

Thomas Mann Jones, 410, *Pyrenees*

Researched by Marcia Watson

Thomas was born in Belfast, Antrim, Northern Ireland, about 1826, according to the Scottish Criminal Index.

He had been convicted twice before being sentenced to transportation in 1848. One conviction is: Thomas Jones, 19, sawyer, resides in Finnieston, Glasgow, born in Belfast, was in the Duke Street Prison in Glasgow in 1845. Unfortunately, no offence or date is recorded on the Scottish Criminal Index.¹

Glasgow Autumn Circuit, 19 September 1848.

Thomas Mann Jones (one of the "swell mob") had been previously convicted in 1845. He was accused of stealing on 11 July 1848, in or near the lobby of the post-office, Glassford Street, Glasgow, from the pocket of John Jamieson, clerk, a gold watch, guard chain, and a gold breguet chain. The charge was aggravated by the accusations of habit and repute, as well as a previous conviction.

It appeared from the evidence that Mr Jamieson had been in the crowd at the Post-office, when he found a touch at his waistcoat pocket, into which he had placed his watch and both chains, and on turning round found the prisoner pressing on him, and putting his hand into his (the witness's) pocket.

Mr Graham made an ingenious defence for the prisoner. Thomas denied he had the watch. The defence was that the chain had got entangled on one of the prisoner's buttons, and that his possession of it arose from that circumstance.

The jury found him guilty as libelled, and Thomas was sentenced to 7 years' transportation.

Several newspapers reported that his name was Thomas Mann or Jones.²

The Scotland Criminal Database shows that Thomas Mann Jones, a circular sawyer residing on Princes Street, Glasgow, Lanarkshire, was born in Belfast, Ireland, and convicted on 19 September 1848 of theft, habit and repute, and a previous conviction.³

Thomas Mann Jones, 20, single, could read and write well, a circular saw maker, was convicted on 19 September 1848 at Glasgow for theft after a previous conviction and sentenced to 7 years. He was received at Millbank prison on 21 February 1849 from Glasgow. Thomas has been twice previously convicted of theft. He was ill-behaved, violent and obstinate disposition, not to be trusted except under the strictest surveillance. Thomas was Anglican.

On 26 November 1849, he was transferred to the *Warrior* hulk at Woolwich. Boarded the *Pyrenees* on 5 March 1851 for the voyage to Western Australia.⁴

410. Thomas Mann Jones, 23, 5'3½", light hair, light hazel eyes, long face, fair complexion, cupping on back of neck, a saw maker and single.⁵

The Superintendent's journal shows that on:

1 July 1851. The following prisoners will be received from the ship *Pyrenees* and located in Division No. 3. 50 men from the *Warrior* hulk, including 410. Thos M. Jones.

15 July 1851. The steward will provide beds, blankets, knives, spoons, plates, rations &c for the following 40 men proceeding to North Fremantle Station tomorrow, including 410 Thomas M. Jones.⁶

¹ National Records of Scotland (NRS), HH21/32/2 p. 34

² Glasgow Saturday Post, 23 September 1848, p3; Scottish Guardian (Glasgow), 22 September 1848, p3

³ National Records of Scotland (NRS), JC26/1848/352; AD14/48/114

⁴ The National Archives (TNA) UK, HO24/4; PCOM2/29; HO8/107

⁵ SROWA, Acc 128/1-32

⁶ SROWA, Superintendent's Orders, So1-So3, p45, p46, p61

Ticket-of-Leave-Men at North Fremantle Station. 410, Thomas M. Jones, Mason.⁷

Over the next few months, Thomas was either fined or sent back to prison for drunkenness four times. Each time, he was returned to North Fremantle Station.⁸

Ticket of Leave Register for Perth.⁹ Thomas M Jones, 410, 23, *Pyrenees*.

Transferred to Perth District on 27 August 1852.

Working for self. Engaged by Ass Surveyor P Chauncey as chainman on 14 October 1852. General for Swan and District.

Engaged by Hicks early in February 1853. Wages £2 per month.

Re..... in Perth.

Received Conditional Pardon on 30 August 1853

Perth Court. On 12 January 1853, Thomas Man Jones, t.l., out after hours, was cautioned.¹⁰

The *City of Hobart* arrived at King George's Sound on 25 June 1854, where she was detained coaling until 3 July. On that day, she left under canvas and steam, which continued until she arrived in Hobart Town on 9 July 1854, at 6 a.m.

Tasmanian Steam Navigation Company steamer *City of Hobart*, 618 tons, 100 horsepower, from London on 2 April 1854, with general cargo and passengers from London, Cape of Good Hope and King George's Sound.

From King George's Sound, steerage passengers - Messrs. Steven Aveling, John Roper, Joseph Andrews, William Gilbert, John Rea, John Cluckie, **Thomas Man Jones**, John Shepherd, Richard Clipper, Daniel Chapman, Henry Bowles, William Cotterill, Ashing Chinaman, John McCrechin, John Wilson, Francisco Martin, Mrs. Condren and three children, Messrs. George Wroe, Charles Oldenburg, Thomas Neil, William Robinson, George Blaney.¹¹

Four convicts appear to be on the ship: Steven Aveling [1195], Thomas Man Jones [410], George Wroe [1737], George Blaney [1186].

Other possible convict - William Cotterill [918]

Did Thomas stay in Tasmania? Or did he move to the mainland, or elsewhere?

No further trace of Thomas Mann Jones has been positively identified.

⁷ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 25 July 1851, p2

⁸ Steve Errington, *Locked Up in Fremantle*, p 130.

⁹ SROWA, Perth TOL Register Cons 1386/1 1851 - Aug 1854, p303

¹⁰ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 21 January 1853, p3

¹¹ Colonial Times (Hobart, Tas.: 1828 - 1857) View title info Tue 11 July 1854, p2