

**Benjamin Gaylor, 175, Hashemy**

Researched by Marcia Watson

Name variations: Galor, Galer, Gayler

Born	~1832, Hertfordshire
Parents	William Gayler and Elizabeth Kensey
Parent's marriage	31 October 1808, Albury, Hertfordshire
Siblings	William (1809), Edward (1813), Mary (1817), Joseph (1820), Susan (~1825), Martha (~1829)
Wife	Caroline Bunhill
Married	17 September 1859, York, Western Australia
Children	Unnamed male (1860), Caroline Elizabeth (1862), Benjamin James (1863), Edward (1864), Caroline (1865), Caroline (1866), Susan Caroline (1868)

Benjamin's mother died at Albury in 1838, aged 53, when he was about six years old.

In 1841, the family lived at Clapgate, Albury, Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire, England: William Gayler, 50, bricklayer; Joseph, 20, bricklayer; Susan, 15, Martha, 12 and Benjamin, 7.

When Benjamin was about 13 years old, his father, William Gayler, died at Albury in 1845, aged 60.

In January 1849, Essex the following crime was reported in newspapers:

A most daring and wanton act of incendiarism was committed on the farm of Messrs Bloomfield, at Halstead, on Friday last, by two young tramps. One of whom it appears has just been discharged from Bury gaol, and has been several times in Springfield and other prisons.

James Ridgewell, young man, residing at Halstead, was on his way from Braintree, and when passing a wheat stack, the produce of eight acres, standing in a field on Blamsters farm, and within a few yards of the high road, he saw two boys running from the stack, from which smoke was issuing. He collared them both and taxed them with setting fire to it, which they did not deny, but stated that they did it to get into prison. G. Sperling, Esq., who came up at the moment on horseback, dismounted, placed a lad on his horse, and sent information to the police station. Inspector Hunt, p.c. 93 Simpson, and p.c. 32 MacPherson, were quickly on the spot. The boys, who gave their names as Benjamin Galer and Adolphus Sinclair, were at once given into the custody of Inspector Hunt. Lucifer matches were found on both of them. On being told the charge, they admitted it and said their reason was that they wished to get into gaol.

Sinclair said, "We should not have done it if we could have got into the union. We have seen the man and asked him, and he told us it was no use going there, as they would not take us in." An assistant relieving officer for vagrants said neither of the prisoners applied to him for relief. The prisoners made no defence. They were committed for trial.<sup>1,2</sup>

The new and powerful engine from the town was soon at the fire, but as there was no water within a quarter of a mile, it could not be worked and was to no avail. The stack, which was valued at about £90, continued burning and was wholly destroyed; but Messrs Bloomfield, we learn, are insured in the General Fire and Life Office.

At the Essex Assize on 15 March 1849:

Adolphus Sinclair 17 and Benjamin Galer 17, labourers, pleaded guilty to a charge of setting fire to a stack of wheat, the property of Messrs Joe Linnett and John Linnett Bloomfield, at Halstead. The prisoners were tramps and said their reason for setting fire to the stack was being refused relief at the union-house. Guilty – 14 years transportation<sup>3</sup>

The various Prison Registers note Benjamin Galer, 17, single, cannot read or write, weighs 8st 9lbs, bricklayer's labourer, was convicted at Chelmsford on 5 March 1849 of arson and sentenced to 14 years transportation. He had twice been previously convicted, the last time nine months ago—his brother Joseph Galer, is a bricklayer at Albury, Hertfordshire. Benjamin was received at Millbank Prison on 24 October 1849 from Springfield Prison in Essex. After two months there, he was transferred to Pentonville Prison. On 11

<sup>1</sup> Cambridge General Advertiser, 10 January 1849, p3

<sup>2</sup> Essex Standard, 05 January 1849, p3

<sup>3</sup> Essex Herald, 13 March 1849, p1

June 1850, he was sent to Portland Prison. A month later, he boarded the *Hashemy* on 19 July for the voyage to Fremantle.<sup>4</sup>

On arrival at Fremantle, his description was:

175. Benjamin Gayler, 18, 5' 4¼", brown hair, blue eyes, oval face, fair complexion, slight build, with a large scar on left breast - a rip from a nail, a mason and single.<sup>5</sup>

General Register:

175. Benjamin Gaylor, 20, single, bricklayer, Church of England, went to day school, can read and write, and is indifferent to maths. He said his brother Joseph Gaylor, a bricklayer, lives at Mt Pleasant near Bishop Stortford, Hertfordshire.

Attended Divine Service? Attended regularly

Received Sacrament? Never

Habits? Sober and attentive

Intellect? Sound

State of Mind? Hopeful

Knowledge, Secular? Limited

Knowledge, Religious? Very limited

Alleged Cause of Crime? Bad company

Name of Person referred to for Character, &c. Does not refer to anyone.<sup>6</sup>

Benjamin appears a few times on the Casual sick list, Fremantle.<sup>7</sup>

Galer B	10 November 1850		Infus Quassia
Galer Benj	12 November 1850	Bad eyes	Lotion
Gayler Benj	14 November 1850	Nyctalopia	Shade
Gayler B	16 November 1850	Sickness	Pilul Calomel & draught
Gaylor Benj	17 January 1851	Pain in stomach	Cal & Jalap powder
Gayler Benj	26 March 1851	Diarrhoea	Pulv Aper: chalk mixture

He received his Ticket of Leave on 19 April 1852.

On 5 June 1852 at Fremantle Court: B. Gaylor, ticket-of-leave holder, charged with being in the streets of Fremantle after 10 p.m.; admonished.<sup>8</sup>

Three years later, he was reconvicted at York on 26 June 1855: Benjamin Gailor, t.l., attempting to break into the Commissariat store; 3 years in Convict Establishment.<sup>9</sup>

Fremantle Prison, sick list:<sup>10</sup>

Gaylor Benj HL	17 February 1856	Sore throat	Dovers pills
Gaylor Benj	18 February 1856	Sore throat	Dovers pills bedtime
Gaylor B	19 February 1856	Sore throat	Emetic
Galor B	20 February 1856	Sore throat	Gargle 3x daily
Gaylor Benj	7 May 1856	Vomiting	Purg powder, stay in cell
Gaylor Benj	12 May 1856	Febricula	Emetic, purg powder, stay in cell
Gayner Benj 175	16 October 1856	Bowel complaint	Mason, tent
Gaylor Benj	24 October 1856		Aper: medicine Mason, cells
Gaylor Benj	2 December 1856	Bowel complaint	Purg powder
Gayler Benj	17 January 1857	Bowel complaint	
Gaylor Benj	25 January 1857		Wishes green shade
Gaylor Ben	26 January 1857		Wishes to leave light labour. Ordered
Gayler B	30 January 1857	Bruised wrist	Liniment
Gaylor Benj	10 April 1857	Bruised finger	Poultice. Mason's labourer

<sup>4</sup> HO24/2; PCOM2/30; PCOM2/63; HO8/105

<sup>5</sup> SROWA Acc 128/40-3

<sup>6</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 R21A

<sup>7</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 CS1

<sup>8</sup> Inquirer (Perth, WA : 1840 - 1855), 16 June 1852, p3

<sup>9</sup> The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News (WA : 1848 - 1864), 13 July 1855, p3

<sup>10</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 M14-16, CS1-3, CS4-5

Gaylor Benj	2 June 1857	Cynanche, sore throat	Purg & gargle
Gaylor Benj	10 September 1857	Bruised foot	Liniment
Gaylor Benj	6 February 1858	Conjunctivitis	It would be advisable to change his place of work for a few days. The reflection from the water is affecting his eyes very much.

On 11 May 1858, he was sent to Sutherland Bay. He returned to Fremantle Prison on 15 June 1858 and was discharged the following day.<sup>11</sup>

Benjamin married Caroline Bunhill at York on 17 September 1859.

Benjamin was 26 and the son of William Gaylor.

Caroline Bunhill was 25, single, and the daughter of James Burnhill.

[Caroline Mary Ann Bunnell, was the daughter of James and Maria Caroline Bunnell née Couch. She was born in 1834 and baptised in 1839 at St Sepulchre, London. Her father was a butcher].

On the 1859 York Census, at the home of Thomas Dobbs were:

Ben Gaylor, 26, married, Church of England, stonemason, can read and write, arrived on the *Hashemy*, "on the road".

Caroline Gaylor, 25, married, Church of England, came on the *Emma Eugenia* in 1858 (as a domestic servant), "on the road".

They had the following children:

Name	Born	Born at	Died	Age	
Unnamed Male	1860	York	1860	1 day	
Caroline Elizabeth	1862	York	1862	5 months	
Benjamin James	1863	Perth	1863	3 weeks	Bur. East Perth Cemetery
Edward	1864	York			Bap. 2 Sep 1864 at Northam
Caroline	1865	York	1865	1 month	
Caroline	1866	Northam	1867	5 weeks	Bap. 2 Jan 1867 at Northam
Susan Caroline	1867	Northam	1868	4 months	

They were determined to have a child called Caroline, but all four female children died under 5 months.

In 1863, Benjamin and Caroline Gaylor gave 5s each to the Lancashire Relief Fund.<sup>12</sup> The American Civil War caused a lack of raw cotton coming to England. The Lancashire Cotton Famine, 1861-5, resulted in thousands of people being out of work as the cotton factories closed.

Benjamin's sentence expired on 28 May 1864. He was issued with a Certificate of Freedom on 30 May 1864.<sup>13</sup>

In 1880, Benjamin Gaylor, 60, was charged with being a loose, idle, disorderly person (1 month) and drunk (14 days) on 7 April at Williams. He arrived at Fremantle Prison on 14 April and was discharged on 21 May 1880. He was a stonemason and could read and write a little, local prisoner number 2733.<sup>14</sup>

His wife, Caroline Gaylor, appears to have died at Albany on 24 May 1881, and was buried on 27 May at Memorial Park. She was aged 38 (*sic*), and died of a strangulated hernia (certified). The Albany Cemetery records say she was Caroline Taylor, died on 21 May 1881, and had an alias of Eliot.

Benjamin applied for relief at Katanning in 1897.<sup>15</sup>

22 June 1901: An old man named Benjamin Gayler, a builder by trade, was found dead in his hut at Marleyup on Monday morning. The old fellow had been ailing for some considerable time and had reached the age of 75 years. He has long been a resident of the district and was a quiet, inoffensive man. An inquest was held on Tuesday, before Dr Black, R.M. (coroner), and a jury. After hearing the evidence, a verdict of death from natural causes was returned.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>11</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 RD1-2

<sup>12</sup> The Inquirer and Commercial News (Perth, WA : 1855 - 1901), 11 March 1863, p4

<sup>13</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 R21B

<sup>14</sup> Registers of Local Prisoners for Nos 614 - 4185 and 4196 - 6853, 1876 - 1888 (F3 - F4)

<sup>15</sup> SROWA cons 527 1897/3823

<sup>16</sup> The Inquirer and Commercial News (Perth, WA : 1855 - 1901), 28 June 1901, p15; The Albany Advertiser (WA : 1897 - 1954), 25 June 1901, p3