

William Beeson, 97, *Hashemy*

Researched by Marcia Watson

Baptism	11 May 1826, Aston upon Trent, Derbyshire
Parents	Joseph Beeson and Mary Lacey
Parent's marriage	23 April 1826, Aston upon Trent, Derbyshire
Siblings	John Henry (1832)
Wife 1	Sarah Brennan
Married	17 April 1861, Perth
Children	John Henry (1864) Thomas (1867)

Although William was baptised at Aston upon Trent, the family resided at Shardlow. His father was recorded as a framework knitter.

At the Police Office, Derby on 5 December 1839: William Ashmore, **William Beeson**, John Cooper, and Philip Spencer were brought up for further examination (having been remanded on the 3rd instant) when they were severally convicted as rogues and vagabonds. Ashmore was found in the shop of Mr Bateman, in the Cheapside, for an unlawful purpose, and the other three were suspected persons and frequenting the Cheapside, with intent to commit a felony. Ashmore, Beeson, and Cooper committed to the house of correction to hard labour for three calendar months and Spencer for one calendar month. ¹

Then in November 1840, at Derby, George Forman, Philip Spencer, **William Beeson**, and John Cooper were brought up charged with wandering abroad and sleeping in an unoccupied building in the Morlege, not having any visible means of subsistence, and not giving a good account of themselves. The prisoners, it appeared, had all been previously convicted of various offences and committed to the house of correction to hard labour for three calendar months.²

Just before the census was taken in 1841, his mother, Mary Beeson, was buried on 12 May 1841, St Peters, Derby. She was 37 years old and lived in Waterloo Street.

On the 1841 census, taken in June, the family lived at Waterloo Square, Parish of St Werburgh, Derby: Joseph Beeson, 35, carpet weaver; John, 5. William Beeson was in gaol.

William Beeson, 16, labourer, 4' 7" tall, black hair, hazel eyes, fresh complexion, blue marks on the left hand, can read, single, Church of England, convicted at Derby on 11 June 1841 of vagrancy and sentenced to 3 months hard labour. Previous convictions – 6 December 1839 and 23 November 1840.³

In December 1842, William was again in trouble. He was charged at the Derby Police Office: William Beeson and James Anthony were committed for trial at the ensuing borough sessions charged with stealing one pair of stockings, and one slop, the property of Isaac Shuttlewood, from a clothesline in John-street, in this borough. ⁴

In January 1843, his luck ran out:

W. Beeson and James Anthony, charged with stealing on 8 December 1842, at the parish of St Peter, one pair of worsted stockings and one slop, the property of Isaac Shuttlewood. Both prisoners pleaded Guilty. Beeson to be transported for seven years; Anthony to be imprisoned three months with hard labour. ⁵

William was received on the *Warrior* hulk at Chatham and Woolwich on 20 February 1843. The register recorded: William Beeson, 17, convicted of stealing a pair of stockings and a slop at Derby on 12 January

¹ Derby Mercury, 11 December 1839, p3

² Derby Mercury, 25 November 1840, p3

³ PCOM2/302

⁴ Derby Mercury, 14 December 1842, p3

⁵ Derbyshire Courier, 21 January 1843, p3

1842 and sentenced to 7 years transportation. He was single, could read, a labourer, and once convicted and three times imprisoned for vagrancy. His character and connexions were very bad.⁶ He was pardoned on 22 June 1847.

A year later, he was committed to Stafford County Gaol in July 1848.

William Beeson and John Beeson, charged with stealing one pair of boots, the property of Edward Cox, at Burton-upon-Trent.⁷

At the Staffordshire Adjourned Sessions, in July:⁸

William Beeson and John Beeson, two brothers, whose appearance bespoke their character, were indicted for stealing a pair of boots, the property of Edward Fox, at Burton. John Beeson pleaded guilty to the indictment; the other prisoner was placed on trial. Mr Vaughan conducted the prosecution.

It appeared from the evidence of the prosecutor, and other witnesses, that he kept a shoe stall at Burton market and that on 1 June, the prisoners were seen near the stall. On the following morning, about two o'clock, they were found sleeping in a pig-stye, at Derby, by a police officer, and upon the feet of the younger brother, there was a pair of Blucher boots, without lace holes. The prosecutor and his workman identified these boots as his property, both from the workmanship and the fact that the holes in Butcher boots sold by him were never punched until sold.

The prisoner William Beeson was found guilty.

The learned Chairman then told the prisoners that the Court had very little difficulty in dealing with them, for they seemed to be extraordinary persons. On their own declaration, they had been committed five times each. William Beeson twice for vagrancy, once for stealing books, once summarily convicted, and had also been sentenced to seven years transportation, part of which time he had served and was then discharged. The younger prisoner had also been in gaol five times, one instance for period of twelve months. They were then each sentenced to be transported for fourteen years.

The Prison Registers recorded William Beeson, 23, can read, labourer, weighs 8 stone 9 lbs, and was convicted on 20 July 1848 at Stafford of stealing boots and sentenced to 14 years transportation. He had four previous convictions; 2 for larceny, 2 for vagrancy and had been transported before.

William was received at Millbank Prison on 9 October 1848 from Stafford Gaol. He spent six months in Millbank before being transferred to Pentonville Prison on 23 April 1849. The Pentonville registers record William was a painter, and his father was Jos^h Beeson, painter, Canal St, Derby.

He was removed from Pentonville on 4 March 1850 and sent to Portland Prison.⁹ At Portland, he was reported for irregularity and disposed of as in Report Book & Misconduct Book on 13 June 1850 with Benjamin Brown and Charles Marshall.¹⁰

William boarded the *Hashemy* on 19 July 1850 for the voyage to Fremantle.¹¹

During the voyage, William was sick.

Folio 5: William Beeson, aged 23, prisoner; sick or hurt, cynanche; put on sick list, 15 October 1850, discharged 18 October 1850 well.¹²

On arrival at Western Australia in October 1850, his description was:

97. William Beeson, 5' 4½", dark brown hair, hazel eyes, sharp visage, dark complexion, stout build, two small scars on the back of the left hand, brick maker and single.¹³

⁶ HO9/12, p153

⁷ Staffordshire Advertiser, 15 July 1848, p8

⁸ Staffordshire Advertiser, 22 July 1848, p8

⁹ HO24/4; HO24/16; PCOM2/29; PCOM2/62

¹⁰ Portland Prison, Dorset: Governor's Journals, PCOM2/354, p322

¹¹ HO8/105

¹² ADM 101/32/6/1-6 (transcribed by National Archives, UK)

¹³ SROWA Acc 128/40-3

General Register:

97. William Beeson, 26 , single, brickmaker, Church of England, went to school, can read, write and do maths. William said his father, Joseph Beeson, a painter, lived at Canal St, Derby. He would best be found at the Derby Railway Station.

Attended Divine Service? Regularly
 Received Sacrament? Never
 Habits? Sometimes drank a little, but was generally attentive to his work
 Intellect? Sound
 State of Mind? Good, means well & proposes being very steady & industrious
 Knowledge, Secular? Limited
 Knowledge, Religious? Limited
 Alleged Cause of Crime? Bad company

Name of Person referred to for Character, &c. Mr John Harper, master brick maker, Kennington, Derby or his brother Joseph Harper.¹⁴

William appears a few times on the Casual sick list, Fremantle.¹⁵

Beeson W	2 November 1850	Nyctolopia	Shade
Beeson Wm	15 November 1850	Costiveness	Pilup & draughts
Beeson	16 November 1850		Pul jalap, Chalk mixture
Beeson William	30 January 1851	Bad eyes	Solut. Tino(?) & Opii
Beeson	1 February 1851	Inflamed eyes	Tino(?) ointment
Beeson	2 February 1851	Inflamed eyes	Tino(?) & Opii solution

On 10 November 1851, William was issued with Ticket of Leave.¹⁶ He worked for Daniel Meyrick of Perth. Wages were £2 per month.

At the Perth Police Magistrate's Court, on 27 September 1852¹⁷

W. Beeson, t.l., out after hours; dismissed on account of alteration of town clock.

At the Quarter Sessions, on 6 October 1852, William was a witness in the trial of Richard Macguire, charged with stealing divers articles of wearing apparel, knives and forks, &c, the property of Thomas Peel, at Mandurah.¹⁸

William was in trouble again; this time, it was more serious. On 23 April 1854, at Fremantle Police Court, W. Beeson, t.l., charged with stealing and taking away a quantity of firewood stacked in the bush, was sent to amend his morals in the Convict Establishment for 12 months.¹⁹

He was received at Fremantle Prison on 25 April 1854.

21 November 1854 – Wound(?) of a finger, treated with a poultice.

10 February 1855 – Ringworm on throat, (treatment unreadable), sent to hospital.²⁰

26 March 1855 – discharged from prison with a ticket of leave to the Murray district.²¹

He was engaged by:

29 March 1855 – John Pedu?

11 April 1856 – John Swallow at Freshwater Bay

13 June 1856 – Thomas Lister?

June 1856 – George Trott

10 November 1856 – William Buzzard

15 March 1858 – D Powell²²

¹⁴ SROWA Acc 1156 R21A

¹⁵ SROWA Acc 1156 CS1

¹⁶ SROWA Acc 1156 R21B

¹⁷ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News (WA : 1848 - 1864), 1 October 1852, p3

¹⁸ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News (WA : 1848 - 1864), 8 October 1852, p4

¹⁹ Inquirer (Perth, WA : 1840 - 1855), 3 May 1854, p3

²⁰ SROWA Acc 1156 M14-16

²¹ Richards, R. *The Murray District of Western Australia: A history*. Shire of Murray, 1978.

²² Rica Erickson notes, PD Vol 2 (familysearch film)

3 January 1860 – Levi Langoulant

20 January 1860 – Thomas Clinch

9 June 1860 – transferred to Perth

16 June 1860 – working for himself in Perth.²³

At the Perth Police Court, reported on 3 February 1860 in the newspaper:

Stealing a Nectron.—W. Beeson, t.l., was charged with having stolen a nectron from a tree of Mr Cole's, valued at 1d. As no one appeared to prefer the charge against the prisoner, he was discharged.

Drunkards.—W. Beeson, t.l. drunk, fined 5s.²⁴

Perth Police Court, February 1861 - W. Beeson, t.l., out after hours; dismissed.²⁵

Perth Police Court, April 1861 - W. Beeson, t.l., out after hours; cautioned.²⁶

William was granted a Conditional Pardon was granted on 19 January 1863.

He died on 11 August 1892 at Bootenal, Greenough, aged 66.

See also:

Mid West Convicts: <https://midwestwaheritage.com/resultmcr/?id=43>

²³ Idem, PD Vol 3

²⁴ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News (WA : 1848 - 1864), 3 February 1860, p3

²⁵ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News (WA : 1848 - 1864), 22 February 1861, p3

²⁶ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News (WA : 1848 - 1864), 26 April 1861, p2