

Elkanah Bannister, 789, Minden

Researched by Marcia Watson

Name variations: Elkanagh, Banaster

Born	~1825, Wheatley, Yorkshire
Parents	John Bannister and
Parent's marriage	
Siblings	
Wife	Sarah Sutcliffe (1821-1901)
Married	17 September 1843, St John the Baptist, Halifax, Yorkshire
Children	John (1843-1844), Mary Ann Elizabeth (1845-1903), Joseph (1846-1846), Squire Southwell (1847-1891)
Wife 2	Mary Shehan (~1824-1889)
Married	16 June 1858, Toodyay, Western Australia

The birth date of Elkanah, or his family, has not been found. His mother died before 1841.

On 17 September 1843, St John the Baptist, Halifax, Yorkshire, by Banns:

Elkanah Bannister, 19, bachelor, warehouseman, resides in Ovenden, father John Bannister, a dyer.

Sarah Sutcliffe, 20, spinster, millwoman; father, James Sutcliffe, a warehouseman.

Elkanah and Sarah both made their marks.

Their first child, John, was born on 13 November 1843 at Wheatley, Overden.¹ Elkanah registered the birth, and he said he was a maker up of cotton. Their children were all registered at Banaster.

In September 1848, at the Magistrates' Office, Halifax:

Elkanah Bannister, a man well known to the Halifax bench and also to the Todmorden justices, was brought up by Rawson on a charge of stealing a warming pan from a cottage in Wheatley occupied by a man and his wife, who had been ill on 12 August. A little boy, eight years of age, proved seeing him come out of the house with the warming pan; an older lad swore that he saw him run across a field with it; a woman proved that the prisoner brought the pan to her house. The case had been attempted as a felony on Friday but failed. The present information was, therefore, laid under the Vagrancy Act. Mr JH Mitchell, in defence, said that the landlord had set Elkanah to watch the premises to prevent the tenant from removing the goods; and that whilst watching, the tenant gave him the frying pan. He, however, had not handed it over to the man who set him to watch.

Committed to Wakefield House of Correction for three months.²

The Leeds Times reported. *Accommodations were assigned to the culprit in Wakefield for three months, under the character of a rogue and vagabond.*³

Elkanah was released from prison in December 1848, but he was soon in trouble again. On Wednesday (31 January 1849), at the Borough Police Office, Halifax, before the Mayor, John Baldwin Esq, George Brown, Elkanah Bannister, James Shoemsmith, Sarah Greenwood, and Francis Foster, were brought up on a charge of stealing a piece of beef from the shop of Mr Henry (*sic*) Kellett, butcher, in Broad Street, on Sunday evening. The prisoners had been apprehended by Rawson, the detective constable, assisted by Serjeant Kitson, soon after the robbery, at a house of ill-fame in Cross Field, kept by the female Greenwood, and Rawson found the meat in a cradle upstairs. The evidence not being deemed sufficiently conclusive as to the guilt of the prisoners, Shoemsmith and

¹ Overden is about 1km from Wheatley.

² Halifax Guardian, 16 September 1848, p7

³ Leeds Times, 16 September 1848, p. 5

Foster, they were discharged. The others were committed to the House of Correction, for trial at the next sessions for the West Riding.⁴

Wakefield Adjourned Christmas Session, 28 February 1849.

George Brown, labourer, and Elkanah Bannister, labourer, charged with stealing twelve pounds of beef valued at five shillings. Sarah Greenwood, late of Wakefield, single woman, received the said goods well knowing it to be stolen.

George Brown was also charged with one silk handkerchief of the value of two shillings on 22 January 1849, goods and chattels of Hanson Crapper. He was acquitted on this indictment.

Sentences: George Brown, Elkanah Bannister and Sarah Greenwood, stealing 12 pounds of beef at Halifax, the property of Samuel Kellett. George Brown and Elkanah, seven years; Sarah Greenwood, six calendar months. ⁵

The Prison Registers show that Elkanah Bannister, 23, married with 2 children, can read, cotton twist maker up, was convicted on 28 February 1849 at Wakefield for stealing 12 pounds of beef and sentenced to seven years. He was received from York Castle on 11 April 1849, from Leicester Gaol and House of Correction. Elkanah had been three times summarily imprisoned. He was transferred to the *Warrior* hulk at Woolwich on 5 April 1850.

The 1851 census, for the *Warrior* hulk shows:

E. Bannister, convict, married, aged 24, labourer, born at Wheatley, Yorkshire.⁶
He boarded the *Minden* on 4 July 1851 for the voyage to Western Australia. ⁷

On arrival at Fremantle, Western Australia, on 14 October 1851, he was assigned number 789, issued with a Ticket of Leave and a physical description was recorded.

789. Elkanah Bannister, 26, 5'7", brown hair, hazel eyes, long face, sallow complexion, stout stature, mark of small pox, mason's labourer, married with 1 child (he actually had 2 children). ⁸
Elkanah was reported as "willing for any work". ⁹

A Conditional Pardon was granted in March 1854. Elkanah was in Toodyay before 1858. He married Mary Shehan on 16 June 1858 at the Roman Catholic Church at Toodyay.

He made an Application to Purchase a Country Lot of Crown Land in Western Australia.
Elkanah Bannister, market gardener, Toodyay, 40 acres, District of Toodyay, Avon (481)
Paid a deposit of £2 on this application on 29 October 1866.

There was some confusion over the plot Elkanah was applying for.

Notes of the application:

There is no lot 735 in the Avon district. E.B. is referred to the plans in possession of the Resident Magistrate at Newcastle. 12 November 1866

Letter to: Mr E. Bannister
Surveyor General's Office, Perth.
8 November 1866

Sir,

I beg to inform you that your application to purchase 40 acres of Crown land in the Avon District has been approved by His Excellency the Governor, and the necessary authority will be forwarded to the Revenue Office to enable you to complete the purchase of the same at ten shillings per acre.

⁴ Leeds Intelligencer, 3 February 1849, p8

⁵ Halifax Guardian, 3 March 1849, p5

⁶ The National Archives (TNA) UK, HO107/1588, p10

⁷ TNA, HO23/4, HO13/96, HO8/109

⁸ State Records Office of Western Australia (SROWA), Estimates and Convict Lists Acc 128/32

⁹ Australia Convict Transport Registers, HO11/17

This block adjoins the South Boundary of T. Carroll's location No. 235.
I am etc, Surveyor General.

Sir,

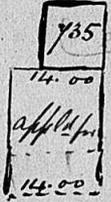
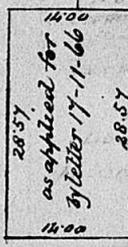
The plans in the R. Mags Office do not show the numbers. of the small block near the old townsite. I wish my land to adjoin Mr Drummond's three-acre block (adjoining the Pensioners allotments) in the manner shewn in my application.

Signed by Elkanah but not written by him.

Sir,

I think it will be seen on reference to my application that I applied for my land adjoining (on the south) No 735 (Mr Drummond's) and with 235, Carroll's block is nearly three miles from the land I wish to apply for, and 40 acres adjoining it on the South, would be fully useless to me

Elkanah Bannister, Toodyay, 10 April 1866.

ict.	Reference or Mark in the Official Maps.	Remarks.
<p>ty ou (81)</p>		

ations.

Elkanah Bannister

Signature of Applicant.....

Date.....

..... on *Monday 29th* day of *October* 18*66*.....

W. J. Bannister Collector of Revenue.

adjoining south boundary of location ~~235~~ *123*. as shewn above

..... Surveyor General.

No death has been found for Elkanah, but he appears to have died between 1866 and 1870, probably at Toodyay..

On the 1871 census in England, his wife said she was a widow, whereas on previous censuses she was 'married'. Did she know he had died?

Edward Bailey married Mary Bannister on 1 June 1870 at Toodyay. The marriage was announced in the newspaper on three separate dates, all with the same mistakes.

BAILLY-BANNISTER. - At the Roman Catholic Chapel, Newcastle, on 1 June 1870, by the Rev. M. Kirwan, Mary, Widow of the late Mr John Bannister, of Toodyay Old Townsite, to Mr William Bailly, late of Hawthornden, Toodyay. No cards.¹⁰

Edward and Mary lived in the old Toodyay townsite, where Edward was a gardener.¹¹ He died in 1882, and Mary in 1889.

¹⁰ The Perth Gazette and West Australian Times, 10 June 1870, p2

¹¹ Toodyay District Census 1877-1888 – Transcript (Toodyay Museums) <https://toodyayhistoricalsociety.org.au/links/>

Back in England

1851: Ovenden, Yorkshire. ¹²

Sarah Bannister, head, married, 30, power loom weaver

Mary, daughter, 6

Squire, son, 3

1851: City Wheatley, Ovenden

John Bannister, head, widower, 67, Ag lab, born Ovenden [Elkanah's father]

In 1857, Sarah gave birth to a daughter, Hannah, at Wheatley, Ovenden.

010	Fifth November 1857 Wheatley	Hannah girl			Sarah Bannister formerly Sideliff	X The mark of Sarah Bannister Mother Wheatley Ovenden	Twelfth December 1857	Alexander Shenker Registrar
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1861: Cockpit, Ovenden, Yorkshire. ¹³

Sarah Bannister, head, married, 40, worsted weaver, born Todmorden

Mary Ann, daughter, 16, cotton reeler

Squire, son, 13, cotton piecer

Hannah, daughter, 3

John Bannister, father-in-law, 77, agricultural labourer, born Overden

Married 25 May 1867, Parish of Halifax, by Banns.

Squire Southwell Bannister, 19, labourer of Ovenden, father Elkanah Bannister, warehouseman

Susan White, 21, of Ovenden, father Gibson White, dyer. Both made their marks.

1871: Ovenden ¹⁴

Sarah Banister, head, widow, 49, at home

Sam Sykes, son-in-law, married, 30, thick wire drawer

Mary A.E. Sykes, daughter, 26, worsted mill hand

Hannah Banister, daughter, 13, worsted mill hand

Joe Banister, grandson, 3

George H. Sykes, grandson, 5 months.

1871: Cart Gate, Ovenden ¹⁵

Squire Bannister, head, married, 24, dyer

Susan, wife, 24, housekeeper

Joe, son, 3

John, son, 2

John Bannister, grandfather, widower, 87

Married on 14 May 1870, Parish of Halifax, by Banns

Mary Ann Elizabeth Bannister, 25, of Ovenden, father Elkanah Bannister, warehouseman

Sam Sykes, 29, labourer, of Ovenden, father John Sykes, mechanic

Sam signed, and Mary made her mark.

¹² TNA, HO107/2301

¹³ TNA, RG9/3266

¹⁴ TNA, RG10/4418

¹⁵ TNA, RG10/4418

1881: Ramsden Street, Ovenden. ¹⁶

Sarah Bannister, head, widow, 60, home duties

Sam Sykes, son-in-law, 40, wire drawer

Mary Ann E Sykes, daughter, 36, cotton piecer

George H Sykes, son, worker in a cotton mill

Sarah Hannah Sykes, daughter, 9, scholar

Jane Ann Sykes, daughter, 7, scholar

Minnie E Sykes, daughter, 5, scholar

Matilda Alice Sykes, daughter, 3

Hannah Bannister, daughter, 23, cotton winder

1891: 12 Ramsden St, Ovenden ¹⁷

Sarah Bannister, head, widow, 70, born Todmorden

Sam Sykes, son-in-law, 50, Wire drawer

Mary Ann Sykes, wife, 46

George H.T, grandson, 20, blacksmith

Sarah H, granddaughter, 19

Jane A, granddaughter, 17

Minnie E, granddaughter, 15

Hannah Bannister, single, daughter, 34

1901: 5 Cooperative Building, Ovenden. ¹⁸

Sam Sykes, head, 60, thick wire drawer, worker

Mary A.E. Sykes, wife, 56

Sarah H., daughter, 29, worsted warpper, worker

Jane A, daughter, 27, Worsteds winder, worker

Minnie E, daughter, 25, cotton winder, worker

Sarah Bannister, mother-in-law, widow, 80

Hannah Bannister, sister-in-law, 43, cotton winder, worker

Sarah Bannister died in the June quarter of 1901, just after the census was recorded.

¹⁶ TNA, RG 11/4419

¹⁷ TNA, RG12/3603

¹⁸ TNA, RG 13/4136