

Samuel Gasling, 2772, *Sea Park*

Researched by Marcia Watson

Correct name: Samuel Gosling. Name variation: Goslin

Baptism	28 March 1830, Congresbury, Somerset
Parents	Joseph Gosling (d.1858) and Elizabeth Fisher (d.1892)
Parent's marriage	2 September, St Mary Redcliffe, Bristol
Siblings	<i>Samuel (1826)</i> , Joseph (1827), George (1832), Mary (1834), Charles (1837), William (1839), Henry (1841), Mary Ann (1843),
Wife 1	Amelia Green née Fish
Married	19 July 1868, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset
Children	Mary Ann (1870)
Wife 2	Jane Pearce née Gingell
Married	15 October 1883, St Luke, Bedminster, Somerset
Children	Frederick Samuel Arthur (1886-1958)

The 1841 census, Congresbury, Somerset. ¹

Joseph Gosling, 40, Ag lab; Elizabeth, 35; Joseph, 13; Samuel, 11; George, 9; Charles, 4; William, 2; Henry, 1 month, all born in the county. The family occupied a house and garden.²

In 1850, the newspapers reported: Congresbury. Several persons in this village have, for some time past, been subjected to repeated acts of robbery, which now appears to have been perpetrated by an organised gang, who carried on their plundering operations in a most dangerous manner. On Saturday night last, a sheep belonging to Mr James Danger was stolen, and some circumstances connected with this felony have brought three of the offenders within the reach of the law. Their names are Joseph Gosling, Samuel Gosling (father and son) and John Scribbins. They were apprehended on Monday, and some of the stolen property was found in their possession; they have been fully committed for trial. Another member of the gang, John Panes, absconded, and it is hoped he will be apprehended soon.³

At the Somerset Spring Sessions, at Wells, on 26 March 1850:

Samuel Gosling, for stealing a sheep from John Danger, ten years' penal servitude.
Joseph Gosling acquitted.⁴

He was received at Wilton Gaol, Somerset, on 29 March 1850. ⁵

Samuel Gosling, 20, 5'4", fresh complexion, dark grey eyes, light brown hair, single, small scar on the forefinger of the left hand, born in Congresbury, last residence Congresbury, labourer. From here, he was removed to Wakefield Prison on 2 May 1850 and transferred to Portland Prison on 14 March 1851.

Shortly after arriving in Portland Prison, the 1851 census was taken:

Samuel Gosling, prisoner, unmarried, 21, labourer, born Congresbury, Somerset.

He remained at Portland until 25 December 1853, when he boarded the *Sea Park* for the voyage to Western Australia.⁶

On arrival at Fremantle, Western Australia, on 5 April 1854, Samuel was assigned number 2772, issued with a Ticket of Leave and a physical description was recorded.

¹ The National Archives (TNA) UK, HO107/967/12

² TNA UK, Tithe Apportionments and Tithe Maps; Reference: IR30_30_140

³ Taunton Courier and Western Advertiser, 27 February 1850, p2

⁴ Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette, 4 April 1850, p4

⁵ South West Heritage Trust; Taunton, Somerset; Q/AGW/15/5

⁶ TNA UK, HO23/14; HO107/1857; HO8/118.

2772. Samuel Gasling, 22, 5'5", light brown hair, hazel eyes. oval face, fair complexion, middling stature, cut on the second finger of the left hand, labourer and single.⁷

His name was misspelled when compiling the physical description lists.

Samuel kept out of trouble and was granted a Conditional Pardon on 27 December 1856.

He departed Western Australia on 23 January 1861 per *Lord Raglan*, 753 tons, Thomas Hybert, master, for London with 15 cabin passengers, and 8 steerage passengers, including S. Gosling.⁸

It wasn't long before he was in trouble again.

Samuel Gosling, 32, read and write imperfectly, labourer, committed 30 December 1861 and received the following day at gaol from Axbridge division. At his trial, he was charged with stealing a flannel petticoat valued at 5/-, the property of William Vickeridge. A second charge of stealing three fowls valued at 6/-, the property of William Vickeridge of Congresbury. No evidence was offered for stealing carpeting at the same time.

He received one month of hard labour on the first indictment and 5 calendar months of hard labour on the second indictment. Samuel was discharged from Shepton Mallet Prison on 30 June 1862.

His mother, Elizabeth Gosling, 60, a widow who could read, was charged with the same and acquitted.

There appears to have been a falling out with his family. About a month after getting out of prison, Samuel Gosling broke into his mother's house and stole clothing belonging to his brothers.

Samuel Gosling, 32, was committed on 4 August 1862 and received at gaol on 6 August from Axbridge division. He was charged with burglariously breaking the dwelling house of Elizabeth Gosling and stealing a pair of trowsers value 15/- the property of Henry Gosling, also a black cloth top coat, a black cloth body coat, a black cloth waistcoat and a wrapper handkerchief value £3, the property of George Gosling, and a pair of trowsers value 14/- the property of William Gosling at Congresbury on 2 August 1862.

Samuel was tried at the Wells Assize and sentenced to 6 years' Penal Servitude. After 1½ months at Wilton Gaol, Taunton, he was transferred to Millbank Prison on 22 September 1862. He said his mother, Elizabeth Gosling, lived at Long Reddy near Bristol.

Samuel was sent to Chatham Prison on 13 March 1863.⁹

Two months later, on 13 May 1863, Samuel boarded the convict ship *Adelaide* for Gibraltar. He spent almost 4 years there, leaving on 4 March 1867 to return to England to be licenced.¹⁰

Licence. Whitehall, 21 March 1867.

Her Majesty is graciously pleased to grant to Samuel Gosling who was convicted of Burglary at the Assizes holden at Wells for the County of Somerset on 7 August 1862 and was sentenced to Six years Penal Servitude is now confined in Millbank Prison. Samuel was in 4 prisons where his conduct was recorded as:

Taunton, 1 month 17 days, indifferent; Millbank, 5 months 19 days, good; Chatham, 24 days, good; Gibraltar, 44 months 27 days, exceptionally good behaviour.

He was discharged 27 March 1867 on Licence from Millbank Prison, and his destination was the Prisoners Aid Society, London.¹¹

75385 Samuel Gosling Licence to be at large. If he reoffends the Licence will be revoked. The remaining unexpired term is One year and five months of his six year sentence.¹²

⁷ State Records Office of WA (SROWA), Acc 128/1-32

⁸ The Inquirer and Commercial News, 30 Jan 1861, p2

⁹ TNA UK, PCOM2/46; HO24/9; HO8/155,HO24/9. South West Heritage Trust; Taunton, Somerset, Q/AGS/14/2

¹⁰ TNA UK, HO8/156; HO8/172

¹¹ TNA UK, PCOM2/51

¹² TNA UK, PCOM3/218

On 19 July 1868, Samuel married in the Parish of Weston-super-Mare, Somerset, by Banns Samuel Gosling, 39, bachelor, labourer, residing in Weston-super-Mare, father Joseph Gosling, labourer

Amelia Green, 40, widow, residing in Weston-super-Mare, father Benjamin Fish, painter.
Both signed the Register. Her first marriage was to Walter Green in 1856.

Their daughter, Mary Ann, was baptised on 30 September 1870 at St John the Evangelist, Clifton, Gloucestershire. The family resided in Highland Square, and Samuel was a labourer.

The following year, 1871, Samuel was in trouble again. Samuel Gosling, 41, Mason's labourer, read and write imperfectly, committed 27 April 1871 at Bristol. Charged with feloniously stealing one Sash Plane value 3/6, four Plaster Bags value 10/- and other articles, the property of William Taylor and another, his master at Bristol on 10 April 1871. Also, with stealing one Foot Square value 3/6, one Smoothing Plane value 3/6 and other articles, the property of Sydney Thomas at Bristol on 10 April 1871.

Tried on 6 July 1871 at Bristol, and found guilty of simple larceny after previous convictions. Sentenced to 7 years Penal Servitude and 7 years Supervision by Police.

Back in prison, the Register shows Samuel Gosling, 41, married, can read and write, mason's labourer, convicted 6 July 1871 at Bristol Sessions of feloniously stealing goods after a previous conviction for felony, sentenced to 7 years and 7 years supervision. He was received at Millbank Prison from Bristol on 2 November 1871 and transferred to Brixton Gaol on 2 May 1872.¹³ He was transferred to the police for supervision on 21 May 1875.¹⁴ A Licence appears to be issued on 7 December 1876, and he was released to the Discharged Prisoners Aid Society at Bristol.¹⁵

The 1881 census: Park Gale Lodge, Bristol.¹⁶

Samuel Gosling, head, 51, mason's labourer, born in Congresbury

Amelia, wife, 48, born in London

Sabrina Green, daughter, 22, general servant, unemployed, born in Wales

Agnes Green, daughter, 15, general servant, unemployed, born in Weston-super-Mare

Mary A. Gosling, daughter, 10, born in Bristol.

His wife, Amelia Gosling, died on 2 August 1882, aged 52, and is buried at Greenbank Cemetery, Easton, Bristol.

A year later, on 15 October 1883, Samuel married at St Luke, Bedminster, by banns.

Samuel Gosling, 52, widower, labourer, resides in Bedminster, father Joseph Gosling, labourer.

Jane Pearce, 43, widow, resides in Bedminster, father George Gingell, labourer.

Both signed the Register.

He was back before the court on 7 January 1887. Charged with stealing 2 live tame rabbits, the property of Grahame Travers Kevern, at Bristol on 2 December 1886. He had been detained earlier for stealing 3 live tame rabbits, the property of Robert Coombs, at Bristol on 13 November 1886. Samuel pleaded guilty. And received nine calendar months imprisonment with hard labour and one year police supervision.¹⁷

In November 1888, the newspapers reported:

Several complaints have recently been made to the police of sheep having been killed at night in the fields adjoining farms in the neighbourhood of Knowle and Brislington, portions of the carcase being

¹³ TNA UK, HO24/19

¹⁴ TNA UK, HO8/204

¹⁵ TNA UK, PCOM2/75

¹⁶ TNA UK, RG11/2476

¹⁷ TNA UK, HO140/95; PCOM2/75

afterwards cut up and stolen. On Saturday night, about 11 o'clock, P.C.'s Buckland and Flower visited a field in the occupation of Mr Alfred Gay, Queensdale farm, Upper Knowle, where they found the carcass of a sheep from which the two shoulders had been taken. Information was given to Sergeant Windmill, who, on Sunday morning, in company with Detective Conway, the Bedminster police, proceeded to the house of a labourer living in Whitehouse Street, Bedminster.

On Monday morning, Samuel Gosling, labourer, aged 62 years, living at 1, Waters place, Whitehouse Street, Bedminster, was brought before Mr Ford. J.P., and charged with killing ewe sheep and stealing the two shoulders, on the 17th inst., the property of Mr Alfred Gay, of Queensdale farm, Knowle. Charles Windmill, sergeant in charge of the Totterdown police, said that on Saturday night, about 12 o'clock, he went to a field in the occupation of Mr Gay, at Knowle, and found the dead body of a sheep, which had been recently killed. The two shoulders had been cut off, with the fleece still on; then the skin was torn off and left in the field. The remainder of the fleece on the mutilated carcass had not been taken off. The entrails had been taken off, and a portion of one of the legs had been sliced off.

On Sunday morning, in company with Detective Conway, of the Bedminster force, the witness visited the house of the prisoner at 1, Waters place, Bedminster, where he found in a saucepan boiling on the kitchen fire a portion of a shoulder of mutton. There were also two leg pieces of a sheep in the pot, and these corresponded with the shoulders. In a Dutch oven in front of the fire, a shoulder of mutton was roasting. Witness then searched the house; he noticed a stone in the back kitchen that appeared to have been recently installed. He got a bar, and, on taking the stone up, he discovered a raw shoulder of mutton wrapped in a cloth, on a plate. He charged the prisoner with the offence and replied that he knew nothing about it. He said that he had been making some broth for his sister, Mrs Morris, who lives at Windmill Hill. He then took the prisoner to the Totterdown police station and locked him up. He also took charge of the meat found at the house.

A witness said Saturday evening he met a man in Whitehouse Street, who offered to sell him some mutton. He bought it and paid him 2/-. He did not know the man and was a perfect stranger to him. Sergeant Windmill applied for a remand until the petty sessions to be held at Long Ashton on Friday, and this was granted.¹⁸

At the trial, when Samuel was asked if he had anything to say, he implored the learned Judge to have mercy upon him, as he had a wife and family.

His Lordship said the prisoner was 62 years of age, and he would give his character for the benefit of the public. He continued:-

In 1850, he was between 20 and 30 years old and was sentenced to 10 years' penal servitude for stealing sheep. In 1861, at Taunton Assizes, he was sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment for larceny; less than half a year after, on 7 August, he was sentenced to 6 years' penal servitude for house-breaking. On 6 July 1871, he received seven years' penal servitude for stealing tools; again, on 7 January 1887, he received a sentence of nine months' hard labour and 12 months' police supervision for stealing tame rabbits. Within the last 38 years, he had served 23 years' independent terms of imprisonment, so that it was obvious he was certainly a very bad character, and all (his Lordship) could do was put him out of the way of committing more crimes for some time to come. He would be sentenced to seven years' penal servitude.¹⁹

The Prison Register shows that Samuel Gosling, born 1826, labourer, fresh complexion, brown hair, hazel eyes, 5'4", proportionate build, oval visage, scar right temple, shoulder blade and back neck, born Congresbury, was convicted on 26 November 1888, and sentenced to 7 years.²⁰

The 1891 census: Dartmoor Prison, Devon, shows:

Samuel Gosling, convict, married, 64, general labourer, born Congresbury, Somerset.²¹

¹⁸ Shepton Mallet Journal, 23 November 1888, p7

¹⁹ West Somerset Free Press, 01 December 1888, p7

²⁰ TNA UK, MEOP6/6

On the 1891 census, his family lived at 1 Waters Place, Bedminster, Somerset. ²²

Jane Gosling, 49, married, charwoman, born in Wiltshire

Minnie Pierce, daughter, 20, tobacco stripper, born in Bristol

Henry Pierce, son, 18, coal miner, born in Bristol

Emma Pierce, daughter, 14, scholar, born in Bristol

Frederick Gosling, son, 5, scholar, born in Bristol

His daughter Mary Ann Gosling, born in 1870, has not been found.

On 16 February 1894, Samuel was released on Licence from Dartmoor Prison. He was discharged to the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society at Bristol.

On 17 October 1894, he was back before the court. Samuel Gosling (69), labourer, was charged with stealing an earthenware pot, value 3d, property of Henry Williams, at Brislington, and was sentenced to one day's imprisonment. Because he was a convict on license, he will now have to return to penal servitude for 1 year and 282 days, the unexpired portion of his sentence.²³

When he returned to prison in 1894, Samuel was described as being 5'4", with a fresh complexion, grey hair (bald), hazel eyes, lost all upper front teeth; scar right of back of neck, right of forehead, left forefinger and inside left forearm, convicted of killing a sheep, 26 November 1888, 7 years. His sentence expired on 25 July 1896, but he was released on 21 February 1896 to Bristol. ²⁴

Samuel Gosling, 71, labourer of Bristol, died 3 September 1896 at Barton Regis Workhouse, Eastville, Bristol, of cardiac disease (certified). Registered by the Master of the workhouse on 4 September 1896.

Summary of sentences.

26 March 1850, sheep stealing, 10 years penal servitude

31 December 1861, larceny, 6 months

7 August 1862, housebreaking, 6 years penal servitude

6 July 1871, stealing tools, 7 years penal servitude and 7 years police supervision

7 January 1887, stealing live rabbits, 9 months and 1 year of police supervision

26 November 1888, killing a sheep and stealing the carcass, 7 years penal servitude.

17 October 1894, stealing an earthenware dish, 1 day and remnant of previous penal servitude sentence of one year and 282 days (subject to a remission of one fourth, which can be earned by industry and good conduct)

²¹ TNA UK, RG12/1750

²² TNA UK, RG12/1948

²³ Weston-super-Mare Gazette, 20 October 1894, p3

²⁴ TNA UK, MEOP6/8