

**Richard Bowyer, 134, Hashemy**

Researched by Marcia Watson

Name variations: Boyer

Baptism	29 October 1809, Willey, Shropshire
Parents	Richard Boyer and Jane Watters (Walter)
Parent's marriage	18 December 1806, Willey, Shropshire
Siblings	Edward (1807), Thomas (1813), Jane (~1818), Eliza (~!1822), Harriet (1824), Enoch (1827)
Wife	Sarah Armstrong
Married	2 April 1835, St Peter's, Wolverhampton, Staffordshire.
Children	Harriet (1835) [Called Elizabeth] Jane (1836-1838) Eliza (1839) Thomas (1840-1841) Emma (1843-1845) Letitia (1846-1852) Lucy (1846-1852) Enoch (1848)

**Parents:** Richard Bowyer was baptised in 1782 at Barrow, Shropshire, the son of Edward and Mary Bowyer. Jane is possibly the base daughter of Ann Walter, born 1783 in Bridgnorth, Shropshire. The family initially lived at Willey and later at Broseley, Shropshire.

Richard Bowyer married Sarah Armstrong on 2 April 1835 at St Peter's, Wolverhampton, Staffordshire. The marriage was by Banns, and both made their mark.

Richard was not at home when the 1841 census was taken. He was probably lying low after a robbery in 1840. Living at Oxford St, Wolverhampton was:<sup>1</sup>

Sarah Bowyer, 30, Ind and Eliza, 2. Two other families lived at the same address.

In March 1842, at Staffordshire:

RICHARD BOWYER was indicted for breaking into the dwelling house of Benjamin Neville, on the night of 20 November 1840, at the parish of Wolverhampton, and stealing table cloth, a brass basin, and other articles, his property. Mr Huddleston conducted the prosecution, and Mr Reardon the defence.

The prosecutor's house was broken into on the night of 20 November, and the articles described in the indictment were taken away. The prisoner's house in Wolverhampton was searched, and some of the property was discovered, which the prosecutor identified. The prisoner was not apprehended until 1 August 1841, when he was taken into custody by Putnam. A police officer found Richard in a hay-loft at the Hem Farm, more than 24 miles from Wolverhampton. When in the magistrates' room, the prisoner offered to give the prosecutor £10 or £20 if he would give up the prosecution. The prisoner received a good character.

The Jury found a verdict guilty, accompanied with a recommendation to mercy on account of his character. The Learned Sergeant remarked on the number of burglaries brought before the Court, from which it was evident that the crime was becoming a very common one. He was glad, however, to listen to the recommendation of the Jury, and from the circumstance of the prisoner's previous good character, he should not visit his offence with that severe punishment he should otherwise have thought it ought to receive. To be imprisoned 12 calendar months hard labour in the house of correction. <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> HO107/999/10, p24

<sup>2</sup> Staffordshire Advertiser, 19 March 1842, p4; HO27/68

Then in September 1848:

Thomas Bowyer and Richard Bowyer, charged with stealing one lamb, the property of John Miller, at Lower Penn. They were committed to the County Gaol to await their trial.<sup>3</sup>

At the Staffordshire Quarter Sessions on 16 October 1848:

Thomas Bowyer, aged 37, and Richard Bowyer, aged 40, were indicted for stealing one lamb, the property of John Miller, at Lower Penn. They were old offenders.

Joseph Cooksey stated that he was employed as a shepherd by Mr Miller of the Grange Farm. His master had three flocks of sheep. On Thursday, the 17 August last, he counted them. One of the flocks contained 156 sheep and lambs; when he went to look at the sheep the next morning, there were but 155 in that flock. On looking around the field, he found concealed under the hedge the entrails and skin of a lamb. The skin was produced, and the witness identified it as being the skin belonging to a lamb, the property of his master.

George Fleming, a police officer stationed at Penn, stated that on 18 August, he examined a field the occupation of the prosecutor. The shepherd pointed out to him the entrails of a lamb and the skin produced. He observed footmarks in the field, which he covered up. He afterwards went towards Wolverhampton and found a quarter of lamb in a field, which appeared to have been drawn from some nettles near. He took the mutton and put it amongst the nettles, and (witness) and another policeman watched the place until between nine and ten o'clock night when they observed two persons in the road near the place where the mutton was concealed. Richard Bowyer went towards the nettles, and when the other prisoner, who remained in the road, gave a whistle, Richard Bowyer picked up the mutton and returned to his companion. Witness and the other policeman (Locke) pursued them, and the mutton was dropped on the road. A severe struggle took place, but they ultimately succeeded in taking the prisoners. On searching the house of the Richard Bowyer, he found a Jacket with blood upon it, and his waistcoat there was some wool. He also found a pair of boots that belonged to Richard, which exactly corresponded with the foot-marks in the field.

John Locke corroborated the above testimony; and Christopher Price, a butcher living Wolverhampton, stated that he had compared the skin with the mutton found in the field, and it exactly corresponded.

Mr Meteyard addressed the Jury on behalf of the prisoners. The having summed up, the Jury returned a verdict of not guilty against Thomas Bowyer; the other prisoner was found guilty.

A previous conviction against Richard Bowyer for burglary in 1842 was proved by Mr Brutton. The Chairman told the prisoner Thomas Bowyer that he had had very lucky escape. He had been previously convicted this county, and undergone twelve months' imprisonment. Since that time, he had been convicted of an offence at Wenlock, and was sentenced to ten years' transportation, and was liberated in June last, having been detained the hulks five years. He (the Chairman) thought there was little hope of reformation and was afraid he would soon be there again. The Chairman then sentenced Richard Bowyer to be transported for 15 years.<sup>4</sup>

**Thomas Bowyer** was then indicted for stealing 10lbs weight of lamb, the property of Mr John Miller, of Lower Penn. A second count charged him with receiving the same, knowing it to have been stolen.

The Jury returned a verdict of guilty. After a lengthy legal discussion, The Chairman told the prisoner that as he had been convicted twice before, the sentence of the Court upon him was that he be transported for fifteen years.<sup>5</sup>

Richard Bowyer, 40, cannot read or write, moulder, was convicted on 16 October 1848 at Stafford with killing a lamb with intent to steal a carcass. He received 15 years transportation. It was his second

<sup>3</sup> Staffordshire Advertiser, 02 September 1848, p7

<sup>4</sup> Staffordshire Advertiser, 21 October 1848, p7

<sup>5</sup> Staffordshire Advertiser, 28 October 1848, p6

conviction. Richard was received at Millbank Prison on 26 December 1848 from Stafford Gaol. When he arrived at Millbank, he weighed 11 stone, said he was born in Bridgenorth, Shropshire, was married with four children, and his father Richard Bowyer was dead. Thomas said his father Richard was a farm labourer at Coalport near Bridgenorth. On 23 April 1849, he was removed to Pentonville Prison. The Pentonville register records Richard as being an iron moulder who could read. The gaoler's report of his character was good. He was transferred to Portland Prison on 4 March 1850.<sup>6</sup> From here, he boarded the *Hashemy* on 19 July 1850 for the voyage to Fremantle.

On arrival at Fremantle in October 1850, his description was:

134. Richard Bowyer, 40, 5'6<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>"", grizzled brown hair, hazel eyes, an oval face, fair complexion, stout, scar under left eye, sandy whiskers, smallpox marks, iron moulder, married with 5 children.<sup>7</sup>

General Register:

134. Richard Bowyer, 41 (in 1852), iron moulder, Church of England, not much at school, he can read and improving, can write a little but no maths ability.

He said his wife Sarah Bowyer, laundress, lived in Oxford St, Wolverhampton.

Attended Divine Service?	Not so regular
Received Sacrament?	Not before being in prison
Habits?	Not exactly a sober man
Intellect?	Sound
State of Mind?	Very hopeful
Knowledge, Secular?	Limited
Knowledge, Religious?	Limited. Understands the Plan of Salvation, & humbly hopes to (live) to God for the future
Alleged Cause of Crime?	Poverty

Name of Person referred to for Character, &c. Mr James Atherton, Iron founder, Oxford St, Wolverhampton.<sup>8</sup>

The foundry opened sometime before 1827 when it was known as Atherton's Foundry, run by James Atherton and Henry Crane. Initially, it was a brass foundry, but by 1827 iron castings were also produced on the site. The main products were castings for the building industry, ironmongery and brassware. In the 1830s, castings for the hand tool and lock industries were added to the product range, and by 1836 Henry Crane had taken control of the business.

The company became known as the Crane Foundry in 1847 with its own registered trademark.

Richard appeared twice on the Casual sick list at Fremantle.<sup>9</sup>

		Complaint	Treatment
Bowyer Richard	4 April 1851		Beer
Bowyer Rich.	19 May 1851	Diarrhoea	Powder purg: chalk mixture

Richard received a Ticket of leave on 26 January 1852. He was not discharged from prison until 5 February and was allowed to remain in the Fremantle district.<sup>10</sup>

A month later, on 8 March 1852, at Fremantle Court:<sup>11</sup>

<sup>6</sup> HO24/4; HO24/16; HO8/105; PCOM2/62

<sup>7</sup> SROWA Acc 128/40-3

<sup>8</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 R21A

<sup>9</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 CS1

<sup>10</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 RD1-2

<sup>11</sup> Inquirer (Perth, WA : 1840 - 1855), 31 March 1852, p2; SROWA Acc 1156 RD1-2

John Luff, Richard Bowyer, and Henry Taylor, ticket-of-leave holders, brought before the Court, charged with having committed a felony on the previous day: case dismissed. He was received at Fremantle Gaol on 9 March and discharged to North Fremantle Station.

At Fremantle Court on 19 July 1852:

R. Bowyer, ticket-of-leave holder, charged with being drunk and in Fremantle at 11 o'clock on Saturday night, 17th instant; fined 5s and 2s 6d for being drunk, and 2s 6d for being in town after 10 o'clock at night.<sup>12</sup>

In 1852, Richard applied to bring his wife and four children to Western Australia. He named his wife as Sara Armstrong of Oxford St, Wolverhampton. His children were Elizabeth, Eliza, Lucy and Enoch. Two referees were Mr Fisher and Mr Atherton, both of Oxford Street. Richard said that if the parish did not pay for the fares, he would pay from his own resources.<sup>13</sup> The family did not come.

Then, on 5 November 1855, Richard was convicted at Fremantle. He was received at Fremantle prison on 27 November 1855.<sup>14</sup> Richard, who was in solitary confinement, wished for more food on 11 January 1856.<sup>15</sup>

Later in the year, on 2 September 1856, Richard was still under sentence of 'hard labour' and was working in the quarry. He was sleeping in a cell. He reported being sick with a bruised hip from the hammock hook giving way. The following day he wished for a little liniment at night, and this was ordered. 24 September 1856: He wished for his belt to be restored, but there were not sufficient grounds.<sup>16</sup>

20 November 1856: He petitioned, possibly to be released.<sup>17</sup>

Richard was on the Medical list on 28 November with wind. He was given peppermint.

22 March 1857: He presented with a bruised hip and was given liniment. He was still working in the quarry under 'hard labour'.

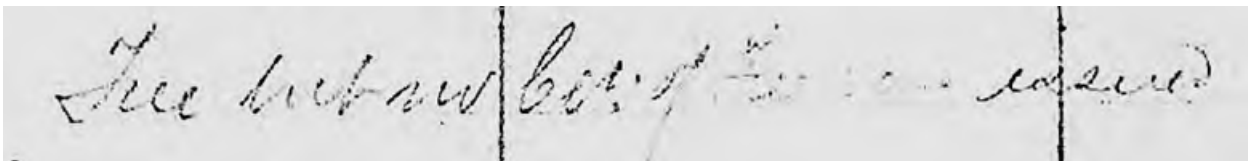
24 April 1857: He had a bruised knee but was not given any treatment. His age was stated as 46.

7 June 1857: Richard had a bad wrist. The following day it was dressed. He was still on the Medical List on 9 June, but there is no detail of any treatment. Presumably, he was discharged back to work.

Richard was discharged from prison on 13 June 1857. The length of his sentence was 18-19 months. On 14 August 1858, Henderson refused to sign his Conditional Pardon.

11 October 1859. His Conditional Pardon was due; however, on 24 November, reconvictions were preventing the issue of a Conditional Pardon.

Register Acc 1156 R21B has an entry that looks like a Certificate of Freedom was issued.  
(Free but no Cert of Freedom issued?)



This appears to be Richard Bowyer:

1859. Richard Boyer, 46, parents unknown, died. 1859/1400

Possibly buried in the Alma and Skinner Streets cemetery – there is a five-year gap in the records covering this period.

<sup>12</sup> Inquirer (Perth, WA : 1840 - 1855), 28 July 1852, p2

<sup>13</sup> CO18/68, p334 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-2034441555/view>

<sup>14</sup> Conviction date appears to be wrong. Possibly the 25 November.

<sup>15</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 M14-16

<sup>16</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 C1-3

<sup>17</sup> SROWA Acc 128/38 - 39)

## *Sarah Armstrong*, wife of Richard Bowyer, convict 134

Baptism	25 December 1814, St Peter's, Wolverhampton
Parents	John Armstrong and Susanna (1773-1840)
Parent's marriage	
Siblings	Eliza (1814)
Husband 1	Richard Bowyer
Marriage 1	2 April 1835, St Peter's, Wolverhampton, Staffordshire.
Husband 2	John Gailey
Marriage 2	1853, Wolverhampton, Staffordshire
Children	Harriet Bowyer (1835) [on all other records, she is called Elizabeth] Jane Bowyer (1836-1838) Eliza Bowyer (1839) Thomas Bowyer (1840-1841) Emma Bowyer (1843-1845) Letitia Bowyer (1846-1846) Lucy Bowyer (1846-1852) Enoch Bowyer (1848)

Sarah Armstrong is probably the daughter of John and Susanna Armstrong, baptised with her sister Eliza on 25 December 1814, St Peter's, Wolverhampton.

She married Richard Bowyer in the same church in 1835, by banns. Both made their marks.

On the 1841 census, Sarah 30, her daughter Eliza 2, and six lodgers lived in Oxford Street, Wolverhampton. The eldest daughter is not mentioned in the census.

Richard Bowyer is not on the census as he was 'on the run'. He was captured in August 1841 and indicted for breaking into the dwelling house of Benjamin Neville on the night of 20 November 1840 and stealing table cloth, a brass basin, and other articles. In March 1842, he was sentenced to 12 months of hard labour in the House of Correction. The sentence would have been harsher if not for his previous good character.

The 1840s was not proving to be a good time for the Bowyers. Three of their children died young. Then in October 1848, Richard and his brother Thomas were indicted for stealing one lamb, the property of John Miller, at Lower Penn. The newspaper called them 'old offenders'. They both were sentenced to be transported for fifteen years.

Sarah was left with four children to support. On the 1851 census, the family still lived in Oxford Street:

Sarah Bower, 40, widow, on parish relief

Elizabeth Bower, 20, pit banks woman

Lucy, 5

Enoch, 3

John Galley, 40, lodger, a filer of hurdles [Gailey]

Elizabeth Galley, 40, lodger, wife

Eliza Bowyer is missing; possibly the census recorder thought Elizabeth and Eliza were the same people.

Richard Bowyer applied in the second half of 1852 for his wife Sarah, Elizabeth 19, Eliza 12 and Enoch 5 to join him in Western Australia. The Bowyers must have had some contact, as Lucy Bowyer had died in

February 1852 of typhus fever, and she is not mentioned on his application. If the parish would not pay the passage fares, Richard indicted he would pay their fares.

Sarah decided not to join her husband, Richard. In the September quarter of 1853, Sarah Boeyer married her lodger, John Galey. The lodger's wife, Elizabeth Gailey, 38, died November 1851 at Oxford Street, Wolverhampton.

Sarah Gailey lived at 68 Oxford Street, working as a laundress, in 1861. Her husband, John Gailey, and young son Enoch Bowyer were lodging at 2 Bristol Road, Gloucester. John is a fitter, and Enoch a driller at wagon works.

Sarah Gailey, 52, died 31 January 1864 at Oxford Street St, Wolverhampton. John Gailey, 61, died in the workhouse, a pauper, on 1 August 1865. Both are buried in Merridale Cemetery, Wolverhampton.

### Children

Elizabeth married in 1857 at the Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton by licence.

George Williams, full age, widower, licensed victualler, father Thomas Williams, deceased

Eliza Bowyer, full age, spinster, father Richard Bowyer, a labourer.

Both gave their address as Dudley St, where the Albion Public house was situated. George's wife, Ruth, died in 1855 and left several small children.

Elizabeth is not with on the 1861 census, and George is a widower. She may have died in 1856, although her age is recorded as 35. George died in 1865.

Eliza Bowyer, 19, a nail cutter living in Oxford Street, married William Fisher, a puddler, in 1855 at Wolverhampton. An Elizabeth Armstrong (*sic*) was a witness and maybe a relative. Eliza is called Lizzie on one census. She and William had ten children. Eliza died in 1907, and William died in 1916, both in Wolverhampton.

Enoch Bowyer spent six months in prison in 1869 as no sureties could be found. Then in July 1881, at the Staffordshire Assizes, Enoch Bowyer, 32, a puddler, pleaded guilty to stealing a quantity of bread, bacon, and cheese, and other articles from William Fisher of West Bromwich. Fisher was possibly his brother-in-law. Enoch was sentenced to three months' imprisonment with hard labour.

No marriage has been found for Enoch, but in 1891, he is an ironwork puddler living in Wolverhampton with his wife Mary Ann and son Richard. Mary died in 1895, aged 43.

Enoch Bowyer died at the Union workhouse in Wednesfield, a pauper, aged 68, on 6 January 1919.