

Prison Record, Ireland.

260. Thomas Dublack or Duplex, 33, 5'8", blue eyes, brown hair, fresh complexion, Catholic, can spell, labourer, resides at Maddenstown in Kildare, was committed on 31 May 1849. He had stolen two ducks and a drake, the property of Elizabeth Kinsella. Thomas was tried by a Bench of Magistrates at Maynooth, Kildare, on 28 June 1849, found guilty and sentenced to 10 years transportation. He was discharged on 24 September 1850 and delivered to the Constabulary for transportation.¹ It was a subsequent felony.²

His wife, Margaret Duplex, née Burn/Burns/Byrne, arrived on the *Sir Wm Foulkes* on 13 December 1855 with their children William 9, Edward 8, and Patrick 5, to join her husband. Almost a year later, daughter Elizabeth was born at Toodyay on 1 December 1856 and baptised on 7 December 1856.

Thomas, a ticket of leave man, was not present at the baptism. Earlier in the year, on 28 July 1856, he was received at Fremantle Prison under Magistrate reconviction of two years of hard labour and placed under regulated discipline.³

Thomas appears regularly on the sick list from 3 December 1856 until 1 January 1857 with a chronic sore throat.⁴ He was in solitary confinement and died on 21 January 1857, of chest disease, at Fremantle. The Superintendent of the prison recorded:

21 January 1857. The funerals of reconvicted prisoners 1342 Jabez Brider, who expired yesterday morning, and 2139 Thomas Duplex, who expired this morning, will take place the former at 4:30 p.m. this afternoon. The Rev. the Chaplain officiating – the latter at 8:30 a.m. the officiating R C Clergyman attending.

His death is in the St Patrick's Catholic Church, Fremantle, register and Thomas is probably buried in Skinner Street Cemetery, Fremantle.

Margaret Duplex had only been in the colony a year when she was left with three young children and a new baby. The following year, on 16 February 1858 at Toodyay, she married convict Michael Hamilton, 2499, who arrived on the *Phoebe Dunbar*. The only registered birth to the couple was Mary Ann Hamilton, born in 1861.

Duplex children:

William married Mary Ann Doyle in 1884 at Greenough; he died in 1904.

Patrick married Mary Ann Jackson in 1879 at Greenough; he died in 1887.

Edward died on 2 February 1878 at the Perth Colonial Hospital of Phthisis and is buried in East Perth Cemetery.

Elizabeth married Thomas O'Neil in 1883 at Albany.

¹ Dublin-Mountjoy Prison General Register 1848-1857, Book no 1/11/2, item 11

² <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-2283438001/view>

³ SROWA ACC 1156/ SO4-SO6, Superintendent Orders, 1855 – 1858, image284 and image 363

⁴ SROWA ACC 1156/M14-M16