

THOMAS BISHOP

Thomas was the third child of Thomas and Jane Bishop (nee Darby) and was born in 1797 in Birchington, Kent. He was baptised on 17th Jan. 1798 in All Saints Church in Birchington.

It was reported in 1830 he was caught smuggling and sentenced to a spell in Dover Gaol. On his way to gaol, he escaped and a £50 reward was offered for his re-capture.

We must now go back a couple of years – when on the 26th April 1828 he married Mary Mills in St Peter the Apostle in Broadstairs and his occupation at this time was sailor. This description, or the alternative of 'Mariner', remain beside his name until 1847. He and Mary's first child, Jane, was born on the 26th October 1828 – either very premature - or ????

We then have the fracas with the Coast Guards in 1830 and his escape. However, his next child, Mary, is not born until 1835, with a regular new arrival every 18 months or two years from then until 1847. So it looks very much as though he either surrendered to the authorities and faced his sentence or was re-captured. The first scenario looks the more probable, because this would buy him a more lenient response from the Law, whereas, if they had had to catch him a second time, he is more likely to have faced transportation. As it was, from 1835, he was living openly in St Peters for the next forty years.

In the 1841 census he is residing his mother-in-law Mary Mills, his wife Mary in Harbour Street St Peters, along with his children Jane, Mary, Eliza, Sarah and Thomas II.

In 1851 he is listed under 9 Harbour Street, St Peters, with his wife Mary and children Sarah, Thomas II, Archibald, Charlotte and Eleanor (Helena).

By 1861 Thomas and Mary are still living in Harbour Street, and have only got Eleanor (Helena) with them, but also their grandchild Eliza.

In 1871 they have moved to York House, St Peters and the couple are living alone at last. On the 8th March 1875 Thomas died and was buried in St Peters churchyard on 13th March. His wife Mary died 3 years later and was buried on 16th April 1878.

CHILDREN OF THOMAS & MARY BISHOP 1828 - 1847

Date	Name	Remarks
26 Oct 1828	Jane	Broadstairs (Sailor)
3 May 1835	Mary	Broadstairs (Sailor)
18 Dec 1836	Eliza	Broadstairs (Mariner)
1 Apr 1838	Sarah	Broadstairs (Mariner) Bn Mar 4 1838
11 Aug 1839	Thomas I	Broadstairs (Mariner) Bn Jul 16 1839
14 Feb 1841	Thomas II	Broadstairs (Sailor) Bn Jan 6 1841
4 Dec 1842	Archibald	Broadstairs (Mariner) Bn Oct 10 1842
24 Mar 1844	Charlotte	Broadstairs (Mariner) Bn Feb 14 1844
28 Nov 1847	Eleanor	Broadstairs (Mariner)