

Baptism	16 May 1819, Queen Camel, Somerset
Parents	Danial Brown and Hannah Brook
Parent's marriage	31 August 1812, Queen Camel, Somerset
Siblings	William (~1815), Eliza (1823), Thirza (1824), Susan (1827), Samuel (1830), Ellen (1832)
Wife	Ann Eliza Woods
Married	21 April 1841, Queen Camel, Somerset
Children	Thirza (1842), Charles (1846), Edwin (1848) William (1858) – illegitimate

Marriage: 21 April 1841, Parish of Queen Camel, Somerset:

George Brown, full age, bachelor, labourer, resides in Queen Camel, father George Brown, a postman

Ann Eliza Woods, 18, spinster, resides in Queen Camel, illegitimate.

Although George said, his father was called George, from all other family records and his baptism, his father was called Daniel.

On the 1841 Census, at High Street, Queen Camel, Wincanton, Somerset ¹
George Brown, 23, groom and Eliza Brown, 19.

In 1843, George Brown, 25, a labourer, 5'3", dark brown hair, grey eyes, fresh complexion, married, scar inside left thigh, from Queen Camel, and two others were charged on 1 December with breaking the dwelling house of Richard Feaver at Yeovil and stealing two gold rings and other items. At the Somerset Adjourned Session at Taunton on 8 January 1844, George was found guilty and sentenced to 12 months. One of the others was acquitted, and one received 6 months.²

George was in court again on 2 January 1849 at Wells; he was convicted of sheep stealing and sentenced to 15 years:

269. George Brown, 31, 5'3", dark brown hair, grey eyes, fresh complexion, married, scar on forefinger left hand, born Queen Camel, lives in Queen Camel, labourer, received at Taunton Gaol on 6 January 1849.³

He was transferred to Millbank Prison:

17546. George Brown, 31, married, read, labourer, convicted 2 January 1849 at Wells of sheep stealing after a previous conviction, sentenced to 15 years, received at Millbank from Taunton on 2 June 1849, transferred on 3 January 1850 to *Justitia* hulk from Shorncliffe.⁴ On 1 May 1850, he was transferred to Portland Prison.

George sent two petitions while in Millbank Prison.⁵

1st Application was received on 24 August 1849.

Convicted 2 January 1849 at Wells Session of stealing one sheep after a previous conviction, sentenced to 15 years. Received at Millbank Prison on 2 June 1849 from Taunton.

To The Right Honorable Sir George Grey Baronet, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department.

The Petition of George Brown, a prisoner in the Millbank Prison, humbly sheweth

¹ TNA UK, HO107/937/10

² Somerset, England, Gaol Registers, 1807-1879

³ Somerset, England, Gaol Registers, 1807-1879

⁴ TNA UK, HO24/4

⁵ TNA UK, HO18/234

That your petitioner is innocent of the crime of which he is convicted.

Petitioner had several witnesses who could have proved that he was at home at the time the robbery took place. They could not, however, arrive in time to be present at petitioners trial. Petitioner humbly entreats that his case may receive investigation, and upon his innocence being shewn he may receive his pardon and in duty bound he will ever pray &c.

Signed X

Witness - William Wood

Cover: Convicted and acquitted before. HW - Nil

2nd Application was received on 5 December 1849. 17546. George Brown, age 31.

Convicted 2 January 1849 at Wells Session, of stealing one sheep after a previous conviction, sentenced to 15 years. Received at Millbank Prison on 2 June 1849 from Taunton.

To The Right Honorable Sir George Grey Baronet, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department.

The Petition of George Brown a prisoner in Shorncliff Convict Station humbly sheweth

That your Petitioner was convicted at Wells Sessions on 2 January 1849 on a charge of sheep stealing and sentenced to be transported as a felon for the period of 15 years.

That your Petitioner is innocent of this charge.

That the evidence brought against your petitioner was contradictory, and only circumstantial; and did not warrant the Jury in bringing in a verdict of Guilty against your Petitioner, and as a matter of course for less could it justify the Judge in passing such a sentence upon him as transportation for 15 years.

Your Petitioner begs with the greatest respect to lay before you as briefly as he possibly can, those principal parts of the evidence which he considers to be contradictory of previous statements and utterly false.

Philip Night stated that he saw your Petitioner, another man and a woman on the night of the theft, on the public road about 12 o'clock, and that he watched them for some time until he saw both the men and the woman enter a field and catch the lamb, and drag it to a pool in the field, but he could not say how it was killed, as he was at a distance from them of two hundred and fifty yards; this statement was made before the Magistrates; but when examined at the Trial, declared that the woman did not enter the field at all; that this was about half past 12 o'clock, and he was watching them from under a tree, which was about 10 yards from them, thereby contradicting his former assertion.

John Coats declared that he went into the field about 10 o'clock the following morning, when he missed one lamb, and after searching for some time, he found the skin and carcass, which he said was not cold, and that the lamb apparently had not been long killed; that Philip Night accompanied him during his search, and did not so much as give the least hint, that he knew who were the perpetrators of the crime; and that it was not until the following day after a Reward of 10 had been offered, and they (Coates, Night and a constable) had searched the houses of several other people, did he give information against your petitioner.

Your Petitioner declares as he shall answer to God, that he has no knowledge of the crime, and humbly craves that you will be pleased to restore him to that freedom which he has lost through the avarice and cupidity of another.

There was a charge of a previous conviction brought against him (your petitioner), but when it is taken into consideration, the length of time elapsed it viz 6 years and this imputed crime, you will readily say that he had ample time for reformation and your Petitioner can procure ample satisfactory testimonial to that effect.

Your Petitioner has a wife and 3 children who are entirely dependent upon him for their support, and under the whole of these circumstances he humbly begs of you to take his hard case into your consideration, and again restore him to his freedom, or otherwise grant him the benefit of a new Trial.

And your Petitioner as in duty bound, Will ever pray, George Brown.

Cover: The prisoner denies his guilt, and prays that his case may be reconsidered in consideration of the very doubtful evidence, the fact that 6 years has elapsed since his former conviction before any new charge was brought against him, and the destitute condition of his wife and family.

GG – Nil

Neither petition was successful, and George left England from Portland Prison on 28 December 1850, per *Mermaid* for Western Australia. On arrival, he was described as:

252. George Brown, 32, 5'2", with dark hair, grey eyes, round face, dark complexion, a red mark on breast, a farm labourer, and married with 3 children.

What became of George after he received his Conditional Pardon in 1858 is unknown.

Wife and family

1851 census, Hazelgrove, Queen Camel, Wincanton, Somerset ⁶

Eliza Brown, head, 28, pauper, glover, born in Queen Camel

Thirza, 9, scholar, born in Queen Camel

Charles, 4, scholar, born Marston Magna

Edwin, 2, scholar, born in Marston Magna

Maria Coleman, lodger, 29, flax spinner

1861 Census, Vicarage Street, Yeovil, Somerset ⁷

Ann Eliza Brown, head, married, 39, glove dresser, born Queen Camel

Sarah [Thirza], 19, dressmaker, born Queen Camel

Charles, 14, shoemaker, born Marston

Edwin, 13, born Marston

William 3, born Yeovil

William Wynne, 22, Co policeman, born Yorkshire.

1871 census, Belmont Street, Yeovil ⁸

Ann E Brown, head, widow, 48, glover, born Queen Camel, Somerset

William Brown, son, 13, glover, born Yeovil

Annie M Norris, visitor, unmarried 18m born London.

Eliza married Eli Fudge in 1879 at Yeovil. He was a mason employing 4 men and 3 boys on the 1881 census.⁹ Eli died in 1886.

⁶ TNA UK, HO107/1931

⁷ TNA UK, RG9/1643

⁸ TNA UK, RG10/2419

⁹ TNA UK, RG11/2392