

James Eamer, 104, Hashemy

Researched by Marcia Watson

Name variations: Eamour, Amear, Amer, Amere, Amour, Amor, Eames, Eamore, Emour

Baptism	16 April 1820, Hurst, Berkshire
Parents	Daniel Amor and Hannah Hamden
Parent's marriage	18 October 1802, Burghfield, Berkshire
Siblings	Charlotte (1804), John (1806), Dinah (1808-1852), Charles (1811-1890), Ann (1814), Mary (1817-1893)
Wife 1	Frances Norris
Marriage 1	20 September 1845, Hurst, Berkshire
Wife 2	Eliza Berry
Marriage 2	
Children	Jane (1846) Alfred (1859) Walter (1860) Sarah Ann (1863) Arthur (1866)

Parents: Daniel Eamour was a labourer and was buried on 26 February 1824 at Hurst, aged 48. Hannah died in 1855.

In 1841, living in Dunt Lane, Hurst, Berkshire were:¹

Hannah Eamour, 55; Dinah, 30, female labourer; James, 20, Ag Lab; Charlotte Carter, 35, female Lab; Mary Carter, 10; Charles Carter, 5. [Charlotte Eamour married John Carter in 1828 in Hurst]

In 1851, living at Tape Lane, Broad Hinton, Berkshire were:²

Nathaniel Garrard, 40, labourer, born Hurst; Ann Garrard, wife, 33, born Hurst; Hannah Eamore, mother in law, 70, born Burghfield.

On 20 September 1845, at St Nicholas Church, Hurst, by banns:

James Eamour, full age, labourer of Hurst, father Daniel Eamour

Frances Norris, full age, no occupation, father Jonathan, a labourer

Witnesses: John Davis and Ann Eamour

In December 1847, a newspaper reported:

From information received by Mr King, he on Wednesday obtained search warrants against two men, named Henry Nash and James Eamer, living at Hurst, which were placed in the hands Mr Herring, the constable of Wokingham, for execution. In the houses of both parties, they found a quantity of mutton, which had been cut to pieces in a rough manner, and on Eamer's premises was found the skin of a sheep's head, which Mr King, jun., at once identified as belonging to the sheep stolen, from two marks which he had himself made on it; and on putting the joints of mutton together and comparing them with the skin (which had been left in a field near the spot where the robbery was committed), they were found to correspond exactly. Nash and Eamer were then apprehended, and Thursday, brought before H. St. John, Esq., who on the above facts being deposed to committed them for trial at the next county sessions.³

At the Berkshire Epiphany Sessions, on 4 January 1848, held at Abingdon:

Henry Nash, 35, and James Eamer, 28, were charged with having, on 6 December last, at Hurst, feloniously stolen ewe sheep, the property of Oliver King.

Mr Carrington for the prosecution, and Mr J. J. Williams appeared for the prisoners.

Mr Maurice Randell stated that the 4 December, 109 sheep belonging to the prosecutor were folded in one of his turnip fields on the morning of the 6th, a labourer named Charles Greenham came and showed him a skin he had found; he went to the field, and on counting the sheep found there were 107 alive, and

¹ HO107/13/5, p13

² HO107/1693, p483

³ Berkshire Chronicle, 11 December 1847, p2

one dead. The following day he traced, with Mr Gilbert King, the footsteps, which commenced in an adjoining field, at a distance of about 250 yards from the fold, and the footmarks were those of two men, one of which corresponded with those of Eamer.

Gilbert King, son of the prosecutor, corroborated the testimony as to the loss of the sheep and the finding of the skin. On the following Wednesday, in company with Herring, the constable, and others, he proceeded to the house of the prisoner Nash, and in the wash-house found a shoulder, some pieces, breast, and loin of mutton, under some legs of pork; beneath the staircase, he found the leg and a part of a loin hanging up and covered with cloth. His (witness's) brother went to Eamer's back premises and found in an ash-heap the skin of a sheep's head, which he recognised as one of his father's flock from the ear being pierced.

William Herring, a constable of Wokingham, deposed that he went to Nash's house and there found a quantity of mutton, which, together with that found on Eamer's premises, corresponded with the portions left on the skin.

Mr Williams, for the defence, said there was he could urge on behalf of Nash. It was, however, somewhat different as regarded prisoner Eamer. The fact that he had more than once been in the prosecutor's service was proof he was a man of good character and in whom he placed some amount of confidence. The evidence against him was all circumstantial and not of that strong nature as to lead to the inevitable conclusion that he must have committed this felony.

His Lordship summed up and observed that the property being found in the dwellings and about the premises of the prisoners was strong presumptive evidence they were the parties who committed the robbery.

The Jury deliberated and returned a verdict of guilty against both prisoners. His Lordship said the sentence of the Court was that they should each be transported for the term of fifteen years.⁴

Another version: Henry Nash, 35, and James Eamer, 28, labourers, were charged with having, on 6 December, at Hurst, stolen a ewe sheep, the property of Mr Oliver King.

Mr Gilbert King, prosecutor's son, swore that a flock of 109 sheep were folded in a field of turnips, on the farm of Mr Maurice Randell, at Hurst; that on the following Monday on counting the sheep they found one dead and one missing; the skin was found in a ditch about a quarter of a mile distant, and were tracked from the fold in the direction of the prisoners' houses, which adjoin. Witness deposed that he searched the prisoners' houses, in company with the constable and his father. In Nash's house, they found some mutton in a pan, under some legs of pork, also a leg and part of the loin. At Eamer's, they found a pan of mutton concealed in the roof a pig-stye, all the portions of which fitted.

When taken into custody, Eamer denied all knowledge and said his wife must have put it there.

Nash said he found it on the road.

A neighbour deposed to having seen Eamer's wife cut a piece off the mutton in the pig-stye, Nash's wife standing by at the time, but did not mention it until a reward was offered.

Mr Williams contended that the evidence against Eamer was entirely circumstantial; that the mutton might have been placed in the stye by the really guilty parties, the yard being common to four horses.

The prisoners were found guilty and sentenced to fifteen years' transportation.⁵

James Eamer, 28, married, can't read or write, labourer, was convicted of sheep stealing on 3 January 1848 at the Abingdon Sessions, Berkshire and sentenced to 15 years transportation. He had been twice convicted summarily. James was received at Millbank Prison on 31 January 1848 from reading Gaol.⁶ On 23 or 24 March 1848, he was transferred to Pentonville prison. He was recorded as 29 years old, could read, married, farm labourer, and the gaoler's report was good. Another register notes James weighed 10st 8lbs and was married with one child. His father was Daniel Eamer, a farm labourer, deceased. James was transferred to Portland Prison on 1 May 1849.⁷

A note on the Portland register says: 23 May 1850, a letter was then received to Reg. 393 James Eamier.⁸

⁴ Reading Mercury, 08 January 1848, p2

⁵ Windsor and Eton Express, 08 January 1848, p1

⁶ HO24/4

⁷ HO24/16; PCOM2/62, p44

⁸ Portland, PCOM2/383, p50

At Portland Prison, the Governor's Journal said:

1 May 1849 – Received 65 prisoners in the evening from Pentonville Prison, having arrived by omnibus from Dorchester Railway Station at Fortuneswell, escorted by a detachment of the Prison Guard – a party of the Coast Guard, and an armed party of Warders – to the Prison. [List of prisoners]

There not being room for all the Prisoners now in the Prison in the cells in the Halls, as shown by following distribution:

Prisoners in Infirmary	13
Prisoners in separate confinement	4
Prisoners in cells in the halls	272
Vacant cells	46
Total dispersed of as above	353
Remaining to be provided for in separate cells	19
Total	354

It was necessary to place a number of the new prisoners in the separate cells – and the last on the list were accordingly placed there, when all the other cells were filled up.

James was not put in a separate cell.

2 May 1849: The 65 new prisoners were medically inspected this morning by the Medical officer.⁹

James boarded the *Hashemy* on 19 July 1850 for the voyage to Fremantle. He arrived on 25 October and his description was:

104. James Eamer, 30, 5'9½", brown hair, blue eyes, long face, dark complexion, stout, no marks, a farm labourer and married with one child.¹⁰

General Register:

104. James Eamer, 31 in March 1851, married, labourer, Church of England, no schooling except in prison, he can read and write badly and has no maths.

James said his mother Anna Eamer lived in the Parish of Hirst near Reading in Berkshire; his brother John Eamer, labourer, lived in the same parish.

Attended Divine Service? Generally regular

Received Sacrament? Never

Habits? Addicted to drinking

Intellect? Sound

State of Mind? Morally good & meant to be steady & industrious

Knowledge, Secular? Very limited

Knowledge, Religious? Limited, but correct as far as it goes, in depending on Christ for Salvation

Alleged Cause of Crime? Drink

Name of Person referred to for Character, &c. Mr Hicks of Twyford, Berkshire (corn dealer).¹¹

James appeared on the Casual sick at Fremantle.¹²

Aper=Aperient

Eamer Jas	22 December 1850	Diarrhoea	Pul aper; chalk mixture
Eamer James	8 January 1851		Puli jalap
Eamer Jas	17 March 1851	Indigestion	Pil aper

James received a Ticket of leave on 10 August 1851. He may have been in the Murray District as a ticket of leave – James Barnes 104.¹³ A Conditional Pardon was granted on 22 March 1856.¹⁴

James sailed to South Australia on board the *Lochinvar* on 22 June 1857. The boat left Vasse and arrived at Adelaide on 3 July and travelled in steerage.

James may have married Eliza Berry in South Australia, although no marriage has been found. They had four children, all registered under James Eamer / Eliza Berry.

⁹ PCOM2/354, p81-2

¹⁰ SROWA Acc 128/40-3

¹¹ SROWA Acc 1156 R21A

¹² SROWA Acc 1156 CS1

¹³ Richards, R. The Murray District of Western Australia: A history. Sire of Murray, 1978. FHWA 994.12 MUR

¹⁴ SROWA Acc 1156 R21B

On 21 September 1867, at the Police Court in Adelaide:

James Eamer was charged as a lunatic. A witness who had witnessed his conduct and had much reason to believe him of unsound mind, deposed to that effect. It also appeared that his behaviour at the Police Office was that of a lunatic. He was remanded for medical examination, with a view to his removal to the asylum.¹⁵

James Eamer died on 16 May 1868 at the Lunatic Asylum of General Paralysis, aged 40. He is buried in West Terrace Cemetery, Adelaide. [he was aged 48]

Biographical Index of South Australia:

EAMER, James

Life Information: Birth c1821 BRK ENG. Death after 1867. Arr SA 1855 LOCHINVAR. Religion Prot.

Occupation: Labourer, Splitter.

Residence: Chain of Ponds

Spouse(s): unknown (by 1864)

In 1881, James's widow, Eliza, married Daniel Balcomb on 2 August 1881 at the residence of Mr Martinus in Port Pirie. Eliza is recorded on her marriage as Eliza Emour, widow, aged 45, and her father is John Emour.

Eliza Balcomb died 13 January 1907 in Hospital, 69 yrs.¹⁶

Hospital records say she was 73, from Ireland, Baptist, widow, and died of Uraemia.

The Friends of the late Mrs Eliza Balcomb, of Thomas-street, Nailsworth, are informed that her Funeral will leave the Adelaide Hospital on Monday, at 3.30 p.m., for the Catholic Cemetery, West-terrace.¹⁷

¹⁵ South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA: 1839 - 1900), 23 September 1867, p3

¹⁶ <http://www.genetracer.net/getperson.php?personID=I1230&tree=tree01>

¹⁷ The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), 14 January 1907, p2

Frances Norris, wife of James Eamer, convict 104

Baptism	23 October 1823
Parents	Jonathan Norris (1791-1866) and Jane Giles (1802- before 1841)
Parent's marriage	17 February 1817, Hurst, Berkshire
Siblings	Anthony (1817), James (1820)
Husband	James Eamer (1820-1868)
Marriage	20 September 1845, St Nicholas Church, Hurst, Berkshire, by banns.
Children	Jane Eamer (1846) George Henry Cresswell Eamer (1855)

Frances was living with her father, Jonathan Norris, in Dunt Lane, not far from Hurst in Berkshire, in 1841. Jonathan was a gardener, and Frances did not have an occupation. France's mother Jane appears to have died the year before, although the burial register's transcript gives her age as 77. She lived at, Embrook near Dunt Lane.

In 1845, Frances married James Eamour, a local man, at Hurst, Berkshire. James was a labourer. No occupation is recorded for Frances; presumably, she was still at home looking after her father.

About a year later, their daughter Jane was born.

In December 1847, 109 sheep belonging to Oliver King were kept in a neighbours turnip field at Hurst. A workman discovered a sheep's skin in the field and found two sheep were missing. The following day, the farmer's son and a constable searched the houses of Henry Nash and James Eamer. In Nash's, they found some mutton in a pan, under some pork legs, also a leg and part of the loin. At Eamer's, they found a pan of mutton concealed in the roof a pig-sty.

When taken into custody, Eamer denied all knowledge of the meat and said his wife must have put it there. Nash said he found the meat on the road. A neighbour testified to having seen Frances Eamer cut a piece off the mutton in the pig-sty. The defence contended that the evidence against Eamer was entirely circumstantial. Eamer had often worked for Oliver King and was of good character.

The prisoners were found guilty and sentenced to fifteen years of transportation in January 1848. James had been summarily convicted twice before.

Frances continued to live in Hurst. The 1851 census shows her address as Barracks, Hurst.

Frances Eamer, head, 27, widow, labourer, born Hurst

Jane, 4, daughter, born Hurst

Jonathan Norris, 50, widower, father in law (*sic*), born Hurst

Frances Eamer did not remarry. She did, however, have a son George Henry Cresswell Eamer, in 1855.

The father appears to be William Cresswell from Hurst.

In 1861, Frances Eamer and George Eamer, plus her father Jonathan Norris (65), were still living in Hurst.

Frances Eamer died on 19 January 1895 at the Union Workhouse in Reading. She was buried on 24 January 1895 at London Rd Cemetery in Reading, aged 71.

Children

Jane was a servant to a solicitor and his family in Wokingham in 1861. She married Henry Glenister, a bricklayer in London, in 1872, and they had seven children. Jane died in 1920 at Hendon.

George Henry Cresswell Eamer married Kezia Mary Ann Wise in 1877 at Reading, and they had nine children. He died in 1917 in Reading.