

Angus McCormack, 849, *Minden*

Researched by Marcia Watson

Alias: John Cameron. Angus Cameron

Spelling variations: McCormick; Angas

Born	14 March 1821, Edinburgh, Scotland
Baptism	1 April 1821, Tolbooth Parish, Edinburgh
Parents	George McCormick and Janet Cameron
Parent's marriage	Not found
Siblings	Margaret (1823), Ann (~1830)
Wife	
Married	
Children	

When Angus was baptised, his father's occupation was a shoemaker. This is possibly an error as on Margaret's baptism, her father's occupation is printer.

On the 1841 census, Milne's Court, Milnes Court, Tolbooth Parish, Edinburgh:
George McCormack, 45, Printer J.; Janet 40; Ann 10. All born in the county.

On 19 March 1838, Angus McCormack, 17, baker, Kinloch's Close, High Street, Edinburgh, and son of George McCormack, pressman, was accused of theft, habit and repute, and previous conviction. The case was not proven, and he was dismissed.¹

Then, on 4 June 1838, Angus McCormack, a reputed thief, pleaded guilty to a charge of stealing a pair of plated sugar tongs, a waistcoat and a key from a house in Duncan Street on 25 April. He was sentenced to 7 years transportation. He could not write.²

Angus McCormack, 16, a painter, said his father, Geo McCormack, a printer, lived in High Street, Edinburgh. He was convicted on 4 June 1836 of theft and sentenced to 7 years transportation. Angus was transferred from the *Justitia* hulk at Chatham on 25 July 1838 and transferred to the *Euryalus* hulk the following day as he was classified as a boy. From there he was sent to the *Fortitude* hulk on 8 October 1838. Five months later, on 2 March 1839, he was shipped to the *Antelope* hulk at Bermuda, where his behaviour was good. He returned to England by the September quarter when he was on the *York* hulk at Gosport. Angus was granted a free pardon on 12 July 1844 and left the hulk on 31 July 1844.³

Free Pardon, Victoria R. Whereas, the following persons are under sentence of Transportation on the York Hulk as Portsmouth they having been convicted of Felony at the times and places hereafter named Viz. Angus McCormack at Edinburgh in June 1838. Dated 12 July 1844.⁴

Angus McCormick, 24, single, imp, painter, 24 January 1848, Edinburgh, theft and previous conviction, 10 years, received 18 February 1848 from Edinburgh, transferred to *Justitia* hulk on 4 October 1848.⁵

Angus returned to Edinburgh. While he was away, his mother Janet Cameron, spouse of George McCormick, printer, died 10 January 1842 and was buried the following day. His father, George McCormick, 47, of Anchor Close, was buried on 23 January 1845.

¹ NRS Reference JC26/1838/495

² NRS Reference JC26/1838/520; The Scotsman, 06 June 1838, p3

³ TNA, PCOM2/135; PCOM2/136; HO31/85, various HO8 records.

⁴ TNA, HO13/85

⁵ TNA, HO24/4

Then, on 24 January 1848, Angus McCormick was indicted for attacking and assaulting a woman named Rachel Ruthven in Trunk's Close, High Street, Edinburgh, on the night of 12th or morning of 13 December last, and robbing her of a purse, four pawn tickets, half a sovereign, and several other articles of small value. Another count charged him with the lesser crime of theft.

The prisoner pleaded guilty to the latter charge, which was accepted by the Public Prosecutor, and having been five times previously convicted of theft; he was sentenced to 10 years transportation.

A previous sentence of transportation was recorded. At the time of his conviction, Angus, 24, had no occupation and lived in Shoemakers' Close, Canongate, Edinburgh.⁶

Angus McCormick, 24, single, imperfectly read and write, painter, convicted 24 January 1848 at Edinburgh of theft after a previous conviction, sentenced to 10 years, received at Millbank Prison on 18 February 1848 from Edinburgh Prison. After eight months, he was transferred to the *Justitia* hulk on 4 October 1848 and then sent to the *York* hulk on 15 June 1849. While here, he said his sister Ann McCormack was a servant in Edinburgh. Angus boarded the *Minden* on 9 July 1851 for the voyage to Western Australia.

Angus stayed around the Perth area. He was fined for being out after hours and, by January 1860, had been charged 17 times for drunkenness. In June 1862, as an expirer, he was gaoled for one month for being a rogue and vagabond. In January 1863, he was found in possession of 5 books, 4 pieces of Indian rubbers and 12 bottles of ink, suspected of being stolen. He was sentenced to 3 months. He was hardly out of gaol and was sentenced to another three months for being a rogue and vagabond.

On 24 October 1864, Angus left Fremantle on board the *Europa* for Adelaide, arriving on 5 November. He travelled steerage. It wasn't long before Angus was in trouble with the law. Apart from his time in prison, Angus was fined for drunkenness on occasion. He seemed to have trouble remembering when he arrived in Adelaide.

Prison record:

10 March 1865 , Angus McCormack, 36, stealing two blankets value £1, the property of Thos Wiggins at Para Plains on 4 March, convicted at Gawler, arrived from King George's Sound in 1864.	One month H.L.
29 April 1865 , Angus Cameron or McCormack, 38, possession of a quantity of canvas and a cape, suspected of stealing same, sent to Dry Creek, arrived from King George's Sound in 1864.	2 years H.L.
27 February 1867 , John Cameron alias Angus McCormack, 39, stealing one pair of boots value 12/6, the property of JL Richards at Adelaide on 26 February, sent to Dry Creek, arrived in 1862.	One year H.L.
25 May 1871 , Angus Cameron or McCormack, 43, stealing clothes, the property of C Cook on 22 May, sent to Dry Creek, arrived from WA in 1863.	4 years H.L.
24 June 1874 , Angus Cameron or McCormack, 51, stealing one Inverness Cape value 15s, the property of Timothy Lonergan at Adelaide on 20 June, arrived from Swan River in 1860.	6 months H.L.
2 December 1875 , Angus McCormack or Cameron, 51, stealing one pair of boots value 13s, the property of Thomas Dixon at Adelaide on 1 December, arrived from Fremantle in 1864.	6 months H.L.
14 August 1876 , Angus McCormack, 46, stealing one coat value 23s, the property of William Taylor at Adelaide on 12 August, arrived from Fremantle in 1860.	6 months H.L.
12 June 1877 , Angus Cameron alias McCormack, 49, 7 years hard labour, discharged 2 June 1883.	7 years H.L.

⁶ NRS Reference JC26/1848/419, AD14/48/435; North British Daily Mail, 26 January 1848, p4

October 1882 , charged with sleeping in the open and having no visible means of support, discharged with a caution.	
29 November 1882 , Angus McCormack, 68, unlawfully lewdly exposed himself on North Terrace on 27 November, arrived from Swan River in 1856.	6 months H.L.
8 June 1883 , Angus McCormack, 68, labourer, unmarried, exposing his person, fined 10s or 15 days, served time, arrived in 1863 from Swan River.	15 days H.L.

Angus never married.

He died on 26 November 1888, aged 73, and is buried in West Terrace Cemetery, Adelaide.