

**Morris Sheehan, 168, *Hashemy***

Researched by Marcia Watson

Name variations: Shehan, Shean, Sheahan

Baptism	~1821, Limerick, Ireland
Parents	
Parent's marriage	
Siblings	
Wife	Mary/Maria Connelly
Married	3 April 1853, Perth, Western Australia
Children	Thomas (1854) Margaret (1855 - 1957), aged 102 Michael (1860) William (1862) John (1865) James Maurice (1868) Aloysius (1871) Agnes Mary (1875)

Morris Sheehan said his uncle, Patrick Sheehan, lived in Ballingarry, Limerick. Patrick was a shoemaker and may have taught Morris his trade. At some stage, Morris joined the 16<sup>th</sup> Regiment. A division of the 16<sup>th</sup> Regiment went from Ireland to Gibraltar in January 1846. From there, the Regiment moved to Corfu in March 1847.

Morris Shehan, 27, single, a shoemaker and Soldier (16<sup>th</sup> Regiment), was convicted on 19 May 1848 at a General Court Martial on Corfu of striking Major Murray, using abusive language and drunkenness. He was sentenced to 14 years transportation. Morris could neither read nor write and had previously faced three Court Martials. He was received at Millbank Prison, from Corfu, on 19 May 1849.

On 1 May 1850, Morris was transferred to Portland Prison. He boarded the *Hashemy* on 19 July 1850 for the voyage to Fremantle. <sup>1</sup>

On arrival in Western Australia, Morris was described as:

168. Morris Sheehan, 27, 5' 6", brown hair, grey eyes, thin face, brown complexion, slight build, cut on the left third finger and nail off the little finger of the right hand, a shoemaker and single.<sup>2</sup>

General Register:

168. Morris Sheehan, 28, single, shoemaker, Roman Catholic, never at any school except Prison School, can read a little but cannot write or do maths. Said his uncle Patrick Sheehan, a brogue maker, lived in the parish of Ballingarry, Limerick.

Attended Divine Service?	Yes regularly
Received Sacrament?	Yes
Habits?	A little given to drink
Intellect?	Sound
State of Mind?	Hopeful
Knowledge, Secular?	Very limited
Knowledge, Religious?	Limited
Alleged Cause of Crime?	Drink

Name of Person referred to for Character, &c. His uncle, Patrick Sheehan, his address is above.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> HO24/4; HO8/105; PCOM2/30, p74; WO90/2, p164

<sup>2</sup> SROWA Acc 128/40-3

Sick list, Fremantle.<sup>4</sup>

Sheen M	11 November 1850	Cold	Mixture .....
Sheehan M	13 November ember1850	Headache, Nyctalopia	Pilup & draughts
Sheehan Morris	10 December 1850	Worms	Powder Cal ; L Scammas
Sheen Morris	30 January 1851	Prickly heat	
Sheean Morris	31 January 1851	Prickly heat	Cooling draughts
Sheean Morris	5 February 1851		
Sheehan Morris	8 March 1851	Cough	Cough mixture
Sheen Morris	17 April 1851	Rheumatism	Mixture Pot: ... Pills Dovers
Sheen Morris 168	14 June 1851	Blister	

A Ticket of leave was issued on 11 October 1851. His sentence expired in May 1862. He doesn't appear to have been granted a Conditional Pardon. His convict number is always stated in records in the 1880s.<sup>5</sup>

His early working history <sup>6</sup>:

11 October 1851	Worked for William Herbert of Perth. [Boot and Shoemaker, Saddler and Harness maker, King Street, Perth]
1 April 1852	Worked for Richardson
12 July 1852	Worked for J Kenny.
26 July 1852 to 12 September 1852	Worked for S Kottin
26 January 1856	Transferred to Guildford, worked for W Lambert

Perth Police Courts, 8 March 1852. <sup>7</sup> Morris Sheehan, charged with interrupting a young woman in the street, on the night of Sunday last, was dismissed on payment of the costs.

Morris married Mary/Maria Connelly on 3 April 1853. (Connel on register index). They had eight children.

It wasn't long before he was in trouble. At the Perth Police Report, on 18 September 1855, Morris Sheehan, t.l., drunk and obstructing the police, fined 5s.<sup>8</sup>

13 October 1858. Money paid by convicts for their passage to Fremantle was refunded when the policy changed, and they no longer had to pay from 1857. Perhaps Morris thought he could get some money. However, the entry says *No record of passage a/c having been paid &c.*<sup>9</sup>

30 April 1861. Morris was self-employed at Guildford. He was married with 3 children. Remarks: Gave this man his Certificate of Freedom on 26 May 1862.<sup>10</sup>

M *Sheen*, 168, aged 50, shoemaker, can read, one month for assaulting JA Lucas. Sentenced at Perth on 30 May and discharged on 60 June 1876.<sup>11</sup>

16 November 1881. Received in prison after having been convicted of feloniously stealing four pieces of leather and a pair of lasts. He received four months. Morris was a shoemaker, could read and was Roman Catholic. He was discharged on 16 March 1882 to Canning.<sup>12</sup>

Perth Police Court, 15 December 1883. John Sheehan and James Sheehan, two lads, were placed in the dock to answer the charge of having grievously assaulted their father, Morris Sheehan, by beating him over

<sup>3</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 R21A

<sup>4</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 CS1

<sup>5</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 R21B

<sup>6</sup> Rica Erickson's Collection, PD Vol 1, on Family Search

<sup>7</sup> The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News (WA : 1848 - 1864), 12 March 1852, p4

<sup>8</sup> The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News (WA : 1848 - 1864), 21 September 1855, p3

<sup>9</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 S1-3, 58/1045.

<sup>10</sup> SROWA Acc 1171, p183

<sup>11</sup> Registers of Local Prisoners for Nos 614 - 4185 and 4196 - 6853, 1876 - 1888 (F3 - F4)

<sup>12</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 F3-4; RD9B-RD10

the head with a broomstick. The prosecutor failed to put in an appearance, though he had been warned on the previous day to do so; consequently, the youthful defendants were discharged.<sup>13</sup>

Police Magistrate, 18 May 1884. Morris Sheehan was charged with disorderly conduct in William-street on Saturday evening. He then had his clothes indecently disarranged and was also using profane language. Sentenced to one month's hard labour.<sup>14</sup> The prison register noted: 19 May 1884. 168. Morris Sheehan, 66, shoemaker, can read, convicted of being disorderly, discharged 19 June 1884.

27 October 1884. 168. Morris Sheehan, 66, drunk, ten days in prison or fine of 10s, discharged 6 November 1884.<sup>15</sup>

City Police Court, 20 November 1884. Morris Sheehan admitted that he had been intoxicated on the previous afternoon but pleaded that he had got drunk to compel his wife and children to take him in. Mr Leake: You come here too often altogether; I shall send you in for twenty-one days.

The same man was then charged with having maliciously broken a number of windows, the total value of which amounted to about 16s.

William Britnall said: The prisoner came yesterday to one of my cottages in which his wife resides. He wanted to get into the house but was refused admission. He then threatened to break in the door but smashed nearly all the windows instead.

Mr Leake: You have nothing to do with this case, Mr Britnall. The prisoner's wife, being your tenant, has to pay for the windows, not you. I cannot deal with the man upon this charge on your complaint. I shall send him in for twenty-one days on the previous charge.<sup>16</sup> Received at Prison on 20 November 1884 and discharged on 11 December 1884.

15 December 1884. 168. Morris Sheehan, drunk, 21 days imprisonment, discharged 5 January 1885.<sup>17</sup>

Perth Police Court, 14 April 1885. Morris Sheehan, charged with having been drunk on Sunday afternoon, was sent to gaol for three weeks; he is an old offender.<sup>18</sup>

13 April 1885. 168. Morris Sheehan, 70, drunk, 21 days in prison, discharged 4 May 1885.

City Police Court, 6 May 1885. Morris Sheehan was charged with having been drunk. From the evidence of the arresting constable, it appeared that the accused had taken lunch at the Burnett Coffee Rooms and had then refused to pay for the refreshments he had obtained. Upon the police being called, in the man paid his score but was so drunk that he vomited au over the room, whereupon he was given into custody. He was sent to gaol for three weeks with hard labour.<sup>19</sup>

6 May 1885. 168, Morris Sheehan, 70, drunk, 21 days in prison, discharged 27 May 1885.

SHEEHAN, Morris, died 12 July 1889 at the Colonial Hospital Perth, of heart disease, aged 70. He was buried 13 July 1889 at the East Perth Cemetery, Roman Catholic Burial Plot.

SHEEHAN, Maria, died 10 March 1906 and was buried at East Perth cemetery on 11 March 1906, aged 73.

Sheehan.-The Friends of Mr P. Sheehan, Fisherman, are respectfully invited to follow the remains of his late beloved Mother (Maria) to the place of interment, the Roman Catholic Cemetery, East Perth.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>13</sup> The Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), 15 December 1883, p3

<sup>14</sup> The Inquirer and Commercial News (Perth, WA : 1855 - 1901), 21 May 1884, p4

<sup>15</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 F3-4

<sup>16</sup> The Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), 21 November 1884, p3

<sup>17</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 F3-4

<sup>18</sup> The Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), 13 April 1885, p3

<sup>19</sup> The Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), 7 May 1885, p3

<sup>20</sup> Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), 11 March 1906, p1