

## James Gloak, 670, Pyrenees

Researched by Marcia Watson

Born	3 October 1832, Dundee <sup>1</sup>
Baptism	3 February 1833, Dundee, Angus, Scotland
Parents	James Gloak and Jean Scrimgeour
Parent's marriage	10 February 1818, Dundee
Siblings	Agnes Hendry (1819), Alexander (1821), Jean Colville (1822), Euphemia Keilor (1825), Robert (1827), Margaret Pennycuik (1829), David Blair (1831), Janet (1835), William (1837), Jean (1839), Caroline (1841-1841)
Wife	
Married	
Children	

His father, James Gloak, was a spirit dealer at Scouringburn, Dundee, now called Brook Street.

The 1841 census for Scouringburn Manros Land Dyers Entry, Dundee, Forfarshire (Angus), Scotland: James Gloak 54, Independent; Jane Scrimger 42; children Alexander 20, Machine maker; Euphemia 16; Robert 14; Margaret 12; David 10; James 8; William 6; Jane 4; Janet 2.<sup>2</sup>

The first time James is mentioned in the newspapers is in August 1845, although his petty thieving began earlier.

A youth named James Gloak, with three previous convictions recorded against him, was brought up on a charge of stealing a leather dressing-case from the Bazaar at the top of Reform Street and consigned to the care of the Procurator Fiscal.<sup>3</sup>

The following year at the Sheriff Criminal Court, James Gloak, a boy, was remitted to the Procurator Fiscal, charged with stealing a quantity of rags from the store of a stoneware merchant, Overgate.<sup>4</sup>

Later, in 1846, James Gloak was accused of having, on 23 April, stolen a bag and a quantity of rags from a warehouse in Exchange Street and of being habit and repute a common thief. He pled not guilty, but the Jury, by a majority, found the libel proven, and he was sentenced to four months imprisonment.<sup>5</sup>

It seems James was encouraged to try a new occupation and go to sea. According to his Seamans Ticket, he first went to sea at the age of 15, as 1<sup>st</sup> Boy.

Seamans Ticket, issued on 1 April 1847. 200.386. James Gloak was born in Dundee on 3 October 1832. He was 5'1", with dark brown hair, light grey eyes, a sallow complexion, no marks, and could write.<sup>6</sup>

His father, James Gloak, died between August 1847 and March 1848.<sup>7</sup> He is probably James Gloak, who was buried in Howff Graveyard in Dundee on 3 October 1847. He was aged 62 and died of rupture; his last address was Scouringburn. The burial record says he was a weaver but no other people called James Gloak lived in Scouringburn.<sup>8</sup> His wife, Jean, is buried in the same cemetery.

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<sup>1</sup> Date from Seamans Ticket.

<sup>2</sup> Scotlands People, 1841 census 282/117/5

<sup>3</sup> Dundee, Perth, and Cupar Advertiser, 29 August 1845, p2

<sup>4</sup> Dundee, Perth, and Cupar Advertiser, 26 May 1846, p3

<sup>5</sup> Northern Warder, 30 July 1846, p5

<sup>6</sup> TNA, UK, BT 113/101

<sup>7</sup> Dundee, Perth, and Cupar Advertiser - Friday 01 October 1847, 4; Dundee Courier, 08 March 1848, p4

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.fdca.org.uk/Howff\\_Burial\\_Records.html](http://www.fdca.org.uk/Howff_Burial_Records.html)

Scottish-American Heirs, 1683-1883, p49, mentions James Gloak died in October 1847(available on Ancestry.com)

In November 1847, at the Sheriff Criminal Court, James Gloak and Francis Gore were accused of stealing a quantity of coals from a cart, aggravated by having been previously convicted of theft and being of habit and repute common thieves. They pled not guilty, but after examination of several witnesses, the Jury returned a guilty verdict against Gloak and found the charge against Gore not proven. Gloak was sentenced to six months in Gaol, and Gore dismissed from the bar.<sup>9</sup>

Released from Gaol in May 1848, James may have returned to sea, as he was accused of stealing from a schooner. At the Perth Circuit Court of Justiciary on 10 October 1848:

James Gloak, charged with having stolen a silver watch, a metal guard chain, a metal seal, and a brass key on 24 June from the James Hunter, master of the schooner *Ariel*, then lying on a bank opposite the Yeaman Shore, Dundee, aggravated by being of habit and repute a thief. He pled not guilty but was found guilty and sentenced to Seven years transportation.<sup>10</sup>

James Gloak, 17, single, can read and write well, millworker, convicted 10 October 1848 at Perth of theft and sentenced to 7 years transportation. He had been imprisoned five times, and his mother was Jean Gloak, who lived at Scouringburn Dundee. James was Church of Scotland. He spent 16 months in Dundee Gaol before he was transferred to Millbank Prison on 17 December 1849, where he spent 11 months. His behaviour was good.

While in Millbank Prison, James suffered a bout of insanity.<sup>11</sup> The two reports give conflicting information.

James Gloak, 19, received 16 December 1849 from Dundee, not known if previous insanity, delusions, the first date of the attack was April 1850, lasted 7 months and 12 days, state of mind when received was sound, character of insanity is delusions, he recovered. This report seems to be inaccurate.

The other report said the symptoms were first observed on 29 July 1850. He had slight delusions and recovered by 22 August 1850 and was afterwards removed to the *Stirling Castle* hulk. Another part of this report mentions James Gloak recovered after labouring under delusions for a very short period and had been sent to Portsmouth to undergo his period of probationary labour.

On 3 December 1850, he was transferred to *Stirling Castle* hulk at Portsmouth, Hampshire, where he was employed for 3 months on public works. James boarded *Marion* on 10 March 1851 for the voyage to Western Australia.<sup>12</sup>

He was assigned number 670 when the *Pyrenees* arrived at Fremantle on 28 June 1851. James Gloak was 19, 5'4½", with brown hair, light brown eyes, a round face, fresh complexion, stout, had a scar on his left arm, a labourer and single. He received a Ticket of Leave on arrival.

At some stage, James appears to have left Western Australia. This record found of a James Gloak could be him.

**James Gloak**, 25, from Dundee, joined the ship *Clarence* on 8 April 1859 at Shields as an able seaman. He was to be paid at £2 15s per month and drew this amount as an advance immediately upon entry.<sup>13</sup> His previous ship was *Antigua*.

At the end of the voyage, the crew list records all the crew who sailed.

**James Clarke**, 25, from Dundee, served previously on the *Antigua*, joined *Clarence* on 8 April 1859, and deserted at New York on 25 June 1859.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Dundee, Perth, and Cupar Advertiser, 26 November 1847, p3

<sup>10</sup> Dundee, Perth, and Cupar Advertiser, 13 October 1848, p2; Arbroath Guide, 14 October 1848, p7

<sup>11</sup> Reports from Commissioners - Volume 24 - Great Britain. Parliament. House of Lords · 1852. Cases of Insanity arising in Millbank prison during the years 1844 to 1852 inclusive; Reports, Papers, &c - Volume 38, Great Britain. Parliament. House of Lords · 1851

<sup>12</sup> TNA, UK, PCOM2/30; HO 24/4; PCOM2/133

<sup>13</sup> TNA, UK, BT 98 Agreement for Foreign going ship.

<sup>14</sup> Morning Chronicle, 12 March 1859, p5

## Is it really James Gloak? Or a mishearing of Clark when spoken with a Scottish accent?

Working backwards, his previous ship was *Antigua*.

**James Graham**, 23, Dundee, signed onto the *Antigua* on 28 October 1858 at Greenock as a seaman. James was released at the end of the voyage in London on 14 March 1859. [Joined *Clarence* 8 April] His previous ship was *Auchneagh*.

**James Graham**, 23, from Dundee, joined *Auchneagh* on 14 January 1858 in Melbourne as an able seaman, and he left the ship on 25 September 1858 in London. [Joined *Antigua* 28 October] His previous ship was *Forest Monarch*. The discharge date is unreadable; left the ship in Melbourne.

The *Forest Monarch* was an immigrant ship that left Glasgow on 31 March 1857 and arrived on 18 July 1857 at Launceston, Tasmania. The ship had a crew of 33. On 22 July, seventeen seamen were sentenced to four weeks imprisonment for refusing to work on board their vessel.

As the ship prepared to sail, 16 seamen were charged with disobeying the Master's commands and impeding her navigation on the progress of her voyage on the 19, 20, 21 and 22 August in the Tamar River and High Seas. They were gaoled for 4 weeks. James Graham was not one of the 16 men. The ship sailed for Callao on 7 September 1857 with new crew members obtained from Melbourne.

Was James really on the *Forest Monarch*? The crew list appears to say he left the ship in Melbourne, except the ship never went to Melbourne. There are only 4 months between the arrival of *Forest Monarch* and his next engagement (*Auchneagh*).

*Forest Monarch* sailed for Callao. James could have returned from Callao, but no newspaper reports of ships coming from Callao late in 1857 or early 1858.

James may have found work on local vessels around Australian ports before joining the *Auchneagh*. Alternatively, perhaps he never engaged as a seaman on the *Forrest Monarch*.

James Graham, James Gloak, and James Clarke appear to be the same person.

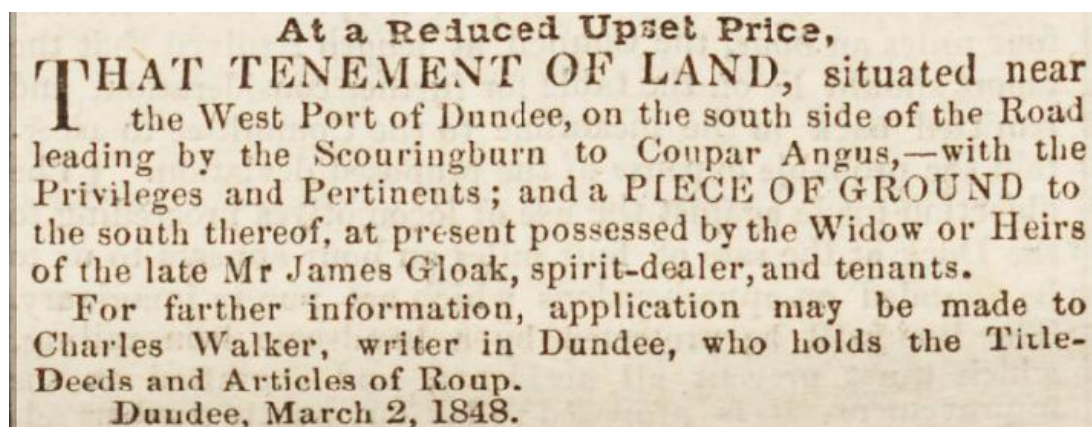
Was James Gloak trying to hide his convict past?

Or is he someone else who just happened to use the surname Gloak?

Interestingly, there was a convict called James Graham from Scotland on the *Pyrenees* with James Gloak. He was a shoemaker. James Gloak could have borrowed his name or vice versa.

### His mother, Jean Scrimgeour:

James Gloak senior had tried to sell the tenement of land since 1846. After his death, his widow continued his endeavour. It is unknown if she was successful.



At a Reduced Upset Price,  
**T**HAT TENEMENT OF LAND, situated near  
the West Port of Dundee, on the south side of the Road  
leading by the Scouringburn to Coupar Angus,—with the  
Privileges and Pertinents; and a PIECE OF GROUND to  
the south thereof, at present possessed by the Widow or Heirs  
of the late Mr James Gloak, spirit-dealer, and tenants.  
For farther information, application may be made to  
Charles Walker, writer in Dundee, who holds the Title-  
Deeds and Articles of Roup.  
Dundee, March 2, 1848.

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<sup>15</sup> Dundee Courier, 08 March 1848

1851 census, Scouring Burn, 8, Dundee, Forfarshire (Angus), Scotland.

Jean Gloak, head, widow, 52, eating house keeper.

Children: Alexander 29, engineer; Robert 24, machine maker finisher; Margaret 22, millworker spinner; David, 20, apprentice ship carpenter; Janet 15, house servant; William, 13, scholar and Jean 11, scholar.

Jean Scrimgeour, wife of James Gloak, spirit dealer, was buried at Howff Graveyard, Dundee on 18 July 1854. She was 56 and died of jaundice. Her last address was Barrons Court, West Port, Dundee.