

George Lowers, 128, *Hashemy*

Researched by Marcia Watson

Born	3 August 1829, Newington, Surrey
Baptism	10 June 1835, St Mary, Newington, Surrey
Parents	John Lowers and Elizabeth Mayo
Parent's marriage	10 June 1827, St Mary, Newington, Surrey
Siblings	Louisa (1828), Mary Ann (1831), John (1833), William (1835), Elizabeth (1837), Susan (1839), James (1840), Henry (1844)
Wife	
Married	
Children	

George was baptised with his siblings, Louisa, Mary Ann and John, on the same day in 1835. Their father was a cordwainer, and the family lived at Purin Place, Tiverton Street, Newington.

In 1841, living at Wellington Place, St Mary Newington, Surrey:

John Lowers, 35, shoemaker, not born in the county; Elizabeth, 40, born in the county; Louisa, 13; George, 11; John, 7; Elizabeth, 3; Susan, 1; James, two weeks old.

At the Central Criminal Court, on 3 April 1848:

Anthony Finlay, Thomas Howlett, James Taylor, Henry Brown, David Anthony Duffy, **George Lowers**, Thomas Walker, Robert Archer, Thomas Horssey, Richard Webster, Joseph Burden, Samuel Mayney, Thomas Snead, George Payne, and William Bailey, were indicted for breaking and entering the dwelling-house of Thomas Grey, at Camberwell, and stealing 8 chains, 28 brooches, 200 watches, 170 rings, and a great variety of articles, value £652 13s, his goods; Brown, Walker, and Snead, having been before convicted.

George was identified by several witnesses as taking an active part in the robbery. He questioned several of the witnesses.

Archer, Horssey, Webster and Burden— Not Guilty.

Finlay— Guilty. Aged 17; Howlett— Guilty. Aged 13; Taylor— Guilty. Aged 25; Duffy— Guilty. Aged 21;

Lowers— Guilty. Aged 18; Walker— Guilty. Aged 13; Maynby— Guilty. Aged 22; Payne— Guilty. Aged 17; Bailey— Guilty. Aged 18; **Transported For Seven Years.**

Brown— Guilty. Aged 26; Snead— Guilty. Aged 25; *Transported For Fourteen Years.*

Full transcript:

<https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/browse.jsp?id=def6-1165-18480403&div=t18480403-1165#highlight>

2nd charge against George Lowers, on the same day:

Thomas Howlett, Robert Archer, William Barrett, Benjamin Prophett, Henry Davis, **George Lowers**, And William Brigden, breaking and entering the dwelling-house of Alfred Thomas, at Camberwell, and stealing 1lb. weight of cigars, 1lb. weight of tobacco, 32 glass jars, 48lbs. weight of sweetmeats, 240 toys, and other articles, value £5; his goods.

Howlett And Brigden— Not Guilty.

Archer— Guilty. Aged 15; And Davis— Guilty. Aged 16.— *Confined One Year.*

Barrett— Guilty. Aged 16.— *Transported For Ten Years.*

Prophett— Guilty. **Lowers— Guilty. Aged 18.— Transported For Seven Years More.**

Full transcript:

<https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/browse.jsp?id=def6-1168-18480403&div=t18480403-1168#highlight>

Petition.

To The Right Honble Sir George Grey Bart Secretary of State of the Home Department.

The Humble Petition of John Lowers of No. 1 Baker Street New Kent Road in the Parish of St Mary Newington, Surrey.

Sheweth,

That your Petitioner has a Son George Lowers under Sentence of Transportation for fourteen years for being convicted with the Camberwell Riots this being the first time he was ever Inside a Prison Wall and upon the present Occasion I believe him to have been Unconscious of the Danger in which he was placing himself by being Connected in any way with a mob of the Description of which Unfortunately it turn'd out to be.

The Lad always got his bread by Unimpeachable Honesty and Industry will be Testified by Persons whose Signatures will be Attach'd Some of whom have known him from his cradle. Some who have employ'd him and likewise those who has employ'd him to Collect their Out Standing Bills since he has left their Employ. That the Lad never was what might be term'd a Pot house loungee no Smoking no drinking Habits being allow'd always having been kept under a Parents control never allowed to be out after Dark except his Employment compell'd him and not Addicted to Swearing or Blasphemy.

That the Lad feeling Unconscious that he had done wrong on the Monday he went to the Police Court of Lambeth on the Tuesday together with a lad of the name of Robert archer to see a lad of the name of Maile the son of a Neighbour who was taken into custody on the Monday and in going to the said Police Court on Tuesday Morning he received a small stick from a little boy whose father keeps a Green Grocers Shop in New Street Kensington Road that being the only article found upon him was used as Confirmatory Evidence against him.

Your Petitioner therefore Humbly Prayeth that you will take the Lads case into your Humane Consideration and if you should see any Circumstance that would favor a Commutation of Sentence.

Your Petitioner Will feel in duty Bound Ever to Pray.

I hereby certify that George Lowers was in the National School of this Parish for five years & upwards & always conducted himself very steadily, & can have a Recommendation from the Master to that effect from enquiries I have made respecting his subsequent conduct, I can not find that he has in any way deviated from that character, & it is much to the Surprise of those who knew him, that he should be in the present Scrape.

Arthur Cyril Anslow, Rector of St Mary Newington, Surrey, 4 May, 1848

Signed by about 25 people.

Ambrose Jacobs, 1 High St Newington Butts., having known George Lowers for some length of time having employed him always found him to be honest upright steady and industrious boy, being always very correct in his money accounts while in my service, George Lowers was in my service up to the time of his accusation had a undeniable character with him.

H.C King, No 10 High St, Newington Butts. George Lowers Lived with us A Long Time and ware a Good Sober Honest lad and one week be fore Taken got me some Bill, unknown to us and brought the Money and Gave to us Every Farthing to me and my sister.

Richard Scott, 7 Crown Row, Wholesale Confectioner.

Was Employed by me for some time and I always found him Sober and well behaved and particularly Honest and when he left me I gave him a good character to Mrs King, the write preceding me.

Cover: 235/20

George Lowers, 18, Cent Crim Court, April 1848, Larceny (2 Indictments), 14 years transportation

Gaol Report. Character not known

Request a report from the Judge GG

The prisoners father represents his good character - states that he was not aware of the unlawful Character of the mob which he had..... joined - & prays that his sentence may be commuted

Answered 29 May 1848.

60 Upper Seymour St, Portman Square, 18 May, 1848

Sir,

George Lowers was presented, by the Government, with four and twenty others, last Sessions, for breaking and entering the dwelling house of Mr Grey, of Camberwell, And stealing six or seven hundred pounds of Property; And Also breaking and entering the dwelling house of Mr Thomas, of Camberwell, at mid-day, and stealing his goods. These cases are long but fully reported, in the Central Criminal Reports 1165-1168. I thought it most important to pass severe Sentences in All the Cases brought before me, on the Saturday and Monday 8th and 10th April last - And that it should be clearly understood that such Cases would.. severe Punishment. I now think that if Lower's Case is to be reconsidered, that of many of the other prisoners should be re-investigated Alao; And that his ought not to be taken up alone. The Solicitor In the..... can afford every..... in All the different Cases - But the Matter seems to be in more for the Government than the Judge - I feel satisfied that I did my duty, at the Time, And that I should now pass All the same Sentences again. One of the Prosecutors was.....

I have the honor to be, Your most obedient humble Servant,

J.....house

Comms Sergeant

George Lowers, 18, single, can read and write imperfectly, fishmonger, was convicted, with others, on 3 April 1848 at the Central Criminal Court on two accounts of housebreaking and sentenced to 14 years transportation i.e. seven years on each account. George was received at Millbank Prison, from Newgate Prison, on 27 April 1848. After nearly eight months, he was transferred to Wakefield Prison on 19 December 1848. A further eight months later, George was sent to Portland Prison on 8 August 1849. While at Portland Prison, George Lowers was reported on 16 August 1849 and again on 22 October 1849 reported for irregularity and disposed of as in Report Book and Misconduct Book. No reason was given in the Governor's Journal. From Portland Prison, George boarded the *Hashemy* on 19 July 1850 for the voyage to Fremantle. ¹

A description of George on arrival at Fremantle in October 1850:

128. George Lowers, 21, 5' 4", brown hair, hazel eyes, long face, fair complexion, one mole on his back and one on his chest, a baker and single.² Another document describes his visage and complexion as – long inclined to be aquiline. ³

General Register:

128. George Lowers, 22 (August 1851), single, a baker, Church of England, went to National school, can read fairly, write tolerably and can do mathematical proportions. He said his father, John Lowers, a bootmaker, lived at No 1 Baker St, Kent Rd, London.

Attended Divine Service?	Regularly, & his parents regularly
Received Sacrament?	Never
Habits?	Attentive to work & sober
Intellect?	Sound
State of Mind?	From all I have seen of him and what I now see, I simply say I hope he may go on steadily.
Knowledge, Secular?	Tolerable

¹ HO23/14; HO24/4; HO13/94, p61; HO8/105; PCOM 2/354

² SROWA Acc 128/40-3

³ SROWA cons 1386/1, p105

Knowledge, Religious? Knows a fair amount of scripture. I wish he would practice its precept more
 Alleged Cause of Crime? Pleads innocence of the crime he is charged with
 Name of Person referred to for Character, &c. Miss King of Newington Baths, London.⁴

George appears on the Casual sick list, Fremantle Prison. His problem may have been from the shackles.

Lowers G	22 November 1850	Eruption	Continue sulphur
Lowers George	23 December 1850	Bad leg	Poultice
Lowers George	24 December 1850	Bad leg	Dress
Lowers George	27 December 1850	Bad foot	Dress
Lowers George	28 December 1850	Boil	Poultice

George was in trouble soon after arriving. On 28 December 1850, he received bread and water for three days due to Disobedience and insolence, and on 3 February 1851, he was to be put to work in the Bakehouse until further notice.⁵

George was issued with a Ticket of leave on 10 September 1851. He seemed to have trouble initially finding work:

11 September – seeking service

13 September – pass to Hern for 14 days to seek service

19 September = assisting at brickmaking in Bishop Serra's employ. Wages £1 per month.

22 September – returned to Mill Depot

24 September – passed to York to enter the service of J.H Monger as a cook and general house servant.⁶

George was still in York in 1853.⁷

He was granted a Conditional Pardon on 24 June 1857.

The Western Australia Biographical Index indicated George was still in York in 1868 when he employed a ticket of leave man.

George Lowers appears to have gone back to England.

1871 census: George Lowers, 42, labourer in general, born Middlesex Water Lane, unmarried lodger at 27 Church St, Poplar.

1881 census: George Lowes Summers, unm, boarder with David Summers and family at 4 Kings Terrace, Poplar. Place of birth unknown. George's age was 'unknown', this was crossed out and 30(sic) written. David Summers was a carman.

1890: 10 February, Settlement Papers.⁸

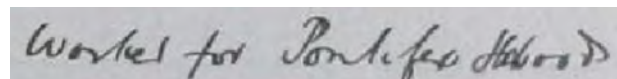
George Lowers, 61, single, carman.

In workhouse a fortnight. No residence for 18 months. Has lived with Mr Summers at different places for 25 years. Worker for Pontifex Habood (?).

59 Stebondale Street – 6 months

Kings Terrace Stebondale Street

Church Street Cubitt Town – 10 years



1891 census: George Lowers, 61, pauper, single, baker, born Newington, Surrey, slept in the Poplar workhouse on the night of the census.

1901 census: George Lowers, 71, single, carman, born Newington Causeway, an inmate in the Poplar workhouse. Newington Causeway is a street away from where the Lowers family originally lived.

⁴ SROWA Acc 1156 R21A

⁵ SROWA Acc 1156 SO1-2

⁶ SROWA cons 1386/1, p105

⁷ Rica Erickson's notes on Family Search

⁸ London Metropolitan Archives; London Poor Law Registers; Reference: POBG/128/16

1902: George Lowers, single, carman, Church of England, born 1828, infirm diet 2a, admitted to the Poplar workhouse on 22 October 1902.⁹

1907. George died on 25 August 1907 at the Poplar workhouse. He was buried by Friends, presumably the Quakers. A number of deaths at the workhouse were buried by Friends.

Parents:

Elizabeth Lowers, George's mother, died in 1877 at Southwark, Surrey.

In 1879, his father, John Lowers, went into the workhouse at Southwark. However, by 1881 he lived in Manchester Road, Poplar, with his daughter Louisa. This street runs through Cubitt Town, where George Lowers was living.

In 1885 John Lowers entered the nearby Stepney Workhouse from Poplar and died there in 1889.

⁹ London Metropolitan Archives; London, England; Reference Number: POBG/286/05