

**Benjamin Brown, 136, Hashemy**

Researched by Marcia Watson

Born	9 December 1823 at Sudbrook, Surrey
Parents	William Brown and Maria Long
Parent's marriage	28 December 1817, Westminster St George Hanover, London.
Siblings	John (1817), Sarah (~1820), David (1822), James (1825), Henry (1828), Emily (1832)
Wife	
Married	
Children	

From about 1820, the family lived at Sudbrook Lodge, Petersham, Surrey.

*These are to certify, That Benjamin Brown, son of William Brown and Maria Brown, his Wife, who was the Daughter of Benjamin Long was Born at Sudbrook in the Parish of Petersham in the County of Surrey on the Ninth Day of December in the Year One thousand Eight Hundreds twenty three.*

*I do certify the above named Benjamin Brown is my Son and was born at the time and place mentioned.*

*William Brown*

*J Height MD of Richmond deceased, Sarah Parr, Ruth Baxter Grandmothers to the child (witnesses to birth). Registered at Dr William's Library, Red-Cross-Street, near Cripplegate, London the 29th day of June 1837.*

*Richard Logan, Registrar.<sup>1</sup>*

(all the children, apart from Sarah, were registered on the same day at Dr William's Library. Also mentioned is John Long, uncle; father Benjamin Long, grocer of Tottenham)

In 1841, living at Sudbrook Lodge, Petersham, Richmond upon Thames, Surrey:<sup>2</sup>

William Brown, 50, gardener; Sarah, 20, seamstress; Benjamin, 15; James, 15; Henry, 15

Maria Brown, 40, female servant and Emily Brown, 9, female servant, were at Sudbrook House, Petersham, Richmond upon Thames, working for Lady Wilmot Horton.

At the Central Criminal Court, on 15 December 1845:

Benjamin Brown was indicted for stealing 2 warming-pans, value 16s.; the goods of Charles James Fenner: also 6 basins, 4s.; 24 cups, 10s.; 24 saucers, 7s.; 9 plates, 9s.; 2 tea-pots, 6s.; 9 brushes, 8s.; 2 clothes-lines, 4s.; 1 pail, 1s.; and 3 pairs of clogs, 2s. 6d.; the goods of John Reid; to which he pleaded GUILTY . Aged 21.— Confined for Twelve Months.

In June 1848, Benjamin was in the area of Maidenhead, Berkshire. The newspaper reported:

It will be remembered that short time since, as many as six robberies were committed in this neighbourhood in one night, including two burglaries. Sexton, the chief constable, has since been on the alert to detect the offenders and has at length succeeded, so far as to take into custody, on Tuesday last, a man named **Benjamin Brown, native of Hampton, Middlesex**. He was on Monday last, taken before C. Williams, Esq., borough magistrate, charged with having, on the 23 March last, committed burglary, in the house of J. Bellis, Esq., Ray Mead, where, after an examination of numerous witnesses, which occupied four hours. Sexton produced a portion of the property stolen, which had been found by him, disposed of in London and other places. Brown was fully committed to trial the next assizes.

Brown was afterwards taken before J. J. Coney, Esq., charged with having on the same night, broken open the house of W. Stephens, Esq., of Sheep House Farm. Some of the property stolen on the night in question was produced Sexton, found to have been in his possession the day after the robbery.

Another clear case was established against him, and he was also committed on that charge to the assizes for trial. He is one of the most desperate fellows that has infested this neighbourhood for some time, always at night going out armed with a brace of pistols and a bowie knife. So violent was he both before and after the examination that he was obliged to be doubly ironed, in which state he was conveyed by

<sup>1</sup> RG5/123

<sup>2</sup> HO107/1075/8, p11

Sexton to Abingdon gaol, to await his trial at the next assizes. He is also ascertained to be the same person who escaped at the time a man named Constable, (transported at the last assizes) was taken into custody Morris, one of the Reading police, having in his possession a quantity of silver plate, the produce of a burglary at Thatcham.<sup>3</sup>

Benjamin attempted to escape from Abingdon Gaol on 19 June 1848:

A prisoner confined in the county gaol, named **Benjamin Brown**, has recently made a determined attempt to escape from his cell, but, owing to the vigilance of the Governor and officers of the prison, he was detected before he could accomplish his purpose, even partially. He had, however, by dint of great labour, scraped with a piece of glass the stonework around the hinges of the inner iron door of the cell, and with such effect as to be able to wrench the door from the stone wall. Time, however, would not admit of his making a further effort before he was detected. Brown is in custody for trial at the assizes for burglary.<sup>4</sup>

At Berkshire Summer Assizes in July:

Benjamin Brown, 22, charged with having, on 23 March last, at Cookham, burglariously broken and entered the dwelling house of William Stephens and stolen one silver watch, with a steel chain and gold key, the property of Sophia Baker. He also stands charged, with having, on 23 March, at Cookham, burglariously broken and entered the dwelling house of John Bellis, and stolen three pairs of plated candlesticks and other articles. Mr Stevens conducted the case for the prosecution: the prisoner was undefended.

Ann Charlton, a servant to prosecutor, residing at Sheepphouse Farm, Cookham, stated about seven o'clock on the night question, all the doors and windows of the house were fastened; on coming downstairs the next morning, at 5 o'clock, she saw the pantry open and the front door of the house. She then went out of the house and saw the cellar window had been broken open; ongoing into the parlour a few minutes she missed her mistress's watch, which was on the mantelpiece when she went to bed. Three silver tea-spoons and sugar tongs were taken from the cupboard in the kitchen, part of loin of pork and bread, and tea caddie from the dresser.

Mrs Sophia Baker, an elderly respectable female, who was housekeeper to Mr Stephens, corroborated the testimony of the last witness. She deposed to the watch produced by Mr Sexton as her property.

John Brown, brother of the prisoner and a plumber living in London, was next examined and stated that the prisoner called upon him at the British Museum, where he was at work. Witness saw his brother with a watch, and after a little conversation on the matter, they agreed to make an exchange. He subsequently had the watch altered by having new face put in it, fresh hands, and the maker's name removed, and four figures substituted.

A young man, John Thatcher, proved seeing the prisoner on the following day, in a wood, two or three miles from Mr Stephens' house, from whom he received some bread and meat, which answered to the description stolen on the night mentioned.

The prisoner declined to say anything, and, after a brief recapitulation of the facts by the Judge, the jury returned a verdict guilty.

A previous conviction for felony at the Central Criminal Court, in 1845, was proved, and his Lordship told the prisoner that it appeared he had served an apprenticeship to roguery, for he found was first convicted in 1841, and three times subsequently. It was impossible he could suffer to remain in this country, to renew such practices, and he felt bound, under such circumstances, to sentence to fifteen years' transportation.

There was a second indictment against the prisoner for a similar offence, but at the suggestion of his Lordship, no evidence was offered. This is the prisoner that attempted an escape from Abingdon gaol a few weeks ago; his conduct at times has been very violent, and he has declared that he will not leave this gaol alive.<sup>5</sup>

Benjamin Brown, 22, can read and write imperfectly, labourer, convicted 13 July 1848 at Abingdon of burglarly after a previous conviction was sentenced to 15 years transportation. He was received at Millbank prison on 18 December 1848.<sup>6</sup>

Note in register:

<sup>3</sup> Reading Mercury, 17 June 1848, p3

<sup>4</sup> Oxford Journal, 01 July 1848, p3

<sup>5</sup> Reading Mercury, 15 July 1848, p2

<sup>6</sup> HO24/4

23 December 1851 Under writ of Habeas taken to Eaton Beach - Aylooby  
3 March - Ditto - Ditto

From Millbank Prison, he was transferred to Pentonville on 26 May 1849. Almost a year later, he was sent to Portland Prison on 4 March 1850. The gaoler's report said he was good. At Portland, he was reported for irregularity on 13 June 1850 and disposed of as in Report Book & Misconduct Book. Charles Marshall and William Beeson were reported the same day.<sup>7</sup> He boarded the *Hashemy* on 19 July 1850 to voyage to Western Australia.<sup>8</sup>

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

136. Benjamin Brown, 26, 5' 5¼", dark brown hair, grey eyes, long face, dark complexion, Maria Martin in full on right arm—deeply pitted, labourer and single.<sup>9</sup>

Benjamin appeared on the Casual Sick list at Fremantle.<sup>10</sup>

		Complaint	Treatment
Brown	6 November 1850	Tooth ache	Extraction
Brown B	24 November 1850	Diarrhoea	Chalk mixture
Brown Benj	2 February 1851	Cutran <sup>s</sup> eruptions	
Brown Benj	21 February 1851	Pain stomach	Aper: Med: Infus Quarria
Brown Benj	23 February 1851		Op: Medicines
Brown Benj	7 April 1851		Aper: medicines
Brown Benj 136	19 June 1851		Puli Dovers

He received his ticket of leave on 11 December 1851.

Then, at Fremantle Police Court, on 16 October 1854.

5 October -John Sleigh, ticket-of-leave man, charged with an assault, was fined 10s.

Benjamin Brown, a ticket-of-leave man, charged with a similar offence, was sent to the Convict Establishment for three months.<sup>11</sup> Benjamin Brown, 136, was received at Fremantle Prison on 5 October 1854.<sup>12</sup>

On release from Prison, Benjamin worked for the following employers:

10 January 1855 engaged by J.P da Silva

Benjamin Brown, ticket of leave, 136, received a Boatmen's License (No 22) to work in the Flats only in 1857.<sup>13</sup> In December 1857, he was working for himself.

17 September 1860 worked for Mr da Silva of Perth

12 March 1861 engaged by Henry Stevens.<sup>14</sup>

A Conditional Pardon was granted on 28 July 1860, and a Certificate of Freedom was issued on 7 April 1864.<sup>15</sup>

1879. — An inquest was held at the Colonial Hospital on Saturday afternoon upon the body of Benjamin Brown, a charcoal burner, who was found dead at Butler's Swamp in the forenoon of that day within a few yards of his hut door. A post mortem examination was made by the Colonial Surgeon, Dr Waylen, who was of the opinion that Brown had been dead for about ten days and that the immediate cause of death was

<sup>7</sup> Portland Prison, Dorset: Governor's Journals, PCOM2/354, p322

<sup>8</sup> HO24/16; HO8/105

<sup>9</sup> SROWA Acc 128/40 – 43

<sup>10</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 CS1

<sup>11</sup> Inquirer (Perth, WA : 1840 - 1855), 25 October 1854, p3

<sup>12</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 RD1 - RD2

<sup>13</sup> WA Government Gazette 13 Jan 1857, p 3, 4; 17 February 1857, p 4

<sup>14</sup> Rica Erickson notes on Family Search

<sup>15</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 R21B

heart disease. The jury, composed of Messrs. J. Summers, Bowra and F. R. Stirling, recorded a verdict accordingly.<sup>16</sup>

Butler's Swamp later became known as Lake Claremont.

Supreme Court Office, 12 December, 1879.

Estate of Benjamin Brown, late of Butler's Swamp, deceased, intestate. ALL persons claiming against the above Estate must forward particulars to this office on or before the 31st instant, otherwise they will be excluded from participation in the distribution of the assets. J. C. H. JAMES, Acting Master.<sup>17</sup>

Western Australia Biographical Index

BROWN Benjamin 1824 - Jan. 1878 (Butler's Swamp). Arr. 24.10.1850 per 'Hashemy'. Charcoal burner who employed 4 T/L., 3 of them woodcutters at Butler's Swamp 1868 - 1874. Found dead at Dyson's Swamp

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<sup>16</sup> The Inquirer and Commercial News (Perth, WA : 1855 - 1901), 22 January 1879, p1

<sup>17</sup> The Inquirer and Commercial News (Perth, WA: 1855 - 1901), 31 December 1879, p2