

## Edward Thompson, 412, *Pyrenees*

Researched by Marcia Watson

Edward was born about 1828 in Lancashire, possibly in the town called Little Lever or nearby.

According to the Prison Registers, Edward had been in prison 5 times. On one Register, it noted it was five times for vagrancy and once acquitted.

This entry in the Criminal Registers may be Edward:

Joseph Dale, 19, can read, and Edward Thompson, 18, imp, having at Manchester, burglariously broken and entered the dwelling house of John Hannell, and having stolen therein 6lbs of cigars, his property. Both acquitted. Charged on 4 September 1847. <sup>1</sup>

At the Lancaster Winter Assizes, Liverpool, 14 December 1847: Edward Thompson, 18, imp, burglary, found not guilty.

Then in 1848, at Bolton, the newspaper reported.

An Impudent Gang. At the County Court Room, on Monday, William Smith, Thomas Johnson and Edward Thompson, three candidates for life residence in Her Majesty's colonies, were charged with housebreaking at Little Lever. It appeared that on Friday forenoon, the prisoners were seen about the township, and one of them went to the house of Ralph Liversey, farmer, to ask for some milk, and was told that it was all sold. The elder branches of the family were all in the hay fields, and the younger were employed at Lever Bank Bleach Works. About half past eleven o'clock in the morning, the mother locked the door and went to Lever Banks to take her children their meals, and returned about one o'clock. She found that all the clothes had been emptied from the chests and boxes, and laid ready for taking away, and that eight shillings in silver had been taken from a drawer. During her absence it appeared the prisoners, who must have watched her off, attempted a wholesale robbery, but were foiled by Sarah, the wife of John Liversey, who, having occasion to go to the house, was detained in the lane by Thompson; and perceiving Smith knocking at the window for his companion, she called out "thieves" so lustily that the hay makers and others were quickly in pursuit, and succeeded in capturing all. The 8s was found upon Johnson, who had been in the house, and a skeleton key was picked up in a field, where it was thrown by him. He had, doubtless, effected his entrance with it. The party evidenced their acquaintance with criminal proceedings by their cross-examinations. Committed for trial. <sup>2</sup>

Edward Thompson, late of the township of Little Lever, labourer, has been convicted of Felony and is to be transported for seven years. <sup>3</sup>

Prosecutors' bill for the 1848 trial of William Smith, Thomas Johnson and Edward Thompson was £18.3.2. Total cost of the trial was £58.15.4

The Prison Registers show that Edward Thompson, 19, single, can read, factory man, convicted on 28 August 1848 at Salford of felony and sentenced to 7 years. Removed from Salford on 29 December 1848 and sent to Millbank Prison. He had been previously charged five times for vagrancy and once acquitted. On 22 June 1849, he was transferred to the *Wye* hulk at Woolwich.

Edward was removed to *Justitia* hulk in the April-June quarter of 1849.

He then moved to the *Warrior* hulk in the October-December quarter of 1849. From here, he boarded the *Pyrenees* on 5 March 1851 for the voyage to Western Australia. <sup>4</sup>

On arrival at Fremantle, Western Australia, on 28 June 1851, Edward was assigned number 412, issued with a Ticket of leave and a physical description was recorded.

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<sup>1</sup> The National Archives (TNA) UK, PCOM2/322

<sup>2</sup> Manchester Courier, 19 July 1848, p7

<sup>3</sup> Thomas Johnson received 10 years and William Smith received 1 year.

<sup>4</sup> TNA, HO24/4; PCOM2/29; HO8/100; HO8/102; HO8/107

412. Edward Thompson, 23, 5'2½", dark brown hair, dark blue eyes, oval face, dark complexion, eight dots and strokes on left arm, factory man, single.<sup>5</sup>

The Superintendent's Journal shows:

1 July 1851. The first 50 men from the ship *Pyrenees* were received at the prison and located in Division No. 3, including 412. Edward Thompson.

14 July 1851. Five men were sent to North Fremantle Station, including E. Thompson.<sup>6</sup>

Ticket-of-Leave Men at North Fremantle Station. These men were available for hire and included 412, Edward Thompson, Brickmaker's labourer.<sup>7</sup>

Perth District Ticket of Leave Register.<sup>8</sup>

Edward Thompson, 412, 23, *Pyrenees*.

He was hired by Henry Gray on 17 September 1851. Thomas Gray was a brickmaker at Peninsula and also had a boat.

21 October 1851. H Gray reports that he has sent E. Thompson back to the hiring depot at Mt Eliza for disaffection and not doing his duty.

Trade or calling: Cotton factory man

Wages: £1 per month.

According to this record, Edward received a Conditional Pardon on 3 May 1853. However, the General Register 21B records the date of receipt of his Conditional Pardon as 10 June 1854.

Fremantle Prison shows:

25 October 1851. Edw Thompson returned to prison from Perth.

29 October 1851. Edw Thompson was discharged to North Fremantle Station.

20 December 1851. E. Thompson received from North Fremantle Station.

Perth District Ticket of Leave Register shows that Edward Thompson, 412, 23, *Pyrenees*, was hired by Thomas Hartley, boatman of Perth, on 1 May 1852

Wages £2.10 per month and board.<sup>9</sup>

Edward was still in the Perth area when he appeared in court.

Perth. 22 November 1852. Edward Thompson, t.l., out after hours on the night of the 20th instant: cautioned and dismissed.<sup>10</sup>

Perth. 20 January 1853. Edward Thompson, t.l., out after hours; fined 5s and 3s costs.<sup>11</sup>

Perth. 21 April 1853. Edward Thompson, t.l., drunk and incapable of taking care of a passage boat, then in his charge; fined 10s and 3s costs.<sup>12</sup>

These two following records might be Edward Thompson, 412.

On the 15th instant, Captain Jackson, acting Superintendent of Rottnest Penal Island, charged Edward Thompson, c. p. and Margaret Vance, the former with anchoring his boat on Philips Island, and the latter with landing off the said Island. Persons are prohibited from fishing within one mile of

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<sup>5</sup> SROWA, Acc 128/32

<sup>6</sup> SROWA, Superintendent's Orders, So1-So3, p46, 58

<sup>7</sup> The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 25 July 1851, p2

<sup>8</sup> SROWA, Perth TOL Register Cons 1386/1 1851 - Aug 1854, p113

<sup>9</sup> SROWA, Perth TOL Register Cons 1386/1 1851 - Aug 1854, p263

<sup>10</sup> Inquirer, 2 December 1852, p3

<sup>11</sup> The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 21 January 1853, p3

<sup>12</sup> The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 1 April 1853, p3

the Island of Rottnest or from landing on any of the rocks adjacent. Thompson was fined £2 or 7 days' imprisonment. Fine paid. Margaret Vance was discharged.<sup>13</sup>

#### FREMANTLE POLICE COURT.

IMPORTANT CASE - RIGHT OF FISHERY.-John Vance, pensioner, and Edward Thompson, appeared to summonses at the instance of Capt. Jackson, Superintendent of Rottnest Island, who charged them with landing on a certain reef of rocks adjacent to Rottnest, contrary to the proclamation in the Government Gazette of 23 October 1855. The trial was reported in detail, and the verdict was: As one of the defendants had been before accused of fishing near Rottnest he would inflict on both the highest penalty (a fine of £10 each), in default three months imprisonment.

Mr. Loftie gave notice that he would appeal to a higher tribunal.

(As the defendants were ordered to be kept in custody, and had not the money in Court, and from their confinement had no means to procure it, they were, on the following day, committed to prison for three months, with hard labor.)<sup>14</sup>

The prisoners were in prison from 15 January 1868 until 24 January.

Mr Loftie appealed the verdict, and the newspaper reported:

As Edward Thompson was convicted of landing on an Island adjacent to Rottnest, his conviction was clearly illegal, as the Law only applied to Rottnest itself, and by the warrant, the Magistrate admits it was not Rottnest but an adjacent Island. As to the objection of the prisoners' Counsel that the convictions were illegal, the prisoners being sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour; on this ground alone, it would have been his duty to discharge the prisoners had there been no other grounds.

His Honor concluded by ordering the prisoners to be discharged forthwith.<sup>15</sup>

The trial was extensively reported in several newspapers.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/3754558?searchTerm=edward%20Thompson>

If Edward stayed in Western Australia, there are two deaths that could be him.

Edward Thompson, unknown age, died in 1898 in Perth and is buried in East Perth Cemetery. The dead body of Edward Thompson, an old man employed as a street sweeper by the Perth Municipal Council, was found last night in the house he occupied in Brown Street.

Edward Thompson, 81, died at the Old Men's Home on 1 July 1905

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<sup>13</sup> The Herald, 2 March 1867, p2

<sup>14</sup> The Perth Gazette and West Australian Times, 24 January 1868, p3

<sup>15</sup> The Herald (Fremantle), 25 January 1868, p3