

## *ELIZABETH ROSER & JAMES OSBORNE*

**ELIZABETH ROSER** the 3<sup>rd</sup> child of **William Roser and Diana Wilson** was born in Sussex, c1832. She was baptised on 2 March 1834 at East Grinstead Sussex.

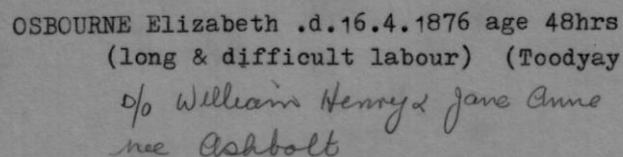
The book “In Search of Elizabeth” by Janice Young was published in 1982 and was named for Elizabeth Roser as the family stories tell of her disappearance from the family home in c1843.

The family story:

It was not long following the birth of William and Diana’s daughter Dianah that Elizabeth was left at the camp to look after the baby whilst the rest of the family went into the bush to gather rushes to thatch the roof of the cottage that William was in the process of constructing.

They were not far from the camp when Elizabeth’s cries brought them hurrying back but Elizabeth had disappeared and she was never seen again. There were signs of disturbance around the camp and it was believed that Elizabeth had been abducted by persons unknown. There has been no record found of her disappearance.

Speculation from others said it was possible that Elizabeth had just moved to work at another station and maybe she married as a registration was found for an Elizabeth Roser to James Osborne in 1853. Another registration for a death of Elizabeth Osborne in Toodyay in 1876 but this is incorrect. This Elizabeth died as an infant of 2 days.



OSBOURNE Elizabeth .d.16.4.1876 age 48hrs  
(long & difficult labour) (Toodyay)  
o/o William Henry & Jane Anne  
nee Ashbolt

It is not likely that Elizabeth was taken by natives but anything is possible. Very sad that she could not be found but she was remembered by the many family stories that were related to Jan Young the author of the book “In Search of Elizabeth.”

Margaret Thompson, November 2021

Why were these family stories carried on through some of the later generations?

Could Jan Young have searched & found further evidence on Elizabeth in the records? Perhaps during her research especially in pre internet the genealogical sites and many online BDM registrations were not available and it was not possible to check on every record in the old church registrars. We know from experience that not all records were inscribed and others went missing and many incorrect.

Many questions have been asked on the story of Elizabeth but recent research and a copy of an online record from the WA BDM registrar has revealed that Elizabeth Roser did marry in Perth in 1853.

*This copy of the marriage of Elizabeth Roser & James Osborne kindly provided by Swanna Hughes from her Ancestry public tree.*

Western Australia	
<b>MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE</b>	
Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act	
Registration Number 0000593C/1853 Certificate Number 00032154875	
<b>MARRIAGE</b>	
Date of Marriage	23 November 1853
Place of Marriage	Congregational Chapel, Perth, Western Australia
<b>BRIDEGROOM</b>	
Surname	Osborne
Given Names	James
Usual Occupation	Carpenter
Residence at time of Marriage	Perth
Marital Status	Bachelor
Age	Over 21 years
Father's Name	James Osborne
Father's Occupation	Tailor
<b>BRIDE</b>	
Surname	Roser
Given Names	Elizabeth
Usual Occupation	Housemaid, Immigrant per "Simon Taylor"
Residence at time of Marriage	Perth
Marital Status	Spinster
Age	Under 21 years
Father's Name	William Roser
Father's Occupation	Farmer
<b>RITES</b>	Congregationalists
<b>CELEBRANT</b>	James Leonard
Registered on 31 December 1853 by Registrar General	

We can see from the marriage certificate above that it is Elizabeth Roser who arrived onboard the ship "Simon Taylor" and her father is noted as William Roser.

Did Elizabeth need special permission to marry as she was underage or did her father give his permission. This is unknown but not likely as it would appear that if the story of Elizabeth disappearing was true her family did not approve of the marriage.

Family stories available from the WA State Library reveal many unhappy with their daughters' marrying convicts despite the men being given Tickets of Leave and granted Full Pardons.

What is possible is that James Osborne arrived in the Swan River Colony onboard the ship "Scindian" in 1850 as a convict. Records have been found on the arrival of a James Osborne charged in 1848 in England and sentenced to 15 years prison. He was transported to the Swan River Colony.

REG. NO.	NAME	When Convicted and where.	Offence.	Sentence.	When and where received, with what Character from Keeper of the Prison, and others.	Name and Residence of Father, Mother, and Friends.	When and how disposed of.
62.	James Osborne.						
Age?	29 years 16 <sup>th</sup> May 1851. -	1848		Fifteen	1 <sup>st</sup> June 1850	Father & Mother dead	
Married or Single?	Single. -			Years.	Portland	Mr. Wignall	
Occupation?	Carpenter. -	3 January			Prison	Robertson	
Religious Profession?	Church of England	Worcester			Per Scindian	uncle lives at the Cock Inn	
School?	See grammar School	(Worcester)				Widdowson	
Read?	— reads well. -					Worcestershire	
Write?	— pretty well. -	Quarter Sepines					
Accounts?	tolerable. -						
<p>Information respecting Prisoner obtained from himself, or others, as to his Religious and Moral Character, and Information,—Disposition,—any Difficulties or Facilities experienced by him in Crime,—Associates,—Booty,—Kind and Amount thereof,—modes of disposing thereof,—How long pursued a Course of Crime before detection,—causes and modes thereof.</p> <p>Attended Divine Service? — pretty regular. -</p> <p>Received Sacrament? — never. -</p> <p>Habits? — generally steady. - not a drinking man</p> <p>Intellect? sound. -</p> <p>State of Mind? intended well, with God's help. -</p> <p>Knowledge, Secular? not very extensive. -</p> <p>Religious? limited. correct as regards total dependence on Christ for salvation. -</p> <p>Alleged Cause of Crime? Bad companions. -</p> <p>Name of Person referred to for Character, &amp;c. Mr. Nichols, keeper &amp; Pastor of the Prison Widdowson.</p>							

Above record from Ancestry

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>OSBORNE, James</u> 62 1 Jun 1850 Scindian <b>Alias:</b> OSBOINE <b>Date of Birth:</b> 16 May 1827 <b>Marital Status:</b> Unmarried <b>Occupation:</b> Carpenter <b>Literacy:</b> Literate <b>Sentence Date:</b> 3 Jan 1848 <b>Sentence Place:</b> Worcester, Worcester, England <b>Crime:</b> House breaking <b>Sentence Period:</b> 15 years <b>Ticket Leave Date:</b> 1 May 1851 <b>Conditional Pardon Date:</b> Aug 1854</p>
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*Above record from the Convict Database:*

<https://fremantleprison.com.au/history-heritage/history/convict-database>

As many of the convicts were sent to various districts to assist farmers it is possible this is where Elizabeth and James met one another. Perhaps the Roser family did not want their daughter to marry an ex-convict and the family story of her disappearance was told to hide the true story of what happened. Also, the date of her disappearance could not have been correct and perhaps it was after the birth of another Roser child. Caroline born in 1847 and James in 1852.

Appendix 2 of the thesis “The Convicts’ Contribution to the Built Environment of Colonial Western Australia between 1850-1880” by Fiona Bush of Curtin University an entry for Osborne, James, Arr. Scindian on 1.6.50 he was a Carpenter by trade and granted a Ticket of Leave for Toodyay.

“The Convict Era in Western Australia: Its Economic, Social and Political Consequences” by Willian J. Edgar of Murdoch University writes that “The populations of Northam and Toodyay, in particular, numbered 570 expires and conditional pardon men, against 316 free men. Former convicts owned land.”

The Toodyay Convict Database records:

<p><b>Osborne, James (1827- )</b> Not sure yet if TOL    62    1850-06-01    Scindian    CWA: Unm; carpenter; lit Prot; h/breaking 15 yrs; Perth. Granted permission to marry 1/2 report 31-12-1853. Mar Elizabeth Roser.</p>
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<https://www.toodyay.wa.gov.au/documents/234/convicts-associated-with-toodyay-as-at-30-sep-2020>

**BDWA: Osborne, James, b. 6.5.1827 (expiree), arr. 1.6.1850 per Scindian,**

**m. (WA) 1853 Mary. Chd. Sarah Anne b. 1853 (Frem), Louise Mary b. 1857.  
Carpenter. Bt. 10 acres at Toodyay, sold to Joseph Nelson who then sold in 1853 to Charles Pye.  
Employed a T/L labourer 1863 1864 & possibly 2 T/L men in Perth 1859. Lit. C/E.**

I believe that the information from the Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians (BDWA) above is incorrect for this James Osborne.

We do have the marriage of James Osborne to Elizabeth Roser which is correct with her date of arrival, Ship and her father's name.

**Elizabeth Roser** married on 23 Nov 1853 at the Congregational Chapel, Perth, WA to **JAMES OSBORNE**.

If the records are correct James and Elizabeth Osborne left Perth in 1855 and sailed for South Australia where they settled. James remained at his trade of Carpenter.

**OSBORNE.—On the 15th September, at Perth, Western Australia, James Osborne, the beloved husband of Elizabeth Osborne, of Adelaide, South Australia, aged 65 years.**

It is not known why but in 1891 James Osborne left SA to travel back to Western Australia. He died on 15 Sep 1891 in Perth, WA. Cause of death was double pneumonia.

Many of the newspapers of South Australia published the Death Notice for James Osborne.

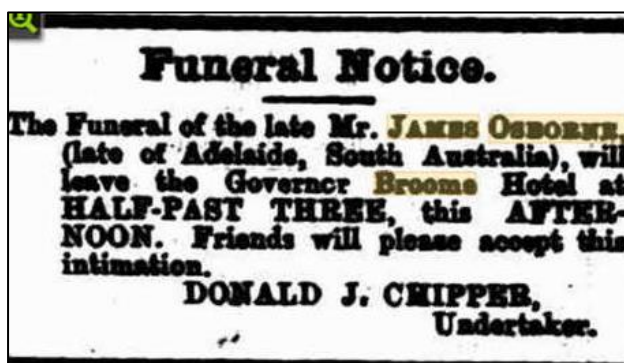


*It appears that James may have been staying at the Governor Broome Hotel. This hotel now demolished had been located at the corner of William & Roe Streets, Perth, WA.*

*The Governor Broome Hotel, Fremantle WA.*

<b>Western Australia</b>	
<b>DEATH CERTIFICATE</b> Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act	
Registration Number 0000504L/1891	
Certificate Number 00062018085	
DECEASED	
Surname	Osborne
Given Names	James
Place of death	Perth, Western Australia
Date of death	15 September 1891
Occupation	Land Owner and C
Sex	Male
Age	65 years
CAUSE OF DEATH	Double Pneumonia (Certified by Dr Harvey)
(Approximate interval between onset of disease or condition and death shown in brackets)	
Informant's name	Donald J Chipper
Address	Perth
Description	Undertaker
Registered on 16 September 1891 by J Roe	

*Copy of Death Registration for James Osborne  
Purchased from BDM Registry, Western Australia*



*West Australian, 16 Sep 1891, Trove.*

James was buried in the East Perth Cemetery, WA.

**EAST PERTH CEMETERY RECORD**

NAME	OSBORNE, James
DATE OF DEATH	15 September 1891
BURIAL DATE	16 September 1891
AGE	65 years
CAUSE OF DEATH	
PLACE OF DEATH	Perth

Margaret Thompson, November 2021

Elizabeth remained living in Adelaide, South Australia and she died on 15 Aug 1894 in Adelaide. She was noted as the Widow of the late James Osborne, Carpenter and her usual residence was Stanford Court. The cause of death was Chronic Bronchitis. Copy of Death Certificate purchased from SA Genealogy.

Advertiser (Adelaide, SA: 1889 - 1931), Thursday 16 August 1894

Funeral Notices. THE FRIENDS of the late Mrs. ELIZABETH OSBORNE are respectfully informed that her Remains will be removed from her late residence, Stamford-court, off Wright-street, THIS DAY, at 2.45 p.m., for interment in the West-terrace Cemetery. J. D. SKETHEWAY, Undertaker, Franklin and Gilbert-streets.



*West Terrace Cemetery,  
Adelaide, SA.*

<https://www.experienceadelaide.com.au/>

Elizabeth and James Osborne had the following children:

**JOHN WILLIAM OSBORNE** b. 27 Aug 1856, Adelaide, SA.

**[Australia, Birth Index, 1788-1922](#)**

Name:	John William Osborne
Birth Date:	27 Aug 1856
Birth Place:	Adelaide
Registration Place:	Adelaide, South Australia, Australia
Father:	<a href="#">James Osborne</a>
Mother:	<a href="#">Elizabeth Roser</a>
Page Number:	299
Volume Number:	7

*Above Birth Index from Ancestry. SA Genealogy has b.1856, Adelaide. Father, James Osborne.*

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Given Names</u>	<u>Gender</u>	<u>Father</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Book/Page</u>	<u>Birth Year</u>
OSBORNE	John William	M	James OSBORNE	Adelaide	7/299	1856

**ARTHUR GEORGE OSBORNE** b. 26 Mar 1860, Adelaide, SA.

**[Australia, Birth Index, 1788-1922](#)**

Name:	Arthur George Osborne
Birth Date:	26 Mar 1860
Birth Place:	Adelaide
Registration Place:	Adelaide, South Australia, Australia
Father:	<a href="#">James Osborne</a>
Mother:	<a href="#">Elizabeth Roser</a>
Page Number:	313
Volume Number:	15

*Birth registration from Ancestry.*

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Given Names</u>	<u>Gender</u>	<u>Father</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Book/Page</u>	<u>Birth Year</u>
OSBORNE	Arthur George	M	James OSBORNE	Adelaide	15/313	1860

*Above registration from South Australian Genealogy*

No further information found on John William nor Arthur George Osborne that can be confirmed.

Research conducted on all BDM records in South Australia, Victoria and South Australia. Also, Ancestry for BDM and Electoral Rolls without success.

Unfortunately, the death registration of Elizabeth does not include the details of any children. Copy below.

This information is compiled for family purposes only and not for publication on a web site without prior permission from family.

Any further details on the family of Elizabeth Roser or amendments would be much appreciated. This remains a work in progress.

Margaret Thompson © (née Tapper)  
Descendant of Lucy Roser & William Playle

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## SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DISTRICT DEATH CERTIFICATE TRANSCRIPT

Surname	OSBORNE
Given Name(s)	Elizabeth
Year of Registration	1894
District Name	Adelaide
District Number	-
Date of Death	15 <sup>th</sup> August 1894
Date and Place of burial, cremation or other	-
Sex	Female
Conjugal status	-
Age	58 years
Rank, profession or trade	Widow of the late James OSBORNE, Carpenter
Usual residence	Stanford Court
Birthplace and length of residence in Australia	-
Age at marriage or remarriage	-
Name of spouse **	-
Number of Issue living & deceased, male (M) and female (F)	-
Cause of Death	Chronic Bronchitis
Place of Death	Stanford Court
Signature and Residence of Informant	Charles H MATHEWS, Gilbert Street
Description of Informant	Undertaker's assistant
If female, within 3 months of birth of child	-
When registered	17 <sup>th</sup> August 1894
Place of registration	Adelaide