

## Henry Taylor, 108, *Hashemy*

Researched by Marcia Watson

Henry Taylor was born about 1808, although some records indicate he was born earlier, around 1800.

Probable previous conviction in 1848.

Monmouthshire Epiphany Sessions, Usk, Tuesday 4 January 1848:

The trial of **Henry Taylor** and John Phillips, for breaking into the house of William Jones, at Tredegar, was postponed to the next session, on the application of Mr Barratt, counsel for the prosecution, who produced an affidavit of the recent confinement of prosecutor's wife and her consequent inability to attend, together with the statement of Mr Shephard that she was a very material witness.<sup>1</sup>

At the Monmouthshire Lent Assizes, Usk, on 3 April 1848: **Henry Taylor**, aged 40, and John Phillips, aged 21, were charged with breaking into the dwelling-house of William Jones and stealing therefrom bread and other articles.—Mr Barrett appeared for the prosecution and called -

Mary Jones, the wife of the prosecutor, said she left her husband's house on the morning of the 4 November, and when she went away, the house was locked and properly fastened. She returned in the evening about 4 o'clock and found the window smashed to pieces. There was a hole large enough to admit a man. The door was still fast, as she had left it. She left no one in the house in the morning. When she went back in the evening, she missed part of a loaf of bread, a cake, a box of matches, and some soap. A constable named Jenkins had since shewn her the bread.

James Jenkins was here called. On 4 November, the two prisoners were given into my charge. William James gave me a part of a loaf. The piece of loaf was produced by the constable.

Mrs Jones recalled, described some marks about the loaf by which she knew it.

William Jones, sworn and examined, said he returned to his house in the evening of the 4 November, and found his window smashed and the frame thrown on the fold. He went away soon after going home in pursuit of those who had broken into his house. He found the prisoners about half a mile from his house. Henry Taylor was carrying a blue bundle when he first saw him, but on his going over a stile, he threw it aside, for when afterwards seen, he was without it. When witness went up to the prisoners, Taylor said to the other, "Come, Jack, let us go, unless they be going to take us." They went on, and he returned to the stile over which they had gone and found the bread produced among the fern, under the hedge, but not tied up. On the prisoner Taylor subsequently being searched, a blue handkerchief, like the one wrapping up the bundle that had been seen with him, was found upon him.

James Pugh said he passed the prosecutor's house on the 4 November and saw the prisoner Phillips about 20 yards from it. This was about one o'clock. The window of Jones's house was broken. Witness spoke to Sarah Thomas, and on turning around, saw Taylor coming out of Jones's house through the broken window. He had a blue bundle with him. Phillips soon afterwards said to Taylor that we thought he had been in the house. They then went off together. Witness asked Phillips, on coming up with them if Taylor was his butty(?) or companion. He said— "No, he had not seen him before, and he did not know him." Cross-examination by the prisoner Phillips elicited nothing favourable to himself or Taylor.

Sarah Thomas said that on the 4 November, she was passing Jones's house and saw the prisoner Phillips near. The windows were broken. In five or six minutes after she saw Phillips and Taylor, they were coming up the road from Jones's house. They went away together.

Thomas Holmes said that on the 4 November, he went with Jones in pursuit of the men who had broken into his house. The further testimony of this witness was merely corroborative of that of William Jones.

Horace Shepard deposed to a statement made by Phillips before the magistrates; from which it appeared he admitted that he had been with Taylor on the day in question, but stated that he fell in with

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<sup>1</sup> Monmouthshire Merlin, 8 January 1848, p4

him a short distance from Jones' house, and that on getting near the house Taylor stepped aside for a given purpose but that he (Phillips) had no idea of his intention to rob the house.

After the case had been summed up by his Lordship, the jury returned a verdict of guilty, and the prisoners were sentenced to nine months imprisonment each, at hard labour.<sup>2</sup> The Criminal Register shows them both sentenced to 8 months.

The following year, at the Monmouthshire Epiphany Quarter Sessions in January 1849 at Usk: **Henry Taylor**, aged 41, who had been previously convicted of a felony, and who now pleaded guilty of four charges of stealing, on 27 November, in the parish of Bedwelty, two blankets, one looking-glass, one hair-brush, and one flour bag, from the house of Thomas Morgan; 45lbs. of meat, the property of Henry Morgan; 18lbs. of meat, the property of Morgan Aubrey; one joint of meat, and one piece of cloth, the property of Henry Church. Sentenced to 14 years transportation, which was afterwards mitigated to 18 months hard labour, in the house of correction. (last part of the sentence is incorrect.)<sup>3</sup> The Criminal Register shows Taylor sentenced to 14 years and Jones to 6 months. Jones pleaded guilty to a previous conviction and was sentenced to six months' hard labour in the county gaol.<sup>4</sup>

Henry spent nearly a year in Usk Gaol. He was received at Millbank Prison on 15 December 1849, from Usk. The Millbank Register has:

Henry Taylor, 41, single, read and write imperfectly, labourer, was convicted 1 January 1849 of larceny at Usk and sentenced to 14 years transportation. He had been previously convicted and transported, although he denied being sentenced to transportation. On 28 December 1849, he was transferred to Pentonville Prison, where he was recorded as weighing 11 stone 1 lb, single, a farm labourer, and could read and write imperfectly, and had a brother, Joseph Taylor, baker, in Oldham, Lancashire. His conduct in Pentonville was good. On 11 June 1850, he was transferred to Portland Prison and boarded the *Hashemy* on 19 July 1850.<sup>5</sup>

During the voyage, Henry was placed on the sick list.

Folio 4: Henry Taylor, aged 43, prisoner; sick or hurt, rheumatism; put on sick list, 3 October 1850, discharged 6 October 1850 well.<sup>6</sup>

His description on arrival at Fremantle in October 1850 was:.

108. Henry Taylor, 46, 5' 7¼", sandy hair, hazel eyes, long face, fair complexion, thin, marks - a man and woman on right arm above elbow, heart and flowerpot and Mermaid on small of left arm above elbow, a tree below the elbow, S. on left hand – single and a labourer.<sup>7</sup>

General Register:

108. Henry Taylor *otherwise* Varley, 49 (in 1852), single, sailor, Church of England, reads very well, writes tolerably, fair with accounts. Declines to name relatives.

Attended Divine Service?	Not in the habit of attending at any period in life
Received Sacrament?	Never
Habits?	Used to drink a little but generally attentive to business
Intellect?	Sound
State of Mind?	Hopeful
Knowledge, Secular?	Limited
Knowledge, Religious?	Tolerable
Alleged Cause of Crime?	Drunken company

<sup>2</sup> Monmouthshire Merlin, 1 April 1848, p1

<sup>3</sup> The Principality, 5 January 1849, p5

<sup>4</sup> Monmouthshire Merlin, 6 January 1849, p4

<sup>5</sup> HO4/4; HO24/16, p132; PCOM2/63, p32; HO8/105

<sup>6</sup> ADM 101/32/6/1-6

<sup>7</sup> SROWA Acc 128/40-3

Name of Person referred to for Character, &c. John Devenport Esq, Montreal, Lower Canada.

Henry was placed on the Casual sick list at Fremantle Prison several times: <sup>8</sup>

		Complaint	Treatment
Taylor H	21 October 1850	Bad eyes	lotion
Taylor Hy	4 November 1850	Cold	Dovers powder
Taylor H	17 November 1850	Worms	Powder Cal: scur....
Taylor Hy	9 December 1850	Indigestion	Pil rhubarb & soda? Twice a day
Taylor	13 December 1850	Indigestion	Pill quassia
Taylor Henry	January 1851 (Between 8th & 12th)		Fever mixture 3 times a day – Dovers powder ... at bedtime
Taylor Hy	25 February 1851	Worms	Puli Cal & jalap
Taylor Henry	16 March 1851	Indigestion	Inf Gent
Taylor Henry	20 March 1851	Febricula	Fever mixture
Taylor Henry	22 March 1851		
Taylor Henry	23 March 1851		Infus Gent
Taylor Henry	24 March 1851		Continue Gent
Taylor Henry	25 March 1851	Headache	Continue Gent, Pil Aper
Taylor Henry	26 March 1851		Continue Gent
Taylor Henry	27 March 1851		Discharged
Taylor Henry	24 April 1851	Indigestion	Pilul Rhub & Sod.

He received a Ticket of Leave on 26 January 1852.

On 8 March 1852 at Fremantle: John Luff, Richard Bowyer, and Henry Taylor, ticket-of-leave holders, brought before the Court, charged with having committed a felony on the previous day: case dismissed.<sup>9</sup>

Henry worked for:

30 April **1853**. Working for Dobson + .... of Perth

11 August 1853. Working for John Dobson.<sup>10</sup>

At Perth Police Court, 14 September 1853, Henry Taylor, t.l., absconding from his master's service; dismissed; 3rd offence.<sup>11</sup>

Then, at Perth Court on 4 October 1853: Henry Taylor, t.l, stealing 6s, a coat, trousers, shirt, and handkerchief, the property of G Dixon, t.l, from his premises, 12 calendar months hard labour in irons. 3<sup>rd</sup> offence.<sup>12</sup>

Henry was reconvicted and returned to prison on 18 May and received five years hard labour. On 6 November 1857, he was sent to North Fremantle as an invalid.<sup>13</sup> 18 February 1858, he was removed from separate confinement and sent to public works.

Henry had problems with his bowels and was on the sick list.<sup>14</sup>

		Complaint	Notes
Taylor Henry 108 H.L.	7 June 1857	Cough	In cells
Taylor Henry 108 H.L.	17 October 1857		Shoemaker, aged 57
Taylor Henry 108 H.L.	29 October 1857	Bowel complaint	Infirmery, Tailor
Taylor Henry 108 H.L.	26 May 1858	Worms	Treated, given spectacles
Taylor Henry 108 H.L.	1 November 1858	Chronic eruption on hand	Worked at Jetty,

<sup>8</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 CS1

<sup>9</sup> Inquirer (Perth, WA : 1840 - 1855), 31 March 1852, p2

<sup>10</sup> Rica Erickson's notes, from PD Vol 1.

<sup>11</sup> The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News (WA : 1848 - 1864), 30 September 1853, p2

<sup>12</sup> The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News (WA : 1848 - 1864), 14 October 1853, p2

<sup>13</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 RD1-2

<sup>14</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 CS3-CS10 (H.L = hard labour)

Taylor Henry 108 H.L	28 November 1858	Ascarides (worms)	Tailor, aged 58
Taylor Henry 108 H.L	1 December 1858	Ascarides	Working inside, enema
Taylor Henry 108 H.L	8 January 1859	Ascarides	Enema plus medicine
Taylor Henry 108 H.L	9 January 1859	Ascarides	More treatment
Taylor Henry 108 H.L	3 March 1859	Worms	Age 59
Taylor Henry 108 H.L	27 June 1859	Constipation	Age 61, labourer
Taylor Henry 108 H.L	28 June 1859	Constipation	Treated again
Taylor Henry 108 H.L	19 October 1859	Constipation	Purged, labourer
Taylor Henry 108 H.L	1 January 1860	Wants... ?	
Taylor Henry 108 H.L	24 January 1860	Ascarides	Labourer, age 60
Taylor Henry 108 H.L	7 July 1860	Ascarides	Hammock maker
Taylor Henry 108 H.L	22 August 1860	Ascarides	Tailor
Taylor Henry 108 H.L	15 October 1861	Ascarides	Tailor
Taylor Henry 108 H.L	1 December 1861	Ascarides	Tailor
Taylor Henry 108 H.L	20 January 1862	Dyspepsia	Tailor
Taylor Henry 108 H.L	21 January 1862	Dyspepsia	Tailor
Taylor Henry 108 H.L	19 March 1862	Ascarides	Hammock maker
Taylor Henry 108 H.L	6 May 1862	Haemorrhoids	Tailor
Taylor Henry 108 H.L	5 June 1862	Haemorrhoids	Tailor
Taylor Henry 108 H.L	3 July 1862	Ascarides	Tailor, age 62
Taylor Henry 108 H.L	28 November 1862	Pedicula (lice)	Shoe maker

On 10 March 1863, Henry was discharged to a Ticket of Leave from Rocky Bay.<sup>15</sup> [On 9 March, the Register said he was discharged from Fremantle Gaol to a private residence.] His sentence expired on 31 December 1862. A Certificate of Freedom was sent to the resident magistrate at Champion Bay on 9 August 1870.<sup>16</sup>

Then, on 27 October 1879, Henry Taylor, expiree, late 108, detained by P.C. Edwards at Beverley and remanded. The stolen property was recovered.<sup>17</sup> He was sentenced to six months at York Court. Henry was aged 79 and a labourer.<sup>18</sup> He was discharged from Perth Gaol after serving six months for stealing on 6 April 1880.<sup>19</sup>

Henry Taylor, aged 82, was sentenced at Perth to 21 days, not hard labour, for being drunk in 1882. He was a sailmaker, and was in Fremantle Gaol from 27 February until 20 March 1882. He was back in prison on 27 March for being drunk again, fined 10s or seven days imprisonment, at Perth. Henry chose the latter and was released on 3 April 1882.

The Western Australian Biographical Index says Henry was recommended to receive poor relief on 31 December 1882.

Henry Taylor died on 3 August 1883 at the Perth Invalid Depot and was buried the same day at the East Perth cemetery. He was recorded as 83 years old.<sup>20</sup>

See also, Mid-West Convicts database. <https://midwestwaheritage.com/resultmcr/?id=2066>

<sup>15</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 RD3-4

<sup>16</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 R21B

<sup>17</sup> Police Gazette, October 1879.

<sup>18</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 F3 - F4

<sup>19</sup> Police Gazette, 1880, p59

<sup>20</sup> East Perth Cemetery database