

William Grabham, 94, Hashemy

Researched by Marcia Watson

Baptism	25 March 1821, Churchstanton, Somerset
Parents	Abraham Grabham and Betty Summerhays
Parent's marriage	31 October 1820, Churchstanton, Somerset
Siblings	Mary (~1823), John (~1825), Thomas (1826), Robert (1829), Betty (1831), Abraham (1834), Edward (1838), Lydia (1840), Ann (1843), James (1845-1852)
Wife	Sarah Herring
Married	10 December 1843, Otterford, Somerset
Children	George William (1844) Edith (1848)

The family resided at Churchingford, about 2 miles away from Churchstanton, where Abraham was a labourer. By 1826, the family had moved to Buckland St Mary. Abraham was a publican at Otterford in the early 1840s before returning to labouring.

In 1841, living at Bishops Wood, Otterford, Taunton, Somerset were: ¹

Abraham Grabham, 40, Ag lab; Betty, 40; William, 20; Mary, 18; John, 15; Thomas, 14; Robert, 13; Betty, 10; Abraham, 7; Edward, 3; Lydia, 1. The census form says all the family members are ag labs!

Abraham Grabham died in 1861, aged 65, and Betty died in 1882, aged 81. Both are buried at Otterford.

In January 1839, a reward was offered to anyone who could get Wm Dyer, Henry Dyer, William Gatter, Wm Grabham, and Wm Herring convicted of poaching on the manor of Yarcombe.²

William married on 10 September 1843 at Otterford, by Banns.³

William Grabham, full age, bachelor, labourer, father Abraham Grabham, a labourer

Sarah Herring, full age, spinster, father Richard Herring, a labourer.

Then in December 1847, a newspaper reported:

Dorchester. On Sunday evening last, the farmhouse of Mr Stone, of Hillfield, near Cerne, was broken into, and property, in cash and notes, to the amount of nearly £100 carried off. Information of the robbery was given to our Police Superintendent, and on Monday and Tuesday, that active officer instituted inquiries in the neighbourhood which led to the detection of two "navvies" —one a stranger to this part of the country but lately employed on our railway; the other a native of Hillfield, named John Patience. They were apprehended on Tuesday at Portland, where they had proceeded after changing several of the stolen notes at Weymouth, in which town they had purchased two watches, a quantity of clothing, &c. The sum of £52 12s was found upon the prisoners, and they were brought to Dorchester on Tuesday evening. ⁴

At the Dorset Lent Assizes, Dorchester in March 1848:

John Patience and William Grabham were charged with having, on the night of the 29th December, broken and entered the dwelling house John Stone at Hillfield, and stolen six five pound notes, a number of gold, silver, and copper coins, to the value of thirty pounds, a silver watch, powder flask and shot charger.

Mr Fitzherbert appeared for the prosecution, Mr Arney for the defence.

John Stone, the younger, was first deposed that he lives at Hillfield with his grandfather, the prosecutor. He is one of the overseers of the parish. On the 19 December he saw his grandfather's house properly fastened up. It is customary to lock or bar all the doors in the house communicating from one room to another. Was awake about two o'clock the morning by noise in the house as of breaking open a door, and immediately after heard some person walk across the kitchen. He then dressed and went to his

¹ HO107/959/18, p11

² Exeter and Plymouth Gazette, 12 January 1839, p3

³ Somerset Archives: D/P/OTT 2/1/7

⁴ Salisbury and Winchester Journal, 25 December 1847, p3

grandfather's room, and on his way heard the hall door broken open. Upon this, he fired a gun from his bedroom window for the purpose of getting assistance. His brother afterwards repeatedly discharged the gun. In the hall are two bureaus which he heard broken open, and almost immediately after some money fell the floor. He next heard some persons run across the kitchen as if to leave the house. The carter John Foot soon afterwards arrived at the house and let him into the hall. In the kitchen, he found all the doors open; the lock of the hall door was broken. The bureaus were open, the locks being broken, the papers from the bureaus were scattered about the floor, and there was missing three Bank of England £5 notes, three £5 notes of the National Provincial Bank of England, a considerable sum of money in gold, silver and copper, which was in some purses; watch, powder flask, and shot charger. He had seen all the property on the previous day. Proceeding with their search, he found the cellar window open, a pane of glass had been cut out, and a bar of wood cut through. The back kitchen window was open, and a bar of wood cut. The door between the kitchen and back kitchen had been attempted to be forced open. The door the milk house window was unhung. The door between that and the back kitchen bore marks of attempt to force it open. In the morning, he found a distinct track of one person, and several other footmarks under the kitchen windows and this track, accompanied by two others, was traced through cow leaze nearly adjoining, and thence across some fields into the turnpike road, along which it was followed, a distance nine miles, viz, to Grimstone Gate. On Tuesday he went with Russell, the superintendent of the Dorchester police to Portland, whose, at the Castle Inn, they apprehended the two prisoners. Patience lives in Hillfield, witness had on the previous Wednesday asked him for some money which he owed the parish.

John Foot is carter to Mr Stone, about 2 o'clock in the morning of the 20 December he heard several discharges of gun the direction his master's house; immediately dressed and went to the house. This witness corroborated the evidence of Mr Stone as to the appearance of the doors and windows, and added that the catch of the cellar door was used as a plug to keep the latch of the staircase door from being lifted, one was able to get from the staircase until he had removed the plug.

Joseph Jarvis, an earthenware dealer, (a hawker), stated that Monday the 20 January at the tap the Bear Inn, he saw the two prisoners, rather the worse for liquor, Grabham took a purse from his pocket and turned out upon the table several sovereigns, some silver, and coppers.

William Russell, superintendent of police at Dorchester, deposed that on Tuesday the 21 December at the Portland Castle Inn, apprehended prisoners; found on Patience £26. 10s in gold, £2. 10s. 6d. in silver, one five pound note the Bank England, one of the National Provincial Bank, Sherborne, and one of the National Provincial Bank, Blandford, and 5½ pence copper; two watches and a canvas double purse. On Grabham he found £6 10s in gold, £2. 1s in silver, and two farthings; two powder flasks, one shot charger, one leather, and two canvas purses, and two watches. The Saturday after he had taken them to gaol and witness examined their boots, which were found to agree with the description the tracks from Hillfield to Grimstone gate.

The property, with the exception the money, was identified by the prosecutor, his grandson, John Stone, jun., and his daughter law, Sarah Stone. Other witnesses substantiated minor points.

Robert Dyer, a rail-road sub-contractor, gave both the prisoners good characters, had known Grabham years 12 years, and Patience 18 months. Both prisoners were found guilty and sentenced to 14 years transportation.⁵

The Dorset County Gaol and House of Correction register records:

106. William Grabham, 27, received and committed on 11 March 1848, sentenced at County Assizes for 14 years for burglary. Sent to Millbank on 12 April 1848. Instruction – Well i.e. he could read and write.⁶

⁵ Sherborne Mercury, 18 March 1848, p3. John Patience arrived on the *Scindian* in 1850.

⁶ Dorchester Prison. NG/PR 1. Dorchester, Dorset,

William Grabham, 27, married with two children, can read & write well, lime burner, was convicted on 11 March 1848 at Dorchester Assizes and sentenced to 14 years' transportation. He was transferred to Millbank prison, from Dorchester Gaol, on 12 April 1848. No gaoler's report was received, which usually reports previous convictions. His wife was recorded as Sarah 28, and his children as George William 4 and Sarah Edith, aged 2, who lived at Otterford in Somerset. After eight months at Millbank, where he was reported once or twice for misconduct, William was removed to Pentonville Prison on 9 December 1848. At Pentonville, his details included weighing 10 stone 6 pounds, being born at Buckland St Mary, and his next of kin was his father Abraham Grabham, a lime burner, living at Otterford.⁷

William's final move was to Portland Prison on 9 August 1849. Here he was again reported for misconduct:

31 January 1850 Grabham being found with tobacco in his possession and being strongly suspected of trafficking with labourers on the works (at Folly Pier), I placed him in Separate Confinement.^{8, 9}

William and 99 other convicts boarded the *Hashemy* on 19 July 1850 for the voyage to Fremantle. During the voyage he was placed on the sick list:

Folio 5: William Grabham, aged 29, prisoner; sick or hurt, catarrhus; put on sick list, 6 October 1850, discharged on 23 October 1850 well.¹⁰

His description on arrival at Fremantle:

94. William Gratham, 30, 5'7³/₄" , dark brown hair, dark hazel eyes, long face, heavy beard, dark complexion, very heavy body, a lime burner, married with two children.¹¹

General Register:

94. William Grabham, 30, married, labourer, Church of England, went to school, can read fairly, write tolerably and very fair at numbers. Said his parents, Abraham and Elizabeth Grabham, live at Otterford near Chard in Somerset. His wife Sarah and two children also live there.

Attended Divine Service? Not regularly

Received Sacrament? Never

Habits? Fond of drink

Intellect? Sound

State of Mind? Settled, but not subdued exactly

Knowledge, Secular? Limited

Knowledge, Religious? Remembers his Bible history, is not ignorant of the Gospel plan of Salvation

Alleged Cause of Crime? Gives no cause

Name of Person referred to for Character, &c. Mr John Turner, farmer, of Buckland St Mary near Chard.¹²

William appears on the Casual Sick list, Fremantle.¹³

Grabham	2 November 1850	Pain in limbs?	Mixt Colchie
Grabham	4 November 1850		Continue Colchie
Grabham	5 November 1850	Rheumatism	Dovers powder
Grabham Wm	6 November 1850		Infus Quassia
Grabham <i>Jno</i>	25 February 1851	Bad eyes	Lotion

He was issued with a Ticket of leave on 30 July 1851 and a Conditional Pardon granted on 16 September 1854.¹⁴

⁷ HO24/4; PCOM2/28; PCOM2/62, p61; PCOM2/28

⁸ Governor's Journal, 24 November 1848 to 9 August 1850. PCOM 2/354

⁹ HO8/105

¹⁰ ADM 101/32/6/1-6

¹¹ SROWA Acc 138/40-3

¹² SROWA Acc 1156 R21A

¹³ SROWA Acc 1156 CS1

¹⁴ SROWA Acc 1156 R21B

The Western Australia Biographical Index:

GRABHAM William b. 1820. (expiree). Arrived 25.10.1850 per 'Hashemy'. wife & chd in UK. Employed 3 T/L men (2 sawyers) 1870-1871 & possibly ? Employed T/L sawyer at Busselton 1866.

On 8 April 1878, William Gratham died of paralysis at Bunbury and was buried the following day. He was 58 years old and a sawyer.

**Estate of William Gratham,
of Colley, deceased.**

NOTICE is hereby given that all claims against the above Estate must be sent in to the undersigned for payment on or before the 15th July next, after which date they will not be recognised, and all accounts due to the said Estate must be paid forthwith, or they will be placed in the hands of a Solicitor for collection.

U. WISBY,
GEO. R. YEEDE,
Executors.

Bunbury, May 25, 1878.

15

DUPLICATE REGISTER OF DEATH. 9563

No.	When and where died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.
352	¹⁸⁷⁸ 8th April at Bunbury	William Gratham	M	58y.	Sawyer	Paralysis	James J. Lita M. Undertaker	1878 April 9	J. R. B. B. B.

- Cannot Be Used For Any -

¹⁵ The Inquirer and Commercial News (Perth, WA : 1855 - 1901), 29 May 1878, p2

Sarah Herring, wife of William Grabham, convict 94

Baptism	~1813
Parents	Richard Herring and Jane(Jenny) Vincent
Parent's marriage	10 January 1810, Otterford, Somerset
Siblings	Robert (1811), William (1816), Joan (1820), Richard (1822), Ann (1824)
Husband	William Grabham (1821-?)
Marriage	10 September 1843 at Otterford, by banns.
Children	George William Grabham (1844) Edith Grabham (1848) Jane Melina Grabham (1857) Joseph/Job Grabham (~1861)

From various records, Sarah was born in 1813, and her father was Richard Herring. She is possibly the Mary Herring, baptised on 6 June 1813 at Otterford, daughter of Richard and Jane Herring from Bishops Wood. Richard was a labourer.

The Grabham and Herring families grew up together at Bishops Wood near Otterford. They were also partners in crime as in 1839; a reward was offered for the conviction of William Herring, William Grabham and three others for poaching.

Sarah Herring has not been found on the 1841 census; however, her mother and two siblings were living at Bishops Wood, Otterford, Somerset:

Jane Herring, 62, pauper, born Somerset

Ann Herring, 17, born Somerset

William Herring, 25, ag lab, born Somerset

Living next door to Jane Herring was Wm Satturley, 45, inn-keeper, wife Joan 40, Caroline 15, Samuel 14, and a lodger. Also living at Bishops Wood was William Grabham, his parents and eight siblings.

On three Sundays in January 1843, marriage banns were read at the Otterford Church for Sarah Herring and William Grabham. The marriage did not take place, and banns were re-read May and June. The couple finally married on 11 September 1843. A year later, their son George William was baptised on 18 August 1844.

Sarah received a black eye in an altercation in September 1844. The newspapers reported:

Joan Satturley, the wife of William Satturley, was charged with assaulting Sarah Grabham at the beer-house of Wm Satturley. The husband of Mrs Grabham, it appeared, was among the revellers on the night of 25 September. His wife, having gone to Mr Satturley's in search of him, found him in very lively intercourse with two frail damsels from Chard, who were among the beer-shop attractions; she was excited to strike her too susceptible spouse, and a scuffle ensued. Peace was, however, soon restored, but Mrs Satturley thought Mrs Grabham so much to blame for having broken in that she visited the offence by a hearty shake and then by a brace of fisty cuffs, one of which produced a marked effect on the complaints eye. Joan Saturley was fined 20s, including costs.

Wm Grabham was then charged with stealing Wm Satturley's pears on 22 September. A disinterested witness clearly proved the offence, and the defendant was convicted in a penalty of 15s, including damages and costs.

In December 1847, John Patience and William Grabham were charged with having, on the night of the 29th December, broken and entered the dwelling house John Stone at Hillfield, and stolen six five-pound notes, gold, silver, and copper coins, to the value of thirty pounds, a silver watch, powder flask and shot charger. While in custody, daughter Edith Grabham was baptised on 27 February 1848.

At the Dorset Lent Assizes on 11 March 1848, William Grabham and John Patience were sentenced to be transported for fourteen years. A month later, they were transferred to Millbank Prison. William was transferred to Portland Prison in August 1849. While there, he was visited by his wife and child, Sarah and George William Grabham, on 3 February 1850. Sarah made a second visit with William's brother, John Grabham.

In 1851, Sarah and her children lived in the village of Otterford:

Sarah Grabham, widow, 39, glover, born Otterford

George W, 7, born Otterford

Edith, 3, born Otterford

Also living in Otterford in 1851 were Charles Winter 30, Harriet 28, Charlotte 7, Sarah 5 and baby Emily. Harriet Winter spent three months in gaol in 1854 for stealing in Taunton. In 1855, Harriet and her daughter Sarah were convicted of stealing in Taunton, and Harriet received 12 months.

In 1861, Sarah Grabham was a servant to Charles Winter at Blagdon Hill in Somerset.

Charles Winter, head, married, 46, agricultural labourer, born Pitminster, Somerset

Sarah Grabham, unmarried, 48, servant, born Otterford, Somerset

Emily Winter, daughter, 11, scholar, born Pitminster, Somerset

Jane Winter, daughter, 4, born Pitminster, Somerset

Joseph Winter, son, 0, born Pitminster, Somerset

Sarah is the mother of Jane and Joseph (or Job) Winter. Jane's birth was registered as Grabham in 1857.

In 1864, Sarah Grabham charged Mary Moore with an assault. The parties live in Blagdon, and it appeared that an ill-feeling had existed between them for three or four years, consequent on scandalous reports which each had been circulating of the other. A day or two ago, they met in a place called The Park, and here the complainant alleged the defendant fell upon her and scratched her face. The defendant strongly protested her innocence and said she was the aggrieved party. Fined 6s, including 5s 6d costs.

Sarah Grabham was buried 18 December 1876, aged 60, at Otterford. She died at the Taunton Workhouse.

Children

George William Grabham has not been positively identified after 1851.

Edith Grabham, 13, was a lodger with John Board and family at Bishops Wood near Otterford in 1861.

Edith, 18, married Eli Collins, 21, in 1864. She died in 1930.

Jane Melina Grabham was born in 1857 and baptised in 1859. In 1871, Jane Grabham, 14, was a servant to Charles Winter, 50, and two lodgers at Widcombe, Otterford. She married, as Jane Grabham Winter, to Henry Sweeting in 1875. Jane died in 1924.

Joseph Grabham was baptised Job Grabham in 1862. He is possibly the Job Grabham, 10, boarding with Samuel and Sarah Payne at Red Ball, near Culmstock, in Devon.

Will of Charles Winter

Charles Winter died in 1894. He had three tenements at Wrantage, Somerset. He bequeathed one tenement, half the gardens of the three tenements and use of the water pump to daughter Sarah Collins. On her death, it was to go to his natural child, Jane Grabham, known as Jane Grabham Winter. And on her death, it was to go to her eldest son. The other two tenements, half the gardens and use of the water pump, went to Jane Grabham; and on her death to her eldest son. His house in West Hatch, Somerset, was bequeathed to daughter Emily. His other house in West Hatch went to daughter Charlotte. The residue of his estate was to be divided between his three daughters, Sarah, Charlotte and Emily.

