

Robert Viveash

Viveash arrived in the colony with the Tanner family and the family of his brother Samuel Viveash on the *Britomart* on 5 December 1838.^{1 2} The Viveashes were also friends of Thomas and Eliza Brown.³

In July 1839, the Viveash brothers and Samuel's brother in law John Frederick Smith formed a partnership to buy from James Walcott all of Avon Location H (except for Addington).⁴

In 1839, the Viveash brothers and JF Smith also leased *Woodlands*, on the east side of Mt Brown.^{5 6}

Robert Viveash was present at the inaugural meeting of the York Agricultural Society on 3 August 1840.⁷

In January 1842, he was living in York as Maria Smith was charged with stealing a shirt from Viveash. Maria Smith sold the shirt to Elizabeth Quartermain, a servant in the employ of Robert Viveash.⁸

The partnership between Samuel Viveash, Robert Viveash and John F Smith was dissolved by mutual consent by notice dated 4 June 1842.⁹ These parties split their holding and Robert Viveash acquired *Haisthorpe*, the southern portion.¹⁰ He sold this to his brother Samuel.¹¹

The Governor appointed Robert Viveash to the position of Hospital Assistant (in Perth) on 17 July 1843.¹²

In that capacity he gave evidence at a hearing at which WR Steel was charged with assault and battery of a female aboriginal native.¹³

He gave evidence again at the trial of Thomas Dover, charged with burglary of Robert Viveash's house in Perth, stealing several articles of jewellery.¹⁴ The same defendant and another man William Vance were charged with receiving some mercury from Viveash's dispensary and Viveash also gave evidence in relation to this.¹⁵

In 1844, Viveash was proposing whaling works at the Vasse.¹⁶

¹ Perth Gazette and Western Australian Journal, 8 December 1838, p.194.

² Samuel's diary records the voyage.

³ Pamela Statham Drew and AM (Tony) Clack: York, Western Australia, A Documentary History, p.39.

⁴ Glen McLaren and William Cooper: Beverley, Our Journey through time, Shire of Beverley, 2002, pp.11-12. The book contains a map of the farms on Location H.

⁵ John Deacon: A Survey of the Historical Development of the Avon Valley with particular reference to York, Western Australia, 1948, 70.

⁶ Letter from Robert Viveash to Thomas Brown in Dorchester 1 February 1840 describing life at Woodlands.

⁷ York Agricultural Society minute book.

⁸ Perth Gazette and Western Australian Journal, 8 January 1842, p.2.

⁹ Inquirer, 10 August 1842, p.2.

¹⁰ Glen McLaren and William Cooper: Beverley, Our Journey through time, Shire of Beverley, 2002, p.12.

¹¹ Glen McLaren and William Cooper: Beverley, Our Journey through time, Shire of Beverley, 2002, p.74.

¹² Perth Gazette and Western Australian Journal, 22 July 1843, p.4.

¹³ Perth Gazette and Western Australian Journal, 6 January 1844, p.2.

¹⁴ Perth Gazette and Western Australian Journal, 5 October 1844, p.2.

¹⁵ Perth Gazette and Western Australian Journal, 5 October 1844, p.2.

¹⁶ InHerit 04991.

On 4 June 1845, Robert Viveash sailed for Augusta aboard the schooner *Alpha*.¹⁷ He appears to have operated the whaling station for a while as he is quoted by Edward Wilson Landor in his book *The Bushman* as follows:

“Mr. Robert Viveash, one of the principals at this station [in 1845], told me, among other anecdotes, that one day, standing on the deck of a small schooner, watching the evolutions of an enormous shark, he saw it seize the rudder with its teeth in a kind of frenzy, or else in mere sport, and shake it so violently that the tiller, striking against some heavy object on deck, was actually broken in two pieces.

He returned to farming and in December 1848, he advertised a stray colt that had wandered to his property (not named).¹⁸

In December 1849, he advertised a lost filly (by Yussuf), strayed from *Yogdewine*, and offered a 1 pound reward.¹⁹

Robert Viveash was appointed medical officer for the ticket-of-leave men at York in August 1851.²⁰

As the convicts were at the York Convict Hiring Station,²¹ it was natural that he would live on the right bank of the river. He took a grant of York Town Lot A10²² in 1852.²³

He was originally only to visit York occasionally to look after convicts, but came to live in York because

“Mr [Walkinshaw] Cowan was far sighted enoughto see that an opportunity was presented to improve the situation (of lack of medical expertise) in York. [There was money available from England for convicts and aboriginal care so] He suggested that if Mr Viveash were offered a reasonable salary to provide medical attention for prisoners, sick Aborigines, and the Native Institution, in addition to what he could conceivably receive from private practice, he might be prepared to move to York. This idea the government accepted and as a reward offered the alternative of two rations of 25 pounds per annum.”²⁴

He took an interest in the York Races and became Secretary pro tem²⁵ and also treasurer.²⁶ He also took part in meetings of the York Agricultural Society, supporting the case for female emigrants.²⁷

Robert Viveash nearly lost his life crossing the Avon River in 1852 when returning to York

¹⁷ Inquirer, 4 June 1845, p.2.

¹⁸ Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 9 December 1848, p.2.

¹⁹ Inquirer, 12 December 1849, p.1.

²⁰ Inquirer 20 August 1851, p.2.

²¹ Rica Erickson, Dictionary of Western Australians, p.3154.

²² Now 27 Clifford St.

²³ Crown Grant ET 1123.

²⁴ Roger Jennings: Over the Hills: A History of York 1834-1880, p.175.

²⁵ Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 19 September 1851, p.2.

²⁶ Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 14 November 1851, p.2; 14 January 1853, p.2; 13 January 1854, p.2; Inquirer 18 January 1854, p.1.

²⁷ Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News 23 January 1852, p.3.

from Toodyay.²⁸

In January 1854, he gave evidence at the trial of Henry Ball who was charged with stealing three cakes of blacking from him.²⁹ He also gave evidence for Bennett in his legal battle with John Henry Monger,³⁰ and was a witness at the trial of Edward Bishop for murder in late 1854.³¹

Some “evil disposed person” shot his bay filly in January 1855.³²

In 1856 he suffered some accident, it was reported that he was recovering and was able to get about on crutches.³³

In 1858 he gave one pound to the Indian Mutiny Relief Fund.³⁴

On March 1859, Viveash was summarily dismissed and charged with inhumanity in relation to the death of an aboriginal.³⁵ The aboriginal was named Yelbich or Johnson and had been accidentally shot in the arm.³⁶ The aboriginal died while his arm was being cut off.³⁷ No other facts are in available records.

He retired to live with his brother in Middle Swan.³⁸

He sold his home in York to his brother Samuel Waterman Viveash in 1865,³⁹ who sold to Simeon William Viveash in 1892.⁴⁰

In 1867, he was in York and attended a meeting for the purpose of nominating candidates and electing a member for the Legislative Council.⁴¹

In 1872, he signed (as “gentleman and landowner”) the Memorial in support of EW Landor.⁴²

He was one of the mourners of his brother Samuel who died at *Ashby* his estate on the Swan on 12 June 1880.⁴³

Robert died at *Ashby* on 5 July 1891, aged 80.⁴⁴

²⁸ Roger Jennings: *Over the Hills: A History of York 1834-1880*, p.190.

²⁹ *Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News* 6 January 1854, p.2; *Inquirer* 11 January 1854, p.3.

³⁰ *Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News* 11 August 1854, p.2.

³¹ *Inquirer*, 11 October 1854, p.3; *Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News* 1 September 1854, p.2.

³² *Inquirer* 17 January 1855, p.1.

³³ *Inquirer and Commercial News* 10 September 1856, p.3.

³⁴ *Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News* 4 June 1858, p.2.

³⁵ Roger Jennings: *Over the Hills: A History of York 1834-1880*, p.208 and the references therein.

³⁶ Letter from Lewis J Baily to Resident’s Office, York 9 March 1859.

³⁷ Acting Resident Magistrate’s Report for 3 March 1859 (CSF York Police Report 459/157).

³⁸ Rica Erickson, *Dictionary of Western Australians*, p.3154.

³⁹ *Landgate Deeds and Ordinances VI/1867*, 19 June 1867.

⁴⁰ *Landgate Deeds and Ordinances XI/593* 20 May 1892.

⁴¹ *Perth Gazette and West Australian Times* 20 December 1867, p.2.

⁴² *Perth Gazette and West Australian Times* 19 July 1872, p.2

⁴³ *Inquirer and Commercial News* 16 June 1880, p.3.

⁴⁴ *Inquirer and Commercial News* 8 July 1891, p.7; 10 July 1891, p.2; *Daily News* 9 July 1891, p.3.

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