street, Perth. Tel. 308.

See - Mid West Convicts <https://midwestwaheritage.com/resultmcr/?id=42>

¹⁶ SROWA Acc 1156 R21B

¹⁷ Western Mail (Perth, WA : 1885 - 1954), 4 January 1890, p17

¹⁸ SROWA cons527 1894/0110

¹⁹ The Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), 19 September 1901, p3; SROWA cons 3404 1901/114

²⁰ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 24 August 1903, p1

²¹ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 29 August 1904, p1