

James Levett, 149, Hashemy

Researched by Marcia Watson

Baptism	8 April 1821, Chevening, near Sevenoaks, Kent
Parents	William Levett and Mary Bashford
Parent's marriage	27 December 1812, Speldhurst, Kent, England [William Lefet]
Siblings	Sarah (1814), Sophia (1817), William (1818), Thomas (1822), Fanny (1825), Samuel (1827), Joseph (1829), William Henry (1852) ¹
Wife	Emily Monk
Married	5 January 1845, Brasted, Kent
Children	

In 1841, living at Whitley Row, Chevening, Kent were:²

William 40, Ag lab; Mary 40; James 20, Ag lab; Thomas 15, Ag lab; Fanny 15; Samuel 13; Joseph 11; Richard 9.

James married on 5 January 1845, at Brasted, Kent:

James Levett, 24, labourer, son of William Levett, labourer

Emily Monk, 20, spinster, daughter of Richard Monk, labourer.

Both made their mark. Married by Banns. Witnesses were Thomas Levett and Ann Levett. ³

(Thomas Levett married Rebecca Monk, Emily's sister on 14 June 1848 at Sundridge, Kent)

West Kent Quarter Sessions, Maidstone in April 1848:

James Levett, 26, was indicted for stealing one sheep, the property of Richard Heydon, at Chevening. Mr Deedes prosecuted, and Mr Horn defended the prisoner.

The prosecutor is a farmer at Chevening, and on the 20th March last, a sheep was stolen from his field. On that night, the prosecutor, having received information which induced him to believe that certain parties in the district intended to "take a fancy" to one of his sheep, ordered two men to be on the "look out," and accordingly in the dead of night, two men secreted themselves contiguous to the sheepfold. After watching some time, they heard the footsteps of two persons, and approaching them, found the prisoner and another man walking at rather a rapid rate, coming from the direction of the prosecutor's field—the prisoner with something under his smock-frock, and his companion with a sack on his shoulder. On pursuing them, they ran away, dropped their booty, jumped into the river, swam to the opposite side and made their escape. A large bundle (which the prisoner dropped) was afterwards picked up and found to contain some mutton and sheep's head. The sack carried by the prisoner's companion (who has not yet been apprehended) was also picked up, which contained nearly the carcass of a sheep.

On the next day, a sheep-skin, which was identified by the prosecutor, was found near the fold, and on comparing it with the mutton found in the sack, and the sheep's head the prisoner dropped, it exactly corresponded, and left doubt that it was part of prosecutor's sheep.

The jury convicted the prisoner, and his Lordship, in passing sentence, said that the crime of sheep-stealing was very prevalent and greatly on the increase; he should therefore pass severe sentence on the prisoner, in the hope that it would deter others from committing similar offences.—Fifteen years transportation.⁴

¹ Samuel Levett was baptised privately one week before his sister Fanny in 1827. On the 1841 census, Fanny was two years older than Samuel; and on the 1851 census, she was born in 1825.

William Henry is called Richard on the 1841 census and Richard H on the 1851 census

² HO107/481/1, p6

³ Brasted parish register, marriage No 38 p19.

⁴ South Eastern Gazette, 11 April 1848, p6

Petition⁵

Brasted "Seven Oaks", Kent, May 9th, 1848.

Sir

It is my desire to lay the following case before you for your kind consideration. The prisoner James Levett of Brasted now incarcerated in the Millbank Penitentiary Prison under sentence of transportation for fifteen years was tried at the last Maidstone Quarter Sessions when he was convicted for sheep stealing. As far as I am aware this was his first offence nor does it appear to me even morally certain that he did commit the said crime, but (taking?) it to be the known sentence does appear to me as well as to other highly influential persons a great deal too severe as it is the first conviction for that offence. He is a man of other industrious habits and I hope, sincerely pray that you may be conduced to take his case into your kind consideration, and trust that you may obtain a commutation of his sentence. I should not have taken the liberty of thus addressing you if I did not feel that it was a case which had it been tried at the Assizes would not most certain have met with so severe punishment.

I am, Sir,

Your obed^t humble Sev^t

Henry G Brasnell, Curate of Brasted.

Cover 235/21

James Levett, 26, Kent Quarter Sessions, Maidstone April 1848, Sheep stealing, 15 years' transportation Gaol Report - before Summarily convicted

Nil G.G. [Nil = the petition was unsuccessful; G.G. is Sir George Grey, Secretary of the Home Dept]

The Curate of Brasted submits the case for consideration of the ground that the sentence is too severe for the offence

Answered 16 May 1848.

James Levett, 26, married, cannot read or write, labourer, was sent to Millbank Prison and received there on 19 April 1848 from Maidstone Gaol. He has a wife, Emma, at Brasted, Kent. James was visited by the Rev H.G. Brassnell, G.O. on 6 May 1848. After eight months at Millbank, James was transferred to Wakefield prison on 12 December 1848. He was received the same day at Wakefield. The register notes he was once summarily convicted.⁶ James was later transferred to Portland Prison, arriving there on 2 June 1849 from Wakefield. The register notes James is married with one child. He was reported on 20 February 1850 for irregularity and disposed of as in Report Book and Misconduct Book.⁷

His health was very good, and his behaviour was good before he boarded the *Hashemy* for the voyage to Western Australia.⁸

[No birth of a child has been found; no other records mention a child, only that James is married]

His description on arrival at Fremantle in October 1850:

149. James Levett, 20 (*sic*), 5' 6½", brown hair, blue eyes, oval visage, fresh complexion, stout, small mole on the left breast, labourer and married.⁹

General Register:

149. James Levett, 29, married, labourer, Church of England, went to national school, can read a little, write indifferently, no maths. His father was William Levett, a labourer, living in the parish of Bearstead (*sic*), Kent.

Attended Divine Service? Generally once each Sunday

⁵ HO18/235

⁶ HO24/4; PCOM2/28, p175; HO23/14, p91

⁷ Portland Prison. Governor's Journal, 24 November 1848 to 9 August 1850. PCOM 2/354

⁸ PCOM2/383, p92; HO8/105 p5

⁹ SROWA Acc 128/40-43

Received Sacrament? Never
 Habits? Usually attentive at his work & steady
 Intellect? Sound
 State of Mind? Very hopeful
 Knowledge, Secular? Very limited
 Knowledge, Religious? Limited
 Alleged Cause of Crime? Poverty
 Name of Person referred to for Character, &c. The Rev Mills, Rector of Bearstead, Kent; Mr Roberts, grocer, Bearstead, Kent.¹⁰

Like many of the other convicts from the Hashemy, James appears on the Casual Sick list at Fremantle.¹¹

	Date	Complaint	Treatment
Levett Jas	25 February 1851	Bad eyes	Lotion
Levett James	26 February 1851		

James was issued with a Ticket of leave on 10 September 1851.

Allan Lancaster, a ticket of leave man, was convicted of stealing three one-pound notes from the bedroom of James Levett and sentenced to two years hard labour. This is possibly James.¹²

On 16 September 1854, James was granted a Conditional Pardon. A Certificate of Freedom was issued on 4 November 1863.¹³

Western Australian Biographical Index has:

James was a resident at Baylup, Toodyay-Guildford Rd. Western Australia, in 1888. Caretaker (expiree)¹⁴

James died at the Mt Eliza Depot on 9 October 1899. He was buried in a pauper grave at Karrakatta - Anglican, BC, grave 45. (the area has been renewed)¹⁵

Emily Monk, wife of James Levett, convict 149

Baptism	4 July 1824, Brasted, Kent
Parents	Richard Monk and Sarah Pledge
Parent's marriage	15 December 1814, Brasted, Kent
Siblings	Sophia (1818), Mary Maria (1820), Henry (1821), George (1827), Charles (1829), Rebecca Jane (1831), Anne (1835), Ellen (1838)
Husband	James Levett (1821-1899)
Marriage	5 January 1845, Brasted, Kent, by banns
Children	One?

Richard Monk was a soldier in the 95th regiment of foot when he married Sarah Pledge. Both made their marks on the register. Richard was still in the army when his first child, Sophia, was baptised. He was a labourer on the baptisms of all other children.

¹⁰ SROWA Acc 1156 R21A

¹¹ SROWA Acc 1156 CS1

¹² Inquirer (Perth, WA : 1840 - 1855), 23 February 1853, p3

¹³ SROWA Acc 1156, R21B

¹⁴ Biographical Dictionary and Rica Erickson's notes on FamilySearch.

¹⁵ Karrakatta Cemetery database; SROWA Acc 1156 V24

The 1841 census shows her mother, Sarah Monk, 42, and siblings George, Charles, Rebecca, Ann and Ellen living in Brasted. No record has been found for Emily.

Emily Monk, 20, spinster, of Brasted, Kent married James Levett, 24, labourer, son of William Levett, on 5 January 1845. Both made their mark. The marriage was by banns, and the witnesses Thomas Levett and Ann Levett, siblings of the couple. (Thomas Levett married Rebecca Monk, Emily's sister, on 14 June 1848 at Sundridge, Kent)

In April 1848, at the West Kent Quarter Sessions, in Maidstone, James Levett, 26, was indicted for stealing one sheep, Richard Heydon's property, at Chevening. His accomplice had not found. The jury convicted the prisoner, and his Lordship, in passing sentence, said that the crime of sheep stealing was very prevalent and increasing; therefore, he should pass a severe sentence on the prisoner, hoping that it would deter others from committing similar offences.—transported for fifteen years.

On 6 May, the curate of Brasted visited James at Millbank Prison. Three days later, he petitioned the Home Office, saying James was a man of industrious habits. He felt that if the trial had been held at the Assize, the sentence would not have been so severe, considering James's first offence.

James was in Millbank Prison for eight months and then transferred to Wakefield Prison. The Wakefield register says James is married with one child, although no other records mention a child and no birth found.

No further trace has been found of Emily.