

# Croker Prize for Biography

Entry 1502

My Immigrant was an  
"Exile"

## My Immigrant was an “Exile”

Job King Ellement, was an intriguing character with an unusual name. He was transported to Melbourne, Australia for larceny, yet Victoria wasn't a penal colony so how did it come about that he was transported there! He married several times, had many hardships to endure, children in two countries and still lived to a good age for his era. These aspects of his life will be covered in more detail as this is his story.

Job King Element, was baptised on 4 November 1821 at Chesham, Buckinghamshire, England<sup>i</sup>. In England his name was spelt with one “l”, whereas most records in Australia contained a double “l”. Job’s parents were John Element and Ann King<sup>ii</sup>. This explained Job’s name i.e.: his mother’s maiden name was his middle name. Job had a younger brother, Thomas Brown Element, and four half siblings from his father’s previous marriage, they were Joseph, Phillis, Elizabeth and Susannah.

Job’s first marriage was to Rebecca Taylor on 8 June 1842 at Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, England<sup>iii</sup>. His occupation was listed as a labourer. Job and Rebecca had three children, James born 1839 Ann born 1840 and Elizabeth born 1843 all baptised at Chesham, Buckinghamshire, England.<sup>iv</sup> They lived next door to Job’s parents, John and Ann at Hearn’s Yard, Chesham.<sup>v</sup> The cottages in Hearn’s Yard were known as the Sixpenny Cottages, so named because their rent was 6d a week. This was a “slum”.

Job was first charged with larceny for stealing a tin box and a sovereign and a half from the dwelling house of William Howard on 8 February 1842<sup>vi</sup>. He was sentenced to three months hard labour.<sup>vii</sup>

Two things occurred in 1844 that put pressure on the family’s finances. Job’s wife Rebecca was ill, and his father John died of Chronic Bronchitis on 23 April 1844<sup>viii</sup>. This left Job’s mother also in need. On 29 November 1844, Thomas (Job’s brother) was charged with stealing two shirts and one handkerchief and Ann (Job’s mother) was charged with receiving them<sup>ix</sup>. Both were acquitted.<sup>x</sup>

Soon after, on 31 December 1844, Job was charged with stealing lead inlay.<sup>xi</sup> As it was a second offence, the sentence was harsher. In January 1845 he was sentenced to ten years transportation<sup>xii</sup>. Job’s family were now without his income as well. We can only wonder what Job felt about the predicament his family was in, however, events were to further conspire against him. Job’s wife Rebecca died of phthisis on 20 June 1846<sup>xiii</sup>. Job’s mother Ann was then looking after Job’s three children and later, John J Element, a grandson born to Job’s youngest daughter Elizabeth also lived in the same home<sup>xiv</sup>. Job went from Aylesbury prison, to Pentonville and then to Millbank. When he was received at Pentonville he was described as 10 stone 3lbs, his character was “good” and he could read and write.

Job travelled on the ship *Thomas Arbuthnot* in January 1847, to be transported to Australia.<sup>xv</sup> The passenger list states “289 Male Convicts (Exiles)”. Victoria was short of labour, however, they didn’t want to be labelled a “penal colony” so it was decided that a certain number of prisoners (known as “exiles”) would be sent under special conditions. The prisoners selected were to have completed 15 to 24 months of their sentences in England and they were then landed in Australia with a conditional pardon. They were free men, as long as they did not set foot in England until the terms of their original sentence had expired.<sup>xvi</sup>

There were 1723 “exiles” sent to Victoria, Australia<sup>xvii</sup>. Newspapers often referred to them as Pentonvillians as many came from Pentonville jail.

Job landed at Port Phillip Bay, Victoria, in May 1847. On the “disposal list” for the ship. Job is listed as being engaged to work as a shepherd in the Grampians by a Mr W Shepherd(?) for a period of one year at a rate of 20 pounds per annum.<sup>xviii</sup>

Job, is next heard of on 11 January 1853 when he appears in the Geelong Advertiser as having sold 82oz’s of gold at Ballarat<sup>xix</sup>. This was just prior to him marrying. He also appears in the Geelong rate books from 1857 so we know he purchased a home..<sup>xx</sup>

It was on 31 January 1853 that Job Ellement married Margaret Fearon at the Christ Church in Geelong<sup>xxi</sup>. As Job was considered a free man upon landing in Victoria it appears he did not need permission to marry, from a research point of view this was unfortunate as an application may have provided more information.

The Margaret Fearon that Job Married is likely to have emigrated from Ireland in September 1852 on board the ship *Bournef*.<sup>xxii</sup> She is listed as a domestic servant for Mr Robertson of the Union Bank<sup>xxiii</sup>. Job and Margaret married within four months of her arrival. The marriage short as Margaret died less than three months later on 20 March 1853 and was buried the next day at Geelong Eastern Cemetery<sup>xxiv</sup>. Unfortunately, cause of death was not listed. There is a family story that Margaret and Job had a child Isaac, however, no record of Isaac can be found. As she was only in Australia for six months and only married for three of those it appears unlikely, unless she died from pregnancy complications / still birth etc.

Within months Job marries again, this time he married Elizabeth Jersey Griffiths on 24 June 1853 at the Christ Church in Geelong<sup>xxv</sup>. Eliza was from Jersey in the Channel Islands, she was the 5<sup>th</sup> of 6 children born to George Griffiths and Mary Ann Green, but she was the first born in Jersey, hence her middle name.<sup>xxvi</sup> Eliza immigrated on the ship “Runnymede” in June 1852<sup>xxvii</sup> Her passage was paid for by a Mr Robertson of Portland to work as a domestic servant<sup>xxviii</sup> This may be the same Mr Robertson that Margaret Fearon worked for.

Job and Eliza had six children all born in Victoria, Australia, they were Henry born 1854, Amelia born 1856, Charles Joseph born 1858, Edwin George bone 1861, Augustus Job born 1865 and Eliza Annie borm1866.<sup>xxix</sup>

Job’s mother Ann died in England in 1863, aged 83 years.<sup>xxx</sup> Then his son Augustus died in 1865 in Australia.<sup>xxxi</sup> The following year, his daughter Elizabeth (from his first marriage) died in 1866 in England<sup>xxxii</sup>. When Augustus died at 11 months, the family were unable to afford to bury him. It was stated on a police report that Job was in the country looking for work and Eliza was taking in washing to feed the family<sup>xxxiii</sup>. When Job’s daughter Elizabeth died in England, her son John had to go to the Amersham Workhouse.<sup>xxxiv</sup> Unfortunately, Job was not in a position to help his grandson as he and his Australian family were also struggling.

Job’s wife Eliza died in 1875 from phthisis.<sup>xxxv</sup> His son Edwin died at 21 years of age in 1883.<sup>xxxvi</sup>

Job died on 7 December 1898 in Geelong, Victoria, aged 77 years.<sup>xxxvii</sup> His cause of death is hard to decipher on the death certificate but it appears he died from a heart related illness.

*1502 - My Immigrant was an “Exile”*

Job was buried in an adjoining plot to his wife Eliza and son Edward at Geelong Western Public Cemetery.<sup>xxxviii</sup> There is no headstone. Job's death notice states he was a colonist of 50 years.<sup>29</sup>

So, did his families know about each other? His first family were not listed on his death certificate. However, a poem was found in Job's possessions when his home was cleared out after his death, it's signed "JJE". Could this be his grandson John Joseph Element who was living in the workhouse in England? There are a couple of newspaper articles relating to letters at the dead letter office, so that could also mean that he was in touch with his family even if not all the mail made it through.

Like many that were transported, he probably had little hope of raising enough funds to return to England and even if he did, as an "exile" he was required to wait out the term of his ten year sentence.

Job had 35 known grandchildren. Ten were offspring of his English children and 25 were offspring of his Australian children.

As can be seen, Job had many difficulties in his life, from living in a slum in England, having to leave behind a family when transported as an "exile" to Australia. There were still hard times, the death of three wives, three children and three grandchildren before him. He never saw his English children or his mother again. However, transportation as an exile to Australia did give him opportunities he would not have had, he was a free man upon arrival (it is assumed, this better than sitting in jail in England). He could work where he wished, marry whom he wanted, he had a gold find, purchased a home, started a new life and family in Australia.

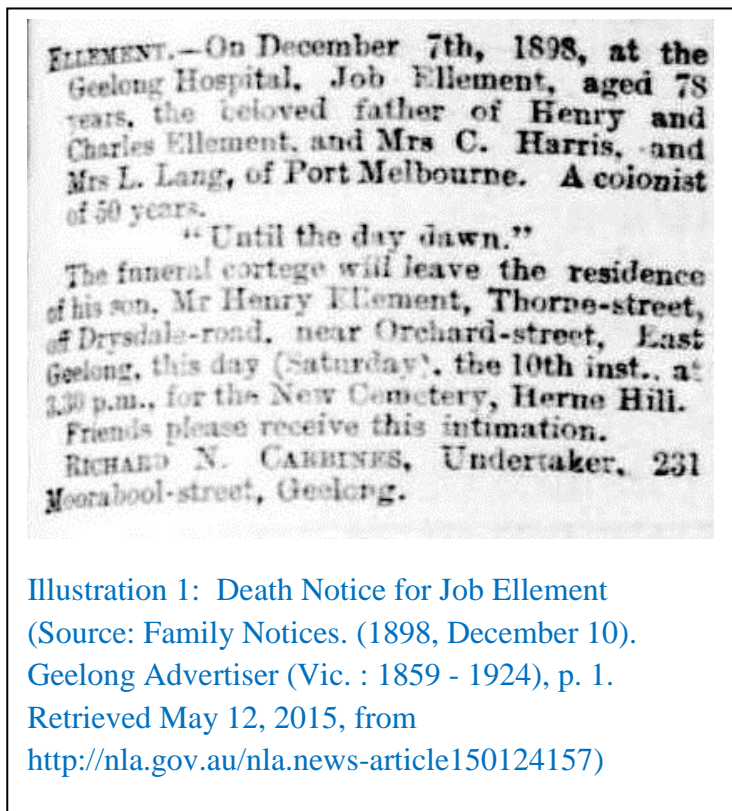


Illustration 1: Death Notice for Job Ellement  
(Source: Family Notices. (1898, December 10).  
Geelong Advertiser (Vic. : 1859 - 1924), p. 1.  
Retrieved May 12, 2015, from  
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article150124157>)

<sup>i</sup> Baptismal record for Job King Element, St Mary, Chesham, Buckinghamshire, England. Reg 458/1821

<sup>ii</sup> Ibid

<sup>iii</sup> Marriage record of Job King Element and Rebecca Taylor, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, England. Reg 169/1842

<sup>iv</sup> Birth Registration of James Element, Chesham, Amersham, Buckinghamshire, England. Reg 268/1839. Birth Registration of Ann Element, Chesham, Amersham, Buckinghamshire, England, Reg 178/1840. Birth Registration of Elizabeth Element, Chesham, Amersham, Buckinghamshire, England. Reg 215/1843.

<sup>v</sup> Ancestry.com. *1841 England Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc, 2010. Original data: *Census Returns of England and Wales, 1841*. Kew, Surrey, England: The National Archives of the UK (TNA): Public Record Office (PRO), 1841. And Ancestry.com. *1851 England Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc, 2010. Original data: *Census Returns of*

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*England and Wales, 1851*. Kew, Surrey, England: The National Archives of the UK (TNA): Public Record Office (PRO), 1851.

<sup>vi</sup> *Bucks Herald*, Saturday 12 March 1842, p3, Job Element guilty of stealing. *Bucks Herald*, Saturday 5 March 1842, p4, Job Element charged. Ancestry.com, *England & Wales, Criminal Registers, 1791-1892* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2009.

<sup>vii</sup> Ancestry.com, *England & Wales, Criminal Registers, 1791-1892* [database on-line], Job Element, Buckinghamshire, 1842.

<sup>viii</sup> Death Certificate for John Ellement, Chesham, Amersham, Buckinghamshire, England. Reg432/1844

<sup>ix</sup> *Bucks Herald*, 7 December 1844, Thomas Element for stealing and Ann Element for receiving.

<sup>x</sup> *Bucks Herald*, 4 January 1845, Thomas Element and Ann Element acquitted. Ancestry.com, *England & Wales, Criminal Registers, 1791-1892* [database on-line], Thomas Element and Ann Element, Buckinghamshire, 1845.

<sup>xi</sup> *Bucks Herald*, 25 January 1845, p4, Job Element for stealing. *The Oxford Journal*, 25 January 1845, p unknown, Job Element for stealing lead.

<sup>xii</sup> Ancestry.com, *England & Wales, Criminal Registers, 1791-1892* [database on-line], Job Element, Buckinghamshire, 1845. *The Oxford Journal*, 25 January 1845, p unknown, Job Element for stealing lead, ten years.

<sup>xiii</sup> Death Certificate for Rebecca Ellement, Chesham, Amersham, Buckinghamshire, England. Reg 230/1846.

<sup>xiv</sup> Ancestry.com. *1861 England Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc, 2010. Original data: *Census Returns of England and Wales, 1861*. Kew, Surrey, England: The National Archives of the UK (TNA): Public Record Office (PRO), 1861

<sup>xv</sup> Passenger list for the *Thomas Arbuthnot*, January 1847.

<sup>xvi</sup> <http://prov.vic.gov.au/provguide-57>

<sup>xvii</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>xviii</sup> Public Record Office Victoria, Index to Assisted British Immigration 1839-1871, Disposal list of Exiles for the ship *Thomas Arbuthnot*, Book 2/3, p270, Job Ellement.

<sup>xix</sup> Return of Gold, *Geelong Advertiser & Intelligencer*, 5<sup>th</sup> January 1853, p1S

<sup>xx</sup> Geelong Rate Books, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867, Ballarat Historical Society. Geelong West Rate Books, 1874, 1885, Ballarat Historical Society.

<sup>xxi</sup> Births, Deaths and Marriages, Victoria, Marriage record of Job Ellement and Margaret Fearon, Reg 23827/1853.

<sup>xxii</sup> Public Record Office Victoria, Index to Assisted British Immigration 1839-1871, Passenger list for *Bourneuf* showing Margaret Fearon, p29.

<sup>xxiii</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>xxiv</sup> Births, Deaths and Marriages, Victoria, Death record of Margaret Ellernment, Reg 771/1853. Geelong Cemeteries Trust, Deceased Search for Margaret Ellement, service date 21 March 1852, Location EAS-COE-OLD-X-825-X, Geelong Eastern Cemetery.

<sup>xxv</sup> Births, Deaths and Marriages, Victoria, Marriage record of Job Ellement and Eliza Griffiths, Reg 23927/1853.

<sup>xxvi</sup> Jersey Family History Society, Transcriptions of Baptisms, St Saviours Parish, Elizabeth Jersey Griffiths, bap 28 Aug 1825. Births, Deaths and Marriages, Victoria, Death record of Eliza Ellement, Reg 173/1875. Geelong.

<sup>xxvii</sup> Public Record Office Victoria, Index to Assisted British Immigration 1839-1871, Passenger list for *Runnymede* showing Eliza Griffiths, p79.

<sup>xxviii</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>xxix</sup> . Births, Deaths and Marriages, Victoria, Death record of Eliza Ellement, Reg 173/1875, Geelong. . Births, Deaths and Marriages, Victoria, Death record of Job Ellement, Reg 486/1898, Geelong.

<sup>xxx</sup> General Register Office, London, Death Cert for Ann Element, Amersham, Chesham, Buckinghamshire, England, Reg 133/1863.

<sup>xxxi</sup> Ancestry.com. *Australia, Death Index, 1787-1985* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010, Death index record of Augustus Job Ellement, Reg 4049,1865, Victoria. Geelong Cemeteries Trust, Deceased Search for Augustus Job Ellement, service date 28 April 1865, Location WST-COE-1-807-0608, Geelong Western Public Cemetery. Police report from Kildare Police Station, 27 April 1865, request for burial of child, Augustus Job Ellement.

<sup>xxxii</sup> . FreeBMD. *England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837-1915* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006, Elizabeth Ellement, death index record March Qtr 1866, Buckinghamshire, Vol 3A, p277.

<sup>xxxiii</sup> Police report from Kildare Police Station, 27 April 1865, request for burial of child, Augustus Job Ellement.

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<sup>xxxiv</sup> Ancestry.com. *1861 England Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc, 2010. Original data: *Census Returns of England and Wales, 1871*. Kew, Surrey, England: The National Archives of the UK (TNA): Public Record Office (PRO), 1871 for John James Ellement, Amersham, Buckinghamshire.

<sup>xxxv</sup> Births, Deaths and Marriages, Victoria, Death record of Eliza Ellement, Reg 173/1875, Geelong, Victoria, Australia.

<sup>xxxvixxxvi</sup> Births, Deaths and Marriages, Victoria, Death record of Edwin George Ellement, Reg 5241/1861, Geelong, Victoria, Australia.

<sup>xxxvii</sup> Births, Deaths and Marriages, Victoria, Death record of Job Ellement, Reg 486/1898, Geelong, Victoria, Australia

<sup>xxxviii</sup> Geelong Cemeteries Trust, Deceased Search for Job Ellement, service date 10 December 1898, Location EWST-COE-1-807-0521, Geelong Western Public. Cemetery. Geelong Cemeteries Trust, Deceased Search for Eliza Ellement, service date 5 Mar 1875, Location WST-COE-1-807-0522, Geelong Western Public Cemetery. Geelong Cemeteries Trust, Deceased Search for Edward George Ellement, service date 23 May 1883, Location EWST-COE-1-807-0521, Geelong Western Public Cemetery.