

Meynell Huntley, 157, Hashemy

Researched by Marcia Watson

Name variations: Magnell, Meynel, Meynell, Maynell, Huntly. He is called Meynell in most records.

Born	~1824
Baptism	9 February 1827, Merrington, Durham
Parents	Anthony Huntley and Jane Joblin
Parent's marriage	4 October 1817, St John the Evangelist, Merrington, Durham
Siblings	Ann Ditchburn (1818), Jane (1820), Elizabeth (1821), William (1827), John (1831), Anthony (1835), Thomas (1838)
Wife	Louisa Ann Barry
Married	24 September 1843, Gateshead, Durham
Children	2 (No births found)

Maynell Huntley was baptised with his brother, William, on 9 February 1827 at Merrington parish, Durham. He was born in 1824 from various records.

His father, Anthony Huntley, was from Hurworth and his mother from Merrington. After their marriage, they lived at Croft Bridge End, Hurworth and Sedgfield before settling in Ferry Hill around the time Meynell was born.

In 1841, living at Ferry Hill were: ¹

Jane Huntley, 45; Anne, 20; Meynell, 17, Draper's Apprentice; John, 14; Anthony, 7; Thomas, 2.

His father and brother were at Shotley Bridge, Benfieldside, Durham with an inn keeper, his family and two other labourers. ²

His sister, Elizabeth, was one of four servants to Dr Longstaff, his wife and eight children in High Street, Norton, Stockton, Durham. ³

At St Mary's, Gateshead, Durham, on 24 September 1843, by Banns:

Meynell Huntley, minor, bachelor, Draper, residing at High St, father Anthony Huntley, farmer.

Louisa Ann Barry, minor, spinster, residing at High St, father Robert Barry, mariner.

Both signed the register. Witnesses Charles Wood and Richard Dodds made their marks. ⁴

On 1 May 1848, Meynell Huntley, charged with embezzling various sums of money belonging to the Midland Counties Railway Company, was ordered to be conveyed to Derby that the case might be investigated there. ⁵

Meynell Huntley, the Railway Clerk, who was brought before the Borough Magistrates, at Sunderland, on Monday week, on a charge of embezzlement, and sent to Derby, in charge of an officer, has been fully committed to take his trial. An officer was dispatched from Derby to Sunderland, the Midland Counties Railway Company, after Huntley had absconded, it being supposed he would be that neighbourhood from the circumstance of his having married young lady of that town. A description of the prisoner was left at Sunderland, and he was soon after taken by Sergeant Noble. Huntley was station-clerk at Collingham, about 15 miles from Nottingham. The day before he absconded, he got a cheque of £23 cashed, and he has never seen afterwards by the Railway authorities until he was taken to Derby, in the custody of Sergeant Noble, of the Sunderland Police. Huntley was brought before the Magistrates, at Nottingham, on Tuesday week, and remanded until Saturday last, for a final examination, on a charge of embezzling five different sums, amounting in the aggregate to about £48. On the latter day was fully committed for trial to the next Nottingham Assizes and has since applied to be released on bail without success. ⁶

At the Nottingham Assizes, in July 1848, Meynell Huntley, aged 24, keeper the station on the Midland Railway at North Collingham, pleaded guilty to three indictments charging him with having feloniously

¹ HO107/340/15, p5

² HO107/301/3, p15

³ HO107317/16, p33

⁴ LDS Film. 7904407, image 236

⁵ Newcastle Courant, 05 May 1848, p4

⁶ Durham Chronicle, 12 May 1848, p4

embezzled on the 20th of March, the sum of £23 1s., the 3rd of April, £2 2s, and on the 22nd of March, £5 3s, of sums of money received behalf of the Company. His lordship addressing the prisoner said he was sorry to have to pass a severe sentence upon him, inasmuch as had a wife and family, but from the influence, the conduct of superiors had upon those engaged below them, he deemed it incumbent to inflict a heavy punishment. The sentence of the court was that he be transported for the term of 12 years.⁷

Two petitions were lodged for a mitigation of his sentence.

First Petition. Received 17 July 1849 (Accompanying letter and petition from his wife)

Sunderland, 16 July 1849

The Right Honourable Sir George Grey,

Sir,

Allow me to submit to you the enclosed petition which I should be glad; could you afford me any support in reference to its content.

I Have the Honour to be

Sir, your most Humble Servant

Louisa Anne Huntley

Address: 14 Villiers Street, Sunderland

To The Right Honorable Sir George Grey, baronet

The Humble Petition of Louisa Anne Huntly of Bishop Wearmouth in the County of Durham

Humbly Sheweth-

That your Petitioner is the wife of Meynell Huntly late of Collingham in the County of Nottingham aged 25 years who was on the 24th day of July 1848 convicted at Nottingham Assizes by Lord Denman on a charge of embezzling from the Midland Railway Company the sum of £30, and for which crime received sentence of transportation for the long period of 12 years; and who since that time has been, and still is confined in Pentonville Prison London until the time arrives for his departure from this Country.

That your Petitioner has been married but six years; during which time she had given birth to 4 children, and is at present residing in Bishops Wearmouth aforesaid, with her mother, who was left a Widow in June last, her husband Mr George Wood late of Bishop Wearmouth Agent, having suddenly died.

That your Petitioner with all veneration and support, to the Laws of this Country; and with every respect to the Sentence of his Lordship would feign hope that it will please your honor to view the prayer of Your petitioner favourably and with a commutative view to shorten the period of your petitioners husbands sentence.

And your petitioner will ever pray &c

Louisa Anne Huntley, 14 Villiers Street, Sunderland

Second Petition. Received 30 January 1850 (Accompanying letter and petition from his father)

To the Rt Hon Sir G Grey, Bart, Her Majestys, Secretary of State

Sir,

Inclosed is a petition addressed To the Queens Most Excellent Majesty which I most humbly transmit to your charge and I have most respectfully to request that in your official capacity you would be pleased to give the circumstances therein described your attentive consideration, and should they appear to merit being entertained that you would please to advise Her Majesty, that the prayer of the petitioner is granted.

I have the honour to be

Sir, your humble and most obedient servant

Anthony Huntley, 14 Moorgate Street, Sunderland, Jan^y 29, 1850

Cover: Meynell Huntley, 2nd Application

Nil GG

Portland

The prisoners father prays a mitigation of sentence in consideration of his youth, good character & the mitigating circumstances attending the commission of his offence, which from his inability to employ counsel were not stated to the Jury at his trial. Answered 11 Feb 1850

⁷ Staffordshire Advertiser, 29 July 1848, p

To the Queens Most Excellent Majesty,
 The Petition of Anthony Huntley
 Humbly Sheweth,

That your Majestys humble petitioner has a son named Meynell Huntley, now a convict at Portland, who was in the employ of the Midland Railway Company, and at the Nottingham Summer Assizes in 1848, was charged with embezzlement by his employers, which offence was committed under circumstances of a mitigating character that he was not qualified to explain himself in court upon his trial, and being undefended by Counsel, he had no alternative but to plead guilty, and was sentenced by Judge Denman to transportation for twelve years

That it is considered by some respectable and intelligent persons that if the mitigating circumstances above alluded to had been explained by counsel upon his trial, that in all probability his sentence would have been more lenient, under which impression, and remembering that to award Justice according to the real merits of cases is the great object of the Jurisprudence of our beloved country; Your Majestys humble petitioner is induced to lay this statement of the case of his unfortunate son, at the feet of your Majesty - humbly imploring that it may receive your Majestys merciful consideration.

That those mitigating circumstances were not while the said convict was employed as a clerk at the country Station on the Railway, and at the time when he wanted nearly four weeks wages from his employers which increased to six weeks wages amounting to £6 5 that was never paid to him, he became temporarily embarrassed for money to support himself and his wife. When two sums of money, one of £5 3 4, and one of £22 were paid to him to transmit to his employers, out of which he very improperly relieved his immediate necessities intending to make up what he had applied to his own use when he received his wages, and then transmit the whole to his employers. About a fortnight afterwards, he was led to think that his miscalculation was discovered, and having no friends near him to advise with, or to whom he could apply for assistance, he under feeling of distraction absented himself. When he was taken into custody the sum of £7 14 of the money was found upon his person, the remainder less the deficiency was in the possession of his wife.

That the money found in his possession, there was a five pound note, which was taken in charge by the police officer in order to be identified, and who never repaid to him. With the remainder of which we was not deprived, he retained an Attorney viz. J Coope Esqr of Nottingham to attend to the professional duties of his case of defence but not having money sufficient to pay the full amount of his attorneys charges, nor to fee a counsel, and having been deterred from shame and diffidence from corresponding with his friends, none of whom knew that he was in custody till the day before is trial, no counsel was engaged on his behalf, and he had no alternative but to plead Guilty.

That had the case of Petitioners unfortunate son as above described been explained by counsel to the court upon his trial, taking into consideration his youth (then 23 years of age) and having no friends near to advise or assist him, and that he had previously borne irreproachable character; and that the embarrassed circumstances in which he was placed when his offence was committed, was caused by the improper custom of long intervils of receiving payment of wages, it is very probable that a discerning and humane jury of his countrymen sympathetically would have even considered that his crime was not a manifestation of hardened vile committed with intent to fraud, but that it was, as is most respectfully submitted, an imprudent proceeding to relieve his necessities and the result of long intervils of receiving wages, and recommended him to mercy of the court.

Your Majesty humble petitioner therefore most humbly and respectfully prays that your Majesty would graciously be pleased in merciful exercise of Your Majestys Royal prerogative, to commute the sentence of his unfortunate Son, from transportation to that of imprisonment for such period as Your Majesty may think fit. And as in duty bound

Your Majestys humble Petitioner will ever pray
 Anthony Huntley, 14 Moorgate Street, Sunderland, Jan^y 29th, 1850

We the Undersigned, knowing Mr Anthony Huntley to be a respectable and industrious Man, and also that his son Meynell Huntley previously to the commission of the Offence of which he now stands convicted bore an irreproachable Character, and believing that he is truly penitent, do hereby most humbly and respectfully recommend the Prayer of the Petition of the said Anthony Huntley on behalf of his said Son, to the merciful consideration of Her Most Gracious Majesty.

Sunderland January 29, 1850
 Ralph Joplin, Bishop Auckland

Wm Joplin, Bishop Auckland
 Myers Marks, Sunderland
 James Rathbone, Sunderland ⁸

Meynell Huntley, 24, married with no children, was convicted of embezzlement of £2 2s and other sums of money on 22 July 1828 at Nottingham Assizes and sentenced to 12 years transportation. He weighed 11 stone 8 lbs; could read and write; was a railway station keeper; had no previous convictions. The Gaoler's report of his character was good. Meynell said he was born in Hartlepool, Sunderland, and his father, Anthony Huntley, was a farmer at Sunderland. His wife L.A. Huntley, 24, was with friends at Sunderland. He was received at Millbank Prison on 22 August 1848 from Nottingham Gaol. He spent an unusually short period of time at Millbank, being removed to Pentonville on 3 October. After a year at Pentonville, Meynell was transferred to Portland Prison on 31 October 1849. From here, he boarded the *Hashemy* on 19 July 1850 for the voyage to Fremantle.⁹

During the voyage, Meynell was sick. ¹⁰

Folio 3: [Magnes?] Huntley, aged 23, prisoner; sick or hurt, [tumours]; put on sick list, 2 September 1850, discharged 7 September 1850 well.

Folio 3: [Magnes?] Huntley, aged 2, guard's child; sick or hurt, rubeola; put on sick list, 11 September 1850, discharged 17 September 1850 well. [There is no guard called HUNTLEY. A number of children had rubeola]

Folio 4: [Magnet?] Huntley, aged 23, prisoner; sick or hurt, tumours; put on sick list, 16 September 1850, discharged 23 September 1850 well.

On arrival at Western Australia in October 1850, his description was:

157. Maynell Huntley, 27, 5' 6³/₄" , light brown hair, blue eyes, long face, fair complexion, scar on left above the elbow from a fracture, two small moles on the same arm, labourer, married with two children. ¹¹

He appears on the Casual sick list, Fremantle.¹² Aper=aperient

<i>Huntley Jno</i>	1 November 1850	<i>Costiveness</i>	<i>Castor Oil</i>
Huntley	12 November 1850		Op: medicines, Dovers powder
Huntley M	13 November 1850		Mixture fever
Huntley M	14 November 1850	Nyctolopia	Shade
Huntley M	21 November 1850	Costiveness & pain in stomach	Pill & Draught
Huntley M	1 December 1850		Powder Quin
Huntley M	7 December 1850	Costiveness	Aper: medicine
Huntley M	16 December 1850	Head ache	Quinine powders
Huntley Meynel	18 December 1850	Head ache	Quinine powder three times a day
Huntley Menyl	14 January 1851		Aper powder
Huntley Menyl	15 January 1851		
Huntley Meynel	16 January 1851	Pain in head	Aper & spirit lotion
Huntley Meynel	17 January 1851	Pain in back	Cal powders
Huntley Meynel	24 January 1851		
Huntley Meynel	25 January 1851		
Huntley Meynel	2 February 1851	Foul stomach	Emetic

Meynell received a Ticket of Leave on 26 May 1851

On receiving his Ticket of leave, Meynell Huntley, labourer, was assigned to Mr C Betts in the Toodyay district. His rate of pay was £1 per month.¹³

This is a different assignment from Rica Erickson's records that say:

⁸ HO18/232; HO19/011A, 011B

⁹ HO24/4; HO24/26; PCOM2/29, p55; PCOM2/62, p57; HO8/105

¹⁰ ADM 101/32/6/1-6 (transcribed by the National Archives UK)

¹¹ SROWA Acc 12840-3

¹² SROWA Acc 1156 CS1

¹³ Further correspondence on the on the subject of Convict Discipline and Transportation. Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of her Majesty. 30 April 1852, p196

26 May 1851 worked for George Fletcher Moore, Toodyay, as a house servant. Wages were £1 per month.

Meynell paid 8s 4d towards passage money on 22 September 1851, forwarded by George Moore.

22 September 1851 worked for James Ougden as a carter. Wages 30s per month.

22 January 1852 worked for C Von Bibra

August 1852 worked for T Bailey, Dale.¹⁴

At Perth, 24 January 1852.¹⁵

24— Meynell Huntley, a ticket-of-leave holder, assaulting George Parker, a fellow-servant, fined 5s and costs.

6 February 1852. Unclaimed letter for Meynell Hentley.¹⁶ Shortly after, on 19 July, Meynell Huntly, assaulting John Sudin; case dismissed.¹⁷ His wife Louisa Anne Huntley died in late 1852. It is possible Meynell knew his wife was ill, and it may account for his bad behaviour earlier in the year.

At the Quarter Sessions, on 4 January 1854.

In the case of James Smith, charged with stealing a cheque for £1 12s the property of Charles Northeast, of York. Maynell Huntly, barman at Bennett's Hotel [at York], recollected the prosecutor and prisoner drinking there on the 12th October.¹⁸

A Conditional Pardon was granted on 7 January 1854.¹⁹

At the Civil Court, on 8 August 1854, Meynell was mentioned in a court case:

Bennett versus Monger.

This was an action for a malicious and vexatious prosecution for felony; defendant having charged plaintiff with stealing two bullock's horns, the bill of indictment for which was thrown out by the Grand Jury at the last Quarter Sessions. Damages laid at £2000.

One person to give evidence: M. Huntley was a servant of the plaintiff from July to November. He remembered early in August moving a quantity of things from Monger's to furnish the York Hotel, and did not see the horns at that time. Sometime in August or September, he could not say which, the plaintiff gave him the horns and told him to put them away, which he did in a cupboard in the parlor. The cupboard was not locked and could be opened by any one; did not, ever see any bag in the cupboard.²⁰

Later in the year, in September, a £100 Reward was offered: Whereas, on Sunday morning the 20th inst., about sunrise, A-Chong a Chinaman (in the employ of G. Meares, Esq., of Hawkhurst) was basely and inhumanly murdered and thrown into the pool, by some person or persons unknown, we the undersigned, will give the sums to which we have affixed our names for such information as will lead to the detection and conviction of the murderer.

M Huntley gave 10 shillings.²¹ Mr Monger and two of his servants gave money.

Between 1854 and 1860, Meynell Huntley returned to England.

Meynell married again on 25 November 1860 at Cathedral & parish church, Manchester

Meynell Huntley, 37, bachelor, coachman, residing at 10 London Rd, father Anthony Huntley, farmer.

Eleanor Scott, 28, spinster, residing at 10 London Rd, father William Scott, gasmaker.

Both signed the register.

The couple has not been found on the 1861 census. Meynell's sentence expired in 1860. By 1871, they lived at Fir Tree Cottage, Bishop Wearmouth, Durham.²²

Meynell Huntley, 47, married, coachman, unemployed, born Hartlepool, Durham

Eleanor Huntley, 38, wife, laundress, born South Shields, Durham

Mary Ann Poles, 28, servant, unmarried, under laundress, born Sunderland, Durham

¹⁴ Rica Erickson's notes on Family Search, reference given is PD Vol 1

¹⁵ Inquirer (Perth, WA: 1840 - 1855), 28 January 1852, p3

¹⁶ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News (WA : 1848 - 1864), 6 February 1852, p 6

¹⁷ Inquirer (Perth, WA: 1840 - 1855), 11 August 1852, p3 [John Suding]

¹⁸ Inquirer (Perth, WA : 1840 - 1855), 11 January 1854, p3

¹⁹ SROWA Acc 1156 R21B

²⁰ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News (WA : 1848 - 1864), 11 August 1854, p2

²¹ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News (WA : 1848 - 1864), 1 September 1854, p2

²² RG 10/5000, p48

At Houghton-Le-Spring Petty Sessions on June 25 1879:

Meynell Huntley, a farmer, was summoned for allowing two pigs belonging to him to stray on the highway, at Trimdon Gate, near Silksworth, on the 12th inst. Defendant said he never left the pigs at all. The Bench gave him the benefit of the doubt and dismissed the case.²³

In 1881 living at Toll House, Durham Road, Silksworth, Houghton Le Spring, Durham were:²⁴

Meynell Huntley, 57, married, coachman (out of situation), born Ferry Hill, Durham

Ellen Huntley, 48, wife, born Sunderland, Durham

In 1886, Meynell Huntley, a pig dealer at Ryhope, was charged with keeping a cur dog without having a license for it. Sergeant Clark gave evidence supporting the charge, and the Bench fined the defendant 10s and costs.²⁵

Death in 1898: Singular affair at Grangetown.²⁶

A singular affair happened at Grangetown on Sunday afternoon. About a quarter past two, a man named Meynell Huntley, 77 years of age, who resided in Leechmere Road, was found dead with his head in a rain tub in the vicinity of his house. The deceased was a pig breeder. He lost his wife a short time ago.

Inquest. Pathetic case of suicide at Grangetown.²⁷

On last Tuesday morning, an inquest was held before Mr C Maynard, the coroner at Grangetown, touching the death of an old man named Meynell Huntley, a pig-jobber, aged 77 years.

Evidence of identification was given by a brother of the deceased. Witness said he went to see his brother, who lived in Leechmere Road. Witness found deceased with his head and shoulders in a tub partly filled with water. He had no boots on. Witness pulled the body out of the tub. The deceased then died.

A neighbour named Mrs Eaglen also gave evidence and stated that she knew the deceased, whose wife died a few weeks ago. Since then, he had been in a depressed state of mind. She was talking to him a little while before he took his life. She offered him a newspaper to read in the hope he would get relief from his distress. The deceased refused the newspaper and said: "I am done with all things in this world now". Witness did not see deceased alive again.

After some remarks from the coroner, referring to the evidently troubled state of mind of the deceased, the jury consulted and returned a verdict of "Suicide whilst temporarily insane".

Eleanor died in the second quarter of 1898.

Will: Meynell Huntley, of "Leechmere", Ryhope-road, Sunderland, farmer, died on 11 December 1898.

Administration granted to Anthony Huntley, shipwright, on 23 January 1899. Effects: £42.1s 5d.

Disposal of his Estate: Re Meynell Huntly, deceased, Leechmere Road, Ryhope Road.

Mr Richard Crow has received instructions from the administrator to SELL BY AUCTION on Friday 23rd, December 1898, without reserve, Grey Mare, 8 years old 15.2, a good worker; 1 Young Sow, 7 pork pigs, 1 sow and 5 pigs, nearly new Spring Milk Cart, Coup Cart, Spring Cart, Handbarrow, 8 Pig Troughs, Stable Utensils, Vice and Bench, Tubs, Bin, Brass-mounted Harness, large Galvanised Boiler, 100 Hens, New Land Hay; also the Household Furniture and Effects, Chests of Drawers, Desk Bed, Feather Bed, Bolster and Pillows, Bed and Table Linen, and other articles too numerous to mention.

Sale to commence at 1 o'clock prompt. Auction Office, 36, West Sunnyside²⁸

Re Meynell Huntley, deceased.

All Persons having Claims against the estate of Meynell Huntley, late of Leechmere, Ryhope Road, Sunderland, in the County of Durham, Farmer, deceased, are requested to send particulars thereof to me, the undersigned.

Dated this 30th day of January, 1899.

A.T. Crow, 33, West Sunnyside, Sunderland, Solicitor for the Administrator.²⁹

²³ Durham County Advertiser, 27 June 1879, p6

²⁴ RG11/4974, p10

²⁵ Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette, 27 September 1886, p4

²⁶ Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette, 13 December 1898, p3

²⁷ Durham County Advertiser, 16 December 1898, p8

²⁸ Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette, 20 December 1898, p2

²⁹ Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette, 2 February 1899, p2

Louisa Ann Barry, wife of Meynell Huntley, convict 157

Baptism	21 October 1824, St Michael & All Angels, Bishopwearmouth, Durham
Parents	Robert Barry (1797-1829) and Mary Mitchinson (1796-1887)
Parent's marriage	15 December 1821, St Michael & All Angels, Bishopwearmouth
Siblings	Elizabeth Jane (1823-), Robert (1826-?), Mary Ann Emma Wood (1839-1885)
Husband	Meynell Huntley (1824-1898)
Marriage	24 September 1843 at St Mary's, Gateshead, Durham, by Banns.
Children	Possibly 4

Robert Barry and Mary Mitchinson married on 15 December 1821 at Bishopwearmouth, Durham. Robert was a master mariner. His father was a shipowner, so the sea was in their blood. Robert and Mary Barry had three children – Elizabeth Jane, Louisa Ann and Robert.

Robert Barry was captain of the *Lady Francis* from the time it was built in 1821. From shipping reports in newspapers, between 1822 and 1824, the ship sailed several times to Quebec from Sunderland in Durham; 1825-28 most of the voyages were to the Baltic ports; and 1828-29 several voyages to Quebec, including one taking 58 passengers. The last voyage Robert Barry made was to Quebec. The *Lady Francis* left Sunderland and arrived at Quebec 21 days later, on 15 August 1829. She left on 7 September and arrived at Cardiff on 8 October. After loading coal, the *Lady Francis* proceeded to Waterford, Ireland, arriving on 4 November.

Robert Barry died on the 3 December at his lodgings in Waterford, aged 33 years - *a man whose conduct in every relation of life was such as to secure the respect and esteem of all who knew him*. His wife Mary was granted administration of his estate, valued at about £450, in April 1830.

Mary Barry remarried on 7 August 1839 at Dalton-le-Dale, about 7 miles south of Bishopwearmouth. Her new husband, George Wood, a shipbroker, was previously married to Ann Barry, Robert Barry's sister. Mary may have moved to Dalton-le-Dale to hide the fact she was pregnant. A month after the marriage, she gave birth to Mary Ann Emma Wood, although young Mary was not baptised until 1845. Her son Robert became an apprentice seaman in March 1840. He received his Master's Certificate of Service in 1850 after 11 years as an apprentice, mate and master in the British Merchant Service.

In 1841, Louisa Barry, 16, lived with her stepfather and mother, George and Mary Wood, in Villiers Street, Bishopwearmouth. Also living there was Mary Wood 2, and children from her stepfather's previous marriage, Sarah Wood, 22, and Isabella Wood, 20.

Two years later, Louisa married Meynell Huntley at St Mary's, Gateshead, Durham, on 24 September 1843 by Banns.

Meynell Huntley, minor, bachelor, draper, residing at High St, father Anthony Huntley, farmer.

Louisa Ann Barry, minor, spinster, residing at High St, father Robert Barry, mariner.

Both signed the register. Witnesses Charles Wood and Richard Dodds made their marks.

The young couple moved 150 miles south to Nottinghamshire, where Meynell obtained the position of station keeper at North Collingham on the Midland Railway line.

On 1 May 1848 at Sunderland before the Borough Magistrates, Meynell Huntley was charged with embezzling various sums of money from the Midland Railway Company. He was then taken to Nottingham Gaol the following day and remanded until 6 May. After further investigation, Meynell was committed to stand trial at the next Nottingham Assizes. In July, he was convicted of embezzling £30 from the Midland Railway Company and sentenced to be transported for twelve years.

A year later, Louisa petitioned the Home Office to commute and reduce the sentence conferred on her husband. She stated she had been married for six years, had given birth to four children, and lived with her

recently widowed mother. Prison records in England do not mention any children. On arrival in Australia, the record describing convicts says Meynell had two children. There are no children with Louisa on the 1851 census or with Meynell's parents. No baptisms, registered births or deaths of children have been found, and it would seem any children born to the couple died at or close to birth.

Meynell's father also petitioned the sentence to be commuted. He said:

..... the said convict was employed as a clerk at the country Station on the Railway, and at the time when he wanted nearly four weeks wages from his employers which increased to six weeks wages amounting to £6 5s that was never paid to him, he became temporarily embarrassed for money to support himself and his wife. When two sums of money, one of £5 3s 4d, and one of £22 were paid to him to transmit to his employers, out of which he very improperly relieved his immediate necessities intending to make up what he had applied to his own use when he received his wages, and then transmit the whole to his employers. About a fortnight afterwards, he was led to think that his miscalculation was discovered, and having no friends near him to advise with, or to whom he could apply for assistance, he under feeling of distraction absented himself. When he was taken into custody the sum of £7 14s of the money was found upon his person, the remainder less the deficiency was in the possession of his wife.

..... not having money sufficient to pay the full amount of his attorneys charges, nor to fee a counsel, and having been deterred from shame and diffidence from corresponding with his friends, none of whom knew that he was in custody till the day before is trial, no counsel was engaged on his behalf, and he had no alternative but to plead guilty.

The petitions were to no avail, and Meynell was transported to Western Australia on the *Hashemy* in 1850.

On the 1851 census, Louisa, a dressmaker, lived with her mother and half-sister at 46 Nile Street, Bishopwearmouth. Her mother was a "teacher of ladies class", with three pupils.

Louisa Ann Huntley, 26, the wife of Meynell Huntley, a draper, died on 10 October 1852 of a lumbar abscess of two years. Present at death was her mother, Mary Wood.