

Alfred Hill, 158, Hashemy

Researched by Marcia Watson

Baptism	4 April 1829, Wrington, Somerset
Parents	Thomas Hill and Sarah Welsh
Parent's marriage	
Siblings	Henry (1825), Matilda (1825), Temperance (1827), Charles (1831), Joseph (1834), Henry (1836)
Wife	
Married	
Children	

When Alfred Hill was baptised, his father, Thomas, was a gardener and later a labourer.

The 1841 census shows, living at Wrington, Somerset were:¹

Thomas Hill, 50, gardener; Sarah, 25; Alfred, 12; Charles, 10; Joseph, 7; Henry, 5.

In 1851, Thomas Hill, 65, deaf, a labourer, was still living in Wrington with his wife Sarah, 58, a laundress; Joseph, 17, a labourer and Henry, 15, a labourer.

At the Somerset Summer Assizes, at Wells, in August 1848:

Alfred Hill, 19, was indicted for burglariously breaking and entering the dwelling-house of Benjamin Derham of the parish of Wrington on the 16th of June and stealing a flitch of bacon, two loaves of bread and other articles, his property. Mr Phinn conducted the prosecution and Mr Saunders the defence.

Mr Phinn, having stated the case to the jury, called William Harding, who stated that he was a journeyman baker in the employ of Mr Sheppey. There was a bakehouse adjoining the dwelling house. On the 16th of June, he was in the bakehouse till eleven o'clock at night, and when he left, he saw it all was secure. There was a window in the bakehouse which he fastened. he slept in the house and got up soon after 3 o'clock the next morning. Then, on going to the bakehouse, he saw the window open, and on entering the bakehouse, he discovered that the flitch of bacon had been stolen. He instantly called his master and mistress. The prisoner lived close by, and shortly after the robbery, the witness saw him near the house. Witness asked him how long he had been up, to which he replied about half an hour and further added that he and George Chamberlayne and four or five others had been in company at a beer house the previous evening. In consequence of some further information, he went to a barn belonging to a person named Taylor but could not find Chamberlayne there.

Edward Beacham stated that about a quarter past 1 o'clock, he saw the prisoner in part of Mr Sheppey's house, and Chamberlayne was about 20 yards off.

George Chamberlayne deposed that he came out of Shepton Mallet Gaol on the 16th of June. He walked to Wrington that day and went into Driscoll's beerhouse. On coming out, he met the prisoner who said to him, "will you go with me? I know of some bacon in Mr Sheppey's bakehouse, and they go to bed about 12 o'clock". Witness went with him to Mr Sheppey's bakehouse, they pushed the window back, and the prisoner got in. He lit a match and then handed out a flitch of bacon to him. They then went to the house of the prisoner's father; he went in and fetched a knife, with which he cut off a piece about 12lbs or 13lbs and gave it to him (witness). The prisoner took the remainder to the privy and concealed it in a hole in the wall of it, where he kept rabbits. Witness afterwards went to Farmer Taylor's barton, where he found a young man named Parsley asleep under the mow staddles.

Cross-examined - he had been four times in Gaol. The first offence was for having with others interrupted a woman by putting a lighted match through the keyhole of the door. For that offence, he was

¹ HO 107/933/6

imprisoned for one month. The second offence was for catching rabbits. For this, he was sentenced to three weeks imprisonment. The third time was for pushing some stones off the wall on the side of the bridge, and he received one month's imprisonment. The fourth time was for breaking his father's door open, and he was sentenced to one month's imprisonment. He was now in his 17th year.

Other witnesses were examined in confirmation, and Mr Saunders, having addressed the jury for the defence, His Lordship summed up, and the jury returned a verdict of Guilty. His Lordship sentenced the prisoner to transportation for 15 years.² George Chamberlain was charged, and no sentence was recorded. "Admitted Evidence" is recorded in the criminal register.³

Wilton Gaol Register, Taunton, Somerset

854. Alfred Hill, 19, 5' 8", dark brown hair, grey eyes, fair complexion, scar on the thumb of the left hand, single, labourer, born in Rimpton (*sic*), last address Rimpton (*sic*), received from Summer Assizes at Wells.⁴

Alfred was sent to Millbank Prison on 29 December 1848. It was Alfred's first conviction. He could read and was a labourer. He was transferred to Pentonville Prison on 12 June 1849. According to the Pentonville register, Alfred could both read and write and was a gardener.⁵ Another register says Alfred can read and write imperfectly and weighs 9 stone 7lbs (133lbs).⁶ On 4 March 1850, he was transferred to Portland Prison, and on 19 July boarded the *Hashemy* for the voyage to Western Australia.

On arrival in Western Australia, Alfred was described as:

158. Alfred Hill, 21, 5' 7½", brown hair, blue eyes, dark complexion, an oval face, stout, wart on the back of the right hand over the little finger, single, gardener.⁷

General Register:

158. Alfred Hill, 23, single, gardener, Church of England, can read and write. His father, Thomas Hill lives at Renton(*sic*) near Bristol.

Attended Divine Service?	Pretty regularly but fell off before conviction
Received Sacrament?	Never
Habits?	Usually sober, attentive to work
Intellect?	Sound
State of Mind?	Hopeful
Knowledge, Secular?	Limited
Knowledge, Religious?	Limited but has correct views of the plan of Salvation as set forth in the Gospels.
Alleged Cause of Crime?	Bad company
Name of Person referred to for Character, %c.	The Rev Thomas Thompson of Renton(<i>sic</i>) near Bristol
Received books while in prison. ⁸	

Alfred appears on the Casual Sick List, Fremantle Prison.⁹

Hill Alfred	21 October 1850	Bad eyes	Lotion
Hill A	4 November 1850	Nyctalopia	Shade
Hill Al	11 November 1850	Cough	Squill pills
Hill Alfred	14 November 1850	Nyctalopia	Shade
Hill Alfred	19 November 1850	Diarrhoea	Pulil Cal: L Jalap, chalk mixture
Hill Alfred	24 January 1851		

² The Western Flying Post; or, Sherborne and Yeovil Mercury, Saturday, August 12, 1848; p. 3

³ HO27/86, p52

⁴ Somerset Archives Q/AGW/15/5

⁵ HO24/4; HO24/16

⁶ PCOM263/2351

⁷ SROWA Acc 128/1 - 32

⁸ SROWA Acc 1156 R21A 'Renton' is Wrington

⁹ SROWA Acc 1156 CS1

Hill Alfred	25 January 1851		
Hill Alfred	26 January 1851		
Hill Alfred	27 January 1851	Burnt hand	Dress: ointment
Hill Alfred	28 January 1851	Burnt hand	Dress
Hill Alfred	29 January 1851		Continue dressing
Hill Alfred	30 January 1851	Bad hand	Continue dressing
Hill Alfred	31 January 1851	Bad hand	Continue ointment
Hill Alfred	1 February 1851	Bad hand	Continue dressing
Hill Alfred	2 February 1851	Bad hand	Dressing
Hill Alfred	4 February 1851	Ulcus	Dressing

He was issued with a Ticket of leave on 11 December 1851.¹⁰

There was an unclaimed letter at the Post office for Alfred Hill in January 1857.¹¹ Perhaps his family were in touch with him. Alfred was granted a Conditional Pardon was granted on 3 October 1859.¹²

Then in 1863, Alfred Hill, 33, expiree, charged with wilfully neglecting his Master's business at Pinjarra, convicted on 6 November 1863 and sentenced to one month in prison. Received at Fremantle Gaol on 12 November and discharged on 5 December 1863. Alfred could read and write.¹³

In 1903, the resident correspondent from Broome Hill near Katanning reported: An old man named Alfred Hill was brought before Mr A N Nicolson, JP, at Broome Hill Police Court, last week on a charge of having no visible means of support. After Constable Stevens had given evidence, the accused was asked whether he would go to the Depot but refused, saying he would rather go to prison. He was therefore sentenced to three months imprisonment and will doubtless be put in the gaol infirmary. Hill had been hanging about the outskirts of the district for some time without anything to do, and it is wonderful how he managed to exist. When arrested, he was in a filthy state.¹⁴

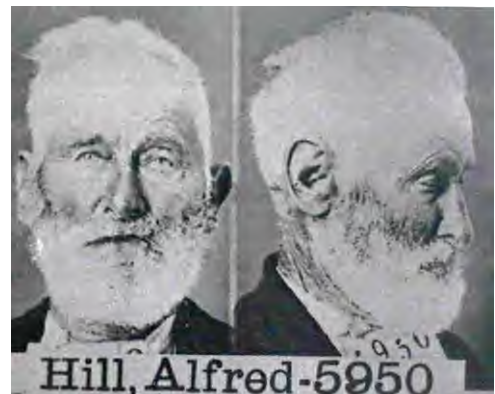
Alfred Hill, 5950, was received at Fremantle Prison, from Broome Hill, on 17 September 1903. He was discharged on 15 December 1903.

Described as: 73 years old; 5'6¼', grey hair, grey eyes, full face, sallow complexion, middling stout, weighed 143 lbs, widower, Protestant and could read and write. Marks or scars included – inside right forearm, outside left elbow, black mark on the left side of neck, mole on the left chest, mole on the right shoulder, small growth on the left shoulder blade.¹⁵

Alfred Hill, aged 76, died on 06 August 1905 at the Old Men's Home, Fremantle, according to his death certificate. He died of apoplexy of three hours duration. Alfred's parents were Thomas Hill, nurseryman, and Sarah Welsh. The certificate says Alfred had been in Western Australia for 55 years; and was single with no children.

Alfred was buried at Fremantle cemetery on 7 August 1905; Anglican, MON AA, grave 0171.

No other Information on Fremantle cemetery records apart from Alfred Hill was a pauper.



¹⁰ SROWA Acc 1156 RD1 - RD2

¹¹ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News (WA : 1848 - 1864), 9 January 1857, p2

¹² SROWA Acc 1156 R21B

¹³ SROWA Acc 1156 V16

¹⁴ Great Southern Herald (Katanning, WA: 1901 - 1954), 26 September 1903, p2

¹⁵ SROWA Cons 313, item 7, p35; Australia's last convicts, reprobates, rogues and recidivists. Friends of Battye Library Inc, 2016