

William Robinson, 119, Hashemy

Researched by Marcia Watson

Baptism	3 June 1821 at Holbeck, Leeds, Yorkshire
Parents	Elizabeth Robinson
Parent's marriage	
Siblings	Samuel (1826-1874), James (1831)
Wife	Catherine Stundon
Married	19 December 1853, Pinjarrah, Western Australia
Children	Samuel (1854) Thomas (1856) Elizabeth (1859)

Unmarried Elizabeth Robinson had three sons:

William was baptised on 3 June 1821 at Holbeck, Leeds ¹

Samuel was baptised on 12 October 1826 at Holbeck, Leeds.

James was baptised on 27 April 1831 at Holbeck, Leeds.

She married in 1834: Elizabeth Robinson, a spinster, married John Shaw, cloth dresser, at St Peter's, Leeds on 9 August 1834, by banns. Both made their mark.²

In 1841, living at Moor Street, Holbeck, Leeds were:³

John Shaw, 30, cloth woollen weaver; Elizabeth Shaw, 35; Samuel Robinson, 15, jobber in flax mill; James Robinson, 10; Martha Shaw, 3; John Shaw, 1.

In 1851, the family lived at Denison Row, Holbeck, Leeds (schedule No. 81)⁴

John Shaw, 41, canvas weaver, all born in Holbeck; Elizabeth Shaw, 46; James Shaw, 20, feather dresser
Martha Shaw, 14, spreader flax mill; Mary Ann Pickles, widow, 29, reeler flax mill, lodger; Alfred Pickles, 3;
Arthur Pickles, 1. [James Robinson has become James Shaw]

Also, living in Denison Row, Holbeck, Leeds in 1851 (schedule No. 75) were:

Samuel B Robinson, 26, tanner, born Holbeck; Esther Robinson, wife, 22, flax spinner, born Waterloo.

When this Samuel married, he said his second name was Bellhouse, and his father was Thomas Robinson, a calenderer.⁵

William Robinson left home and travelled across England to the Liverpool area. In April 1842, at the Kirkdale Sessions, Liverpool, William Robinson was gaoled for seven days for a felony. Then, in July 1842, he was in Kirkdale Gaol for two months for vagrancy.⁶

The following year, in January 1843, at the Kirkdale Sessions, Liverpool - Stealing at Warrington: Joseph Lawless, 18, Dennis Lawless, 46, and William Robinson, 20, were charged with stealing 20lbs weight of coke, the property of Thomas Jackson. Dennis Lawless was further charged with stealing 20lbs potatoes and a spade, the property of Hugh Rutter. William Robinson was further charged with receiving one coat and a pair of trousers, the property of Robert Wells, knowing them to have been stolen. They were all sentenced to seven years transportation.^{7,8}

¹ Rica Erickson's notes say William was born 12 May 1821 in Leeds, found on familysearch.

² Parish Church, Leeds.

³ 1841 census, HO107/1344/8, p6,7

⁴ 1851 census, HO107/2317, p19, p21

⁵ A firm of Thomas Bellhouse and George Robinson, calenderers in Leeds was dissolved in 1834, possibly related. The Biographical Dictionary of WA also says William Robinson's father was called Thomas.

The father of Elizabeth's children may have been a Thomas Robinson or a Thomas Bellhouse; or she may have told them his name was Thomas Robinson so they didn't know they were illegitimate

⁶ PCOM2/223

⁷ Liverpool Mercury, 27 January 1843, p6

William was received on the *Justitia* hulk at Woolwich in the March Quarter of 1843. Dennis Lawless was also on the hulk. His son, Joseph Lawless, was transported to Tasmania per *Sir George Seymour* in 1844.⁹ William Robinson was pardoned on 13 December 1846.

In January 1848 - Burglaries at St. Helens (Lancashire).—A Returned Convict.

On Sunday last, Captain Stewart received information from St. Helens that burglary had been effected there in the dwelling house of Joseph Dobson and that two coats and one waistcoat had been stolen, with a description of the articles stolen and of the suspected parties tallied with the appearance of William Robinson and William Rogers, two well-known thieves in this town.

Police officer Brandwood apprehended Robinson and charged him with the burglary, which he stoutly denied. On searching him, he found a pawn ticket for a coat and vest in pledge at Mr Tunstall's. Rogers, having been frequently seen with Robinson, was also apprehended on suspicion. When told the nature of the charge, Rogers stated confidently that he knew nothing of Robinson and had never been in his company in his life. The coat and vest mentioned in the pawn ticket found on Robinson were afterwards produced by Mr Tunstall, and on Monday, both prisoners were brought before Mr Joseph Stubs, and the prisoners were ordered to be taken to St. Helens, where the offence occurred, to be there dealt with accordingly. They were taken to St. Helens on Tuesday and were charged before Mr W Pilkington. It was proved that the burglary was committed on the night of 23 December 1847, between one and two o'clock. Late on the night previous, both prisoners were seen in company near Mr Dobson's house.

Mr Dobson stated that on the night of the burglary, having occasion to get out of bed, he was startled by seeing a light on the stairs; he proceeded to the stairs and heard some person run away; he went downstairs and found the kitchen had been broken into, and a crow-bar left behind, and that two coats and a waistcoat were missing; one of which coats and the waistcoat was the same found at Mr Tunstall's.

Mr Tunstall stated the prisoner Rogers had pawned them. Both prisoners were committed to the assizes.

A second charge was then preferred against them, for having on the night of the 20 December, burglariously entered the dwelling-house of Mr Nuttall, of Nutgrove, and stolen, a large quantity wearing apparel. On that night, some persons broke into the kitchen of the house, which is in the cellar. The passage into the house-part is by a flight of stairs and is generally made safe by bolting a door at the top of the stairs. The burglars had attempted to force this door open, but luckily it was too well-fastened to allow them to do so. Had they been successful opening this door, they would most undoubtedly have carried away a rich booty in the form of silver plate, &c.; but as it was, they only took what wearing apparel they could lay hold of in the kitchen. It appeared that the two prisoners had sent several bundles of wearing apparel for a pledge to Mr Tunstall's by two women with whom they cohabited, which bundles the police had got hold of. A great portion of this property was identified as Mr Nuttall's. Both prisoners were also committed on this charge.¹⁰

At the South Lancashire Assizes, on 25 March 1848

Burglary at Eccleston. William Robinson (26), and William Rodgers (20), were convicted of a burglary at Eccleston, and Robinson (who has been previously convicted) was sentenced to 15 years transportation and Rodgers to three months imprisonment.¹¹

William Robinson, 26, single, illiterate (one register says he can read), glassmaker, convicted at Liverpool Assizes on 23 March 1848, twice convicted—once imprisoned and once transported for seven years - was sent to Millbank Prison on 5 May 1848, from Kirkdale Gaol. On 12 December 1848, he was transferred to

⁸ Liverpool Gaol, PCOM2/319

⁹ PCOM2/319

¹⁰ Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser, 01 January 1848, p7

¹¹ Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser, 29 March 1848, p8

Wakefield Prison in Yorkshire. Almost a year later, he was moved to Portland Prison on 8 August 1849. From here he boarded the *Hashemy* on 19 July 1850 for the voyage to Western Australia.¹²

On arrival at Fremantle in October 1850, William was described as:

William Robinson, 29, 5' 3", sandy hair, grey eyes, an oval face, fair complexion, stout, marked with smallpox, red whiskers, a tailor and single. His occupation was learned in prison.

General Register:

119. William Robinson, 30, single, glassmaker, Church of England, went to weekday school, can read, write a little and is indifferent to accounts. His step-father, John Shaw, a canvas weaver, lives in Leeds, Yorkshire. His brothers, Samuel and James Robinson, tanners, live in Leeds.

Attended Divine Service? Never attended

Received Sacrament? Never before being in prison

Habits? Given to drink, but attentive to work when employed

Intellect? Sound

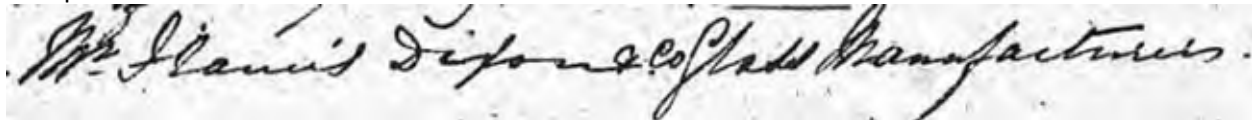
State of Mind? Hopeful

Knowledge, Secular? Limited

Knowledge, Religious? Limited

Alleged Cause of Crime? Poverty – out of employment

Name of Person referred to for Character, &c. Mr *Flannis Difon & Co*, Glass Manufacturers, St Helens near Liverpool.



William received the Sacrament on 25 December 1850, 6 April 1851 and 1 June 1851. He had access to numerous books while in prison.¹³

Casual sick list at Fremantle Prison¹⁴

Robinson Wm	29 January 1851	Cold	Fever mist, Dover powder
Robinson William	30 January 1851	Bad hand	Continue dressing
Robinson Wm	31 January 1851		
Robinson Wm	1 February 1851	Bad hand	Dressing
Robinson Wm	2 February 1851	Bad hand	Dress
Robinson Wm	3 February 1851	Bad hand	Dress
Robinson William	4 February 1851	Ulcus	Lotio sulph zinc & dry lint.
Robinson Wm	5 February 1851	Bad hand	Cont
Robinson William	9 February 1851	Ulcus	Poultice
Robinson Wm	18 February 1851		Pil Plummer
Robinson Wm	1 March 1851	Boil	Iodine Oint. Continue pills
Robinson Wm	3 March 1851	Sores	Continue Pil: Mercurial oint.
Robinson Wm	4 March 1851	Sores	Flannel
Robinson Wm	7 March 1851	Boil	Poultice
Robinson Wm	8 March 1851	Abscess in neck	Poultice
Robinson Wm	9 March 1851	Ulcus	Mist
Robinson Wm	10 March 1851	Abscess	Continue medicine
Robinson Wm	11 March 1851	Abscess	Continue poultice
Robinson Wm	12 March 1851	Bad neck	Dressing
Robinson Wm	13 March 1851	Bad neck	Dress
Robinson Wm	18 March 1851		
Robinson Wm	19 March 1851		

¹² HO23/14; HO24/4; PCOM2/383

¹³ SROWA Acc 1156 R21A

¹⁴ SROWA Acc 1156 CS1

Robinson Wm	31 March 1851		Pil Aper [aperient]
Robinson Wm	21 April 1851		Pil Aper

On 18 October 1851, William received a ticket of leave.¹⁵

Possible offence at Fremantle:

2 April 1852 - William Robinson, ticket-of-leave holder, drunk, using obscene language, and assaulting the police; fined 10s and 2s 6d expenses. [probably 12 April 1852]¹⁶

William was given permission to marry, and in 1853 he married Catherine Stundon at Pinjarra. He was in Murray District as a ticket of leave in 1855.¹⁷

On 30 October 1855, reconvicted prisoner Wm Robinson 119 was received at Fremantle Prison. He was discharged on 29 April 1856.¹⁸

While in prison, he was on the Sick list, Fremantle.¹⁹

Robinson Wm 119	25 January 1856	? in solitary	Salts
Robinson Wm 119 H.L.	28 February 1856	Pain in pit of stomach, Constipation	salts
Robinson William 119 H.L.	14 April 1856	Injury of hand	Skin knocked off

[H.L.=hard labour]

Medical list²⁰

Robinson Wm 119 H.L.	25 January 1856	Vermin	Pubes shaved
Robinson Wm 119 H.L.	28 February 1856	Constipation	Salts

William received a Conditional Pardon on 15 September 1859.²¹

Death of Mr William Robinson, North Dandalup

An old and respected resident of the North Dandalup district, in the person of Mr William Robinson, passed away on 7 September 1906. The late Mr Robinson was born in Yorkshire, England, on 12 May 1819, twelve days before the birth of the late Queen Victoria. He came to Western Australia in the year 1850. He was instructed in the Catholic faith and became a convert many years ago under the guidance of Father Gibney (now his Lordship Dr Gibney), who received him into the Church. Ever since his conversion, he had been a sincere and practical Catholic. His wife, who survives him, is now close to 100 years of age, having been born in Kerry (Ireland) nearly a century ago. On Sunday, 9 September, the funeral took place, the remains being interred in the Serpentine Cemetery. There was a large attendance of the people of the district at the funeral, at which the Rev Father Griffin officiated. RIP.²²

The Late Mrs Catherine Robinson.

She passed away at North Dandalup on 24 June 1914, at the grand old age of 104 years. The deceased lady was a settler of over 60 years standing, having arrived in WA in the year 1851. She was married at Pinjarra the following year to William Robinson, a well-known farmer of the district, who pre-deceased her seven years ago at the age of 87. They had a family of two sons and a daughter, of which one son (Mr Thos. W. Robinson, with whom his mother always lived) survives. The remains were interred alongside those of the deceased's husband at Serpentine, at which place they had followed farming pursuits of old. The late Mrs Robinson came out to the State on the ship *Travancore*, arriving two years after her late husband, she coming from Ireland and he from England. In the course of their long experience of farming in this State

¹⁵ SROWA Acc 1156 RD1 - RD2

¹⁶ Inquirer (Perth, WA : 1840 - 1855), 21 April 1852, p3

¹⁷ Richards, R. The Murray District of Western Australia: A history. Shire of Murray, 1978 WAGS 994.12 MUR

¹⁸ SROWA Acc 1156 RD1 - RD2

¹⁹ SROWA Acc 1156 CS2

²⁰ SROWA Acc 1156 M14 - M16

²¹ SROWA Acc 1156 S1 - S3

²² The W.A. Record (Perth, WA : 1888 - 1922), 13 October 1906, p12

the deceased lady with her late husband endured many pioneering hardships. They made many friends, and the publication of Mrs Robinson's photo, just about 12 months ago resulted in her receiving many visits and communications from interested friends. The late Mrs Robinson, who continued in good health and in full possession of her mental faculties right up to the last, was widely known and highly esteemed, and it was with sincere regret that residents of the district learned of the close of her long and useful career.²³



Born Kilmore, Co Kerry.²⁴

Information from the family.

Rica Erickson notes.

ROBINSON, William, b. 12.5.1821 (Eng), d. 7.9.1906 (expiree), son of Thomas, arr. possibly 25.10.1850 per Hashemy, m. 19.12.1853 (Pinjarra) Catherine STUNDON b. 1826 (Irel) d. 24.6.1914, dtr. of Thomas, she arr. per Travancore with family. Chd. Samuel b. c.1853/4, Thomas b. 1856 d. 1940. Farm servant at Dandalup. Bt. land at Serpentine. Worked for Suttons at Mandurah. Small farmer in later years. May have employed 1 T/L man 1872. ?To Melbourne 17.8.1868 per King Oscar. Lit. C/E, then RC.

Children: Samuel 1854 (Pinjarra); William 1856 (Serpentine); Elizabeth 1859 (Pinjarra)

From LDS film 1363650

²³ Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), 12 July 1914, p6

²⁴ Western Mail (Perth, WA : 1885 - 1954), 19 December 1913, p25

Samuel, born 6 October 1854 (Murray), baptised 14 May 1855

Thomas, baptised 31 January 1858 (Pinjarra) [born 5 March 1856 from Rica Erickson collection]

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WILLIAM ROBINSON.
District- Serpentine- Nth Dandalup.

1. William Robinson born Old Bewick Co Northumberland England 1823.
2. Son of Thomas Robinson.
3. Died at Nth Dandalup. 7/9/1906
4. Married at Pinjarra 19/12/1853.
5. To Catherine Stundon. born Co Kerry Ireland 1826
6. Thomas Stundon.
7. Catherine died Nth Dandalup 24/6/1914.
8. Children: Thomas born 5/3/1856 at Serpentine. died Perth 6/5/1940. Married Mary Ann Barry 22/2/1887 At Serpentine. They had 4 sons 3 girls, he farmed at Serpentine, Nth Dandalup also had the local store. In the beginning he was a Fettler at Nth Dandalup.
Mary Ann's parents were Michael & Ellen Barry who arrived in W.A. aboard the "HASTINGS" 17/12/1864 with their two eldest children.
The Grand-daughter of Thomas & Mary Ann Robinson married Frederick Mitting.
9. Arrived in W.A. before 1853. His wife arrived aboard the "TRAVANCORE" 1853 so I was told by her Grand- Daughter (no record Battye Library)
10. Worked on a farm, was a farm servant at Dandalup W.A. when he was married he later brought land at Serpentine. He also worked for the Suttons of Mandurah, I believe the Museum at Mandurah is in the house where he lived.
11. Land at Serpentine.
12. Literate.
13. Anglican then R.C.
14. Not known.
15. Photographs in possession of Great Grand Daughter Mrs Margaret Mitting of Pinjarra.
16. Reg GEN Office Battye Library & family knowledge.
17. copies held by Mrs B. Mitting
18. Compiler Mrs B. Mitting 38 Ireland Way Bassendean.

LDS film 8066642, image 2305