

Thomas was born about 1815-1818. One prison record says he was born in London, another in Liverpool. His wife was Mary Ann and they had a daughter Rebecca on one prison register and he was married with 2 children on another register.

New Court, London, 6 April 1847.

Thomas Reeves, a clogmaker, was indicted for uttering a bad shilling to James Stevens, a linen draper, on the 24th of February last. The prisoner entered the shop of Mr. Stevens, and bought three yards and a half of calico, for which he offered in payment a bad shilling and three pence. Mr. Stevens objected to the shilling, and the prisoner gave a good one instead. Mr. Stevens, however, suspecting the man, followed him and saw him enter a public-house, and there offer another bad shilling. He then gave him into custody. The two shillings were produced; they were both bad, and both had been cast in the same mould. The Jury returned a verdict of Guilty, and the prisoner was sentenced to six months' imprisonment, with hard labour.<sup>1</sup>

The trial at the Old Bailey <https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/record/t18470405-894?text=reeves>

Newgate Prison Calendar, 6 April 1847.

Thomas Reeves, 29, clod maker, unlawfully uttering counterfeit coin, well knowing the same to be counterfeit, 6 months. He was arrested in Middlesex.<sup>2</sup>

The Newgate Prison Register shows:

Thomas Reeves, 5'9", 29, fresh complexion, brown hair, hazel eyes, slender, from Liverpool, clogmaker, uttering counterfeit coin, 6 April 1847, guilty, 6 months, disposed 13 April (no place recorded)<sup>3</sup>

At the Central Criminal Court, on 18 December 1848:

Thomas Reeves, 33, was indicted for a Coining offence.

William Terry (policeman, K 395): I was present at the prisoner's trial for uttering counterfeit coin, in April, 1847, at this Court—he is the person.

Isaac Holmewood: I sell bread at Peckham for the League Bread Company. On 25 November between eight and nine o'clock in the evening, the prisoner came for a quartern loaf, and gave me what I supposed to be a half-crown—I put it in the till, where there was no other half-crown, and gave him 1s. 11½d. change—I saw he had a hurt on his finger, and he said he had burnt it—I took the half-crown out of the till again, having some suspicion, and found it was bad—I was going out, and at the door met West, the policeman, and gave it to him.

Prisoner: Is there no other way in which you can identify me but by my hand?

Witness: Yes, I should know you again from five hundred, independent of that, by your features.

Thomas West (policeman, M 349): On Saturday, 25 November I saw the prisoner in the Old Kent-road, about eight in the evening; and followed him to Holmewood's shop—he went in, and I saw him come out again with a loaf under his arm—I went into the shop and Mr. Holmewood gave me this counterfeit half-crown (produced).

Prisoner: Q. Did you see me afterwards?

A. Not till I took you, at about twelve on Friday, you were then walking along—I told you you were charged with passing a counterfeit shilling on the previous Saturday night, to an Italian boy in Union-street; you said you were not there, and had not bought any image; I asked you where you lived, you told me over the water.

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<sup>1</sup> Morning Herald (London), 07 April 1847, p7

<sup>2</sup> The National Archives (TNA) UK, HO 77/54

<sup>3</sup> TNA, PCOM2/210

Anthony Prettiges: I am an image-maker, at 3, Church-street, Shoreditch. On Saturday night, 25th Nov., between nine and ten, I sold the prisoner three images in a street over the water—he gave me 1s. and went away—on looking at the shilling and putting it into my mouth, I found it was bad—I gave it to Whitlamb.

John Whitlamb (policeman, M 89): On Saturday, 25 November I was in company with West, and saw the prisoner in the Old Kent-road—saw him go to Mr Holmewood's—after he came out, I followed him to Southwark Bridge-road; lost sight of him for a few minutes, and met him again in Union-street—I there saw him go up to Prettiges and purchase three images—I saw him leave him, and Prettiges gave me the shilling—the prisoner then passed into a dark turning, where I lost sight of him—on 1st Dec. I was with West, and saw the prisoner cross the Blackfriars-road into Webber-street—I told him I wanted him for uttering a bad shilling to an Italian, on Saturday, 25th Nov., in Union-street—he said he saw no Italian, neither had he been in Union-street—his fore-finger had a green sore on it.

Prisoner: Q. Did you see me go into Holmewood's shop?

A: Yes—and saw you come out with a loaf—I did not then know that you had passed the half-crown—I had not met West then—when I met you again it was in the Kent-road—I found this little brush on you, which has apparently been used for some chemical stuff.

Mr Powell: The half-crown and shilling are counterfeit.

GUILTY.— Transported for Seven Years.<sup>4</sup>

The Newgate Prison Calendar, 18 December 1848.

Thomas Reeves, 33, box maker, unlawfully uttering counterfeit coin, well knowing the same to be counterfeit, 7 years. He was arrested in Surrey.<sup>5</sup>

### **Petition**

Received 24 January 1850.

To the Right Honourable Sir George Grey Her Majestys Principal Secretary of State, Bart &c.  
The Petition of Thomas Reeves prisoner on board the York Hulk most humbly sheweth that your Petitioner is and was at the time of Trial in very indigent circumstances, insomuch that your petitioner was not able to fee Counsel on his behalf. Your petitioner with the greatest possible diffidence complains of the unjust, and arbitrary mode of procedure, adopted in his case as the learned Judge (the Common Sergeant) with great warmth and irritability of temper rules (directing the Panel) to disregard the evidence sworn before the committing Magistrate and contained in the deposition, as being of no moment, or account. (there is one or mores pages missing)

Cover: The prisoner alleges that he is innocent, complains that the charge was trumped up against him by the Police and that the Judge would not permit the evidence given before the committing Magistrate in his favor to be received at his trial. He prays investigation and relief.<sup>6</sup>

The Prison Registers show that Thomas Reeves, 33, married with one child, can't read or write, box maker, convicted on 18 December 1848 at the Central Criminal Court of feloniously uttering counterfeit coin and sentenced to 7 years. On 13 February 1849 he was received at Millbank Prison from Newgate. He had been convicted before, and sentence to 6 months. Thomas was 5'8", fresh complexion, dark brown hair, hazel eyes, slender, scar on forehead and from St Saviours. His wife Mary Ann Reeves, 34 and child Rebecca 2, live at 5 Falconer Court, Whitecross Stn. He was then transferred to Pentonville Prison on 2 August 1849. In the March quarter 1850 he was received at the York hulk at Gosport, Hampshire.

Here he was described as 5'7", dark brown hair, hazel eyes, pale complexion, can read and write, a labourer, faint blue marks left arm, hairy chest, mermaid right arm and also S.B anchor, half scar

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<sup>4</sup> Old Bailey trial <https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/record/t18481218-332?text=reeves>

<sup>5</sup> TNA, HO 77/55

<sup>6</sup> TNA, HO18/268

over right eye & under chin and born Pooley St, London. Thomas was married with 2 children, and his wife Mary Ann Reeves, band box master, Bethnal Green. He boarded *Pyrenees* for Western Australia on 10 March 1851. <sup>7</sup>

On arrival at Fremantle, Western Australia, on 28 June 1851, Thomas was assigned number 456, issued with a Ticket of Leave and a physical description recorded.

456. Thomas Reeves, 34, 5'8½", dark hair, brown eyes, oval face, dark complexion, Mermaid, T.M., 2 pipe cross, bottle glass, each side; heart, anchor, S.R., T.J. 2C., female &c, &c, labourer, widower, no children. <sup>8</sup>

The Superintendent's Journal shows:

4 July 1851. The following prisoners will be received from the ship *Pyrenees* and located in Division No. 3, 45 men from the *York* hulk at Gosport and 12 men from the *Stirling Castle* hulk, including 456. Thomas Reeves.

7 July 1851. The following men holding passes will be detached from the Establishment and proceed to Mount Eliza Station on 10 July. The men will be arranged in Messes with a boatswain. Mess No 4 included 456 Thomas Reeves. <sup>9</sup>

Ticket-of-Leave men at Mount Eliza Station, who were available for hire, included 456 Thomas Reeves, General Labourer. <sup>10</sup>

Perth District, Ticket of leave Register:

Thomas Reeves, 456, age 34, *Pyrenees*.

Hired by William Prewitt, Wanneroo, on 3 August 1851.

21 August 1851, left Prewitt's service and entered that of Stephen Hyde on the 1 September.

S. Hyde <sup>11</sup> reports that T Reeves left his service on 31 October 1851.

Trade or Calling: general labourer.

Wages: £1.4 per month. <sup>12</sup>

Permission to marry was granted in the half year to December 1852. <sup>13, 14</sup>

Church of Middle Swan, 13 December 1852.

Thomas Reeves, full age, widower, labourer, resides Middle Swan, father is James Reeves, a hatter.

Catherine Lyons, full age, widow, servant, resides Guildford, father is Wm Buchan, a labourer.

Thomas signed the register and Catherine made her mark. Witnesses were Henry Buxton and Harriet Burton

Although married in 1852, the marriage was not registered until 1854.

By December 1852 he had repaid £2.7.10% of his passage money. <sup>15</sup>

Thomas was living in Guildford when Charles Whitehurst, was charged with stealing a fowl the property of Thomas Reeves, of Guildford. Verdict - Guilty of attempting to commit the theft charged. Sentence-Six calendar months' imprisonment with hard labour. <sup>16</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> TNA, PCOM2/136; PCOM2/211; PCOM2/29; HO8/103; HO8/107

<sup>8</sup> SROWA, Acc 128/32

<sup>9</sup> SROWA, Superintendent's Orders, So1-So3, p51, p53

<sup>10</sup> The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 18 July 1851, p2

<sup>11</sup> Stephen Hyde, Perth, Publican, he was given a publican's licence for the "Vine Tavern" in Murray Street in May 1851.

<sup>12</sup> SROWA, Perth TOL Register Cons 1386/1 1851 - Aug 1854, p70

<sup>13</sup> TNA, CO 18/73., Convict Establishment Half Year Return 31.12.1852

<sup>14</sup> Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians states he married Emma Cook, but she married Charles Reeves.

<sup>15</sup> TNA, CO18/69

<sup>16</sup> The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 6 October 1854, p2

Thomas employed Ticket of Leave men at Guildford< and possibly ex-pirees, on various occasions. Some of them are: <sup>17</sup>

Edward Abbott, 3061. Reported in half yearly report, 30 June 1859, in service of Thos Reeves @ 20/- per month. On 20 February 1860, Edward entered the service Edw Hammersley Esq, Williams River.

William Bates, 5381, entered the service of Thos Reeves, Guildford on 28 May 1860, felling trees. Sent to Depot on 5 June 1860 having no means of maintaining herself.

342\*. Charles Johnson, hired by Thomas Reeves, Guildford, 1 September 1862. He left Guildford Depot on 28 August 1862 and gave him a Ticket of Leave on 1 September. Wages £1.0.0. per month.

\* page number is 342. Probably Charles Johnson 6339

6018. Dominic Woods. Hired from Guildford Depot by Thos Reeve, Guildford, 30/- per month for one month from 21 December 1863. Left 20 January 1864, allowed 14 days to try Tobacco Manufacturing.

7456. John Jaggs. Hired by Thos Reeves, Guildford, as general servant at 20/- per month on 27 April 1866. Discharged 18 June 1866.

Catharine Reeves died in 1868 at Guildford, aged 50. There are no births registered for Thomas and Catharine Reeves, and with no family in Western Australia, it appears Thomas left on 20 November 1869.<sup>18</sup>

**DEPARTURES.**

**Nov. 19.—MAZEPPA, 25 tons, Hunt, master, for Bunbury and Vasse. Passengers—Messrs. Teede, Snook, Wenn, Rose, and 2 others. Cargo—6½-casks spirits, (under bond) ; 8 bags flour, 38 bags sugar, and sundries.**

**20.—THAMES, 579 tons, Capt. Patterson, for Bombay. Passengers—Mr. and Mrs. Stebbing and 2 children, Mrs. Laing. Mr. R. Wilson, T. Reeves, and 12 others (as grooms).**

The ship arrived at Bombay on 2 January 1870.

The British ship *Thames*, Captain Patterson, from Fremantle (Australia), 20 November, arrived in Bombay Harbour on Sunday last with a cargo of about 110 horses, wooden sleepers, sandalwood, and the following passengers: Mr and Mrs Stebbing and 2 children, Mrs Laing, Mr Smithers, Mr Reeve, Mr Chalker, Mr Wilson and 10 deck passengers. <sup>19</sup>

The voyage went well until just before Bombay, as the newspaper reported:

From India we have both good and bad news respecting the shipments of horses by the *Merchantman* and *Thames*. Those by the former to Calcutta were landed in first-rate condition and found a good market, notwithstanding the arrivals of other shipments from the neighbouring colonies. The *Thames* met with a great misfortune; when but a short distance from Bombay a fire broke out on board, originating in some forage obtained at a small port on the coast. The effect was most disastrous to the horses, no less than by twenty-six were so fearfully burned as to cause their deaths with dreadful suffering; the remainder of course were not benefitted by the accident, and when landed found a glutted market with many of those landed from the *Mogul* still on hand.<sup>20</sup>

No further trace of Thomas Reeves has been found.

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<sup>17</sup> SROWA, Tickets of Leave, Swan District, 1859-1866, p40, 94, 488, 647

<sup>18</sup> The Herald, 27 November 1869, p2

<sup>19</sup> Times of India, 04 January 1870, p3

<sup>20</sup> The Perth Gazette and West Australian Times, 18 February 1870, p2