

Thomas Hartshorn, 145, *Hashemy*

Researched by Marcia Watson

When Thomas arrived at Portland Prison in November 1848, his age was given as 32½. From most other records, he appears to have been born in 1816. English records also state he was married. No marriage has been found in Lancashire, although he may have married elsewhere. The surname Hartshorn is mainly found in Staffordshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire.

In 1841, living at Mould Street, Liverpool, Lancashire were:¹

William Hartshorn, 75, Ind, not born in the county; Margaret, 60, born in the county; Thomas, 25, shoemaker, not born in county

Four years later, in October 1847:

On Friday night last, Mr Winder had a large quantity of fowls stolen from her residence, Walton, and on the following day, Thomas Hartshorn was detected by one of the officers of St. John's Market, offering them for sale. On Monday, he was brought before Mr Earle and committed to take his trial at the Kirkdale quarter sessions.² Found guilty and sentenced to one-year in prison.

After being released from prison, it was not long before Thomas was in trouble again. At the Northern Circuit, Liverpool, on 23 March 1847:

John Wilcocks, John McBride, Thomas Hartshorn, and James Sephton were indicted for a burglary in the house of John Wright at Fazakerley, early in the morning of Christmas-day last. James Sephton pleaded Guilty.

Mr Blair and Mr Drinkwater conducted the prosecution. The prisoners were not defended by counsel.

It appeared from a statement of Mr Wright that he lives at Fazakerley, a few miles from the borough of Liverpool, on the road to Ormskirk, the only inmates of his house at the date in question being himself, his housekeeper, and a little boy, his grandson. They all retired to rest about 10 o'clock on Christmas-eve. Mr Wright slept in one room upstairs, and his housekeeper, Ann McKeveit, and the little boy in another room, on the same floor. About 4 o'clock, Ann McKeveit was awakened by a noise below stairs. She heard some persons talking together in a low tone and then heard footsteps ascending the stairs. Her door was not locked, and a man opened it. He had a sword in his hand, and there was another man behind him with a light. She thought the person who held the sword was McBride but could not speak to him with certainty. The man said that they did not want to hurt her, but she must "hold her noise". She screamed out, however, and the man struck her on the head with the sword, inflicting a wound but not a serious one. In the meantime, she heard some person breaking open the door of Mr Wright's room, and the men then left her.

Mr Wright stated that he was alarmed by the noise of some person breaking into his room, and looking up saw three men come in. Two of these, he thought, were Wilcocks and McBride. Wilcocks had a sword, which he handed to McBride. The third man had a pistol. They came to his bedside and demanded his money. Wilcocks had a light. He took his keys, opened a drawer, and gave them a bag containing 16 or 18 sovereigns. They opened the bag and counted the money, and during this time, he had an opportunity of seeing their faces and thought that Wilcocks and McBride were two of the men. The third, who held the pistol, he did not recognise. They then left the room, and he heard them go out of the house. In the meantime, Ann McKeveit, on the men leaving her room, had fastened the door and endeavoured to get out of the window, but a man who stood below struck her with a stick and prevented her doing so. On the robbers going away, however, Mr Wright and McKeveit went downstairs and then found that the front door had been broken open with a chisel or some instrument of that kind. The robbers took away some plated candlesticks and a few other trifling articles. The sword with which the witness (McKeveit) was wounded and which also they took away with them was one belonging to Mr Wright.

It appeared that the prisoners had been seen at an earlier period of the evening in the neighbourhood of the place where the robbery had been committed. They had also a little before 9 o'clock been at a public-house in Paul Street, in the borough of Liverpool. They remained there for some time and then went away. About 1 o'clock, they returned, and after being there some hours again, went out. They came back about 6 a.m.

¹ HO107/563/1

² Liverpool Mercury, 10 October 1845, p8

It appeared, also, from the statement of the persons who kept the public house in Paul Street, that within a few days after the occurrence, Wilcocks and McBride had been heard conversing about the occurrence at Mr Wright's in terms which showed they had been participators in the transaction.

James Sephton had originally been apprehended on this charge, with two men of the name Godfrey and a person of the name Hunter. While in gaol, he made a statement admitting that he had been a party in the robbery; he had been formerly in the service of Mr Wright. He exculpated the Godfreys and Hunter and accused the present prisoners of having been his associates. Mr Wright, in the course of his examination on the present trial, admitted he had sworn to one of the Godfreys and to another person of the name Stephen Sephton, a brother of James Sephton, as the persons who came into his room, but now alleged that on that occasion he was mistaken.

This statement of James Sephton was mentioned to the several prisoners then they were taken into custody, and to Wilcocks were shown the sword and two sticks which in consequence of a statement of James Sephton had been found in a ditch at Kirkdale, near the road, leading from Fazakerley to Liverpool.

A verdict of Guilty was finally returned against McBride and Wilcocks; Hartshorn was acquitted.

Hartshorn was again indicted for a highway robbery on the same night on the road of Netherton, a little beyond Walton, and convicted. The robbery appeared to have been committed by the same party.

Sentences of death were recorded against McBride, Wilcocks and Sephton; Hartshorn to be transported for 15 years.³

Further reports, with slightly different information:

Burglary at Fazakerley. Thomas Hartshorn, 31, (could read and write imperfectly), John Wilcocks, 26, (could neither read nor write,) John McBride, 19, (could read,) and James Sephton, 19, (could read,) were indicted for a burglary in the dwelling-house of John Wright, at Fazakerley.⁴ (part of the newspaper report)

Highway Robbery and Assault.

Thomas Hartshorn 31, (who had been previously tried on a charge of burglary and acquitted) was again placed at the bar, charged with robbing Mary Willacy at Aintree.

Messrs. Blair and Drinkwater conducted the prosecution—the Prisoner was undefended.

It appeared from the statement of the prosecutrix that she was the wife of a farmer residing at Netherton. On the evening of the evening of 24 December last, was on her way home from Liverpool with a horse and cart. She had a servant man with her. On arriving near Aintree, four or five men up and one of them seized the horse's head while another got into the cart. The man who got into the cart demanded her money and, at the same time, struck her a violent blow over the temple, which subsequently produced two black eyes. He then tore off one of her pockets, which contained a sovereign and about 1s in silver, and also took a cape, after which all the parties ran off and made their escape across the fields. The man who held the horse's head was identified as James Sephton (who had pleaded guilty), and he and Hartshorn were seen in company immediately before and after the robbery. Hartshorn had also in his possession a cape, which was identified by the prosecutrix as the one stolen from her on the night of the outrage.

The jury found the Prisoner guilty, and he was sentenced to fifteen years' transportation.

John Wilcocks, John McBride, and Joseph Sephton were then called up to receive a sentence. His Lordship observed that judgment of death must be recorded against them, the meaning which was that it was his intention to recommend their case to her Majesty's merciful consideration so that the punishment of death would not be inflicted. They must, however, expect transportation, even under the commutation of their sentence, and that for a long period.⁵

Thomas Hartshorn, 31, married, can read and write imperfectly, shoemaker, convicted on 20 March 1847 at Liverpool of robbery with violence and sentenced to 15 years transportation. He arrived at Millbank Prison on 23 April 1847 from Kirkdale Gaol in Lancashire. Thomas has been once previously convicted of a felony and three times summarily. He was transferred to Wakefield Prison on 17 September 1847.⁶ Thomas appears in the misconduct book and Governor's Journal, page 211, according to the register.⁷ He spent just

³ The Times, 26 March 1847, p8

⁴ Liverpool Mercury, 26 March 1847, p12

⁵ Liverpool Mercury, 26 March 1847, p12

⁶ HO24/3

⁷ PCOM2/27, p87

over a year at Wakefield before being removed to Portland Prison on 22 November 1848.⁸ Thomas arrived at Portland Prison on 24 November 1848. He was one of the first sixty-four convicts at Portland Prison. His age is listed as 32½ years.

Fifty of the convicts left Wakefield on 22 November, probably travelling as far as London by train. According to newspaper reports, all the prisoners left London by the South-Western Railway in carriages that took them directly to the victualling yard at Gosport, near Portsmouth. The convicts were housed on the *Stirling Castle* hulk overnight⁹. From there, they boarded the steamer *Driver*, sailing at 7:20 am on the 24 November, for the 73 nautical mile journey to Portland. The ship arrived at half-past twelve.

Newspapers reported the opening of the prison and the arrival of the convicts:

They appeared in a pitiable condition, chained together in gangs of ten, looking the worse for their voyage.¹⁰

Thomas was reported, on 12 May 1849, for irregularity and disposed of as in Report Book and Misconduct Book.¹¹ On 19 July 1850, Thomas boarded the *Hashemy* for the voyage to Fremantle.¹²

During the voyage he suffered from haemorrhoids.

Folio 2: Thomas Hartshorn, aged 34, prisoner; sick or hurt, haemorrhoids; put on sick list, 6 August 1850, discharged 12 August 1850 well.

Folio 2: Thomas Hartshorn, aged 34, prisoner; sick or hurt, haemorrhoids; put on sick list, 27 August 1850, discharged 2 September 1850 well.

Folio 5: Thomas Hartshorn, aged 34, prisoner; sick or hurt, haemorrhoids; put on sick list, 11 October 1850, discharged 25 October 1850 well.¹³

His description on arrival at Fremantle was:

145. Thomas Hartshorn, 41, 5'7¾", dark brown hair, hazel eyes, long face, dark complexion, stout, cut on left thumb, a shoemaker and single.¹⁴

Casual sick list and Daily Medical Journal, Fremantle Prison.¹⁵

		Complaint	Treatment
Hartshorn Thos	12 November 1850	Cold	Fever mixture three times a day
Hartshorn Thos	13 November 1850		Purg. mixture
Hartshorn	21 November 1850	Costive	Wine 1oz twice a day
Hartshorn Thos	26 December 1850		Infus Quassia
Hartshorn Thos	3 January 1851	Piles	Ont. Galls
Hartshorn Thos	15 February 1851		
Hartshorn Thos	16 February 1851	Rheumatic	Aperient mixture
Hartshorn Thos	17 February 1851	Haemorrhoids	
Hartshorn Thos	18 February 1851	Haemorrhoids	Puls Galls
Hartshorn Thos	19 February 1851		Discharged
Hartshorn Thos	2 March 1851		Puls aper
Hartshorn Thos	10 March 1851		Cordial mixture
Hartshorn Thos	11 March 1851		Continue cordial mixture
Hartshorn Thos	12 March 1851		

Thomas was issued with a Ticket of Leave on 13 March 1851. Thomas Hartshorne, a shoemaker, worked for Joseph Harris in the Fremantle district. His rate of pay was 8s per week.^{16, 17}

⁸ HO23/14, p56

⁹ Evening Mail, 24 Nov 1848, p7

¹⁰ Sherborne Mercury, 02 Dec 1848, p4

¹¹ Portland Prison. Governor's Journal, 24 November 1848 to 9 August 1850. PCOM 2/354

¹² PCOM2/383, p37

¹³ National Archives, UK, ADM 101/32/6/1-6

¹⁴ SROWA Acc 128/40-3

¹⁵ SROWA Acc 1156 CS1-3; M14-16.

Thomas was in and out of prison:

1 March 1853, Thomas Hartshorn received from Fremantle.

15 July 1853, T Hartshorne, reconvicted Prisoner discharged.

19 May 1855, one re convicted Prisoner, T Hartshorn, was received at Fremantle.¹⁸

Thomas required medical treatment while in prison.

Hartshorn Thos HL	24 June 1855	Ringworm	??
Hartshorne Thos HL	22 July 1855	Vermin	??
Hartshorn Thos HL	16 October 1855	Diarrhoea	
Hartshorne Thos HL	26 November 1855	diarrhoea	
Hartshorn Thos	16 January 1856	Chronic ringworm	Nil
Hartshorn Thos	21 January 1856	Skin disease	Nil
Hartshorn Thos	5 February 1856	Painful micturition	Salts
Hartshorn Thos HL	9 February 1856	Ringworm	Nil
Hartshorn Thos	19 February 1856	Ringworm	Medicine to be sent
Hartshorn T HL	20 February 1856 of skin	Ointment
Hartshorn T HL	9 March 1856	Constipation	Salts 1oz
Hartshorn T HL	13 April 1856	Difficulty in voiding water	Dover's pill
Hartshorn T HL	8 May 1856	Constipation	Purg. dose at bedtime
Hartshorn <i>George</i> HL	29 May 1856	Painful micturition	Medicine to be sent
Hartshorn Thos HL	15 July 1856	Pain on making water, constipation	Salts 1oz
Hartshorn Thos HL	20 July 1856	Pain on making water	Repeat draught
Hartshorn Thos HL	28 August 1856		Carb soda
Hartshorn Thos HL	11 September 1856	Difficulty making water	Diuretic draught
Hartshorn Thos HL	30 September 1856	Constipation	Salts
Hartshorn Thos HL	13 October 1856	Constipation	Castor oil
Hartshorn Thos HL	24 October 1856	Gravel?	
Hartshorn Thos HL	5 November 1856	Relapse in difficulty making water	Diuretic draught
Hartshorn Thos HL	14 January 1857		Wishes repetition of diuretic mixture
Hartshorn Thos HL	26 January 1857	Constipation	Salts
Hartshorn Thos HL	31 January 1857		To be excused bathing for this day
Hartshorn Thos HL	13 April 1857		
Hartshorn Thos HL	14 February 1857	Difficulty voiding water	
Hartshorn Thos HL	25 February 1857	Difficulty making water	Draught
Hartshorn Thos HL	7 March 1857		Repetition of diuretic mixture
Hartshorn Thos HL	13 April 1857	Constipation	
Hartshorn Thos HL	13 May 1857	Constipation	Salts 1oz
Hartshorn Thos HL	23 March 1857	Constipation	Salts
Hartshorn Thos HL	11 May 1857		To request repetition of diuretic mixture
Hartshorn Thos HL	1 June 1857		Wishes repetition of diuretic mixture
Hartshorn Thos HL	16 June 1857	Pain in knee	Liniment (age 40)
Hartshorn Thos HL	24 June 1857		Wishes repetition of diuretic

¹⁶ Further correspondence on the on the subject of Convict Discipline and Transportation. Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of her Majesty. 30 April 1852, p196

¹⁷ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News (WA : 1848 - 1864), 28 March 1851, p4

¹⁸ SROWA Acc 1156 RD1-2

			mixture
Hartshorn Thos HL	29 July 1857		Wishes repetition of diuretic mixture
Hartshorn Thos HL	5 August 1857	Constipation	Purg.
Hartshorn Thos HL	25 August 1857		Wishes repetition of diuretic mixture
Hartshorn Thos HL	15 September 1857	Constipation	Purg.
Hartshorn Thos HL	25 October 1857		Mixture repeat
Hartshorn Thos HL	23 November 1857	Constipation	

HL=hard labour

He was granted a Conditional Pardon on 4 February 1861. The Conditional Pardon was forwarded to Resident Magistrate at Albany on 14 February.¹⁹

In 1872, Thomas Hartshorn, tradesman, signed the following petition:

That Mr E. W. Landor has been, by order of His Excellency Governor Weld, removed from his office of Police Magistrate in Perth, upon a charge of alleged improper performance of his duty in having, in conjunction with three other Magistrates, committed an accused person for trial on the minor charge of shooting at an aboriginal native with intent to do bodily harm, instead of on the capital charge of shooting with intent to murder as urged by the Crown Prosecutor it being further charged against Mr Landor that he was led to adopt this course from the unworthy motive of an improper bias in favour of such accused person.

That your Memorialists, while refraining from discussing the question of the proper form of committal, are anxious to convey to Your Lordship their firm conviction that Mr Landor, a highly accomplished and honest English gentleman, is not open to the charge of favouritism and personal bias, and that he is incapable of being actuated by any unworthy motive; this conviction being based on their knowledge of Mr Landor, who has resided among them for many years, and whose character and conduct have gained him the universal respect of all classes of the community.

That your Memorialists, and the public generally, who have had such long experience of the professional ability and integrity of Mr Landor, and who have felt such confidence in his love of justice, view his suspension from office with sorrow and alarm, and would look upon the confirmation of it by Your Lordship as seriously affecting the public interests. The community cannot afford to lose the services of such a man, and they humbly trust that, in considering the case, Your Lordship will be able to find sufficient grounds for reversing the decision that has been come to, and for restoring Mr Landor to the position he has so long filled with honor to himself and advantage to the public.²⁰

Landor was a Magistrate in Perth.

By 1873 he had moved to Busselton:

1873. Hartshorn, T., Shoemaker, district of Busselton.

1874. Hartshorn, Thomas, Shoemaker, district of Busselton, Sussex & Nelson.²¹

At the Supreme Court, on 3 October 1883:

Thomas was a witness at a larceny trial, and he was living in Murray St, Perth.

Henry Steam was arraigned for having, on or about the 30 November 1881, stolen a washing-machine, the property of one John Gittings. The Prisoner pleaded 'not guilty,' and he conducted his own defence.

The case for the Crown was, in the temporary absence of the Attorney General, conducted by the Acting Crown Solicitor.

John Gittings deposed: I am an engineer, living in Walker's Cottages, in Murray street. In 1881, I had a washing machine in my possession; at the latter end of that year, I was sent to gaol and released only on the 1 May last. When I came out of gaol, I looked for my machine but could not find it; I had left it with my landlady, Mrs Simpson: when she took my things over the machine was in my workshop.

Thomas Hartshorn deposed: I am a shoemaker and was living opposite the Prisoner's house when Gittings was sent to gaol. I remember seeing a washing machine lying at Mrs Cockman's door for some time after Gittings had been sent to prison; afterwards, I saw it lying close to the Prisoner's door; it was covered

¹⁹ SROWA Acc 1156 S1-3

²⁰ The Perth Gazette and West Australian Times (WA : 1864 - 1874), 19 Jul 1872, p2

²¹ Herald Almanack

over with bags, but the legs and feet were visible. I do not know who moved it. When I saw the machine, it was at Steam's door. Mrs Cockman was absent from home on a visit to Gingin. Subsequently, I saw the Prisoner breaking up the machine in his house. I went over to his place for some matches when I heard a great noise as if made by an axe smashing some iron. When I went in, I saw the ironwork lying in fragments all over the floor; I saw an axe lying there as well. The next morning he asked me to help him to put a heavy sack on his shoulders, and I did so. He told me it contained old iron, which he was going to sell to Mr McGlew; there was another sackful as well. The Prisoner afterwards told me that he had sold the old iron to McGlew for three half-crowns. I am positive that it was the washing machine that I saw the Prisoner breaking up. I have worked in a foundry in Liverpool, and therefore know cast iron when I see it. I have seen the machine often to know it well and to recognise it.²²

The Prisoner was found guilty and sentenced to five months of penal servitude. Another witness was Eli Angel.

The following year, Thomas appeared at the City Police Court on 4 August 1884.

Thomas Hartshorn was placed in the dock to answer to a charge of larceny from a shop. It appeared that the man, who was employed as messenger at the Coffee Palace, entered Mr Brown's shop in Hay-street on Friday last and abstracted a rupee from the till. Mrs Brown caught the man almost in the act and compelled him to return the coin, after which she gave information to the police when the Prisoner was subsequently arrested upon the warrant.'

Mr Leake: Do you choose to be sent to the Sessions, or do you prefer me to deal with your case summarily and at once? If you adopt the latter course, do you admit the charge?

The Prisoner: I took the money, but I returned it to Mrs Brown just afterwards, and she said that she would forgive me.

Mr Leake: That will do, you have admitted the charge, so go in for six months with hard labour.²³

He was received at Fremantle Prison, from Perth, on 4 August 1884 and sent to Canning Rd on 16 August.²⁴

The prison register notes 4877, Reg No 145, Thomas Hartshorn, 56, feloniously stealing a rupee, six months in prison. He was a shoemaker, Protestant and received a remission of 18 days.²⁵ On 17 January 1885., he returned from Canning Rd to the prison and was discharged the same day.²⁶

Five years later, on 27 November 1890, he was charged with leaving the Poorhouse without permission. One month in prison. His age was given as 68.²⁷



On leaving prison, Thomas had 3/6, and he signed the register.²⁸

Then in February 1898, on Thursday, the police authorities received a telephone message at 9:45 p.m. from the Old Men's Depot to the effect; that a man named Thomas Hartshorn, an expirée, aged 75, he had dropped dead. The Coroner, having been notified, ordered the removal of the body to the morgue. No instructions to hold an inquest were given; it is surmised that Hartshorn had died from senile decay.²⁹

Thomas Hartshorn, 75 years of age, died very suddenly at the Old Man's Depot on Wednesday evening.³⁰ He was buried at the East Perth cemetery on 17 February 1898.

²² The Inquirer and Commercial News (Perth, WA : 1855 - 1901), 10 October 1883, p4

²³ The Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), 4 August 1884, p3

²⁴ SROWA Acc 1156 RD19; RD9B-10

²⁵ SROWA Acc 1156 F3-4

²⁶ SROWA Acc 1156 RD9B-10

²⁷ Registers of Prisoners for Nos L1 - 566 and 568 - 1143, 1888 – 1893

²⁸ SROWA Acc 1156 V46

²⁹ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 19 February 1898, p5

³⁰ The Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), 19 February 1898, p4