

William Hunter, 605, *Pyrenees*

Researched by Marcia Watson

The correct surname is Humber.

Born	10 June 1835, Loughborough, Leicestershire
Baptism	27 June 1837, Loughborough
Parents	James Humber and Rachel Frankland
Parent's marriage	29 December 1818, Nottingham
Siblings	Elizabeth Frankland (1817), Sarah (1820-1840), Thomas (1821), Richard (1824-1824), Catherine (1825), Jane (1827), Amos (1829), Richard (1831-1831), Henry (1832), James (1837), Mary (1840) ¹

On the 1841 census, Pinfold Row, Loughborough. ²

James Humber, 40, butcher and Rachel 40.

Children: Catherine 14, lace ...; Jane, 12, lace ...; Amos, 10; Henry, 8; William, 6; James, 4, Mary 1.

William's mother died suddenly in 1844, when he was 9 years old.

On Saturday, the 26 December 1844, at Loughborough, Rachel, the wife of Mr James Humber. ³

His father, James, died in 1854.

At the Leicestershire Adjourned Epiphany Sessions, 3 March 1847:

Brothers William Humber, 11, and James Humber, 8, pleaded guilty to a charge of stealing three sovereigns, one half sovereign, two crown pieces and other monies, on 3 February at Loughborough, the property of Thomas Wright. Sentenced to six months' hard labour each. ⁴

Then in 1848, George Bell, Daniel Glover, and Charles Walker, all under fourteen years of age, were charged under the Juvenile Offenders' Act with stealing 6lbs or 7 lbs of cheese from the shop of Mr Harvey, of Loughborough, on Saturday evening, 26 February 1848. They were convicted and committed for one week, and to be privately whipped. William Humber, above fourteen years of age, who was concerned in the robbery, was committed for trial. ⁵

At the Leicestershire Adjourned Epiphany Sessions, beginning 9 March 1848.

Friday 11 March session – Wm Humber, charged with stealing at Loughborough, 6lbs of cheese from the shop of Joseph Harvey, pleaded guilty, and to a previous conviction for felony, and was sentenced to seven years transportation. ⁶

The Prison Registers show that William Humber, 14, single, read and write imperfectly, employed in a factory, was convicted on 9 March 1848 at Leicester of stealing cheese and sentenced to 7 years transportation; he had been previously convicted. William was received at Millbank Prison on 17 April 1848 from Leicester County Goal. On 24 May 1848, he was transferred to Parkhurst Prison. He remained here until 13 March 1851, when he boarded the *Pyrenees* for the voyage to Western Australia. ⁷

On arrival at Fremantle, Western Australia, on 28 June 1851, William was assigned number 605, issued with a Ticket of Leave and a physical description was recorded. His name appears to have been transcribed incorrectly as Hunter when the convict lists were produced.

¹ Most of the children, apart from those who died young, were baptized several years after their births.

² The National Archives (TNA) UK, HO107/595/9

³ Leicester Journal, 03 January 1845, p3

⁴ Leicester Journal, 05 March 1847, p3

⁵ Leicester Journal, 3 March 1848, p3

⁶ Leicester Journal, 17 March 1848, p1

⁷ TNA, HO24/4; HO24/15

605. William Hunter, 16, 5'3 ", light brown hair, hazel eyes, round face, fresh complexion, stout, no marks, a labourer and single.⁸

On other records in Western Australia, he is William Humber.

At the Guildford Court, 4 November 1852.

W. Humber, of the depot, drunk and resisting the police, was deprived of pay for 14 days.

Two entries in WA Biographical Index (WABI), the first mentions:

HUNTER, William. b. 1835, arrived per *Pyrenees* 28.6.1851.

Employed a Ticket of Leave man at Wanneroo in 1854. The man was John Bell, 1220.⁹

The second mentions:

HUMBER William, Chainer, Asst to Surveyor Austin in 1854. This position as chainer has not been verified and seems incorrect, as he is not mentioned in the published account of the expedition.^{10,11}

In 1859, the Return of Local Prisoners rationed in Fremantle Prison.

William Humber, convicted 21 May 1859, received 28 May 1859, sentenced to one month and discharged on 20 June 1859.

Then, William Humber was convicted on 20 September 1859, received 15 October 1859, and was sentenced to 6 months. Unfortunately, pages are missing from the Local Prisoner Register, and it is unknown where he was convicted. It was 3 weeks before he was received at Fremantle Prison, suggesting he was a fair distance away, or that bad weather had delayed his transport to Fremantle.

About two months after his release from prison, William Humber, exp, was fined for drunkenness at the Perth Police Court, May 1860.¹² He also had his property stolen:

John Hickson. t.l., was charged with having stolen a bundle containing wearing apparel to the value of £2. 8s, the property of William Humber.

William Humber, expirée—He came from Fremantle to Perth on Tuesday evening and went to Mr Holder's Boarding House. He left there on Wednesday, and went to McHard's; he brought with him to McHard's a bundle containing wearing apparel to the value of £2. 8s. On leaving McHard's, he got into a scuffle with a man when he dropped his bundle. About 11 a.m. on the following day, he saw a man near McHard's—whose name he did not know—and asked him if he knew anything about a bundle that he had lost; he said he knew the man who picked up the bundle; he said his name was Hickey; this person brought him to a shoemaker's shop, near Haysom's yard, where two men were at work; he there enquired if they knew a man of the name of Hickey; they said they did not know such a man; on going into the street, he met a man named Elder, who told him that he would procure the bundle for him if it were in the town; he offered the man a pound to procure the bundle; they then went to Haysom's where they had something to drink whilst at Haysom's, the prisoner came in and said that he was told that some one had lost a bundle, and that he was charged with having taken it; he then told him the whole circumstances under which he had lost the bundle, and offered to pay him for any information that might lead to its recovery. The prisoner denied picking up the bundle, or having any knowledge of it whatever.

Patrick Farmer—He remembers seeing a scuffle in Hay Street, on Wednesday last; the prosecutor passed his house on the same afternoon tipsy; he noticed he had a bundle under his arm; a few

⁸ State Records Office Western Australia (SROWA), ACC 128/32

⁹ Perth TOL Item 2 1854-1857, p850

¹⁰ In the account of the 1854 expedition, there is no mention of William. The members of Austin's party comprised John Hardey, Kenneth Brown, James Tatton Brockman Fraser (artist), Thomas Whitfield, James Guerin, Richard Buck, J. Edwards, W. Cant, Charles Farmer, and J. Woodward; and aboriginals Narryer, Wambling, Wooddang and Souper. <https://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks13/1304281h.html>

¹¹ The expedition left Mumberkine, 23 kilometres (14 mi) north of Northam, on 10 July 1854, and ended at Port Gregory on 25 November.

¹² The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 4 May 1860, p3

minutes after, he heard a noise and got up from his work to see what it was about; he then noticed the prosecutor fighting with another man. There were 5 or 6 other men present. The prisoner was one of the men he saw standing there. He had the prosecutor's bundle under his arm, as he thought, taking care of it for him. He had no doubt that the bundle which he saw under the prisoner's arm was the same he had previously seen in the prosecutor's possession.

A few minutes after the scuffle, he saw the prisoner running after the prosecutor, but he had no bundle at that time. He has no doubt of the prisoner being the same man.

Joseph Dyer, Corporal of Police—From information he received, he went in search of the prisoner; he found him in Haysom's public house, he asked him if he knew anything about the prosecutor's bundle; he said he knew nothing about it; he said he picked up a hat of the prosecutor's, but he saw no bundle; the prisoner's master told him that he had been absent from his work all day on Wednesday, without his permission.

The prisoner in defence declared his innocence of the charge preferred against him. He was sentenced to 3 months' imprisonment with hard labour.

William applied for a Certificate of Freedom, and it was granted on 11 January 1866. A week later, he left for London per *Fitzroy* on 18 January 1866, as a steerage passenger.

He had returned to Western Australia by 1878, when he was a farmer at 'Mugga Muggin', near Toodyay. The WA Almanack records him in the Newcastle and Toodyay district between 1881 and 1889.¹³

William purchased two blocks of land on 14 March 1888:

William Humber, No. 1697, applied for 107 acres, approved, purchase money £53.10s. The land was surveyed by Brockman, book 17, folio 137.

William Humber, No 1698, applied for 500 acres, approved, purchase money £258. The land was surveyed by Brockman, book 17, folio 112.

In 1893, the mail run from Northam – Newcastle gives an idea of where William lived:

From the Post Office, Northam, to the Post Office at Newcastle, and vice versa, via Irishtown, Bardeen, and Bucklands, then via the Chitabin Road, Mugga Muggin Rock, thence to Wongamine, Nunile and Newcastle, returning by the same route, once a week on horseback.

In 1911, his niece Mary Ann Root and her husband Arthur arrived in September from England via Ormuz. Perhaps they had come to look after him, as they lived with him.

This is the paper writing marked 'A' referred to in the annexed affidavit of Mary Ann Root sworn the 20th day of January 1916 Before me *Richard L. Jones* a Commissioner for taking affidavits in the Supreme Court of Western Australia

CERTIFIED COPY OF REGISTER OF DEATH.

1916 DEATHS in the **NORTHAM** District of Western Australia. Registered by *R. A. Smith* District Registrar.

DESCRIPTION.			(1) Cause of Death.	(2) Name and Surname of Father.	(3) Signature.	(4) Signature of District Registrar.	IF BURIAL REGISTERED.		DECEASED WAS MARRIED.		
No.	When and where Died.	Name and Surname, Rank or Profession.	(1) Medical Attendant by whom certified; and (2) When he last saw Deceased.	(1) With Rank or Profession. (2) Mother's Maiden Name, if known.	(1) Description, and (2) Residence of Informant.	(1) Date, and (2) Where Registered.	(1) When and where buried. (2) Undertaker by whom certified.	(1) Name and Religion of Minister, or (2) Name of Witnesses of Burial.	(1) Where Born, and (2) How long in the Australian States, stating which.	(1) Where. (2) At what Age. (3) To whom.	Issue, in order of Birth, their Names and Ages.
3	22 nd December 1915 Wongamine Toodyay	William Humber Farmer	(1) Heart Failure (2) Senile decay (3) Suddenly (4) A. J. Frost M. B. (5) 28 th May 1912	(1) Not known (2) Not known (3) Not known	(1) Certified in writing by M.A. Root (2) Neice (3) Wongamine Toodyay	(1) <i>R. A. Smith</i> (2) Registered at Wongamine Toodyay by Thos. Kennedy Assistant District Registrar. Received at Northam on 7 th January 1916	(1) 23 rd December 1915 (2) Anglican Cemetery Toodyay. 3 Joseph A. Wroth	(1) Rev. E. Saunders (2) Anglican (3) E. Chapman S. Parker	(1) Loughborough Leicestershire England (2) Western Australia about 63 years		

Died on 22 December 1915, at Wongamine, Toodyay. William Humber, farmer, 80 years old, died of heart failure and senile decay, last seen by a Doctor on 28 May 1912. Parents are unknown. The death was certified in writing by M.A. Root, niece, of Wongamine, Toodyay. He was buried on 23 December 1915, Anglican Cemetery, at Toodyay. William came from Loughborough, Leicestershire and had been in Western Australia for about 63 years. He was not married.

¹³ <https://www.carnamah.com.au/WA-directories?search=humber>

Will

This is the last Will and Testament of me, William Humber of Mugga Muggin near Wongamime, Toodyay district in the State of Western Australia, farmer. I, being of sound mind, revoke all former wills made by me and declare this to my last Will and Testament. I give, devise and bequeath all my real and personal estate and effects whatsoever and wheresoever situate unto and to the use of my niece Mary Ann Root, daughter of Elizabeth Hurst nee Humber and who now resides with me at the aforesaid Mugga Muggin, her heirs, executors and administrators and assigns absolutely and I further appoint the said Mary Ann Root my sole executrix to administer this my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of April One thousand nine hundred and twelve.

Signed by the said William Humber as his last will in the presence of us, who, in his presence, at his request and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses. Ethelbert Edwards and Charles Glass on 7 April 1912.

Again signed by the said William Humber in the presence of us as further witnesses George T Kingston and William H Taylor, and William Humber of Toodyay 20 July 1912.

William Humber of Birmingham wrote on 8 March 1916 asking for a copy of his uncle, William Humber's will. He said he had reason to believe he was a beneficiary of the will.¹⁴

At the time of his death, the value of his land had increased considerably. He originally paid just over £310.

<u>Schedule 1.</u>			
1. All those pieces of land being Avon Location 1697 the subject of Certificate of Title registered Volume XXVIII folio 366 and Avon Location 1698 the subject of Certificate of Title registered Volume XXIX folio 6			
	£	2502	0 0
2. Rents	+	160	0 0
3. Interest	+	3	10 0
4. Furniture		5	0 0
5. Personal effects		1	0 0
6. 100 sheep	x	75	0 0
7. Money in the Western Australian Bank at Northam		551	11 9
8. 1 Sully		4	0 0
9. Harness		2	0 0
10. Debt and interest due from the assigned estate of Richard Daniel Rowles late of Wongamime Farmer deceased		211	0 0
	£	3515	1 9

In February 1916, Probate of the will of the late William Humber, farmer, of Mugga Muggin, near Wongamime, has been granted to Mrs Mary Ann Root. The value of the estate was estimated at £3065.11s 9d. The estate was distributed in June 1916.

¹⁴ Son of James Humber, the younger brother of William Humber



Toodyay Cemetery

Mary Ann Root died at Wongamine in February 1919, and Arthur Root returned to England a few months later.