

When Thomas Taylor was sentenced to transportation in 1848, the Prison Records show he had an *alias* of Hodgkinson (probably Hodgkinson or Hodkinson). He also had previous convictions; it is unknown whether they are for felony or summary offences.

Manchester 12 calendar months

Nottingham 3 calendar months

Manchester 3 months

R&V (rogue and vagabond) Glasgow as a travelling thief.

There are several individuals named Thomas Taylor and Thomas Hodgkinson, of the right age, residing in Manchester and Nottingham; however, it is unknown whether these are the convict Thomas Taylor. One possible conviction is:

Bolton Borough Sessions, 17 April 1845.

Thomas Hodgkinson, 19, and Thomas Goldal, 20, were charged with stealing, on 17 March 1845, a sovereign and two sixpences, the property of William Thomason. They were sentenced to 12 months in Lancaster Gaol.¹

The newspapers reported a case of shoplifting in 1848:

Thomas Taylor, 23, tramp, (imp); and Mary Thorn, 24, tramp (imp), were charged with stealing four knives and a razor strop, the property of Robert Townsend, cutler, Peter-gate.

Superintendent Raynor deposed to the discovery of the articles in question in the prisoner's possession.

Robert Townsend, the prosecutor, stated that on 25 August last, the prisoners visited his shop between 8 and 9 o'clock, seeking to examine some penknives. The male prisoner took several out of a glass case, and having looked at them, purchased a sixpenny fruit-knife. He then wanted to look at some razor strops, and several were fetched out of an adjoining room. He said he was a travelling hawker and wanted things at a very low price. However, they left without making a further purchase, and after their departure, various losses were discovered.

James Attenborough, assistant to Mr Townsend, identified the strop.

Mary Liston, wife of a lodging-house keeper in Millstone-lane, said that the prisoners were lodging at her house at the time of their apprehension and that two carpet bags, one of which belonged to each prisoner, in which the stolen property was found, had been brought there by the prisoners.

Mary Johnson, wife of the watch-house-keeper, proved the finding of a knife identified by the prosecutor in the pocket of the female prisoner.

The Court sentenced the male prisoner to be transported for seven years; the female prisoner will undergo only three months' imprisonment with hard labour.

A further charge was preferred against these prisoners of stealing on 25 August, a handkerchief, the property of Joseph Godber and another, but it was judged unnecessary to proceed with it.²

The Prison Registers show that Thomas Taylor, alias Hodgkinson, 23, single, who can read and write, is a tailor, was convicted on 17 October 1848 at the Nottingham Town Sessions of felony and sentenced to 7 years. He was received at Wakefield Prison on 19 June 1849 from Nottingham Prison. His previous convictions were listed as follows: Manchester, 12 calendar months; Nottingham, 3 calendar months; Manchester, 3 months; and R&V (rogue and vagabond) in Glasgow, for being a travelling thief. On 19 June 1850, he was transferred to the *Warrior* hulk at Woolwich. Thomas boarded the *Pyrenees* on 5 March 1851 for the voyage to Western Australia.³

On arrival at Fremantle, Western Australia, on 28 June 1851, Thomas was assigned number 425, issued with a Ticket of leave and a physical description was recorded.

¹ Bolton Chronicle, 19 April 1845, p3

² Nottingham Review, 20 October 1848, p2; Nottingham and Newark Mercury, 20 October 1848, p2

³ The National Archives (TNA) UK, HO23/14; HO8/107

425. Thomas Taylor, 25, 5'3½", black hair, light hazel eyes, round face, fresh complexion, four teeth on right side of jaw out, tailor and single. ⁴

The Superintendent's Journal shows:

1 July 1851. Thomas was one of the first 50 men removed from the *Pyrenees* and was located in Division No. 3 at the Prison. The men all came from the *Warrior* hulk.

5 July 1851. Nine prisoners proceeded to the Mill at Perth to prepare it for a Station to be called the Mount Eliza Station. On 7 July, men holding passes will be detached from the Establishment to proceed to Mount Eliza Station on 10 July. They left in boats with one prisoner acting as a boatswain. Thomas Taylor 425 was in boat No.1 with the boatswain, a cook and 4 or 5 other prisoners.⁵

The newspaper advertised that Ticket-of-Leave-Men at Mount Eliza Station were available for hire: 425 Thomas Taylor, Tailor.⁶

The Ticket of Leave register for the Perth District shows Thomas was hired by Richard Rowland, Peninsular, as a farm labourer. His Rate of Wages: £12 per annum. Quarrying stone as per On 6 October 1851, the Government received from Mr Rowland the sum of 8/4 for passage money for Thomas. It is unclear how long Thomas remained with Rowland.

Thomas was in the Perth area as he appeared several times in court.

Perth, 26 February 1852. Thomas Taylor, ticket-of-leave holder, drunk and creating a disturbance in a cottage off Murray Street about 10 p.m., 25th instant, and violently resisting the police, fined 5s and 3s expenses.⁷

Perth. 15 March 1852, Thomas Taylor, ticket-of-leave holder, interfering with and threatening the police; 3s costs. ⁸

He entered the service of Thomas Chipper, of Perth, on 8 August 1854. However, he was reconvicted on 19 September 1854 and sentenced to 6 months. The Superintendent's Journal on 20 September 1854 notes: The under-mentioned reconvicted prisoners received under Magisterial Sentence will be placed under regulated discipline, including 425 Thos Taylor, forfeited Ticket of Leave during H.E's pleasure or 6 months hard labour. ⁹

In prison, he appears several times on the casual sick list:

28 September 1854. Thomas Taylor, Gonorrhoea (native woman). Treated with an injection.

2 October 1854. 425. Thomas Taylor, Neuralgia. Sent to the hospital.

5 October 1854. 425. Thomas Taylor, Dysuria.

On 9 October 1854, he was admitted to the Infirmary, as his health was poor.

Complaint: Dysentery. He has suffered for the last few days with dysenteric symptoms, which seem to come chiefly from constipation due to the amount of feculent matter he has evacuated. Bowels well cleared out and as he to return to duty. He was treated with a purgative and placed on a spoon diet. He was still being treated for constipation while back in the general prison.

On 4 November 1854, Thos Taylor was discharged from prison. He was back before the courts a few weeks later:

⁴ SROWA, Acc 128/32

⁵ SROWA, Superintendent's Orders, So1-So3, p46, p52

⁶ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 18 Jul, 1851, p2

⁷ Inquirer, 3 Mar 1852, p2

⁸ Inquirer, 17 March 1852, p3

⁹ SROWA, Superintendent's Orders, So1-So3, p340

Perth, 9 December 1854, Thomas Taylor, t.l., drunk, fighting and resisting the police in the execution of their duty, fined 10s.¹⁰

6 November 1854. The index of Conditional Pardons notes that 425. Thos Taylor's pardon was signed before orders were given relative to prior payments of Passage. ¹¹ However, a Conditional Pardon was granted in December 1854.

Then, on 23 December 1854, Thomas Taylor, C.P., was committed to trial for larceny at the Quarter Sessions on 4 January 1855. He was charged with stealing an axe, the property of Owen Coggles, at Perth. Found not guilty. The trial cost £2.16.6, for four witnesses, jury and rations.¹²

The fate of Thomas Taylor remains unknown.

¹⁰ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 22 December 1854, p2

¹¹ SROWA, FCN41, Acc 128/38-39

¹² The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 5 Jan 1855, p3; The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 29 Dec 1854, p2