

The first possible record for Benjamin is on the 1841 census.

1841 census, Turner Street, Manchester, Benjamin Edledston, 16, blacksmith apprentice, residing with James Willet, 19, and William Forkington, 15, both carters, all born in the county. ¹

In 1842, Benjamin Eddlestone, 19, who could read and write imperfectly, was convicted at Manchester Borough Sessions on 28 December 1842 of larceny and sentenced to 2 months. ²

He was back before the court in 1844. Benjamin Eddleston, 20, could read and write imperfectly. He was convicted at Manchester Borough Sessions on 5 September 1844 of warehouse breaking, having previously been convicted of felony, and sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment and whipped. ³

His luck ran out in 1848. Benjamin Eddleston, 23, imp, convicted at Manchester Borough Sessions, 16 October 1848, of stealing a fixture before convicted of felony, sentenced to 7 years. ⁴

The prison Registers show that Benjamin Eddleston, 23, single, unable to read or write, a weaver, convicted on 16 October 1848 at Manchester of felony and with previous convictions, was sentenced to 7 years. He was received at Millbank prison on 29 December 1848 from Salford Gaol. He had been previously convicted twice and imprisoned three times.

On one register recorded, Benjamin Eddlestone *alias* James Holden, 23, single, can't read or write, was a weaver, and had been twice convicted of felony, thrice for vagrancy and once for assault. ⁵ On 7 August 1849, he was transferred to the *Warrior* hulk at Woolwich. Benjamin was suffering from Phlogosis, or inflammation of external parts of the body, during the September 1849 quarterly return, and he was healthy by the end of the next quarterly return. His behaviour was good. On the 1850 March quarterly return, Benjamin suffered from an enlarged bursa; his behaviour was still good. In subsequent returns, Benjamin remained healthy and his behaviour was very good. On 5 March 1851, he boarded the *Pyrenees* for Western Australia. ⁶

On arrival at Fremantle, Western Australia, on 28 June 1851, Benjamin was assigned number 400, issued with a Ticket of leave and a physical description was recorded.

400. Benjamin Eddlestone, 26, 5'4", light hair, light blue eyes, long face, fair complexion, scar on the elbow of both arms and left leg, three front teeth out of the top jaw, weaver, single. ⁷

The Superintendent's Journal records:

1 July 1851. The following prisoners will be received at the prison from the *Pyrenees* and will be located in Division No. 3, comprising 50 men from the *Warrior* hulk, including 400. Benjamin Eddlestone

3 July 1851. The following men holding passes will be detached from the establishment and proceed to North Fremantle Station tomorrow, 4 July, under the direction of Mr Johnstone. They will be arranged in the following order: 4 Messes, with a Boatswain assigned to each.

No. 2 Mess included a Boatswain, cook and five prisoners, including Benjamin Eddlestone 400. ⁸

The newspapers reported Ticket of Leave-Men at North Fremantle Station: 400, Benjamin Eddlestone, Carter. ⁹

¹ The National Archives (TNA) UK, HO107/573/12

² TNA, HO27/70, p67

³ TNA, HO27/73, p159

⁴ TNA, HO27/85, p218

⁵ TNA, PCOM2/2

⁶ TNA, HO24/4; HO8/101; HO8/103/ HO8/107

⁷ SROWA, Acc 128/32

⁸ SROWA, Superintendents Orders, So1-So3, p46, p47

⁹ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 25 July 1851, p2

At some stage, Benjamin went to York and was convicted of assault and sentenced to 3 months. On 8 November 1851, he was received at Fremantle Prison under Magisterial Sentence and placed in the cells.

On 20 February 1852. B. Eddleston 400 was discharged to Freshwater Bay.¹⁰

Benjamin must have settled down, as by the end of 1852, he had repaid £6 6s 10½d of his passage money.¹¹

A Conditional Pardon was granted in November 1853.

On 1 February 1857, the brig *Champion*, 226 tons, left Vasse, arriving in Adelaide on 1 March with a load of jarrah and tuart timber. Cabin passengers included Mr Eddleston.¹²

This is believed to be Benjamin Eddlestone.

No further information had been found.

¹⁰ SROWA, Receipts and Discharges, Rd1 - Rd2, p20 (image 221), p31

¹¹ TNA, CO18/69

¹² Adelaide Observer, 7 March 1857, p5