

Thomas Pledge, 447, *Pyrenees* 1

Researched by Marcia Watson

Born	About 1830, St Olave, Southwark, Surrey
Parents	Thomas Pledge and Charlotte
Parent's marriage	
Siblings	Mary Ann (1828), Sarah (1828) ¹
Wife	Mary Ann Burton
Married	1854, Perth, Western Australia
Children	Mary Ann Elizabeth (31 December 1854 – 29 June 1878) Thomas (c. 27 July 1856 - 24 August 1858)

This appears to be Thomas in 1841, living at New Street Dock Head, St John Horsleydown, St Olave Southwark.² There were four families living in the same building.

Charles Pledge, 30, shoemaker; Mary, 30; Mary, 14; Sarah, 14; Thomas, 10.

At Newington, on 4 December 1848, Adjourned Quarter Session:

PLEDGE Thomas, 17, reads imperfectly, was committed on 25 November 1848 by I.O. Secker Esq, charged on the oaths of Edwin Brown and others, with feloniously stealing, at Saint Olave, Southwark, six pairs of boots, the property of James Wynn. Sentenced to 7 years transportation. ³

Thomas was received at Millbank Prison from Horsemonger-lane Gaol on 13 February 1849. He had been summarily committed and charged before. According to the comments, he was "absolutely obstinate". Thomas was transferred to Pentonville Prison on 2 August 1849. The register notes he was born in St Olave, Surrey. His description was:

17 years old, 10 stone 4 pounds, dark brown hair, hazel eyes, brown brows and eyelashes, large nose, large mouth, pale complexion, an oval face, slight build, single, 5'1½", can read and write imperfectly, and a lighterman's labourer. He had a pockmarked face, a scar near his left eye, the middle finger on his left hand injured, mole on each shoulder and on his right arm. Thomas had been twice in prison, once of suspicion of theft and received 18 months in Brixton Prison. The second time was for assault and was in Horsemonger lane Prison. He said his mother was Mrs Charlotte Pledge, a laundress who lived at No 7 Meetinghouse court, Southwark.

Thomas was transferred to the *York* hulk at Gosport on 2 January 1850, and he boarded the *Pyrenees* on 10 March 1851.⁴

Western Australia

By the time Thomas arrived in Western Australia in June 1851, he was described as:

447. Thomas Pledge, 22, 5'7", has dark hair, hazel eyes, an oval face, dark complexion, scar on the right arm and left leg, cupping on the neck, a lighterman and waterman, and single. ⁵

Ticket of leave men at Mt Eliza Station on 11 July 1851: Thomas Pledge, 447, waterman.⁶ Later in the year, the half-yearly returns for December 1851 show Thomas was fined for being disobedient at Toodyay.

Thomas married Mary Ann Burton in 1854 in Perth, and they had two children in Western Australia.

¹ Mary Ann and Sarah Pledge were baptized in 1835 at St Olave, Bermondsey. The family lived in Vinegar Yard, and their father was a labourer.

² HO107/1087/17

³ Calendar of Prisoners. Surrey Quarter Sessions at Newington Gaol. March 1848 to December 1853. Australian Joint Copying Project Reel M1834

⁴ PCOM2/136; PCOM2/29

⁵ SROWA Acc 128/1-32

⁶ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News (WA : 1848 - 1864), 18 July 1851, p2

Around 1856, Thomas went to Adelaide. Mrs Pledge and two children left Fremantle per *Frances* on 12 October 1856 and arrived in Adelaide on 24 October.

In December 1856, William Ward (207) was accused of assaulting constable Dyke. Ward and Thomas Pledge were searched in Hindley Street, Adelaide, for no apparent reason apart from Ward having been a convict. Ward came to Adelaide on the *Thane of Fife* in March 1856. The case was dismissed.⁷

November 1857. Destitute Board. Relief continued: Mrs Pledge, two years in the colony; husband at Nairne; sent to the Board by the Police Magistrate. The applicant had two children with her. Admitted to the Asylum at present.⁸ Young Thomas Pledge was buried on 24 August 1858 at West Terrace Cemetery, Adelaide, aged 2.

In 1878, a Thomas Pledge, in the employ of Major Godwin, was kicked above the region of the heart by a horse in the Pier Hotel Stables, Glenelg, receiving injuries to his ribs and lung. Admitted to the Hospital.⁹ He may be ex-convict Thomas.

No further trace was found of Thomas and Mary Pledge.

Daughter of Thomas and Mary Ann Pledge.

In 1872, Mary Ann Pledge, aged 16, a domestic residing at Franklin Harbour, entered the Destitute Asylum. She said she arrived in Adelaide about 15 years ago from Western Australia on the *Clara*.¹⁰ She actually arrived on the *Frances* in 1856.

Then in 1875, Alice Richardson and Mary Ann Pledge were charged with insulting behaviour in Rundle-street on the night of 7 February 1875, and being their first appearance; they were discharged with a caution.¹¹

Later in the year, on 11 September 1875, Mary Ann Pledge, a single woman, was ordered to pay a fine of 10s for using indecent language in Pirie Street, Adelaide.¹²

In 1876, an inquest was held into a two-week-old baby, Ada Victoria Wilcox, who died during the night. The child was in the bed of the parents, widow Emma Wilcox and Robert Everdell and suffocated. Mary Ann Pledge, a single woman, who slept in the same house, deposed that the mother and father were sober when they went to bed. The verdict was that the child died of suffocation by being overlaid by either parent.¹³

At the same time, on 11 February 1876, Mary Ann Pledge and five other women were charged with aiding and abetting at a house occupied by prostitutes. Mary Ann received 14 days of hard labour and was released on 24 February. The Gaol register records she was 19 years old, could read and write, single, CofE, cannot say when she arrived in the colony as she was too young.¹⁴

Mary Ann married Charles Walter Chapman on 19 July 1877 in Adelaide.

CHAPMAN.—On 29 June 1878, at William-street, Norwood, Mary Ann, dearly beloved wife of Charles Walter Chapman, aged 21 years.¹⁵ She was buried in West Terrace Cemetery, Adelaide.

⁷ Home Newspapers & Gazettes Browse South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), 26 December 1856, p3

⁸ South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), 3 November 1857, p2

⁹ Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), 21 January 1878, p2

¹⁰ Destitute Asylum, Adelaide, Vol 1, entry 75

¹¹ Evening Journal (Adelaide, SA : 1869 - 1912), 8 March 1875, p2

¹² The Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), 13 September 1875, p2

¹³ The Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), 11 February 1876, p3

¹⁴ Register of Prisoners, Adelaide Gaol, 1848-1912.

¹⁵ The Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA : 1867 - 1922), 29 June 1878, p2