

Thomas Smith, 151, *Hashemy*

Researched by Marcia Watson

Thomas Smith was born about 1806-7.

At the Kent Lent Assizes, in Maidstone in March 1848

Thomas Smith, 41, was indicted for burglary and stealing certain articles, of wearing apparel, value £2, the property of Thomas Hooker, at Marden, in August last.

The prosecutor's house had been broken open, and part of the linen, which had been newly washed, stolen.

Goddard, the Tunbridge constable, deposed that he apprehended the man at Tunbridge, with some of the property in his possession. He had previously sold some of the property at a second-hand clothes shop.

The prisoner said that he found the goods in coming down Wrotham-hill, and had never been to Marden before found them—Guilty.

The prisoner was then indicted for burglary and stealing a pair of shoes, value 8s, the property of the Rev. E. Tew, curate of Marden. In this case, the house had also been broken open, and a large quantity of provisions, &c. had been stolen, together with a pair of Oxford shoes, which the prisoner had sold at the same shop at Tunbridge.—Transported for 10 years. ¹ [actually transported for 12 years]

Another newspaper reported:

Thomas Smith for housebreaking in the house of Mr Hooker, and of the Rev. Mr Tew, Marden, and stealing various articles.--Twelve years transportation.²

Thomas Smith, 41, single, can't read or write, was convicted on 13 March 1848 at Maidstone of burglary and sentenced to 12 years transportation. It was his first offence. He was received at Millbank Prison on 8 April 1848 from Maidstone Gaol. On 12 December 1848, he was transferred to Wakefield Prison in Yorkshire. Just over six months later, on 19 July 1849 he was sent to Portland Prison. On 19 July 1850, he boarded the *Hashemy* for the voyage to Fremantle.³

His description on arrival in Western Australia in October 1850:

151. Thomas Smith, 44, 5'6¾", light brown hair, blue eyes, round face, fresh complexion, stout, no marks, labourer and single.⁴

These are probably Thomas Smith 151. Casual sick list at Fremantle. ⁵

		Complaint	Treatment
Smith Thos	8 December 1850	Boils	Pil: draughts
Smith Thos	28 February 1851	Febris	Mix febris
Smith Thos	1 March 1851	Feb	Continue fever mixture
Smith Thos	2 March 1851		Discharged

Thomas received a ticket of leave on 13 March 1851. He was assigned as a labourer to Mr Padbury in the Perth district. His rate of wages was 30s per month.⁶ He was granted a Conditional Pardon in April 1854.⁷ On 13 March 1857, Thomas was still working for Walter Padbury of Perth. ⁸

Nothing is known about Thomas until 1887. At the Perth Police Court, on 9 September 1887, Thomas Smith was charged, on remand, with having attempted to commit suicide.

¹ South Eastern Gazette, 14 March 1848, p5

² Maidstone Journal and Kentish Advertiser, 14 March 1848, p3

³ HO24/4; HO23/14; HO8/105

⁴ SROWA Acc 128/1-32

⁵ SROWA Acc 1156 CS1

⁶ Further correspondence on the on the subject of Convict Discipline and Transportation. Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of her Majesty. 30 April 1852, p196

⁷ SROWA Acc 1156 R21B

⁸ PD Vol 1 – Rica Erickson notes on FamilySearch.

Harriet Jeffrey said: I am the wife of William Jeffrey, a labourer, and reside in Perth. The accused man lived with us for about eleven months as a lodger. When he first came to us, he paid me £1 per week; but afterwards, he gave me £150, on condition that we kept him as long as he lived. On the 20th of August last, he did not take anything to eat, and I thought he might not be well; he never had a very good appetite and is, I believe, eighty-eight years old. Between one and two in the afternoon of the 20th alt. my little boy told me that Smith had opened the door of his room as though he wanted me. I went in when I saw he was bleeding at the throat, I called my husband, who at once got Smith into bed, and then I sent for Dr Kenny. The £150 is in the W. A. Bank as a fixed deposit in my name; I have not spent a penny of it.

Daniel Kenny deposed: I am a duly qualified medical practitioner and live in Perth; on the 20th August last, at about 2.30 p.m., I was called to see the prisoner at Mr Jeffrey's house, in John-street, and found he had cut his throat. He was in bed when I arrived, and upon examination, I discovered that the throat had been wounded in three places. Mr and Mrs Jeffrey and a boy of about 15 years of age were in the house at the time. The wounds were pretty deep, but no important vessels had been severed; the cuts were not dangerous to life but might have proved fatal in his case, as he is such an old man. I dressed the wounds and then sent the man to the hospital. In the room, I saw two razors stained with fresh blood. The prisoner admitted to me that he had tried to kill himself; he said, 'I cut my throat as I am tired of my life.' The house in which he lived seemed to be pretty clean and fairly comfortable for him. I asked him several times what had induced him to commit such a rash action; he said he was annoyed by boys, who used to call out to and whistle at him and annoy him in other ways. The old man was very clean when I saw him — except, of course, the blood on him, and he appeared to be well cared for. He appears to be all right now.

Isaac Pryer said: I am a police constable, doing duty in Perth. On the 20th August last, I went to Jeffrey's house, in John-street, at about half-past two o'clock in the afternoon. There I saw Dr Kenny, and he directed me to take Smith to the hospital, as he had cut his throat. The doctor told me the man would be all right if I kept his head straight and did not allow it to fall back. The prisoner told me he had cut bis throat himself, adding, 'It's done now, and too late talking about it.'

Mrs Jeffrey gave me the two razors produced; they are very sharp ones. Smith did not complain to me of anyone while I was conveying him to the hospital.

The Bench committed the accused for trial ; but admitted him to bail in his own recognizance of £10 to surrender to bis trial, and Mr Leake arranged that meantime he should return to Mrs Jeffrey's care, the old man having stoutly promised not to do such foolish things again.^{9, 10}

Thomas Smith probably died on 31 December 1889, aged 83. (registered 1890)
On Tuesday last, an inmate of the Mount Eliza Depot, named Thomas Smith, died, at the age of eighty-three, of senile decay. The deceased was admitted into the institution on the 15th November, 1888.¹¹

His age of 83 fits with his age estimated from English Prison records.

⁹ The Inquirer and Commercial News (Perth, WA : 1855 - 1901), 14 September 1887, p2

¹⁰ Police Gazette, 7 September 1887, No 6, p158, 164

¹¹ The Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1955), 2 January 1890, p2