

William Staniland, 125, Hashemy

Researched by Marcia Watson

Name variation: Staneland

Baptism	18 May 1823, Eganton, Nottinghamshire
Parents	Thomas Staniland and Rebecca Greenwood
Parent's marriage	7 December 1815, Sutton on Trent, Nottinghamshire
Siblings	Mary Ann (1820)
Wife	
Married	
Children	

William's father was a labourer and died in 1844, aged 60; his mother, Rebecca, died in 1865, aged 86.

In 1841, living at Eganton, Southwell, Nottinghamshire were: ¹

Thomas Staniland, 50, Ag lab; Rebecca, 50; Ann, 20; Thomas, 1 (appears to be the son of Ann, born in December quarter of 1839)

William has not been found on the 1841 census.

At the County Sessions, East Retford, on 14 April 1845:

William Staniland, 21, cannot read or write, convicted of larceny, sentenced to three months in prison.²

Then, at the Petty Sessions Southwell, on 6 September 1846:

On Tuesday last, William Staniland and Samuel Laughton, both of Eganton, were conveyed to the county gaol, at Nottingham, by Inspector Caldwell for trial at the next assizes, charged with breaking into the dwelling house of Charles Smith, of East Markham, and stealing a number of silver spoons, sugarbows, silk handkerchiefs, and other articles, the property of Mr C. Smith. ³

The newspaper reported who was in the county gaol at Nottinghamshire in March 1847:

William Staniland, labourer, Eganton, 23, and Samuel Laughton, labourer, Tuxford, 21, with breaking and entering the dwelling-house of Charles Smith, at East Markham, on the night of the 21 August, and stealing one satin handkerchief, one silk handkerchief, nine silver spoons, and other articles.⁴

At the Nottingham Lent Assizes in March:

William Staniland, labourer, Eganton, aged 23 (reads and writes imperfectly), and Samuel Laughton, moulder, Mansfield, aged 23 (reads and writes imperfectly), were charged with feloniously and burglariously breaking and entering the dwelling-house of Charles Smith, of East Markham, on the night house of 31 August, and stealing from thence one satin handkerchief, one silk ditto, nine silver spoons, and other articles belonging to Charles Smith. Mr Wilmore was for the prosecution.

Mary Smith, wife of the prosecutor, having left her house with her husband at five in the morning, and returned at six, found her drawers all unlocked and the articles in question taken away. Having returned a quarter of an hour before his wife, Charles Smith was standing in the yard when he heard a noise as of men getting out of a window on the other side of the house.

Mary Bennett, being opposite Smith's house at the time, saw the prisoners getting out of Smith's garden into the high road.

Thomas Leper apprehended the prisoners at Eganton on the same day; and, comparing Staniland's boots with footmarks in Smith's garden, found them to correspond; but had subsequently pulled a piece of each heel off.

¹ HO107/850/24

² Criminal Registers, HO27/76

³ Nottingham Review and General Advertiser for the Midland Counties, 11 September 1846, p6

⁴ Nottingham Review and General Advertiser for the Midland Counties, 12 March 1847, p4

Reuben Wade, on comparing Laughton's boots with footmarks in the garden, met with a like result; and, moreover, found three skeleton-keys upon him. Benjamin Moss saw both the prisoners about the time in question, coming from the direction of Smith's house.

Guilty. A previous conviction against Staniland, in 1845, for stealing peas and wheat was proved. To be transported fourteen years each.⁵

Removed from the County Gaol, Thursday, to the Millbank prison, there to await their sentence being carried more fully into effect, the following convicts; —Wm. Staniland, Samuel Laughton, each transported for 14 years; convicted at the Lent assizes.⁶

Petition.⁷

11,223 William Staniland, age 23

Convicted 12 March 1847, Nottingham Assizes, of burglary and stealing silver spoons, received 14 years' transportation, received at Millbank Prison on 25 March 1847.

To the Right Honorable Sir George Grey Baronet, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department.

The petition of William Staniland a prisoner in Millbank prison humbly sheweth

That your petitioner is entirely innocent of the crime for which he is now suffering.

A robbery was committed about three miles from where your petitioner lived. On the following morning a man named Samuel Laughton was with your petitioner in his garden, a policeman who was in search of Laughton saw them together, he came soon afterwards with another policeman & examined petitioner's boots to see if they corresponded to the marks but they did not, notwithstanding they took both Laughton and your petitioner into custody.

At the trial none of the witnesses who identified Laughton, could say that your petitioner was with him, except one woman whose evidence was contradictory.

Samuel Lowton (*sic*) (who is now in this prison) has since the trial acknowledged to the Magistrates at Nottingham Gaol that your petitioner was not the party, but that it was one John Ashmore.

Your petitioner believes his conviction to be owing to the unhappy circumstances of his having been before convicted.

Your petitioner solemnly protests that he is wholly innocent of the crime and that he had no knowledge of it, he therefore humbly prays that the case may be investigated.

signed William Staniland X his mark

Witness G Litborn

Cover: 199/13

William Staniland, 23, Notts Lent Assizes, March 1847, 14 years' transportation

Gaol Report - Character bad convicted before

Nil G.G

The prisoner declares his innocence & states that a convict now in Millbank. The petitioner himself is there. Prisoner asserts that the crime was committed by another person.

William Staniland, 23, single, read and write imperfectly, labourer, convicted on 12 March 1847 at Nottingham for burglary and stealing silver spoons. He received 14 years' transportation. Previously convicted for a felony, there was no gaoler's report. Sent to Wakefield prison on 4 October 1847 and received there the same day.⁸

⁵ Nottingham Review and General Advertiser for the Midland Counties, 19 March 1847, p1

⁶ Nottingham Review and General Advertiser for the Midland Counties, 02 April 1847, p4

⁷ HO18/199

⁸ HO24/3; PCOM2/26

He was sent to Portland Prison on 13 December 1848 and was part of the second consignment of prisoners sent to the new Portland Prison.⁹

The second consignment of convicts, 116 from Wakefield prison, arrived on 15 December 1848. The group left Portsmouth at 6 am on the steamship *Driver* in atrocious weather. The convicts, sitting on the deck, were exposed to the wet and cold weather, without blankets or rations. They arrived at Portland prison in the dark at 8 pm. Twenty convicts lost their shoes in the mud near the prison, during the 2-3 mile walk on a track from Castle pier. The Governor had not received a warrant to receive the convicts, but Colonel Jebb gave assurance that the prisoners could be received.

William boarded the *Hashemy* on 19 July 1850 for the voyage to Western Australia.¹⁰

On arrival at Fremantle in October 1850, his description was:

125. William Staniland, 23, 5'5½", dark brown hair, dark hazel eyes, long face, sallow dark complexion, mole on the right thigh, labourer and single.¹¹

On 19 November 1850, William appeared on the casual sick list at Fremantle with a strain. He received liniment.¹²

He received a Ticket of leave on 26 January 1851 and was assigned as a labourer to Samuel Diggle, a ticket of leave holder, in the Fremantle district. William's rate of wage was 30s per month.¹³

William had an unclaimed letter at the Post office on 11 December 1852.¹⁴ Fifteen months later, he was granted a Conditional Pardon granted in March 1854.¹⁵

William Stanley and **William Staniland** appear to be the same person. There is no convict called William Stanley.

At the Quarter Sessions, Perth, on 4 January 1854:

John Weedon, charged with stealing two watches, the property of Thomas Pope of Fremantle. A second count charged the prisoner with receiving knowing to be stolen.

Thomas Pope deposed to having on 23 December, live watches in a drawer in his store at Fremantle. The watches produced are two of those five; knew them by the numbers which he had taken a note of. On visiting the store between 12 and 1 o'clock on the night of 3 December, found the drawer on the floor and the two watches missing, besides some other articles of silver.

William Stanley was a witness. More information at:

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/3174913?searchTerm=john%20weedon>

At Fremantle Court, on 7 March 1854, William Stanley, ticket of leave holder, drunk and riotous; fined 10s.¹⁶

Later in the year, Fremantle Police Court, on 24 October 1854, William Staniland, C.P., brought up for being drunk and pugnacious, was fined 5s.¹⁷

Perth Police Report, on 30 August 1855, William Stanley and Thomas Hague, drunk and breaking windows of Henry Chambers; fined 5s each. Note: Hague came on the *Hashemy* to Western Australia¹⁸

Did William Staniland or Stanley go to Adelaide?

⁹ HO23/14

¹⁰ HO8/105

¹¹ SROWA Acc 182/40-43

¹² SROWA Acc 1156 CS1

¹³ Further correspondence on the on the subject of Convict Discipline and Transportation. Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of her Majesty. 30 April 1852, p196

¹⁴ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News (WA : 1848 - 1864), 17 December 1852, p5

¹⁵ SROWA Acc 1156 R21B

¹⁶ Inquirer (Perth, WA : 1840 - 1855), 22 March 1854, p3

¹⁷ Inquirer (Perth, WA : 1840 - 1855), 1 November 1854, p3

¹⁸ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News (WA : 1848 - 1864), 24 August 1855, p3

Adelaide, July 1856: Suspicion of Felony. William Stanley alias John Green, William Hodges, William Thompson and George Atkinson, were charged on suspicion of having broken into the dwelling house of John Clark jun, Brighton, and stolen £38 in Bank notes on Sunday last.¹⁹

Note: William Hodges is believed to be the convict from the *Hashemy*.

Further information: Atkinson, Hodges and Thompson were discharged, Stanley acquitted in August.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/207094278?searchTerm=atkinson%20hodges&searchLimits=l-decade=185||l-state=South+Australia||l-year=1856||l-month=7>

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/49761624?searchTerm=atkinson%20hodges&searchLimits=l-decade=185||l-state=South+Australia||l-year=1856||l-month=7>

Adelaide Gaol, 15 July 1856. William Stanley, 30, can read and write, single, CofE, labourer, arrived 1855 from Portsmouth.

No record of a William Stanley arriving on the WA Arrivals Index. No record found in newspapers of a ship called *Chusan* in relevant time period.

Thomas Stanley	Yatala Prison No 700
When received	14 December 1865
Where from	Adelaide Gaol
Date of Conviction	28 November 1865
Offence	Larceny
At what Court	Supreme
Judge or Magistrate	Chief Justice Hanson
Sentence	2 years hard labor
Native Place	Saint Albans, Hertfordshire
Date of Arrival	18 years 1847
Name of Ship	<i>Chusan</i>
Where from	Swan River
Last Employer	Charles Fisher
Friends in the Colony	None
Where Residing	
Married or Single	Married, Wife in Adelaide
Religious Creed	Church of England
Education	None
Occupation	Labourer
Age	48
Height	5' 4 ³ / ₄
Weight	8 stone 5 lbs
Make	Stiff
Complexion	Florid
Face	Long
Hair	Grey
Forehead	Receding
Eyes	Dark Grey
Nose	Pointed
Mouth	Medium

¹⁹ South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), 24 July 1856, p2

Teeth	Discoloured, 1 out upper jaw each side
Chin	Pointed
Whiskers	Bushy Grey
Expression	Sour Repellant
Marks	Anchor forepart right arm and T.S under varicose vein left Shin.