

William Tomlinson, 112, Hashemy

Researched by Marcia Watson

Born	~1823
Parents	Joseph Tomlinson
Parent's marriage	
Siblings	
Wife	Elizabeth Mary Fernerr/Fernell
Married	20 February 1865, Geraldton, Western Australia
Children	Robert (1867) Peter (1867)

As the prison register states, was Thomas transported previously for seven years?

Note: Even though the ages do not quite fit, I could not find any other Tomlinson's sentenced to 7 years transportation. If this is the same William Tomlinson, he must have been released in probably late 1846. If convicts were well behaved, they often seem to be released after about half their sentence had been served.

His previous conviction might be:

Liverpool Sessions, commenced 20 March 1843 and ending 23 March 1843:

Seven years transportation:— William Tomlinson, 15, and Daniel O'Connell, 12, for stealing ten seals, four keys, one thimble, and a ring, the property of David Nathan, a jeweller in Paradise Street, Liverpool.¹ Daniel lived in North Street, about a km away and presumably, William lived nearby. The Criminal Register, HO 27/70, p94, says both received 7 years, and in brackets – an erroneous sentence.

William, 15½, was received at Parkhurst Prison on 29 June 1843 from Liverpool. His crime was recorded as 'breaking into a shop and stealing therefrom'. The Gaoler's Report on his character said William was 'Insubordinate, impudent & artful'. His accomplice Daniel O'Connell was 'insubordinate & artful'. William was sent to Millbank Prison on 6 October 1845. Daniel was sent to Millbank on 13 April 1844 and then to Tasmania per *Barossa (2)*, leaving on 9 May 1844.²

In January 1847, Leeds:

Robbery from a Brewhouse.—We mention in our last that several brewing publicans had been plundered of refrigerators or cooling tubes; and we have this week the pleasure of adding that on Saturday last two fellows, returned from transportation, and well-known rogues named William Thomas and William Tomlinson, were committed for trial at the sessions, charged with entering the brewhouse of the Three Legs public house, Call Lane, by means of skeleton keys, and stealing a copper refrigerator. They had offered it for sale to a person named Barr, in Hunslet Lane, who very properly caused their apprehension.³

William Thomas and William Tomlinson were brought up at the Leeds Court-House, and committed for trial at the sessions for stealing a copper "*refrigator*" from the Maux Arms public-house, Call-lane.⁴

At the Leeds Borough Sessions on 4 March 1847, they were found guilty and sentenced to 14 years transportation, as both had previous convictions of a felony.

They were removed from York Castle and sent to Millbank Prison, arriving there on 6 April 1847.⁵ From Millbank prison, William Tomlinson was sent to Wakefield Prison on 4 October 1847. Nearly fifteen months later, he was transferred to Portland Prison, arriving there on 13 December 1848. William was reported

¹ Liverpool Mercury, 31 March 1843, p6

² HO24/15, p54

³ Leeds Times, 23 January 1847, p4

⁴ Leeds Intelligencer, 23 January 1847, p5

⁵ Leeds Intelligencer, 10 April 1847, p8

twice for irregularity, on 2 December 1849 and 13 May 1850, and disposed of as in Report Book and Misconduct Book.⁶ On 19 July 1850, he boarded the *Hashemy* for the voyage to Western Australia. The above records mention that William was 24 when convicted, single, a labourer, could read & write imperfectly, and his previous conviction was – ‘once felony & transported 7 years’.⁷

On arrival at Fremantle in October 1850, his description on arrival:

112. William Tomlinson, 29, 5’3½”, light brown hair, blue eyes, sharp visage, fair complexion, stout, marks – a bird and WT on the right arm, one dot and small scar on left, one scar on back (a burn); single, labourer.⁸

Casual Sick List, Fremantle⁹

Tomlinson Wm	3 Nov 1850	Diarrhoea	Cal: S Jalap
Tomlinson Wm	2 Dec 1850	Gathered finger	Poultice
Tomlinson C	3 Dec 1850	Gathered finger	Poultice
Tomlinson	4 Dec 1850	Gathered finger	Poultice
Tomlinson Wm	5 Dec 1850	Gathered finger	... poultice
Tomlinson Wm	6 Dec 1850		
Tomlinson Wm	7 Dec 1850	Gathered finger	Poultice
Tomlinson Wm	8 Dec 1850		
Tomlinson Wm	9 December 1850		Continue poultice
Tomlinson Wm	10 December 1850		Continue poultice
Tomlinson Wm	11 Dec 1850		Poultice
Tomlinson Wm	13 Dec 1850	Bad finger	Dressing
Tomlinson Wm	14 Dec 1850	Bad finger	Dress
Tomlinson Wm	16 Dec 1850	Discharged	
Tomlinson William	24 January 1851		
Tomlinson William	7 Feb 1851	Bowel complaint (diarrhoea)	Emetic
Tomlinson Wm	8 Feb 1851	Diarrhoea	?????

William received his Ticket of leave on 10 February 1851. He was assigned as a labourer to Samuel Diggle, who was a ticket of leave holder in the Fremantle district. His rate of wage was 4s per day.¹⁰

Fremantle Police Court, 8 July 1854.

William Tomlinson and S. Bristow, t.l.s, were charged with having about four in the afternoon on the previous day, attempted to violate the person of Ellen Norie, a pensioner’s wife. It appears from the woman’s evidence that on the day mentioned, she had taken a glass of beer at Mrs Lloyd’s public house while waiting for her husband, whom she expected to accompany to their dwelling at North Fremantle. As he did not come, she at length proceeded on her way alone but had not gone far when she was overtaken by the prisoners, who had been drinking at Mrs Lloyd’s while she was there. Tomlinson proceeded to throw her down and otherwise ill-treat her, assisted by Bristow. The case is fully proved by the statements of two officers of the Convict Establishment, who had rescued the woman; the bench sentenced the prisoners to 3 years each in the Establishment.¹¹

While in prison, William reported being sick a few times.¹²

⁶ Portland Prison. Governor’s Journal, 24 November 1848 to 9 August 1850. PCOM 2/354

⁷ HO23/14, p43; PCOM2/27, p52; PCOM2/383, p49

⁸ SROWA Acc 128/41-43

⁹ SROWA Acc 1156 CS1

¹⁰ 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; SROWA Acc 1156 R21B

¹¹ Inquirer (Perth, WA: 1840 – 1855, 26 July 1854, p3

¹² SROWA Acc 1156 CS3

Tomlinson Wm	22 September 1856	Stonecutter; Hard labour; in cell; constipation, purgative
Tomlinson Wm	30 November 1856	Mason; hard labour, in cells; bowel complaint
Tomlinson Wm	20 December 1856	Mason; hard labour, in cells, eruption on chin
Tomlinson Wm	1 January 1857	Mason; hard labour; in cells, constipation

William's original sentence expired on 4 March 1864.

For more information, see Mid West convicts: <https://midwestw heritage.com/resultmcr/?id=2137>

**Local Small Debt Court of
Geraldton, Sept., 1864.**

**Between William Tomlinson, Plaintiff,
AND
John Howell Rees, Defendant.**

WORSHIPFUL LEWIS JOHN BAYLY,
ESQUIRE, did compel the defendant and undersigned, in positive and express terms to say, "Yes" or "No" on oath in answer to the following question: Has a pass-book any other value than that of paper?

Under the coercion of the Court I made answer, "No;" but under a protest. His Worship then remarked that he did not care or value my protest, his conduct also all through the hearing was in perfect accord, with the above remark.

As to the judgment, I need not note, while extant is the fact—that the same Magistrate did, on a former occasion, dismiss a ticket-of-leave man without permitting me to state my charge against him.

And who is the man? the Plaintiff in the above case.

I could wish that Magistrate well to understand that a well-established reputation is not to be shaken by ordinary authority; and, also, not to overlook, that the higher the trust, the greater the abuse, in the breach.

**JOHN HOWELL REES,
Cambria House.**

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These references may be William.

Clearing cemetery road, W Tomlinson paid £2 10 6 on 18 June 1873.

Irwin Roads Board Balance Sheet.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/65963066?searchTerm=%22w%20tomlinson%22&searchLimits=-l-state=Western+Australia||l-decade=187>

William died on 6 April 1880 at Tibbradden/Geraldton.

¹³ The Perth Gazette and West Australian Times (WA : 1864 - 1874), 7 October 1864, p2