

John Osborn, 142, *Hashemy*

Researched by Marcia Watson

John Osborn, 56th regiment, was tried at Gibraltar for robbery on 23 October 1848 and sentenced to 14 years transportation.¹

John Osborn, 23, single, can read, labourer, was convicted on 25 October 1848 by Court Martial at Gibraltar of robbery and sentenced to 14 years imprisonment. He had twice previously been tried by Court Martial. John was received at Millbank prison on 14 March 1849 from Chatham and transferred to Portland Prison a year later on 6 March 1850. From here he boarded the *Hashemy* for the voyage to Fremantle.²

On arrival in Western Australia in October 1850, he was described as:

142. John Osborne, 26, 5' 7³/₄", dark brown hair, blue eyes, long face, fresh complexion, stout build, 2 small moles on forehead (Centre), a labourer and single.³

General Register:

142. John Osborne, 26, single, Gentleman's servant, Church of England, private school, can read well and fair at writing and maths. He said his father John Osborne, a police constable, lived in Oxford.

Attended Divine Service? Usually a regular attendant

Received Sacrament? Never

Habits? Sober generally, and attentive to his work

Intellect? Sound

State of Mind? Hopeful

Knowledge, Secular? Limited

Knowledge, Religious? Limited

Alleged Cause of Crime? Chiefly drink

Name of Person referred to for Character, &c. The Misses Cox, proprietresses of the Kings Arms, Holywell St, Oxford.⁴

John had hardly stepped foot in Western Australia, when on 28 December 1850, he absconded from a road party in Upper Swan. He is to serve the full term of his unexpired sentence.⁵

There are numerous entries for John Osborn on the sick list.

Two convicts called John Osborn arrived on the *Scindian* and *Hashemy*.

Only three entries had convict number 142, although two other entries appear to be John.

Casual sick list, Fremantle Prison.⁶

Osborne Jno 142	14 February 1851	Sick headache	Emetic
Osborn John	2 May 1851	Febricula	Pilul Aper, Mixture Feb
Osborn John	4 May 1851	Febris C C	Mixture Feb, Pil Dovers
Osborn John 142	5 May 1851	Febris C C	Mixture Quinine
Osborn John 142	18 May 1851	Bad eye	Lotion

John was issued with a ticket of leave was issued on 26 December 1851.

1852. see Toodyay Convict Database

<https://www.toodyay.wa.gov.au/documents/234/convicts-associated-with-toodyay-as-at-30-sep-2020>

On 3 March **1853.** J Osborne 142 received at Fremantle Prison from Toodyay.

29 November 1853. Reconvicted prisoner, J Osborne 142 discharged

¹ WO90/2, p170

² HO24/4; HO8/105

³ SROWA Acc 128/40-3

⁴ SROWA Acc 1156 R21A

⁵ AJCP. CO18/58, p245

⁶ SROWA Acc 1156 CS1

Then on 24 January 1856, J Osborne 142, a reconvicted prisoner, was received at Fremantle Prison. He was discharged on 19 August 1856.⁷

While in prison, he appears on the Sick list.

29 May 1856	Indigestion
20 July 1856	Eruption on face, constipation

John was granted a Conditional Pardon on 26 April 1869.

No further trace has been found of John; he would be about 45 years old by 1870.

⁷ SROWA Acc 1156 RD1-2