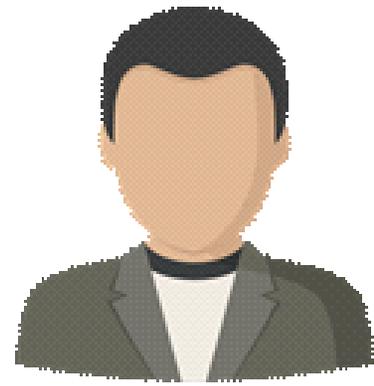


# Life Story of John McKinlay (1833-1865)



14 CITATIONS

Printed 04-Dec-25

**9 Mar 1833 Birth Leith, Scotland**

Born to Agnes Walker and Thomas McKinlay

John was born at Leith near Edinburgh in the historic county of Midlothian according to his trial Precognition documents in 1851. He had a younger brother, James Walker McKinlay baptised in Gorbals on 31 May 1835.

References (see end of Story for details): 4368 4370

**17 Mar 1833 Baptism Gorbals, Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland  
0 Yrs**

John's baptism record includes his birth date but not the place. This indicates two possibilities - either his parents were living in Leith and relocated to Glasgow after his birth, or they were living in Glasgow and visiting Leith at the time of his birth. Leith to Glasgow is a distance of 78km.

References (see end of Story for details): 4368

**9 Jan 1851 Convict record Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland  
17 Yrs**

## Precognition

The Precognition\* documents, page 12 record that John McKinlay, on 9 January, 1851 declared that *he was born in Leith, is 17 years of age a Baker, and resides at Main Street, Gorbals* [Glasgow, Lanarkshire].

\* Precognition in Scots law is the practice of precognosing a witness, that is the taking of a factual statement from witnesses by both prosecution and defence after indictment or claim but before trial. This procedure is followed in both civil and criminal causes. The subsequent statement is generally inadmissible as evidence in the trial, but it allows the procurator fiscal, advocate or solicitor in Scotland to appear before the Courts of Scotland knowing what evidence each witness is likely to present. (Ref: Wikipedia)

References (see end of Story for details): 4370

**30 Mar 1851 Residence Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland  
18 Yrs**

## Awaiting trial

The Scottish census of 1851 was held on Sunday 30 March and records John's age as 17 and occupation Baker. He was in North Prison (Bridewell Prison in Duke Street which is no longer) in the parish of St Mungo in Glasgow awaiting trial for theft.

References (see end of Story for details): 1956

**23 Apr 1851 Convict record Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland  
18 Yrs**

## Tried and convicted

John was tried and convicted of theft and sentenced to 10 years.

References (see end of Story for details): 1958

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**8 Aug 1855**    **Convict record**    **Woolwich, Middlesex, England**

**22 Yrs**

### On a hulk

John was recorded in *UK Quarterly list in prisons and on hulks* living as a convict on a hulk\* at Woolwich awaiting departure for Australia. The record was for the three months ending 13 September 1855. He was discharged with license on 8 August 1855 but to where is unknown.

\* Incarceration in the hulks - prison ships moored in rivers and estuaries - was a major feature of the punishment of felons between 1776 and 1857. The hulks were run by private contractors, who were paid by the Treasury, on condition that the contractors provided regular returns listing the convicts on board. The primary purpose of these records was to ensure that the prisoners were properly kept track of, and that contractors were correctly paid.

References (see end of Story for details):    4128

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**11 Jun 1856**    **Departure**    **Plymouth, East Sussex, England**

**23 Yrs**

### Bound for Australia

John was sent to Plymouth where he was recorded before setting sail for Western Australia. Built in Sunderland in 1854, the 720 ton ship *Runnymede II* embarked 248 male convicts and soldier families at Plymouth on 15 June 1856.

References (see end of Story for details):    1960    1959

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**7 Sep 1856**    **Arrival**    **Swan River Colony ( Perth), Western Australia, Australia**

**23 Yrs**

After a passage of 84 days, all embarking passengers on *Runnymede II* landed at Fremantle on 7 September.

There were two records with John's details around this time. One was the record from *Runnymede II* and the other was probably copied from that. On the copy, he was recorded as McKinley, convict 4216 from Plymouth, age 21. McKinley was also recorded as his daughter Jenny's name on her 1888 marriage certificate and is most likely a spelling error which was common at the time.

His record also shows: height 5' 7¼", hair colour sandy, eyes grey, oval shaped face with fair hair and slight build with no markings, occupation pastry-cook.

References (see end of Story for details):    1961    1962

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**15 Sep 1856**    **Convict record**    **Fremantle Gaol, Western Australia, Australia**

**23 Yrs**

### Reported sick

John was allocated to the bake house, but soon after reported sick. He was recorded as John McGinley, but his convict number proves he was indeed John McKinlay. He wished to have a body belt restored, but that was not recommended by the surgeon.

References (see end of Story for details):    4130

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**30 Dec 1856**    **Convict record**    **Guildford, Western Australia, Australia**

**23 Yrs**

The *Character Book* record from September 1856 to November 1857 of John's life as a convict in Western Australia showed John Mckinley was received on 11 September 1856 from *Defence Prison*, age 18 [sic], protestant, trade baker, single, reads and writes. He had previously been convicted of theft three times.

He was entitled to a Ticket of Leave on 11 January 1858.

References (see end of Story for details):    1963

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**4 Dec 1857**    **Convict record**    **Fremantle, Western Australia, Australia**

**24 Yrs**

### Ticket of Leave

John received his Ticket of Leave on 4 December 1857.

References (see end of Story for details): 1963

**18 Jun 1859 Convict record Perth, Western Australia, Australia**  
**26 Yrs**

#### Conditional Pardon

John was granted a Conditional Pardon. His record shows that he had been employed since 15 January 1858 in Perth earning £2 per month. The name of his Master is hard to read from the record but could be Th Tapping.

References (see end of Story for details): 4369

**9 Jan 1861 Marriage Fremantle, Western Australia, Australia**  
**27 Yrs**

#### Marriage to Spouse Jane Tapping

John McKinlay, age 25, a bachelor living in Fremantle, occupation baker, father Thomas McKinlay, occupation surgeon\*, married Jane Tapping, age 19, a spinster living in Fremantle, occupation domestic servant, father Thomas Tapping, occupation baker, at the Congregational Chapel in Fremantle. The witnesses were Jane's uncle Samuel Caporn and her cousin James Caporn.

They were probably connected through John's occupation, and that he was probably employed by Thomas Tapping.

\* The likelihood of a convict with John's record having a father who was a surgeon takes a stretch of imagination. Either he was lying or the transcription from the original document is incorrect.

References (see end of Story for details): 1952 1953

**Oct 1861 Birth Fremantle, Western Australia, Australia**  
**28 Yrs**

#### Birth of Daughter Jenny McKinlay

**1865 Death Perth, Western Australia, Australia**  
**32 Yrs**

#### Possibilities

When Jane McKinlay remarried, her status was widow, so it is assumed John either died or deserted his family and disappeared before September 1865. He may have returned to Scotland. No record has been found to shed light on this mystery.

**13 Oct 1905 Footnote Western Australia, Australia**

#### Thomas McIntyre

John's accomplice in crime in Glasgow, Thomas McIntyre, arrived as a convict on ship *York* on 24 April 1861, prisoner 6679. He was in trouble with the law and was gaoled on at least five occasions. On 11 November 1903, he was sentenced to 3 years for stealing and died in hospital in Fremantle on 13 October 1905 aged 72.

## References

- 1952 [D:\OneDrive\Genealogy\McKinlay - John\1861 P91 Tapping Marriage - AMI.png](#)
- 1953 [D:\OneDrive\Genealogy\McKinlay - John\1861-0109 P91 Tapping Marriage - MAR.jpg](#)
- 1956 [D:\OneDrive\Genealogy\McKinlay - John\1851 P91 Census - SCC.jpg](#)
- 1958 [D:\OneDrive\Genealogy\McKinlay - John\1851-0423 P91 Trial Record - NCQ.png](#)
- 1959 [D:\OneDrive\Genealogy\McKinlay - John\1856-0611 P91 Record of Convicts on Runnymede - ACT.pdf](#)
- 1960 [D:\OneDrive\Genealogy\McKinlay - John\1856-0611 P91 Transported - ACR.png](#)
- 1961 [D:\OneDrive\Genealogy\McKinlay - John\1856-0907 P91 Arrival - WAC.jpg](#)
- 1962 [D:\OneDrive\Genealogy\McKinlay - John\1856-0907 P91 Runnymede Convict List - WAC.pdf](#)
- 1963 [D:\OneDrive\Genealogy\McKinlay - John\1856-0911 P91 Convict Character Book - WAC.jpg](#)
- 1963 [D:\OneDrive\Genealogy\McKinlay - John\1856-0911 P91 Convict Character Book - WAC.jpg](#)
- 4128 [D:\OneDrive\Genealogy\McKinlay - John\1855-0808 P91 On Hulk at Woolwich - QLP.jpg](#)
- 4130 [D:\OneDrive\Genealogy\McKinlay - John\1856-0915 P91 Recorded as Sick - WAC.jpg](#)
- 4368 [D:\OneDrive\Genealogy\McKinlay - John\1833-0309 P91 Birth - SBB.jpg](#)
- 4368 [D:\OneDrive\Genealogy\McKinlay - John\1833-0309 P91 Birth - SBB.jpg](#)
- 4369 [D:\OneDrive\Genealogy\McKinlay - John\1859-0618 P91 Conditional Pardon - WTL.jpg](#)
- 4370 [D:\OneDrive\Genealogy\McKinlay - John\1851-0109 P91 Precognition Documents - NCQ.pdf](#)
- 4370 [D:\OneDrive\Genealogy\McKinlay - John\1851-0109 P91 Precognition Documents - NCQ.pdf](#)

**Relatives of  
John McKinlay  
1833-1865**

**PARENTS**

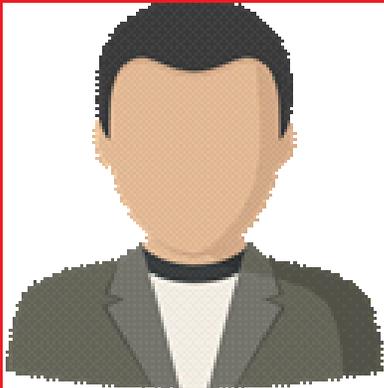
Thomas McKinlay

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Agnes Walker

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**OTHER RELATIVES**



John McKinlay  
1833-1865

**Married 1861**



Jane Tapping  
1841-1916



Jenny McKinlay  
1861-1890