

Born	9 December 1830, Dum Dum, India
Baptism	25 December 1830, St Stephen's Church, Dum Dum
Parents	John Taylor (1792-1844) and Jane (~1802-1869)
Parent's marriage	
Siblings	Susannah (1829), William Henry (1833), Daniel Edwin (1836-1837), Jane (1838)
Wife	
Married	
Children	

John Taylor was a Gunnar Artillery until between 1833 and 1836 when he became a Sergeant in the Model Department in Dum Dum. He died on 11 July 1844, aged 51 years and 11 months and was buried at St Stephen's Church in Dum Dum the following day.

John made a will on 6 July 1844, saying he was very sick and weak in body but of perfect mind. He left everything to his wife, Jane. Probate was granted to Jane Taylor as sole executrix on 9 August 1844. She said she was a widow living in Dum Dum, a suburb of Calcutta. At his death, her husband, John, was a Sergeant attached to the Artillery Regimental Laboratory School at Dum Dum.¹

Nine years later, son Jonathan Taylor was on trial at Dinapore on 15 September 1853: Bombardier Jonathan Taylor, No. 5845, of the 2nd company 3rd battalion artillery, was arraigned on the following charge:

That on or about the 6 July 1853 at Dinapore, being a soldier serving in the territories of the East India Company upwards of one hundred and twenty miles from the Presidency of Fort William, he did feloniously, unlawfully, and maliciously incite and procure Rebecca Lane, wife of Joseph Lane, Corporal in the said company and Regiment, to administer to Joseph Lane, a deadly poison called *jatropha curcas* or physic nut, with intent to feloniously, wilfully, and maliciously kill and murder Joseph Lane. Rebecca Lane, with the poison procured by Jonathan Taylor, administered it to the said Joseph Lane, with intent to feloniously, wilfully, and maliciously kill and murder on 6 July 1853.

Verdict – The Court, having maturely weighed and considered the evidence both on the part of the prosecution and defence, is of the opinion that the prisoner, Bombardier Jonathan Taylor, No. 3845, of the 2nd company 3rd battalion of artillery, is guilty of the charge preferred against him.

Sentence – The Court, having found the prisoner guilty, was sentenced to be transported as a felon for life.

Jonathan was to be forwarded to the Presidency by water under proper escort and made over to the Town Major of Fort William regarding the sentence of transportation being carried into effect.²

Rebecca Lane was about 19 years old. She married Joseph on 27 August 1849. Joseph Lane, 23, bachelor, Gunnar Bengal, resides in Dinapore, father John Lane, married by Banns in Dinapore to Rebecca Allanson, 15, spinster, resides in Dinapore, father George Allanson.

After just over a year in prison, 6 European convicts and 15 guards of the 27th Regiment left on 17 November 1854 from Calcutta for Western Australia. The East India Company brig, *Guide*, arrived at Fremantle on 9 January 1855. The *Guide* returned to Calcutta on 24 January with 15 men of the 27th Regiment.³

¹ Bengal Wills, 1780-1938, Archive reference L-AG-34-29-70, folio 131

² Bombay Gazette, 24 November 1853, p2. Though all parts of the plant are poisonous, seeds have the highest concentration of ricin and thus very poisonous. The adverse effects following consumption of seeds include vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain and burning sensation in the throat.

³ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 12 January 1855, p2

Jonathan was assigned number 3212. He was 24, 6'0", with black hair, grey eyes, a long face, a swarthy complexion, a slender build, a horse bite scar on the muscle of the left arm, a soldier and clerk, single. He was received at Fremantle Prison on 11 January 1855. During his confinement in India, his conduct was "Very good", and on voyage "Very good".

Jonathan suffered a few medical episodes later in the year:

12 April 1855, Johnathan Taylor, constipation, treated.

15 May 1855, Johnathan Taylor, 3212, constipation, treated.

1 June 1855, Jonathan Taylor, 3212, Ophthalmia, treated.

1 July 1855: Appointed Constable 3rd class.

15 December 1856: Jane Taylor. The letter enclosed with yours dated 21 June 1856 has been duly handed to your son Jonathan Taylor. Your son is in good health and his character is in every way "exemplary". Enquiry has been instituted as to the circumstances under which he was convicted tho' I can hold out but faint hopes that his sentence will be in any way altered or mitigated. H.W. Letter sent to Jane Taylor, widow, care of J.J. Hitchcock, toll collector, Rhodagung(?), Futtighur, East India. ⁴ [Fatehgarh is in Uttar Pradesh]

30 April 1857: Petition of Jonathan Taylor refused

17 August 1857: Probation Prison 3212, J. Taylor, discharged to Ticket of Leave

3 September 1858: 3212, Jonathan Taylor, No employment to offer you.

24 December 1859: Reconvicted Prisoner received, 3212, J. Taylor

24 February 1860: Reconvicted prisoner received from Sutherland Bay, 3212, Jonathan Taylor.

25 February 1860: Reconvicted prisoner Jonathan Taylor 3212 will be discharged on Ticket of Leave.

4 July 1860: Charles Janes was charged with stealing from the person of Jonathan Taylor, sundry orders for the payment of money and other articles at Champion Bay.⁵

16 October 1861: Conditional Pardon forwarded to R.M. Champion Bay, 3212, J Taylor. ⁶

No further information on Jonathan Taylor has been found.

Jonathan's mother, Jane Taylor, died on 13 May 1869, aged about 67 years, of paralysis and apoplexy. She was the widow of John Taylor, Model Sergeant, and was buried on 14 May 1869 at Murree.

On 4 October 1861, Rebecca Lane, full age, widow, daughter of George Allenson, married Joseph Richmond, full age, a widower by License, married at Poona, Bombay. What happened to her first husband, Joseph Lane, has not been discovered.

⁴ SROWA, 1156/C38, Comptroller General, Outward Letters, 14.4.1856 – 1.9.1859, 238. H.W. is Henry Wray.

⁵ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 6 Jul 1860, p3, Quarter Sessions.

⁶ SROWA, 1156/R&D, 1-2, 3-4; 1156/S1-3; Acc 128/33-37; Comptroller General to Resident Magistrates Acc 1156 C12/902