

## John Jennings, 137, *Hashemy*

Researched by Marcia Watson

Baptism	30 October 1825, St Mary the Virgin, Walthamstow, Essex
Parents	Benjamin Jennings and Elizabeth Shepherd
Parent's marriage	17 May 1817, Wanstead, Essex <sup>1</sup>
Siblings	Louisa (1819), Benjamin (1821), Matilda Elizabeth (1822), Mary Hewes (1824), Elizabeth (1827), David (1829), William (1830), George (1831), Ann (1833), Sarah (~1835), Emma (1836), Ellen (1837)
Wife	Isabella Rogers
Married	3 March 1847, St Marylebone, London, by Banns.
Children	John George (~1847)

John William Jennings is his full name. His father was a husbandman.

In 1841, living at Chapel End, Walthamstow were:<sup>2</sup>

Benjamin Jennings, 45, Ag lab; Elizabeth, 44; and all their children. Louisa, who was probably living in London as she married there in 1844

Benjamin Jennings died in 1849, aged 52. Elizabeth, his wife, died in 1850, aged 50. Both are buried at St Mary the Virgin, Walthamstow.

John married on 3 March 1847 at the Parish church of St Marylebone, London, by Banns.

John Jennings, full age [22], bachelor, grocer, living in St Marylebone, father Benjamin Jennings, gardener Isabella Rogers, full age[29], spinster, living at St Marylebone, father Nathaniel Rogers, carpenter.

Witnesses were Henry and Sophia Casbott.

At Marylebone, on 12 October 1848:

Elizabeth Rogers and John Jennings were placed at the bar, before Mr Long, for further examination on the charge of having plundered the house of Mr C.G. Ridout, 11 Wimpole-street, Cavendish-square, of the property to the amount of between £150 and £200. <sup>3</sup>

Then, at Marylebone, on 10 November 1848:

John Jennings, a servant out of place, was for the second time brought up on the charge of having been concerned in plundering the house of Mr G.C. Ridout, Wimpole-street, Cavendish-square, of plate and other property, to the amount of nearly £200. The prisoner was committed for trial. <sup>4</sup>

### At the Central Criminal Court, 27 November 1848:

36. Elizabeth Rogers, Isabella Jennings, and John Jennings, charged with stealing 1 coffee-pot, 1 tea-pot, 24 forks, 2 soup-ladles, and other articles, value £150, the goods of Cranstoun George Ridout, the master of Rogers, in his dwelling-house.

The trial confirms that John Jennings came from Walthamstow: he said he was visiting his father when the offence took place.

Rogers— GUILTY. Aged 26:

Isabella Jennings— GUILTY. Aged 30.—Recommended to mercy by the Jury, believing them to be influenced by John Jennings in the commission of the act.

John Jennings— GUILTY. Aged 23.

Judgment Respited. <sup>5</sup>

Further information and full transcript of trial is at:

<https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/browse.jsp?id=def2-36-18481127&div=t18481127-36#highlight>

<sup>1</sup> Essex Record Office D/P 292/1/7, p47

<sup>2</sup> HO107/323/18, p31

<sup>3</sup> The Times, 13 October 1848, p7

<sup>4</sup> The Times, 11 November 1848, p7

<sup>5</sup> Old Bailey Proceedings Online (www.oldbaileyonline.org, version 8.0, 13 November 2019), November 1848, trial of ELIZABETH ROGERS ISABELLA JENNINGS JOHN JENNINGS (t18481127-36).

### At the Central Criminal Court, on 1 January 1849.

The following Prisoners, in whose cases judgment was at the time of conviction respited, have been sentenced:

Jennings, John... 20 Transported for fourteen years.

Jennings, Isabella... 20 Confined five months.

Rogers, Elizabeth... 20 Confined one year.

#### At Millbank Prison:

John Jennings, 23, married, can read and write imperfectly, was tried at the Old Bailey on 1 January 1849 for stealing from a dwelling house to a value of £5 and found guilty. He was sentenced to 14 years transportation. John was received at Millbank Prison on 12 February 1849 from Newgate Prison. His wife Isabella and two children were in the House of Correction, Coldbath Fields. His mother, two brothers and three sisters visited him on 21 June 1849. Mr Ridout, who was robbed, also visited John in prison on 2 April 1849.<sup>6</sup>

Wife - Isabella Jennings 30	} No: Corr? <sup>2</sup>	Visited by Mr Ridout in presence of Mr Chifflet 2-4-49
Chn: { John George " 18m } An infant not named		
Visited by Mother, 2 Brothers & 3 sisters 21.6.49		

On 2 August 1849, John was removed to Pentonville Prison. Seven months later, on 4 March 1850, he was transferred to Portland Prison. He was reported three times in May 1850 for irregularity and disposed of as in Report Book and Misconduct Book. Once was for stealing a book from another prisoner, and he was placed in Separate Confinement.<sup>7</sup> From here, he boarded the *Hashemy* on 19 July 1850 for the voyage to Fremantle.<sup>8</sup>

During the voyage, John was on the sick list:

Folio 3: John Jennings, aged 25, prisoner; sick or hurt, psora; put on sick list, 13 September 1850, discharged 21 September 1850 well.<sup>9</sup> [Psora is any of various skin diseases characterized by the presence of scabs or scales, usually with itching]

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

137. John Jennings, 24, 5'4", dark brown hair, hazel eyes, oval visage, dark complexion, stout, no marks, a painter and married.<sup>10</sup> His children were not mentioned.

#### General Register:

137. John Jennings, 25, married, grocer &c, Church of England. He went to school and can read, write, and do a little maths. His brother Benjamin Jennings lives in Walthamstow near Whipps Cross in Essex.

Attended Divine Service?	Pretty regularly
Received Sacrament?	Never
Habits?	Usually sober
Intellect?	Sound
State of Mind?	Meant to be diligent
Knowledge, Secular?	Limited
Knowledge, Religious?	Limited, but correct on his views on the plan of Salvation
Alleged Cause of Crime?	Suffering punishment, the offence being committed by his wife
Name of Person referred to for Character, &c.	Mr George Chissock(?), Wellington Road, West End of London. <sup>11</sup>

John frequently appears on the Casual sick list, Fremantle Prison.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Records of the Prison Commission (as filmed by the AJCP)/Series PCOM 2/File 29. AJCP Reel No: 5974

<sup>7</sup> Portland Prison. Governor's Journal, 24 November 1848 to 9 August 1850. PCOM 2/354

<sup>8</sup> HO24/4; HO24/16; HO8/105

<sup>9</sup> National Archives, UK, ADM 101/32/6/1-6

<sup>10</sup> SROWA Acc 128/40-3

<sup>11</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 R21A

<sup>12</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 CS1

		Complaint	Treatment
Jennings J	3 November 1850		Ap: medicine
Jennings J	15 November 1850	Diarrhoea	Mixture chalk
Jennings Jn	19 November 1850	Diarrhoea	Chalk mixture
Jennings John	8 December 1850		Castor oil
Jennings John	14 December 1850	Indigestion	Ap: medicine, Infus Quassia
Jennings John	15 December 1850		Infus. Dovers powder
Jennings John	16 December 1850	Discharged	Continue medicine
Jennings Jno	4 January 1851	Sprained back	Liniment
Jennings John	19 January 1851		
Jennings John	24 January 1851		
Jennings John	25 January 1851		
Jennings John	26 January 1851		
Jennings John	27 January 1851		Continue fever mixture
Jennings John	28 January 1851		Continue
Jennings John	30 January 1851		Continue draughts
Jennings John	31 January 1851		Fever mixture
Jennings John	1 February 1851		Continue mixture
Jennings John	2 February 1851		Continue mixture
Jennings John	3 February 1851		Fever mixture
Jennings John	4 February 1851	Debility	Continue Infus Quassia
Jennings John	5 February 1851		Continue Quassia
Jennings John	6 February 1851	Debility	Quinine mixture
Jennings John	7 February 1851	Debility	Emetic
Jennings John	9 February 1851	Debility	Calomel ...Castor oil 4 hours after
Jennings John	10 February 1851	Debility	Calomel..... every 4 hours
Jennings John 137	11 February 1851	Feb. C.C.	Continue pills of Calomel & .....
Jennings John 137	12 February 1851	Feb. C.C.	Fever mixture
Jennings John 137	13 February 1851	Feb. C.C.	
Jennings John 137	14 February 1851	Feb. C.C.	Continue pills
Jennings John 137	15 February 1851	Feb. C.C.	.... pills
Jennings John 137	16 February 1851	Feb. C.C.	Cold sponging when required
Jennings John	17 February 1851	Feb. C.C.	
Jennings John	19 February 1851		Quinine mixture
Jennings John	21 February 1851		Continue
Jennens John	22 February 1851	Feb. C.C.	Discharged
Jennens Jno	24 February 1851		Infus Gent
Jennens John	26 February 1851		Chalk mixture
Jennens John	27 February 1851		Aper. Mixture
Jennens John	28 February 1851		
Jennens John	1 March 1851		
Jennens John	2 March 1851		
Jennings Jno	4 March 1851	Febris	
Jennings Jno	6 March 1851		Opening medicine
Jennings John	12 March 1851		Pil:
Jennings Jno	17 March 1851	Diarrhoea	Chalk mixture
Jennings	19 March 1851	Diarrhoea	Powder Aper
Jennings John	25 March 1851	Ringworm	Ointment
Jennings John	5 April 1851		Aper. medicine
Jennings John	14 April 1851		Infus Gent
Jennings John 137	19 June 1851	Bad eye	Lotion
Jennings John 137	23 June 1851	Diarrhoea	Pils Dover & Calomel

Jennings John H	24 June 1851		
Jennings John H	25 June 1851	Diarrhoea	Castor oil
Jennings John H	26 June 1851	Diarrhoea	Castor oil
Jennings John H	27 June 1851		Nil
Jennings John H	28 June 1851		

Feb. C.C. = Febris continua continens (continuous or sustained fever).

John was issued with a Ticket of leave on 10 January 1852.<sup>13</sup>

He was back in prison and appears on the Sick list at Fremantle Prison.<sup>14</sup>

Jennings J 137	8 April 1854		
Jennings J 127	9 April 1854	Sore foot	
Jennings John 137	10 April 1854		
Jennings John 137	11 April 1854		

John must have been discharged from prison as he returned as a reconvicted prisoner on 1 May 1854.<sup>15</sup>

Jennings John 137	16 May 1854		
Jennings John 137 HL	17 May 1854	Nil	Nil

On 1 June 1854, he was discharged from Fremantle Gaol.

A year later, in September 1855, at Toodyay:

A few days since, two ticket-of-leave men named Jennings and Smith were apprehended by Detective Sergeants Hogan and Baker on the charge of uttering forged cheques. Jennings has been sentenced to 12 months' hard labour, and Smith has been remanded for further examination.<sup>16</sup>

He returned to prison on 17 September 1855.

The Sick Lists shows John had a bowel complaint.

HL=hard labour

Jennings J 137 HL	6 March 1856	Constipation	Cathartic mixture
Jennings J 137 HL	8 March 1856		To repeat non effect of purge mixture. Purge. To be excused bathing this day
Jennings John 137 HL	27 March 1856	Bowel complaint	Purg. mixture
Jennings John 137	29 March 1856	Voids stools resembling froth.	Observation cells
Jennings John 137	30 March 1856	Bowel complaint	See yesterday
Jennings John 137 HL	31 May 1856	Slight back strain	
Jennings John 137	3 June 1856	Back strain	Liniment to be sent
Jennings John 137 HL	26 June 1856	Back strain	Purge powder. Infirmary

John was discharged from prison on 15 August 1856.

On 16 May 1857, there was an Unclaimed letter at the General Post Office for John Jennings 137.<sup>17</sup>

John Jennings escaped in March 1859.

**Reg. No. 137, John Jennings,**  
per Hashemy, tried at Central Criminal Court,  
27th November, 1848, 14 years; servant, age 54  
years, height 5 feet 4 inches, hair dark brown,  
eyes hazel, visage oval, complexion dark, appear-  
ance stout; marks, none.

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Note: he was 34 not 54.

<sup>13</sup> SROWA 1156 R21B

<sup>14</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 CS2-3

<sup>15</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 RD1-2

<sup>16</sup> Inquirer (Perth, WA : 1840 - 1855), 7 March 1855, p2

<sup>17</sup> The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News (WA : 1848 - 1864), 22 May 1857, p2

<sup>18</sup> List of convicts who are supposed to have escaped from the Colony PR 10587

Could he have made his way back to England?

Interestingly, there is a John Jennings, 43, a carpenter, boarder, living in Walthamstow on the 1871 census. He said he was born in Ireland.

## *Isabella Rogers, wife of John Jennings, convict 137*

Baptism	8 November 1818, Axminster, Devon
Parents	Nathaniel Rogers (~1777-1858) and Sarah Vickery (~1783-1862)
Parent's marriage	4 August 1805, at Bridport in Dorset
Siblings	Eliza Harvey (1806), Sarah Vickery (1809), Francis Baker (1809), Susan (1814), Jane (1817), Elizabeth (1820), Anne (1822), Maria Parker (1824), Charles Nathaniel (1827), Mary Anne (1830)
Husband	John Jennings
Marriage	3 March 1847 at the Parish church of St Marylebone, London, by Banns
Children	John George Jennings (~1847) William Jennings (1849) Thomas Jennings (~1859)

Isabella was not living with her family on the 1841 census at Axminster in Devon. She had possibly moved to London. There is an Isabella Rogers, 22, living in Threadneedle Street, London, with 22 other people, probably a boarding house. Six of the women are 'Employed in the business of Lemon Biscuit Baker'. The Post Office Directory shows Frederick Le Mann, a biscuit baker of 15 Threadneedle Street, who may be her employer.

On 3 March 1847, Isabella Rogers (29), a spinster living in St Marylebone, married John Jennings (22), a grocer in St Marylebone. Their son, John George Jennings, was born on 10 April 1847, a month after his parent's marriage. The family lived at 1 Portland St, Marylebone, and John was a grocer.

In October 1848, before the Marylebone Court, Elizabeth Rogers and John Jennings were accused of having plundered the house of Mr Cranstoun George Ridout, 11 Wimpole-street, Cavendish-square, of property valued between £150 and £200. There was not enough evidence against John, and he was released.

A few weeks later, John was again before the Court on the same charge. Isabella was also implicated in the robbery. The three, John and Isabella Jennings, and her sister Elizabeth Rogers were committed to stand trial.

Their trial took place at the Old Bailey on 1 January 1849. Isabella claimed she did not know the goods were stolen when she pawned them using a false name. John was sentenced to be transported for fourteen years. Elizabeth Rogers was sentenced to 12 months, and Isabella received five months in prison.

Full details can be seen on The Old Bailey website - [Jennings trial](#)

Isabella was in Newgate Prison from 2 November 1848 until her trial. She was recorded as: Isabella Jennings, 4'10", 30 years old, married, fresh complexion, light brown hair, hazel eyes and slender.

After the trial, she went to the House of Correction, Coldbath Fields, on 5 January 1849. Her two children, John George (18 months) and an unnamed infant, were with her.

On 4 June 1849, Isabella, 30 and William, eight months, were admitted to the Westminster Workhouse from prison. Her last address was 14 Hardington St, Marylebone. Isabella was to remain in the workhouse

while the authorities made enquiries at Walthamstow about her settlement. Isabella, however, requested to leave the workhouse on 15 June.

An extraordinary letter was written by Cranstoun George Ridout, to the Rogers family in Devon, in 1850. *Wimpole-street, Cavendish-square, 10 April.*

*To Mrs Rogers, Axminster, Devonshire.*

*Mrs Rogers,*

*It was not my intention to have addressed you again on the painful subject of my two former letters, because I was unwilling to give you any further uneasiness, and to spare your feelings from dwelling upon what I am sure must have distressed you and your respectable husband - the evil practices of several of the members of your family, and which, had they followed the counsel and advice of their respectable parents, they never would have fallen into. As I understand you occasionally hear from some one of them, and are perhaps misinformed as to what really is the state of the case, for I am very sorry to be obliged to state the most barefaced untruths have from the first to the last been uttered by every one of the parties concerned in the case. Robbery in the house from those in confinement, as well as those who are not at present, I very reluctantly deem it right to tell you, what has come to my knowledge within the last few days, by which you see how much reason I have to complain of the conduct of those in whom I trusted, and in whom I placed confidence as well as the care of my property during my temporary absence from home. You will perhaps hardly credit the fact that your daughter Elizabeth, after the plunder of the closet in which all my plate, linen, Mrs. Ridout's jewels, and other property, to the amount of above £300 was kept, proposed, and was anxious, and intended, with the view of evading all traces of the robbery, to set fire to the house and burn it down. This was to have been done by setting fire to the closet. A more experienced person, however, suggested that was not the proper way of doing it, and recommended the house being fired from below. Fortunately for me this diabolical attempt was overruled, and my house was spared. It has also come to my knowledge that Mrs. Osborne, although in my several interviews with her, before and after the trials of Elizabeth and Mrs. John Jennings, assured me she was never in my house, still that she was here repeatedly, as well as her children; and whilst she was here, having previously purchased ticking, she, with the assistance of Isabella Jennings, made bags, and, having done so, she took from different beds in the house a quantity of feathers, which she carried off to her own house. Her husband (Osborne), as I am informed, carried off a feather-bed from one of the rooms over the laundry. In addition to the foregoing, I was at the same time told that the Osbornes had received a portion of the stolen linen. I do not, however, believe that they have any of it now in their possession but that it has been turned into cash to avoid detection. But for entertaining such belief, I should have had recourse to a search warrant from the magistrate of this quarter. That, however, is out of the question, as I know full well nothing belonging to me would be found in the house. I am fully grieved to be obliged to mention all these circumstances to you, but I have deemed it right that you should know the truth, and that such information I have had communicated to me within the last few days, and which I have every reason to believe to be the case.*

*C. G. RIDOUT.*

As a result of the letter, Jane Rogers and her husband, Charles Osborne, took Ridout to Court for libel. The jury returned a verdict for the defendant, adding their opinion that the letter was bonafide and without malice. The Chief Baron said the Court's opinion was there should have been a verdict for the plaintiff. After some discussion, the jury awarded a farthing in damages.

In 1851, Isabella was lodging in St Marylebone. She was a laundress. Lodging at the same place were her sisters Elizabeth Rogers and Mary Rogers, both dressmakers. Her two children have not been located on the census. William probably died in the last quarter of 1850 in Marylebone.

Isabella gave birth to Thomas in about 1858-9. The birth was not registered.

By 1861, Isabella now called herself a widow and was employed as a servant. She lived at 2 Olivers Court, St Johns, Westminster. With her were:

John Jennings, son, 14, a printer

Thomas Jennings, son, 2

Maria Ullett, sister, 36, married, a dressmaker, and her two children Jane 7 and Isabella 3.

In 1871 Isabella was a cook for Edward Tyler, an attorney and solicitor, at Oxford Square, Paddington. The Tyler's had a four-month-old child and employed six other staff. Isabella's sons lived with her sister Eliza Carter. John, 23, was a gardener, and Thomas 12, a scholar.

Isabella was a visitor at 23 Church Street, Kensington, on the 1881 census. She died of bronchitis at St Pancras on 13 December 1882 and buried in a common grave at old Brompton Cemetery. The informant was her son John.

### **Children**

John and his partner Emily had eight or nine children. No marriage or registered births have been found. John was a coachman or cab driver in Walthamstow in 1881. The last sighting of the family was in 1901 when they lived in Islington.

Thomas, 23, was a barman, living with a licensed victualler in Union Street, Marylebone, in 1881. He married Sarah Ann Margaret Morris, 19, in Westminster on 20 July 1881. One of the witnesses was Isabella Ullett, his cousin, who lived with his family in 1861. By 1891, Thomas was a carpet planner and lived in Battersea with his wife. He and Sarah did not have any children. Sarah died in 1896. It is unknown what happened to Thomas.