

George Barker, 96, Hashemy

Researched by Marcia Watson

Baptism	1815, Acton, Cheshire
Parents	George Barker married Catherine Merrey
Parent's marriage	21 March 1803 at Acton, Cheshire
Siblings	Thomas (1805), Richard (1807), Martha (1809), William (1811), Sarah (1817), John (1819), Josuha (1822-1822)
Wife	Martha Dykes
Married	25 January 1836, Wrenbury, Cheshire
Children	John (1836) Sarah (1839-1840) William (1842) Joseph (1847)

George's mother Catherine was buried on 3 June 1822 at Acton, and Joshua, an infant, was buried on 12 June 1822. His father does not appear to have remarried. On the 1841 census, his father lived with his married daughter, Martha Bettely, at Haughton Moss, Bunbury, Nantwich, Cheshire. He continued to live with the Bettely family until his death in 1855, aged 77.

George Barker, from Acton, married Martha Dykes at Wrenbury, Cheshire, on 25 January 1836. George was a labourer and initially lived at Broomhall near Wrenbury.

In 1841, living at Welch Row, Nantwich were: ¹

George Barker, 25, labourer; Martha, 20; John, 4

In August 1845, George Barker, 34, was indicted for breaking into the dwelling house of Thomas Wittingham at Burland and stealing therefrom a quantity of leather. The Attorney General and Mr Trafford were for the prosecution and Mr Temple for the defence.

The prosecutor is a leather dealer and shoemaker at Burland and lives in a house adjoining his shop. On the 18th July, he made up his shop about 9 o'clock. On the following morning, a quantity of leather of different sorts was missing. When the prisoner's house was searched, two sacks of leather were found. The prosecutor identified the leather as a part of the stolen property. Guilty. ² [Burland is 4km from Nantwich]

Another newspaper reported: George Barker, for breaking into the shop of Thomas Whittakers, at Burland and stealing a quantity of leather – 12 months imprisonment. ³

Three years later, at the Adjourned Sessions at Knutsford, on 15 May 1848:

George Barker, 37, married, stealing 100lbs of coals and other articles (2 indictments), sentenced to 14 years' transportation (7 years for each indictment), previous conviction. [Not reported in newspapers]

General Quarter Sessions, Nether Knutsford, 15 May 1848

G Barker, Transportation Order

Whereas George Barker, late of the Township of Stapeley in the said County, labourer hath at this present Sessions been indicted and convicted of Larceny in stealing the Goods and Chattels of John Higginson. Now it is ordered by this Court that the said George Barker shall be transported to such parts beyond the Seas as Her Majesty with advice of Her Privy Council shall direct for the term of Seven years to be computed from this time and is further ordered by this Court that the Master or Keeper of the House of Correction at Nether Knutsford in and for the said County do detain in and him safely keep and to hard labor in the said House of Correction in the meantime and until shall be transported as aforesaid.

¹ HO 107/117/5, p12

² Chester Chronicle, 08 August 1845, p3

³ Chester Chronicle, 15 August 1845, p4

And whereas the said George Barker hath also at these present Sessions been convicted of upon another Bill of Indictment for Larceny in stealing the Goods and Chattels of Sarah Cope and another, and of Richard Hough, and of William Pickin. Now it is ordered by this Court that the said George Barker shall for his Second offence be further detained in such parts beyond the Seas as Her Majesty with advice of Her Privy Council shall direct for the further term of Seven years to be computed from the expiration of the term for which he was so ordered to be transported as aforesaid under the first mentioned sentence.⁴

George Barker, 37, cannot read or write, married, convicted on 15 May 1848 at Knutsford of stealing coals, sentenced to 14 years transportation, once previously convicted, was received at Millbank Prison on 19 July 1848 from Knutsford. He was transferred to Pentonville Prison on 2 October 1848. After a year at Pentonville, he was transferred to Portland Prison on 31 October 1849. George was reported for irregularity on 3 July 1850 and disposed of as in Report Book and Misconduct Book.⁵ He boarded the *Hashemy* on 19 July 1850 for the voyage to Western Australia.⁶

His description on arrival in Western Australia in October 1850:

96. George Barker, 29 (*sic*), 5'3½", brown hair, hazel eyes, oval visage, brown complexion, stout, knife cut under right jaw bone – marked with smallpox, labourer, married with three children.⁷ [other records say he was 39 years old]

These entries in the Casual Sick list at Fremantle probably all refer to George Barker, No. 96.

George Barker, No 39, from the *Scindian*, received his ticket of leave in December 1850.⁸

Barker	6 November 1850	Bowel complaint	Cal: & Jalap
Barker G	16 November 1850	Bleeding at nose	Tonic mixture
Barker George	18 November 1850	Diarrhoea	Cal: & jalap, chalk mixture
Barker G	19 November 1850	Diarrhoea	Continue chalk mixture
Barker G	20 November 1850	Diarrhoea	Continue chalk mixture
Barker G	21 November 1850		Continue chalk mixture, three times a day
Barker George	27 April 1851	Bad leg	Dressing
Barker George	16 May 1851	Sore leg	Dressing, bandage
Barker George 96	22 June 1851	Diarrhoea	Pilul Aper: chalk mixture

George was issued with a Ticket of leave on 24 November 1851.

His sentence expired on 14 May 1862, and the following year he obtained a Certificate of Freedom issued on 8 July 1863.⁹ In the meantime, George was sentenced to three months hard labour for theft, and six months hard labour for vagrancy in 1853. During May to July 1854, he spent a considerable time in the prison hospital with leg ulcers. He was discharged in September 1854, but was back in prison in December - discharged in January 1856.

On 19 February 1890, an inmate of the Mount Eliza depot named George Barker died of chronic bronchitis at the age of 71. The deceased was admitted to the institution on 11 May 1888.¹⁰

He is buried at East Perth Cemetery.

⁴ Family Search Film Number: 1594148

⁵ Portland Prison. Governor's Journal, 24 November 1848 to 9 August 1850. PCOM 2/354

⁶ HO24/4; HO24/16, p95; HO8/105, p16

⁷ SROWA Acc 128/40 - 43

⁸ SROWA Acc 1156 CS1

⁹ SROWA Acc 1156 R21B

¹⁰ The Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), 22 February 1890, p3

Martha Dykes, wife of George Barker, convict 96

Baptism	22 September 1815 at Wrenbury, Cheshire
Parents	Thomas Dykes (1789-1857) and Ann Hankinson (~ 1781-~1865)
Parent's marriage	8 June 1812, Wrenbury, Cheshire by Banns
Siblings	Ann (1812-), Mary (1813-)
Husband	George Barker (1815-1890?)
Marriage	25 January 1836, Wrenbury, Cheshire by Banns
Children	John Barker (1836) Sarah Barker (1839-1840) William Barker (1842) Joseph Barker (1847-1863) Elizabeth Barker (1850-1850)

Thomas Dykes married Ann Hankinson at Wrenbury Parish Church in Cheshire on 8 June 1812. Their first child Ann was baptised a month after the marriage. The family lived at Broomhall near Wrenbury, where Thomas was a labourer. Three years later, daughter Martha was born in 1815.

Martha Dykes married George Barker at Wrenbury on 25 January 1836. George, a labourer, was from the nearby Acton parish. Neither George nor Martha could write and their marks in the register.

Their first two children were born at Broomhall, John, in 1836 and Sarah in 1839. The family moved to Cross Wood Street, Nantwich, by March 1840, where baby Sarah died, aged nine months. When the census was taken the following year, they lived in Welch Row near Cross Wood Street.

George, 34, was convicted on 5 August 1845 of stealing leather from a shop at Burland and received 12 months imprisonment. The stolen goods were found at his house. There was no parole or early release, and George would have been released exactly a year later (August 1846).

The family lived at Stapeley when son Joseph was born on 25 April 1847 and was baptised four days later. The birth was not registered until October.

A year later, George was in trouble again. At the General Quarter Sessions at Nether Knutsford on 15 May 1848, he was convicted on two separate indictments of stealing and sentenced to two seven-year terms of transportation. Prison registers record he was convicted of stealing 100lbs coal and other items. In July, he was transferred from Knutsford Gaol to Millbank Prison. The family never saw him again.

Martha worked as a charwoman and lived in Queen Street, Nantwich when her daughter Elizabeth was baptised on 5 February 1850. No father was named at the baptism. The baby died in June at the Nantwich Union Workhouse.

By the following year, on the 1851 census, Martha and her three children lived at Wood Street in Nantwich. She was a washerwoman, John (14) an apprentice shoemaker and William (7) and Joseph (3) were at home.

No further trace has been found of Martha.

Her son Joseph, 13, appears to be in the Nantwich Workhouse in 1861, where he died in 1863.