

Henry Nash, 147, *Hashemy*

Researched by Marcia Watson

Baptism	2 October 1811, Hurst, Berkshire
Parents	John Nash and Jane Neal(e)
Parent's marriage	26 October 1802, St Nicholas Church, Hurst
Siblings	Jane (1803), Ann Maria (1805), John (1807), Sally (1808), Thomas (1810), Mary (1813), Elizabeth (1815), Helen (1817)
Wife	Eliza Hull
Married	19 March 1832, St Giles, Cripplegate, London
Children	Mary (1832) William (1834-1834) Emma (1835) Ellen (1837) Jane (1839) Eliza (1841)

Henry's father, John Nash, was buried on 12 February 1855 at Hurst, aged 98. His mother, Jane, was buried on 26 September 1836, aged 62.

In 1832, Henry Nash married Eliza Hull on 19 March 1832 at St Giles Cripplegate, London, where Henry was a labourer. The family were living at Merrill Green, Hurst, Berkshire, England in 1841:¹

Henry Nash, 25, Ag Lab; Eliza, 30; Mary, 8; Emma, 5; Jane, 2; Eliza, 5 months

At the January 1843 Lent Assizes, in Berkshire:

Henry Nash, 30, and Joseph Wellman, 32, charged with having, on the night of 18 December last, at the parish of Hurst, entered the preserves of John Walter, Esq., M.P., of Bearwood, to take the game, and violently assaulted Richard Clark, the gamekeeper. Mr Tyrwhitt appeared for the prosecution, and Mr Carrington defended the prisoners.

The learned Counsel for the prosecution, having stated the case, called:

Richard Clark, who, on being sworn, stated—I am in the service of Mr Walter, as gamekeeper. On Sunday night, 18 December last, I went my rounds as usual, in company with Edward Morecock, who usually assisted me watching the preserves. In so doing, I saw the two prisoners enter the wood with a gun each and a lurcher dog; it was a very moonlight night. I directly sent Morecock to the lower part of the wood and remained at the other end myself. When the prisoners saw him, they returned and came towards me, upon which I went up to them; Nash immediately said to the dog, "Go him," and the dog then flew at me and caught hold my clothes; I, however, beat him off with a stick. I then asked the men what they wanted; they replied "nothing" and were going away, but I stopped them. Wellman presented his gun to me. On my approaching him, Nash struck a violent blow at my head with the barrel of his gun (which he had taken from the stock); I received the blow on my elbow, which was consequently cut open. Nash also repeatedly told Wellman to "keep his gun up" and threatened to level me to the ground. Morecock came up to assist when Nash said to Wellman, "you'll do for him (meaning Morecock) I will soon settle this b---." I had no other weapon than a short stick in my possession, and fearing that I should be murdered, we then let the prisoners go. I went to Nash's house the next day with Herring, the constable. Edward Morecock corroborated this evidence.

William Herring, the constable of Wokingham, examined.—I went with the two last witnesses to Nash's house the day after this occurred and found the two prisoners there sitting by the fire. I told them what I had come for when they denied all knowledge of the transaction, declaring that they had never been near Mr Walter's preserves. There was a dog in the room, which I have now in Court. I found in Nash's jacket pocket a powder flask and a handful of pheasants' feathers. (The dog was here produced and identified by the two preceding witnesses.)

¹ HO107/28/3, p3

Mr Carrington defended the prisoners in a short address, contending that no great violence was manifested by either of the defendants. The Jury found both the men guilty, and they were then sentenced by the Chairman, each to seven years transportation.²

Henry was received on the *Warrior* Hulk at Woolwich, from Reading Gaol, on 6 February 1843.

8055. Henry Nash, 30, was convicted of night poaching on 2 January 1843 at Abingdon and sentenced to seven years transportation. He was married with five children, his trade was agriculture, and the gaoler's report from Reading Goal said – Bad character. Relations are highly respectable.³

Joseph Wellman was sent to Gibraltar and was sent back to England on 24 June 1848.⁴

A Petition for a mitigation of his sentence did not say anything different from the newspaper reports.

Henry remained on the *Justitia* hulk until 14 November 1846.⁵ Then he was granted a Free Pardon:

To Our Trusty & Well beloved John Capper Esq. Superintendent of Convicts and all others &c. ⁶

Whereas the following persons are now under Sentence of Transportation on board the Justitia Hulk at Woolwich they having been convicted of felony at the times and places hereafter mentioned Viz.

.....Henry Nash at Abingdon... in January 1843. We, in consideration of some circumstances humbly represented unto Us, are Graciously pleased to extend Our Grace and mercy unto them and to Grant them Our Free Pardon for the Crimes of which they stand convicted.

Our Will & Pleasure

5 Nov1846

By H.M Command, G Grey

In December 1847, a newspaper report from Wokingham, Berkshire announced:

From information received by Mr King, he on Wednesday obtained search warrants against two men, named Henry Nash and James Eamer, living at Hurst, which were placed in the hands Mr Herring, the constable of Wokingham, for execution. In the houses of both parties, they found a quantity of mutton, which had been cut to pieces in a rough manner, and on Eamer's premises was found the skin of a sheep's head, which Mr King, jun., at once identified as belonging to the sheep stolen, from two marks which he had himself made on it; and on putting the joints of mutton together and comparing them with the skin (which had been left in a field near the spot where the robbery was committed), they were found to correspond exactly. Nash and Eamer were then apprehended, and Thursday, brought before H. St. John, Esq., who on the above facts being deposed to committed them for trial at the next county sessions.⁷

At the Berks Epiphany Sessions, Tuesday 4 January 1848:

Henry Nash, 35, and James Eamer, 28, were charged with having, on 6 December last, at Hurst, feloniously stolen ewe sheep, the property of Oliver King.

Mr Carrington for the prosecution, and Mr J. J. Williams appeared for the prisoners.

Mr Maurice Randell stated, that the 4 December 109 sheep belonging to the prosecutor were folded in one of his turnip fields on the morning of the 6th, a labourer named Charles Greenham came and showed him a skin he had found; he went to the field, and on counting the sheep found there were 107 alive, and one dead. The following day he traced, with Mr Gilbert King, the footsteps, which commenced in an adjoining field, at a distance of about 250 yards from the fold, and the footmarks were those of two men, one of which corresponded with those of Eamer.

Gilbert King, son of the prosecutor, corroborated the testimony as to the loss of the sheep, and the finding of the skin. On the following Wednesday, in company with Herring, the constable, and others, he proceeded to the house of the prisoner Nash, and in the wash-house found a shoulder, some pieces, breast, and loin of mutton, under some legs of pork; beneath the staircase, he found the leg and a part of a loin hanging up and covered with cloth. His (witness's) brother went to Eamer's back premises and found in an ash-heap the skin of a sheep's head, which he recognised as one of his father's flock from the ear being pierced.

² Reading Mercury, 07 January 1843, p4

³ HO9/12, p183

⁴ HO8/96

⁵ HO8/90, p29

⁶ HO13/89, p213-4

⁷ Berkshire Chronicle, 11 December 1847, p2

William Herring, a constable of Wokingham, deposed that he went to Nash's house and there found a quantity of mutton, which, together with that found on Eamer's premises, corresponded with the portions left on the skin.

Mr Williams, for the defence, said there was he could urge on behalf of Nash. It was, however, somewhat different as regarded prisoner Eamer. The fact that he had more than once been in the prosecutor's service was proof he was a man of good character and in whom he placed some amount of confidence. The evidence against him was all circumstantial and not of that strong nature as to lead to the inevitable conclusion that he must have committed this felony.

His Lordship summed up and observed that the property being found in the dwellings and about the premises of the prisoners was strong presumptive evidence they were the parties who committed the robbery.

The Jury deliberated and returned a verdict of guilty against both prisoners. His Lordship said the sentence of the Court was that they should each be transported for the term of fifteen years.⁸

Another newspaper version: Henry Nash, 35, and James Eamer, 28, labourers, were charged with having, on 6 December, at Hurst, stolen a ewe sheep, the property of Mr Oliver King.

Mr Carrington conducted the prosecution; Mr Williams appeared for the prisoners.

Mr Gilbert King, prosecutor's son, swore that a flock of 109 sheep were folded in a field of turnips, on the farm of Mr Maurice Randell, at Hurst; that on the following Monday on counting the sheep they found one dead and one missing; the skin was found in a ditch about a quarter of a mile distant, and were tracked from the fold in the direction of the prisoners' houses, which adjoin. Witness deposed that he searched the prisoners' houses, in company with the constable and his father. In Nash's house, they found some mutton in a pan, under some legs of pork, also a leg and part of the loin. At Eamer's, they found a pan of mutton concealed in the roof a pig-stye, all the portions of which fitted.

When taken into custody, Eamer denied all knowledge and said his wife must have put it there.

Nash said he found it on the road.

A neighbour deposed to having seen Eamer's wife cut a piece off the mutton in the pig-stye, Nash's wife standing by at the time, but did not mention it until a reward was offered.

Mr Williams contended that the evidence against Eamer was entirely circumstantial; that the mutton might have been placed in the stye by the really guilty parties, the yard being common to four horses.

The prisoners were found guilty and sentenced to fifteen years' transportation.⁹

Henry Nash, 35, married with five children, can read and write imperfectly, labourer, was convicted on 3 January 1848 at Abingdon of stealing a sheep and sentenced 15 years transportation. He had been once transported for seven years. Henry was received at Millbank Prison on 31 January 1848 and removed to Pentonville Prison on 24 March 1848.¹⁰ The Pentonville register says Henry could both read and write, a farm labourer and of good character. He was transferred to Portland Prison on 1 May 1849.¹¹

The Portland Prison, the Governor's Journal said:

1 May 1849 – Received 65 prisoners in the evening from Pentonville Prison, having arrived by omnibus from Dorchester Railway Station at Fortuneswell, escorted by a detachment of the Prison Guard – a party of the Coast Guard, and an armed party of Warders – to the Prison. [List of prisoners]
There not being room for all the Prisoners now in the Prison in the cells in the Halls, as shown by following distribution:

Prisoners in Infirmary	13
Prisoners in separate confinement	4
Prisoners in cells in the halls	272
Vacant cells	46
Total dispersed of as above	353
Remaining to be provided for in separate cells	19
Total	354

⁸ Reading Mercury, 08 January 1848, p2

⁹ Windsor and Eton Express, 08 January 1848, p1

¹⁰ PCOM2/28, p81; HO24/4

¹¹ HO24/16

It was necessary to place a number of the new prisoners in the separate cells – and the last on the list were accordingly placed there, when all the other cells were filled up.¹²

Henry was not put in a separate cell.

2 May 1849: The 65 new prisoners were medically inspected this morning by the Medical officer.

James boarded the *Hashemy* on 19 July 1850 for the voyage to Fremantle. He arrived on 25 October and he was described as:

147. Henry Nash, 38, 5' 7½", light brown hair, light blue eyes, long ace, fresh complexion, stout, no marks, labourer, and married with five children.¹³

General Register:

147. Henry Nash, 40 in September 1851, married, labourer, Church of England, private schooling, can read, write and do maths.

Henry said his father John Nash lived in Hurst near Wokingham, Berkshire; his brother John Nash lived in Sonning near Reading, Berkshire.

Attended Divine Service? Attended regularly

Received Sacrament? Never

Habits? Steady and attentive to work

Intellect? Sound

State of Mind? Hopeful – temper peculiar

Knowledge, Secular? Limited

Knowledge, Religious? Limited

Alleged Cause of Crime? Drink

Name of Person referred to for Character, &c. Rev. – Cameron of Hurst near Wokingham.¹⁴ [Rev. Archibald Allen Cameron]

Henry had a fever for months and appeared on the Casual sick list, Fremantle Prison. H= hospital¹⁵

Nash Henry	14 March 1851	Headache	Infus Gent
Nash Henry	15 March 1851	Indigestion	Infus Gent
Nash Henry	16 March 1851	Indigestion	Continue Gent
Nash Henry	21 March 1851	Febris C.C. ...	Fever mixture
Nash Henry	22 March 1851	Febris C.C.	Continue fever mixture
Nash Henry H	28 March 1851	Feb.	Continue Affi. Draughts
Nash Henry H	2 April 1851	Feb.	Continue mixture
Nash Henry H	3 April 1851		Puls Dover
Nash Henry H	7 April 1851	Feb. C.C.	Continue Feb. mixture
Nash Henry H	12 April 1851		Continue
Nash Henry H	14 April 1851		Quin. ... three times a day
Nash Henry H	18 April 1851		Continue Quinine
Nash Henry H	19 April 1851		Continue Quinine
Nash Henry H	20 April 1851		Continue Quinine
Nash Henry H	21 April 1851	Debility p. febris	Continue Quinine
Nash Henry H	22 April 1851	Debility p. febris	Continue
Nash Henry H	23 April 1851	Debility p. febris	Continue Quinine
Nash Henry H	24 April 1851	Debility p. febris	Continue Quinine
Nash Henry H	25 April 1851	Debility p. febris	Continue Quinine
Nash Henry H	26 April 1851	Debility p. febris	Continue liniment
Nash Henry H	27 April 1851	Debility p. febris	Continue
Nash Henry H	28 April 1851	Debility	Continue
Nash Henry H	29 April 1851	Debility p. febris	Continue
Nash Henry H	30 April 1851	Debility	continue

¹² PCOM2/354, p81-2

¹³ SROWA Acc 128/40-3

¹⁴ SROWA Acc 1156 R21A

¹⁵ SROWA Acc 1156 Cs1

Nash Henry H	1 May 1851	Debility p. febris	Continue
Nash Henry H	2 May 1851	Debility p. febris	Continue powder
Nash Henry H	3 May 1851	Debility p. febris	Infus Quassia
Nash Henry H	4 May 1851	Debility p. febris	Continue Quinine
Nash Henry H	5 May 1851	Debility p. febris	Continue Quassia
Nash Henry H	6 May 1851	Debility p. febris	Continue
Nash Henry H	7 May 1851		Continue Quassia
Nash Henry H	8 May 1851	Debility p. febris	Continue Quassia
Nash Henry H	9 May 1851	Debility p. febris	Acid sulph de.....
Nash Henry H	10 May 1851	Debility p. febris	Continue Quassia
Nash Henry H	11 May 1851	Debility p. febris	Continue
Nash Henry H	12 May 1851	Debility	Discharged
Nash Henry	16 May 1851		Dovers powder

Henry received a Ticket of leave on 10 August 1851 and was in the Murray District as a ticket of leave man in 1855.^{16,17}

Henry was granted a Conditional Pardon on 5 April 1856, and a few weeks later, on 28 April, he departed on board the *Guyon* from Fremantle to Adelaide.¹⁸

The schooner *Guyon*, Jackson, master, arrived, as reported above, after accomplishing the run from Swan River in twelve days. She brings nearly 100 passengers and nearly a foil cargo of jarrah timber.¹⁹

No further trace of Henry Nash has been found.

Eliza Hull, wife of Henry Nash, convict 147

Baptism	4 January 1807, St Mary, Burghfield, Berkshire
Parents	Ann Hull
Parent's marriage	
Siblings	
Husband	Henry Nash (1811 -)
Marriage	19 March 1832, St Giles Cripplegate, London, by banns
Children	Mary Nash (1832) William Nash (1834-1834) Emma Nash (1835) Ellen Nash (1837) Jane Nash (1839) Eliza Nash (1841)

Eliza was the illegitimate daughter of Ann Hull.

After the reading banns on the three previous Wednesdays, she married Henry Nash at St Giles Cripplegate Church in London on Thursday 19 March 1832. Henry signed the register, and Eliza made her mark. Henry was a labourer from Hurst in Berkshire. Their daughter Mary was baptised four months after the marriage.

¹⁶ SROWA Acc 1156 R21B

¹⁷ Richards, R. The Murray District of Western Australia: A history. Shire of Murray, 1978 WAGS 994.12 MUR

¹⁸ The Inquirer and Commercial News (Perth, WA : 1855 - 1901), 30 April 1856, p2

¹⁹ Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), 10 May 1856, p1

In 1841, the family lived at Merrill Green in the parish of Hurst. The census records: Henry 25, Ag lab, Eliza 30, Mary 8, Emma 5, Jane 2 and Eliza 2 months.

Henry Nash and Joseph Wellman were charged with poaching and assaulting the gamekeeper in December 1842. At their trial in January 1843, Henry pleaded not guilty, and Wellman pleaded Guilty. They both received seven years of transportation, and Henry was sent to the hulks at Woolwich. He received a free pardon in November 1846.

In December 1847, 109 sheep belonging to Oliver King were kept in a neighbours turnip field at Hurst. A workman discovered a sheep's skin in the field and found two sheep to be missing. The following day, the farmer's son and a constable searched the houses of Henry Nash and James Eamer. In Nash's, they found some mutton in a pan, under some pork legs, also a leg and part of the loin. At Eamer's, they found a pan of mutton concealed in the roof a pig-sty.

When taken into custody, Eamer denied all knowledge and said his wife must have put it there. Nash said he found it on the road. At their trial at Abington in January 1848, Henry and James were found guilty and sentenced to be transported for fifteen years.

Eliza was once again left to care for her family. On the night of the 1851 census, the four younger girls (Emma 21, Ellen 14, Jane 11 and Eliza 9) were at Little Hell Cottage, Whistley, Berkshire. Eliza, 43, a widow, was a nurse at the Wake family in Lines Rd, Whistley. The whereabouts of daughter Mary is unknown.

In 1861, Eliza found herself in dire circumstances and was in the almshouse in Hurst with Emma and Ellen. Her circumstances improved, and in 1871 she was a cook and servant for an older man in Hurst. He also employed a housekeeper and two other servants.

Eliza Nash, 64, died at Twyford, Berkshire and was buried at St Mary Church on 5 November 1871.

Children

Mary Nash, 22, servant, of Prospect Rise, father Henry Nash married William Burrett, 23, bricklayer, 5 Castle St, father John Burrett a carpenter on 29 July 1855 at St Mary, Reading, by banns.

Emma Nash has not been positively identified in any records.

Ellen Nash, full age, father Henry Nash a labourer married Thomas Bennett, full age, of Twyford, Berkshire, carpenter, father James Bennett a cabinet maker on 13 April 1861 at St Nicholas, Hurst, by banns. Her sister Jane was a witness.

Jane Nash, full age, father Henry Nash married James Maynard, full age, of Wokingham, bricklayer, father Thomas Maynard a builder on 2 June 1868 at St Nicholas, Hurst, by banns. Eliza Nash was a witness.

Eliza Nash, full age, of Twyford, father Henry Nash a farmer married Harry Farrow, full age, clerk, of Islington, father Henry Parker Farrow a wheelwright on 29 July 1873 at St Nicholas, Hurst, by banns.