

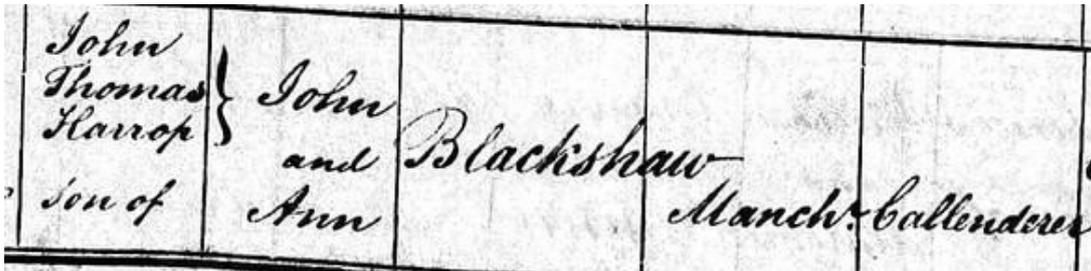
Thomas Blackshaw, 793, Minden

Researched by Marcia Watson

Correct name: John Thomas Harrop Blackshaw

Baptised	12 March 1830, Manchester, Lancashire
Parents	John Blackshaw and Ann Ashurst
Parent's marriage	8 June 1827, Manchester, Lancashire
Siblings	Elizabeth (1828-1830), Samuel (1833-1833) Half-siblings William (1839), Nehemiah (1843), Frances (1845)
Wife	Joanna Crow
Married	28 March 1854, Bunbury, Western Australia
Children	John (1855-1923), Leschenault Water Mill, Picton, Western Australia

Thomas was baptised on 12 March 1830.



His sister, Elizabeth, died on 10 May 1830 of Measles, aged 2 years, at Ollivier's Buildings, Manchester.

His brother Samuel, died on 15 January 1834, of convulsions, aged 8 months.

Thomas' mother died before 1837, and his father remarried on 27 December 1837, at the Collegiate and Parish Church, Manchester, by Banns.

John Blackshaw, full age, widower, Callenderer, resides in Ollivier's Buildings, Queen Street; his father is William Blackshaw, a Callenderer.

Mary Parry, full age, spinster, Callenderer, resides in Brazenose Street, her father is Richard Parry, a Tanner. John signed and Mary made her mark

By the 1841 census, the family had moved to Artillery Lane, Manchester.

John Blackshaw, 35; Mary 40, Thomas 11; Mary 3. William 8 months, all born in county apart from wife Mary.¹

No occupation was given for John Blackshaw but on other records he was always a Callenderer or Marker up.

Thomas Blackshaw had a previous conviction, probably a summary conviction, before he appeared in court in 1848.

On Thursday evening last (23 November) a cab-driver had been conveying from place to place several men, who had with them various small parcels of goods, apparently the produce of a robbery, and he gave information to the police which led to the apprehension of a man and his wife named Skillan, and two men named Blackshaw and Goodwin. The prisoners were brought up at the Borough Court on Saturday morning. John Skillan, who resides in a cellar in Tonman Street, Deansgate, and his wife Mary Ann Skillan, and the two men Thomas Blackshaw and Jas Goodwin. In the cellar of Skillan, there had been found nine bundles, similar to those spoken of by the cab-driver, and they all contained a peculiar kind of diaper, called a "bird's eye diaper". A number of tab-ends and entire pieces of prist, woollen cloth, and other property. The evidence showed that on the evening of Wednesday last, a warehouse in the occupation of Mr William Nimmo, manufacturer of

¹ The National Archives (TNA) UK, HO107/569/5

13 Cromford Court, had been broken into, and that twelve pieces of bird's eye diaper, made solely for exportation, had been stolen. The diaper found in the cellar of Skillan not only corresponded in make and quality with that stolen, but it contained the private mark of the manufacturer. Other property stolen from Messrs Pickford, Swanwick and Co was also recovered. The police would continue to collect more evidence on the accused. The prisoners were committed for trial.²

At the Borough sessions, on 27 November 1848, Thomas Blackshaw, Joseph Goodwin, and Mary Ann Skillon, three of the prisoners apprehended on charge of breaking into the warehouse of Mr William Nimmo, of Cromford Court, on 23 November, were tried and found guilty. Thomas Blackshaw, against whom a previous conviction was proved, was sentenced to be transported for seven years; Joseph Goodwin to be imprisoned eighteen months; and Mary Ann Skillon to be imprisoned six months. William Exley, the owner of the shop in George Street, Hulme, supposed to be implicated in the robbery of Mr Nimmo, some of whose property was found in his shop, was on Monday brought up at the Borough Court and discharged, the police stating that they had been unable to obtain any further evidence against him.³

The Prison Registers show that Thomas Blackshaw, 18, single, can read, and was a Marker in Billiards Rooms. He was convicted on 27 November 1848 at Manchester Sessions of Felony with a previous conviction. Sentenced to 7 years, Thomas was received at Millbank Prison on 29 December 1848 from Salford. On 7 August 1849, he was transferred to the *Warrior* hulk at Woolwich. The 1851 census gives his occupation as a labourer. While on the hulk, his behaviour was very good. Thomas boarded the *Minden* on 4 July 1851 for the voyage to Western Australia. His conduct during the voyage was very good in Water Gang.⁴

On arrival in Fremantle, Western Australia, Thomas was assigned number 793, issued a Ticket of Leave, and a physical description was recorded.

793. Thomas Blackshaw, 21, 5'9 ½", light hair, grey eyes, round face, fresh complexion, healthy build, has a scar on his left wrist, warehouseman, and single.⁵

Thomas worked at Bunbury as a labourer. A Conditional Pardon was granted in November 1853, and he was married a few months later, on 28 March 1854 at the Catholic Church, by Canon Raffaele Martelli. Witnesses were John and Anne Costello.

mixt Anno Domini millesimo octingentesimo quinquagesimo quarto.
31. die vicesima octava mensis Martii Ego Raphael Martelli
Sacerdos delegatus in oppido Bunbury nullo legitimo impedimen-
to detecto Thomam Blackshaw filium Joannis Blackshaw, et Joan-
Blackshawnam Crow filiam Edwardi Crow in quodam domo oppidi Bun-
bury interrogavi, eorumque mutuo consensu habito per verba
de presenti matrimonio conjungi presentibus testibus notis
63 Joanne et Anna Costello.
N. D. Denuntiationes omittae fuerunt quia ille est protestans
et illa catholica—

² Manchester Courier, 29 November 1848, p5

³ Manchester Courier, 06 December 1848, p5

⁴ TNA, HO24/4, PCOM2/29, HO107/1588, HO8/109

⁵ State Records of Western Australia (SROWA), Acc128/1-32

Back in England, his father, John Blackshaw, 51, of 15 Thornton Ct, Manchester, died on 9 October 1854 of asthma. He was buried on 18 October 1854 in the R.C. section of St George's, Hulme. The baptisms of the children from his first marriage were in Dissenting Churches.

Thomas and his family travelled to Fremantle at some stage and returned to Bunbury in 1859. Fremantle, 13 June 1859: Cutter *Zillah*, 21 tons, King, master, for Bunbury. Passengers - T. Blackshaw, wife, and child, W. Somerfield. ⁶

Then on 28 November 1859, the schooner *Bandicoot* sailed for Adelaide, arriving on 17 December.⁷ The passengers were M. O'Brian, Mary O'Brian, Richard O'Brian, J. Head, H. Kearney, P. Brallay, M. Shea, T. Blackshaw.⁸

South Australian newspapers called him Thomas Blackhead or Blackham.

No mention was made of his wife and son; however, they did travel with Thomas, as the *Omeo* departed from Port Adelaide the same day and arrived in Melbourne on 20 December 1859. Passengers included: Thos Blackshaw, 29, Johanna Blackshaw, 22, John Blackshaw, 5.⁹

Nothing has been found about Thomas in Melbourne. He travelled on the *You Yangs* from Melbourne, arriving in Sydney on 5 July 1875. ¹⁰

Two entries in the Directories may be him:

East Sydney, 1886-1887: Thomas Blackshaw, residence, Castlereagh Street.

East Sydney, 1889-1890: Thomas Blackshaw, residence, 108 King Street.

Thomas Blackshaw, 60, born in England, C.E, was admitted to the Liverpool Asylum for the Infirm and Destitute on 17 September 1890, and discharged on 9 August 1892 to P.A. Hospital (Public Asylum Hospital?). Under remarks, "Minden" 1855, Billiard Marker.

He was admitted again on 4 January 1894 and discharged on 16 January 1894 to P.A Hospital. Aged 63.

Then, on 1 June 1894, he was admitted, aged 64, and discharged on 6 November 1895, dead. His conduct was good while in the institution.

A report said: Thomas Blackshaw, 60, C.E, born in England. Came out in *Minden* in 1855, single, no relations, no property, Billiards Marker. Was last working at Star and Garter, Sydney. Has been there off and on for years. Was in Parramatta last. Died. ¹¹

St Luke Church, Liverpool: Thomas Blackshaw, from Asylum, died 5 November 1895 and was buried on 7 November, 65 years old.

Wife Joanna

Several records might be Joanna, but there is insufficient information to identify her as the wife of Thomas.

Echuca, Petty Sessions, 20 December 1864. Joanna Blackshaw, drunk and disorderly in a public place on the 19th instant. Fined 5/- or 24 hours in the lockup.

2nd charge: Tearing a blanket, the property of the Government, value 12/- on the 19th instant.

Remanded till the 21st.

⁶ The Inquirer and Commercial News. 22 June 1859, p2

⁷ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 2 December 1859, p2

⁸ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 2 December 1859, p2

⁹ Victoria, Melbourne; Coastal Passenger Lists, 1852-1924

¹⁰ NSW, Australia; Inward passenger lists; Series: 13278; Roll: 432

¹¹ Liverpool Asylum for the Infirm and Destitute

21 December 1864. Joanna Blackshaw, tearing a blanket, the property of the Government, value of 12/- . To pay 12/- or 48 hours in the lockup.

Police Court, September 1867. - On Saturday last, Johanna Blackshaw was brought before Dr Blake on a charge of drunkenness, and having been admonished, was discharged. Where the Court was held is not stated, but presumably it was Yass, near Canberra.¹²

Woodend, Victoria, Petty Sessions, 12 February 1875. Johanna Blackshaw, drunk and disorderly, fined 5/-, in default 24 hours imprisonment in Kyneton Gaol. 2nd charge: vagrancy. 7 days imprisonment with hard labour in Kyneton Gaol. ¹³

Discharged from Penal Establishments during the week ending 1 March 1876.

Kyneton. Johanna Blackshaw was tried at Woodend on 12 February 1875 for vagrancy and sentenced to 7 days. She was from Limerick, a general servant, born 1830, 5'3 " , fresh complexion, dark brown hair, blue eyes, arrived *Clara* in 1845, free. Scar under the right eye. ¹⁴

No death or marriage has been found for Joanna.

Son John.

Birth Registration Index: John Blackshaw, father T.T.H. Blackshaw, mother Joanna Crow, registered Leschenault Water Mill, 1855.

John may have been made a Ward of the State in Victoria.

One John Blackshaw, b. 1854, England, made Ward of the State in Victoria on 6 December 1864 for 6 years. Discharged 18 August 1870, both parents are living. He was R.C.

John was back in Western Australia by 1897, when there were several convictions for drunkenness in Bunbury and Fremantle between 1897 and 1899.

From 1910-1916, he is on the Electoral Rolls as living in Kirrup as a pumper or labourer.

John Blackshaw died on 11 January 1923, at the Old Men's Home, aged 68. He was buried on 12 January in the R.C. section of Karrakatta Cemetery.¹⁵

Death Registration Index: His parents were John Thomas Herbert Blackshaw and Johanna Crow.

¹² The Yass Courier, 25 Sept 1867, p2

¹³ Victoria Petty Sessions, Woodend

¹⁴ Victorian Police Gazette, 1875

¹⁵ LDS film 1669622, image 207