

George Herring, 121, Hashemy

Researched by Marcia Watson

Baptised	30 January 1820, Headon, Nottingham
Parents	George Herring and Mary Wilkinson
Parent's marriage	23 March 1819, Stokeham, Nottinghamshire
Siblings	Sarah (1822), Harriet (1824), Elizabeth (1826), Lavinia (1828), John (1829), Martin (1831), Caroline (1833), James (1835), Edward (1838), Ann (1841)
Wife	Elizabeth Taylor
Married	14 October 1841, St Bartholomew, Lound, Nottinghamshire
Children	Ann (1842) Elizabeth (1844) Harriet (1847) James (1849-1869)

Parents: George Herring was a husbandman, a labourer and then a miller. Initially, the family lived at Darlton until about 1838 and then moved to Clarborough. George died in 1869, and Mary appears to have died in 1877, aged 80, at Worksop.

At the Retford Sessions, Nottinghamshire, on 6 July 1840: ¹

George Herring [jnr] for stealing a knife and other articles, the Grand Jury found no true bill, i.e. he was acquitted. George was aged 20 and semi-literate.

In 1841, living at Bolhom Mill House, Clarborough, East Retford, Nottinghamshire were: ²

George, Herring, 45, Miller; Mary, 40; **George**, 21, J; Elizabeth, 15; Viney [Lavinia], 13; John, 11; Martin, 9; Caroline, 7; James, 5; Edward, 3; Ann, 2 months.

Later in the year, George Herring, 21, married Elizabeth Taylor, 19, on 14 October 1841 at St Bartholomew, Sutton-cum-Lound. George was a miller, son of George Herring, also a miller. Elizabeth was the daughter of William Taylor, a farmer. The marriage was by banns. Witnesses were James Taylor and Harriet Herring. ³ Elizabeth left her husband by the March quarter of 1844 when she gave birth to her daughter Elizabeth.

In 1845, George was acquitted of larceny at the East Retford sessions on 14 April 1845. ⁴

Then in October 1847:

Four men of notorious character were brought to Nottingham county gaol, charged with having committed burglary of a daring and most extraordinary nature. On Thursday morning last, a quarter before one o'clock, five men, with blacked faces, smock frocks, and otherwise disguised, broke open the house of Mr Richard Atkinson, victualler, at Grassthorpe, seven miles from Newark, by removing a pane of glass from the parlour window, and they proceeded upstairs to the chamber where the landlord and his wife were in bed. Finding the door locked, they smashed the panels, and the lock, and forcing their way in, surrounded the bed, holding up their lights and brandishing plough coulter, and threatened to murder both the man and his wife if they did not lie still, or made any resistance. The villains repeatedly swore that the old couple should lose their lives if they did not at once tell them where their money was to be found. Two of the gang went upstairs into the female servant's bedroom, and holding a plough coulter over her, insisted upon being told who was sleeping in the house and where her master usually put his money. Having ascertained that there were only three inmates in the house, a sentinel was left over the girl, and one took the keys of the doors, broke open the boxes and drawers, and ransacked every room and place in search of booty.

In the course of an hour, after refreshing themselves, they had collected thirteen sovereigns, £5 note, several half-crowns, shillings, and pence; silver watch, half dozen silver teaspoons, a razor, two gallons of rum, two gallons of brandy, four gallons of gin, and other property, with which they left the house, going in the

¹ Nottingham Review and General Advertiser for the Midland Counties, 10 July 1840, p3

² HO107/849/20, p3

³ Free Reg

⁴ HO 27/76, p344

direction of Egmonton. The servant girl crawled out of her bed directly after the sentinel had left the room and saw the villains affecting their retreat.

Information was given the same morning to Mr Wills, superintendent of the county police at Newark, and vigilant inquiry being instituted, John Ashbourne and Robert Green, of Egmonton, and George Herring and Hezekiah Beardsall, of Retford, were all apprehended the next day. A fifth man has absconded. The police constable of Tuxford saw five men on the morning of the robbery, at three o'clock, on the road, leading in the direction from Atkinson's to Egmonton.

On Saturday, the prisoners were examined before Mr W. F. Handley, a magistrate at Newark, and Green and Ashbourne were positively sworn to, and Beardsall had the key of the cellar door found upon him. These men form part of the Egmonton gang, who have long been the terror of the neighbourhood, and Beardsall is a returned convict. The prisoners were committed to Nottingham gaol to take their trial for the offence.⁵

At the Spring Assizes, Midland Circuit, Nottingham, on 11 March 1848:

John Ashmore, **George Herring**, Hezekiah Beardsall and Robert Green were indicted for a burglary on 13 October last, in the house of Richard Atkinson, publican, at Grassthorpe, and stealing therein thirteen sovereigns, three half-crowns, six silver spoons, two gallons of brandy, two of rum and three of gin.

Mr Denison conducted the prosecution; Mr Flood defended Ashmore; Mr Macauley defended green, and Mr Willmore defended the other two prisoners.

The prosecutor, who was nearly 72 years of age, kept the Speed and Plough public-house at Grassthorpe. On the night in question, he saw that all the fastenings were right when he and his wife went to bed at about 10 o'clock. In the middle of the night, he and his wife were awakened by a loud noise at their bedroom door, and saw a light through the crevice and were, of course, much alarmed. Several heavy blows were struck against the door, which had been locked and bolted. They both cried out with fear. After five or six blows, the door was burst open, and four men rushed into the room. The prosecutor called out in great fright, "Oh! Dear Lord, what de yon want?" and one of them (Ashmore as sworn) replied, in a loud, brutish manner, "Your money". They then asked where the money was kept.

The prosecutor and his wife were both sitting up in bed, and one of the men (Ashmore as sworn), came with a large iron coultter in his hand and held it up over them, and, with an oath, ordered them both "to lie down, and be covered, or he would knock out both their brains", or some similar threat. He was so terrified he really did not remember what was said exactly, only he heard that they threatened their lives. They then both lay down, and the burglars heaped the clothes over them and everything else in the room that they could put their hand upon and almost smothered the poor old people. When they pressed the prosecutor to tell them where his money was, he told them that it was in his wife's pocket. The pocket was under his wife's pillow, and he knew that she kept the money there. She had then about £18 in gold and silver in her pocket. The burglars all had their faces blackened with soot or something of that nature. They took the pocket from beneath the wife's pillow and then ransacked the drawers in the room. The servant girl, Frances Woodward, slept in the adjoining room, and they questioned her and then went back downstairs. They had been in the prosecutor's bedroom about an hour. Prosecutor and his wife were afraid to stir and did not know when the men left, though they kept awake all night. Towards daylight, the prosecutor heard someone make a noise downstairs as if tumbling over something and was afraid that the men had not gone, but immediately heard the voice of his boy, Dennis Fletcher, calling out that somebody had been getting into the house.

Prosecutor and his wife then got up directly and went downstairs into the cellar, where were missed two gallons of brandy, two gallons of rum, and more than three gallons of gin. They always took the key of the cellar upstairs when they went to bed and also the key of the cupboard where they kept the glass and the key to the bar-room. The usual place for the keys was in the drawers in their bedroom. On search being made, the cupboard was found open, and also the bar door. Out of the cupboard was missed a razor, and a case, and a strop and knife. Out of the bar, nothing was missed; out of the cupboard in the front room, always kept unlocked, were missed six silver spoons. The cellar was evidently opened by the proper key of it. On the family going around the premises, a ladder was found reared up against the front wall of the house near the best bedroom window, and it was clear that by this window, ingress had been made.

There was no doubt as to the burglary in respect of any of the features presented. The identity of the prisoners, each and all, was the matter which occupied the Court from the middle of the day until past midnight.

⁵ Hereford Times, 30 October 1847, p6

The prisoner, Ashmore, was sworn to, if not principally, on account of peculiar pockmarks on his face, which it was urged in his behalf could not be spoken to with any degree of certainty, on a very dark night, with the face blackened by soot; and for him, one Ann Clay, John Thompson, a relation, and George Ashmore, his father, were called to prove an alibi.

Numerous witnesses were called on behalf of the other prisoners, the whole question as to all and each of them being their presence during the proceeding. Ashmore had been at the house before on two occasions. None of the property, as far as we could gather, was traced to either of the prisoners.

The prisoners were all found Guilty. The prisoner Herring was sentenced to transportation for fourteen years, and the other three to transportation for the term of their natural lives.⁶

George Herring, 26, reads and writes imperfectly, a miller, married with three children, was convicted on 9 March 1848 at Nottingham Assizes of burglary and sentenced to 14 years transportation. He had been twice summarily convicted before. George was received at Millbank Prison on 27 March 1848 from Nottingham Gaol. He said his wife Elizabeth, 24, and daughter Ann, 6, lived at Lound, Retford. Elizabeth was cohabiting with another man and had two children by him. He spent eight months in Millbank before being transferred to Wakefield Prison on 30 November 1848. Almost a year later, on 30 October 1849, he was transferred to Portland Prison, and from here, he boarded the *Hashemy* on 19 July 1850 for the voyage to Western Australia.⁷

During the voyage, George appears on the sick list:

Folio 1: George Herring, aged 28, prisoner; sick or hurt, haemorrhoids; put on sick list, 5 August 1850, discharged 12 August 1850 well.⁸

On arrival at Fremantle in October 1850, George was described:

121. George Herring, 32, 5'7½", light brown hair inclined to sandy, blue eyes, an oval face, fair and fresh complexion, a mole of right breast, a miller and single.⁹

General Register:

121. George Herring, 33, has been married, miller, Church of England, he went to school and can write fairly, read very well and knows a little maths. He said his parents, George and Mary Herring, live at Bolham near East Retford, Nottinghamshire. His father is a miller.

Attended Divine Service?	Every Sunday when at home
Received Sacrament?	No
Habits?	Fond of drink at times but usually steady and attentive
Intellect?	Sound
State of Mind?	Means well, and intends to do well with God's help
Knowledge, Secular?	Tolerable
Knowledge, Religious?	Tolerable, his views of the plan of Salvation correct
Alleged Cause of Crime?	Drink

Name of Person referred to for Character, &c. Mr John Peck, farmer, of Tiln near East Retford. He did not receive any books while in prison.¹⁰

Casual sick, Fremantle Prison.¹¹ The entries in June 1850, for a John and Joseph Herring, appear to be George Herring.

Herring George	21 October 1850	Abscess in neck	Poultice
Herring G	31 October 1850		Continue poultice
Herring G	1 November 1850	Pain in stomach	Cal pil & draught
Herring G	3 November 1850	Sore throat	Dressing & poultice
Herring G	4 November 1850	Bad neck	Continue poultice & purg medicine
Herring	5 November 1850	Cough	

⁶ London Evening Standard, 14 March 1848, p1

John Ashmore (1386) and Hezekiah Bearsall (1385) came to Fremantle on the *William Jardine* in 1852. Robert Green (2953) came on the *Ramillies* in 1854.

⁷ HO24/4; HO23/14; PCOM2/28; HO8/105

⁸ ADM 101/32/6/1-6

⁹ SROWA Acc 128/40-3

¹⁰ SROWA Acc 1156 R21A

¹¹ SROWA Acc 1156 CS1

Herring G	8 November 1850	Boil on neck	Blue pill & Infus Quassia
Herring G	11 November 1850	Sore leg?	Ury Galls & Sulph
Herring	24 November 1850	Piles	Ury: P.....?
Herring George	1 December 1850	Piles	Ury: Gallee
Herring	3 December 1850	Boils	Powder Bark
Herring George	6 December 1850	Bad back	Infus Quassia
Herring George	7 December 1850	Stricture	Pass bougie
Herring George	8 December 1850		Continue Quassia
Herring George 121	17 June 1851	Boil	Poultice. Pilup Plum
Herring George 121	22 June 1851	Ulcer	Dress
Herring George 121	23 June 1851	Boil	
<i>Herring John</i> H	24 June 1851	Boil	Continue poultice
<i>Herring John</i> H	25 June 1851	Boil	Continue poultice
<i>Herring John</i> H	26 June 1851	Boil	Continue poultice
<i>Herring Joseph</i> H	27 June 1851	Boil	Discharged

H=in hospital; Bougie - a thin, flexible surgical instrument for exploring or dilating a passage of the body.

George received a Ticket of Leave on 26 May 1851.¹²

It was not long before he was in trouble. At Guildford on 8 September 1852:

John Byrne preferred a complaint against George Herring, a ticket-of-leave holder, for breach of contract. Byrne being sworn said, I hired the defendant on 10 August, at £2 per month for six months, and £2 10s per month for the following six months, I engaged him for twelve months, as a miller, and to make himself generally useful. He came to me two days since and demanded a month's wages, saying he should not stay any longer; he has caused me great loss and inconvenience by his abrupt departure. In defence, it was asserted that Herring had engaged for one month on trial, and he had so reported to the Resident, and not finding the service suited him, he left. The wages were paid, and Herring was allowed to seek another engagement.¹³

A conditional Pardon was granted to George on 13 May 1854. George seems to stay out of trouble until June 1861, when at the Perth Police Court - George Herring, c p., drunk in St. George's Terrace; was fined 5s.¹⁴

The Almanacs, between 1879 – 1889, list George Herring as a miller at Guildford and Swan. In 1882 he was also listed as a farmer at Swan.¹⁵

George Herring, 72, unknown parents, died on 19 October 1891 and is buried at Guildford Cemetery as George Herron.¹⁶

¹² SROWA Acc 1156 R21B

¹³ Inquirer (Perth, WA : 1840 - 1855), 22 September 1852, p2

¹⁴ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News (WA : 1848 - 1864), 7 June 1861, p3

¹⁵ Herald Almanack; WA Almanack

¹⁶ Guildford Church of England parish register transcripts, 1852-1934, LDS film, 284853, Item 3

Elizabeth Taylor, wife of George Herring, convict 121

Born	19 October 1822, Sutton-cum-Lound, Nottinghamshire (known as Lound)
Parents	William Taylor and Elizabeth née Kennewell
Parent's marriage	6 September 1802, Lound, Nottinghamshire
Siblings	David (1806), William (1808), John (1812), George (1815), James (1818), Joseph (1820), Sarah (1825), Matthew (1827-9), Mary (1830)
Husband	George Herring
Married	14 October 1841, St Bartholomew, Lound, Nottinghamshire
Children	Ann 1842 Elizabeth 1844 Harriet 1847 James 1849-1869 William 1851 Charles 1855 George 1858 Alice 1861 Mary 1863

Elizabeth Taylor grew up in the village of Lound, next to the river Idle, and about four miles north of Retford. Her father was a farmer. On the 1841 census, she lived with her parents and four youngest siblings.

Later in the year, Elizabeth was pregnant when she married:

George Herring, 21, married Elizabeth Taylor, 19, on the 14 October 1841 at St Bartholomew, Sutton-cum-Lound. George was a miller, son of George Herring, also a miller. Elizabeth was the daughter of William Taylor, a farmer. The marriage was by banns; witnesses were James Taylor and Harriet Herring.

Their daughter, Ann, was baptised on 20 February 1842 at Sutton-cum-Lound, Nottingham, where they lived.

Elizabeth left George not long after their marriage and had a daughter in 1844, Elizabeth, whom George said was not his.

George was convicted on 9 March 1848 at Nottingham Assizes of burglary and sentenced to 14 years transportation. He was transferred to the Millbank Prison in March, and the registers record George saying – *'his wife Elizabeth, 24, and daughter Ann, 6, lived at Lound, Retford. She was cohabiting with another man and had two children with him'*. These two children are Elizabeth and Harriet.

On the 1851 census, Elizabeth Herring was still living at Lound. She said she was a miller's wife. Her children are Ann 9, Elizabeth 7, Harriot 4 and James 1. Her sister, Mary Taylor, 21, was living with them.

When James Herring was born on 4 August 1849, George Herring was named as the father. The church register said his father had been transported some years ago, although George was sentenced to transportation in 1848.

By the 1861 census, the family had grown and lived at Lound Common, Lound. Elizabeth claimed she was an agricultural labourer's wife, and living with her were Elizabeth 15, a servant, James 11, William 8, Charles 6, George 3 and Alice 1. Another daughter, Mary, was born in 1863.

Elizabeth Herring died on 26 September 1870, aged 48, and was buried on 29 September at St Bartholomew, Lound.

On the 1871 census, her two youngest daughters, Alice 10 and Mary 8, were in the workhouse at Clarbrough, East Retford. They were described as orphans.