

**Thomas Ensor, 76, Hashemy**

Researched by Marcia Watson

Born	15 July 1829
Baptism	18 June 1829 at St Lukes, Chelsea.
Parents	George Ensor and Ann Jones
Parent's marriage	1 June 1822 at St Martin in the Fields, Middlesex
Siblings	George Lewis (1821), Caroline (1823), James (1824), Elizabeth (1826)
Wife	Mary Ann Wilson
Married	
Children	Thomas (1852)

George Ensor joined the 29<sup>th</sup> Regiment in 1811 as an Ensign when he was 23 years old. He exchanged to the 3<sup>rd</sup> West India Regiment the following year. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1815, and in 1818 switched to the 82<sup>nd</sup> Regiment. He went on half pay due to ill health, but was desirous to serve again if his health permitted. George died in 1838 at Clerkenwell, London, leaving a wife and five children.

On the 1841 census, living at Riley Street, Chelsea: <sup>1</sup>

Ann Ensor, 40, Caroline, 15, Elizabeth, 10 and Thomas, 10

Thomas's mother, Ann Ensor, died in 1848, aged 54, at Riley St, Chelsea.

At the Central Criminal Court, in 23 November 1846:

Thomas Ensor was indicted for obtaining 2 half-crowns from Sarah, the wife of Hugh Patterson McKee, by false pretences. Full transcript at:

<https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/browse.jsp?id=def1-20-18461123&div=t18461123-20#highlight>

GUILTY. Aged 18.— Confined Six Months.

Thomas Ensor was a clerk, 18 years old, and could read and write well.

Then in October 1847:

Thomas Ensor, private in the East India Company's Artillery, was placed at the bar, charged with stealing a gold watch and guard chain, a quantity of jewellery, linen, and wearing apparel, from the residence of Mr S. Archbutt, solicitor, King's-road, Chelsea.

About month ago, the prisoner and another man, named Dignum, were charged at this Court and underwent remand, the former being accused with breaking into the dwelling-house of Mr Toby, a gentleman of fortune, at Chelsea, and stealing a quantity very valuable plate, and the latter with having plundered Mr Archbutt of a gold watch, chain, jewellery, and a great quantity of linen, and wearing apparel. In the course of the inquiry, it turned out that Ensor and Dignum, although apprehended upon distinct charges, were on very intimate terms, and that during the absence of Mr Archbutt and his family, for a few days in the country, Dignam, who was a clerk in his establishment, introduced Ensor to the female servant who had been left in charge of the premises, and the latter went out walking together for some hours one evening, while Dignum was left to take care of the house. Early the next morning, it was discovered that the place had been robbed of the property above stated, and Dignum was given into custody. As there was not sufficient evidence given on either of the cases to justify a further detention of the prisoners, they were discharged.

The police have been actively engaged since that period in endeavouring to trace the property, and it was ascertained a few days ago that Mr Archbutt's guard-chain had been pledged by a person closely answering the description of Ensor, in consequence of which search was the prisoner, who had, after his liberation from custody on Mr Toby's charge, joined the East India Company's service, and he was apprehended at Worley Barracks, Essex, on Saturday, when a pocket-book, which had been stolen from Mr Archbutt's, was found in his possession, and he was seen to tear up letter from a relation, which cautioned him not to come near Chelsea, as the police were in search of him.

The prisoner made no defence and was remanded for a week in order to give time for the attendance of the necessary witnesses. <sup>2</sup> At the Central Criminal Court, on 22 November 1847:

<sup>1</sup> HO107/688/9

THOMAS ENSOR, stealing, 5 September, 1 watch-guard chain, value £4, the goods of Samuel Archbutt.

Guilty. Aged 18.— Transported for Seven Years

Full transcript:

<https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/browse.jsp?id=def1-116-18471122&div=t18471122-116#highlight>

A Second Indictment.

Thomas Ensor again indicted, for stealing 1 watch, value £5. 1 ring, £4 and 1 pocket-book, 6d. the goods of Samuel Archbutt, in his dwelling-house.

Guilty of stealing, but not in the dwelling-house. Aged 18.— Transported for Seven Years more.

Full transcript:

<https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/browse.jsp?id=def1-117-18471122&div=t18471122-117#highlight>

Thomas Ensor, 18, single, can read and write, soldier, was convicted on 22 November 1847 at the Central Criminal Court in London of larceny in dwelling house and larceny. He was sentenced to seven years transportation on each account, i.e. 14 years transportation. He had one previous conviction.

Thomas was transferred from Newgate Prison to Millbank Prison on 10 December 1847. Six months later, he was sent to Northampton Gaol on 17 June 1848. After ten months at Northampton Gaol, he was transferred back to Millbank Prison on 24 April 1849. Thomas was moved again on 20 June 1849, this time to Portland Prison. On arrival, his health and behaviour were good.

While at Portland, he was reported for irregularity and disposed of as in Report Book and Misconduct Book on 2 December 1849. Unfortunately, the Governor's Journal doesn't give the reason Thomas was reported.<sup>3</sup>

It was from Portland that Thomas boarded the *Hashemy* on 19 July 1850 for the voyage to Fremantle.<sup>4</sup>

His description on arrival in October 1850:

76. Thomas Ensor, 21, 5'9", brown hair, grey eyes, prominent visage, Fresh and fair complexion, no marks or scars, a clerk and single.<sup>5</sup>

General Register:

76. Thomas Ensor, 22 (June 1851), single, clerk, Church of England, went to school, can read, and is very good at writing and accounts. He said his brother George Lewis Ensor, clerk, lives at Dalston near London.

Attended Divine Service? Occasionally only

Received Sacrament? No

Habits? Sober and industrious usually

Intellect? Sound

State of Mind? Good, intends well and I trust with God's help he will do well

Knowledge, Secular? Tolerable

Knowledge, Religious? More limited than I expected but attributable to a bad memory

Alleged Cause of Crime? Bad company and expenditure habits

Name of Person referred to for Character, &c. Mr Charles Brooks Teague, attorney, Crown Court, Cheapside, City of London; Messrs Grant & Potts, accountants, ironmonger Lane, Gresham St, London.

He received a number of books while in prison.<sup>6</sup>

Thomas appears on the casual sick list at Fremantle Prison once, on 28 November 1850. No details are given.

The following year he received a Ticket of Leave on 10 June 1851. Thomas worked as a clerk for at the Steward's Office of the Convict Establishment. His rate of pay was £18 per annum.

A son, Thomas Ensor, was born to Thomas Ensor and Mary Ann Wilson in 1852. Permission to marry was granted during the half-year ending June 1853; no marriage was found.

In 1853 the General Board of Education voiced an objection to the application of ticket-of-leave man Thomas Ensor (76) for the vacant position of assistant schoolmaster at Fremantle Government School. It was considered that such an engagement would be injurious to the school, as the applicant was a ticket-of-leave holder.

<sup>2</sup> Bell's New Weekly Messenger, 31 October 1847, p7

<sup>3</sup> PCOM 2/354

<sup>4</sup> HO24/3; HO23/8; HO24/4; HO8/105

<sup>5</sup> SROWA Acc 128/40-43

<sup>6</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 R21A

The Board stated: *[We] are more particularly led to this conclusion having received a letter from Mr Wright, the schoolmaster, stating that he believes some of the scholars would be removed from the school were Mr Ensor appointed assistant schoolmaster.*

It seems that regardless of whether their characters were above reproach, teachers of the bond class were not considered 'fit and proper' persons to conduct the school in the larger, more important centres.<sup>7</sup>

**DAY SCHOOL.**  
**MR. THOMAS ENSOR** begs leave to acquaint the inhabitants of Fremantle of his intention to open a **DAY SCHOOL** at No. 1, High Street, on the 4th April next.  
 N. B. Storekeepers' accounts made up; Writings copied, &c., &c.

This advertisement appeared in the newspapers from the end of March until 20 April 1853.<sup>8</sup>

The school may have been short-lived, as Thomas had a different occupation when called as a witness in 1854. Civil Court, Tuesday, 13 June 1854. WEEDON V. CARTER. This was an action for a debt of £153 0s 6d on which Judgment had been given last Court day by default.

Thomas Ensor was a witness:

Thomas Ensor - I am defendant's clerk and kept his books; I know plaintiff's handwriting; the receipts now shown to me is signed by plaintiff (a receipt for £60 on account of firewood supplied in August, 1853); the paper now shown to me 11 June, 1853, is signed by plaintiff, being an order on Carter in favor of Henry Thomas for £1 10s; the third paper now shown to me is in plaintiff's handwriting, dated 2 January, 1854, being Weedon's account against Carter for firewood to that date amounting to £153 1s; that bill embraced the whole of their transactions from the preceding August; the fourth paper now produced to me, without date, is in plaintiff's handwriting, admitting a set off in favor of Carter of £48 4s; I produce Carter's books as kept by me; under date 3 September, 1853, is an entry of cash £20 and 2 casks of flour £4 10s paid and delivered to Weedon; I saw the money paid to Weedon, I did not see the flour delivered.<sup>9</sup> (long article) Judgment for the plaintiff of £35.

A Conditional Pardon was granted to Thomas Ensor on 7 April 1854.

No further trace of Thomas has been found in Western Australia.

Possible death in Burma:

14 August 1885, at Rangoon, Thomas Ensor, 52, clerk, died of dysentery, buried the same day in the town cemetery.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Leahy, S. M. (1993). Convict Teachers and the Children of Western Australia, 1850-1890. Retrieved from [https://ro.ecu.edu.au/theses\\_hons/1461](https://ro.ecu.edu.au/theses_hons/1461)

The General Board of Education to Fremantle Government School, 9 May, 1853. Minutes & Outward Correspondence of the General Board of Education, 1847-71. (BL. 526)

<sup>8</sup> Inquirer (Perth, WA : 1840 - 1855), 30 March 1853, p3

<sup>9</sup> The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News (WA : 1848 - 1864), 16 June 1854, p3

<sup>10</sup> British Library, N-1-290, Parish register transcripts from the Presidency of Bengal, : 1713-1948, p156 (findmypast)