

Thomas Bradfield, 742, *Minden*

Researched by Marcia Watson

Thomas Bradfield had been detained six or ten times from 1842. He had been convicted summarily three times, and was twice in Brixton Prison and once in Newgate Prison.

In 1848, Thomas was in trouble again.

Thomas Bradfield, 24, read and write imperfectly, committed on 27 September 1848 by I.O. Secker, Esq, charged on the oaths of Edward Lowther and others, with feloniously stealing, at Saint Saviour, Southwark, one pair of cotton stockings, the property of William Lowther. ¹

At the Surrey Sessions on 23 October 1848, Thomas Bradfield, twenty-four, for stealing a pair of stockings from the shop of William Lowther, a linen draper in the Borough, and who had been several times in custody for robberies and assaults, was sentenced to seven years' transportation.²

The Prison Registers show that Thomas Bradfield, 24, was received at Millbank Prison from Horsemonger Lane Gaol on 13 February 1849. He spent 5 months 17 days in separate confinement in Millbank, and was described as "morose and self-willed". On 2 August 1849, Thomas was transferred to Pentonville Prison. He was recorded as 26, weighting 10 stone 1 pound, single, could read and write imperfectly, a blacksmith, and was good while in prison. He said his father is Thos Bradfield, was a smith, but he didn't know his whereabouts. Thomas was transferred to the *Justitia* hulk at Woolwich on 27 December 1849. He boarded the *Minden* on 14 October 1851 for the voyage to Western Australia. His behaviour was good on the voyage, and the schoolmaster said he was attentive. Thomas brought with him £2.12.1 convict earnings from England and 6d in private cash. ³

On arrival in Fremantle, Western Australia, Thomas was assigned number 742, issued a Ticket of Leave, and his physical description was recorded.

742. Thomas Bradfield, 27, 5'3½", dark brown hair, hazel eyes, round face, fresh complexion, stout, no marks, a smith and single. ⁴

With his Ticket of Leave, Thomas worked in the Guildford area, where he appeared in court several times.

Guildford, 16 March 1852. Thomas Bradfield, ticket-of-leave holder, drunk on Sunday night, fined 5s and expenses.⁵

Guildford, 31 May 1852. Thomas Bradfield, t.l., out after the proper hour at a public house on Saturday night: fined 1s, and cautioned for the future.⁶

Guildford, 25 November 1852. Thomas Bradfield, t.l., drunk: fined 5s and expenses.⁷

By the end of 1852, Thomas had paid back £3 4.0 of his passage money. (£7)

The last trace of Thomas was at the Guildford Court on 3 January 1853.

T. Bradfield, t.l., out after 10 a.m; fined 8s. ⁸

His sentence expired on 22 October 1855.

¹ Surrey History Centre, Woking, Surrey. Surrey sessions and assizes 1848–1880, Calendar of prisoners, Series QS3/4/.

² Sun (London), 24 October 1848, p2

³ The National Archives (TNA) UK, PCOM2/63; HO24/4; PCOM2/29; HO24/16

⁴ State Records Office WA (SROWA), Acc 128/32

⁵ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 26 March 1852, p4

⁶ Inquirer, 9 June 1852, p3

⁷ Inquirer, 8 December 1852, p3

⁸ Inquirer, 12 January 1853, p2