

## George Parker, 159, *Hashemy*

Researched by Marcia Watson

Baptism	22 June 1828 at St Mary, Canterbury, Kent
Parents	William Parker and Ann(e) <i>Gregory</i> ?
Parent's marriage	<i>8 November 1819, St Mary, Westwell, Kent ?</i>
Siblings	William (1820), Sophia Nancy (1822), Harriet Anne (1825), Frederick (1826-37), Ann (1834)
Wife	
Married	
Children	

When George Parker was baptised the family lived at Ville of St Gregory, an area of St Gregory priory precinct in Canterbury. His father was a pipe maker and possibly died when George was young.

On the 1841 census, living at Abbott's Place, St Alphge, Canterbury, were Ann Parker, 41, a shoe binder, and her children Harriet 16, George 13 and Ann 7.<sup>1</sup>

By 1846, the family had moved to Gravesend. The 1851 census<sup>2</sup> shows living at 30 Wakefield St, Gravesend was:

Ann Parker, head, widow, 49, shoe binder, born *Moldak*, Kent [possibly Molash, near Westwell, Kent]  
Ann, 15, daughter, born Canterbury

[In 1850, George said that his mother Ann Parker, shoe binder, lived at 16 Wakefield St, Gravesend]

George Parker appeared at the Petty Sessions, Gravesend, in February 1846. Described as a young man of very doubtful character, he was charged by Mr Phillips, dairyman, High-street, with stealing seven fowls, his property. He tried to sell them, asking half a crown for three, later offering them for two shillings. The fowls were produced in court, and Phillips claimed three of them were definitely his and believed the other four were also his. A witness, William Lean, described as an intelligent boy, said saw George and Henry Neave into Mr Phillips's barn between four and five o'clock on Friday afternoon and wondered what they were doing. Neave, a suspicious character, and was also brought before the Bench on suspicion of stealing, but no charge could be brought against him. George Parker was committed for trial.<sup>3</sup>

At the Lent Assizes at Maidstone on 9 March 1846, the Jury returned a verdict of guilty. George was sentenced to six months of hard labour.<sup>4</sup>

Then in January 1847, at the Maidstone Petty Sessions:

*George Parker alias George Brooker, a dull, stupid looking lad of about sixteen years of age, was charged stealing a turkey, which he had brought alive to Maidstone and offered it to John Dungate, poulterer, for 4s.* He was committed to trial at the West Kent Quarter Sessions, where he was found guilty and sentenced to six months of hard labour.<sup>5,6</sup> He appears in the criminal records as George Brooker *alias* George Parker.

George was in trouble again in 1848 and appeared at the West Kent Michaelmas Sessions, at Maidstone, on 17 October 1848.

*George Parker, 21, butcher, for stealing one sheep's pluck, value nine pence, the property of John Tolhurst, at Gravesend. —Fourteen years transportation.* <sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> HO107/486/2

<sup>2</sup> HO107/1668, p62

<sup>3</sup> South Eastern Gazette, 10 February 1846, p6

<sup>4</sup> South Eastern Gazette, 17 March 1846, p7

<sup>5</sup> South Eastern Gazette, 05 January 1847, p4

<sup>6</sup> Kentish Independent, 09 January 1847, p7

<sup>7</sup> West Kent Guardian, 28 October 1848, p6

The Prison Registers record - George Parker, 21, single, a butcher, cannot read or write, butcher, was convicted on 17 October 1848 at Maidstone Gaol, Kent of a felony after a previous conviction and received 14 years transportation. He was received at Millbank Prison on 2 May 1849 from Maidstone. On 6 March 1850, George was transferred to Portland Prison, where his health was 'good' and behaviour 'very good'.<sup>8</sup>

He boarded the *Hashemy* on 19 July for the voyage to Fremantle. The ship arrived on 25 October 1850. On arrival at Fremantle, George was described as:

159. George Parker, 24, 5' 5½", dark brown hair, grey eyes, an oval face, brown complexion, stout, cut on the knuckle of right hand – over fettle finger, a butcher and single.<sup>9</sup>

The General Register Acc 1156, R21A gives a little more insight into George:

159. George Parker, 26, single, butcher, Church of England, schooled chiefly at home, indifferent reading, writing and maths. His mother, Ann Parker, a shoe binder, lives at 26 Wakefield St, Gravesend.

Attended Divine Service?	Not regularly lately
Received Sacrament?	Never
Habits?	Rather given to drink
Intellect?	Sound
State of Mind?	Hopeful
Knowledge, Secular?	Very limited
Knowledge, Religious?	Limited
Alleged Cause of Crime?	Drink & company

Name of Person referred to for Character, &c. Mr William Dean, High St, Gravesend.<sup>10</sup>

[There was a William Dean, butcher, High St Gravesend on the 1841 census, possibly employed George]

During the first eight months, George appears on the Casual Sick list thirteen times, mostly for diarrhoea and an infected finger.<sup>11</sup>

George Parker was found guilty of striking an officer in the execution of his duty on 10 March 1851. His Ticket of leave was suspended and issued later on 26 December 1851.<sup>12, 13</sup>

It seems George could not mend his ways, for on 7 June 1854, at the Fremantle Police Court:

*George Parker, t.l., a person who has been in great request with the police for some time, was charged with stealing money. The prisoner has been repeatedly charged with similar offences, but by his cautious and skilful management, had hitherto eluded every endeavour to convict him. Fortune, however, in this instance deserted him, and he was sent to study architecture and geology for 18 months in the Convict Establishment.*<sup>14</sup>

George, a reconvicted prisoner, was received at Fremantle Prison on 12 June 1854. He appears on the sick list over 40 times during 1854-5. He regularly suffered from constipation. In March 1855, he was admitted to hospital *with acute inflammation of left ear and very painful, no discharge, scaly eruption on face which has been declining since ear got bad*. While in hospital, the doctor wrote in the medical records *this man was formerly treated for supposed insanity; today, he has recommenced some of his peculiarities*<sup>15</sup>

George was discharged from prison on 24 June 1856.<sup>16</sup> It was not long before he was in trouble again and returned to prison on 13 August, sentenced to hard labour, put to work in the quarry.

<sup>8</sup> HO24/4; HO8/105

<sup>9</sup> SROWA Acc 128/40-3

<sup>10</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 R21A

<sup>11</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 CS1

<sup>12</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 SO1-3, p33

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

<sup>14</sup> Inquirer (Perth, WA : 1840 - 1855), 21 June 1854, p3

<sup>15</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 CS2-3

<sup>16</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 RD1-2

On 27 November 1858, George was transferred to Sutherland Bay for three months before being discharged on 2 March 1859. George was granted a Conditional Pardon in March the following year.<sup>17</sup>

It was not long before he was again in prison, received there on 21 December 1860. When George appeared on the sick list between April and August 1861 for worms, it mentions he is in solitary confinement and working as a tailor.<sup>18</sup> He continues to occasionally suffer from worms while he is in prison and was discharged to Newcastle on 10 April 1863.

Two years later, he received a Certificate of Freedom on 2 February 1865.

Possibly George:

17 February 1865.—Ship *Briton*. 510 tons, Captain D. Fleming, for Singapore. Passengers—J. Campbell and G. Parker.<sup>19</sup> Per *Briton* for Singapore — 400 bags flour, 3 hbds. pickled fish, 180 tons, 84 hhds., and 38 bags sandalwood ; 34 horses, 5 cows, and 13 tons hay, &c.

Note: George is not the George Parker who died in 1887, aged 49.

---

<sup>17</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 S1-3

<sup>18</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 CS6-8

<sup>19</sup> The Inquirer and Commercial News (Perth, WA : 1855 - 1901), 22 Febrauy 1865, p2