

James Nation, 169, Hashemy

Researched by Marcia Watson

Baptism	26 January 1800, West Monkton, Somerset.
Parents	James Nation and Mary
Parent's marriage	
Siblings	Richard (1797-1798), Mary (1800), Richard (1803)
Wife	Sarah Sibel Jones
Married	28 November 1833
Children	Emma Isabella (1836) Elizabeth Maria (1838) Richard (1840-1845)

James Nation was the son of James and Mary Nation. His father was a butcher at West Monkton. James was probably a twin as his sister Mary was baptised the same day. His parents were around 40 years old when James was born.

His father's death was announced in the newspaper: *At West Monkton, on Sunday last, aged 80 years, Mr James Nation, many years a butcher that place.*¹ [buried 11 October 1832]. His mother, Mary Nation, was buried on 20 March 1850, aged 90.

A year after his father's death, James married at North Curry, Somerset:

James Nation, a sojourner of this parish and Sybel Jones of this parish, were married in this Church by Banns on 28 November 1833. Witnesses: David James and Martha Trott. Both James and 'Sybel' signed their names – 'Sybel' signed as Sebell Jones. Sebell was Sarah Sibel Jones, born 1814 in North Curry, Somerset.

1832, 1834 and 1846 Poll Book and Electoral Registers show James Nation had a leasehold house called Musgraves. The 1834 book said he had a *lease of the house for years*. Musgrave's Old Farmhouse is a Grade II Listed Building in West Monkton, Somerset. On the 1839 tithe map of West Monkton, James Nation held three roods 21 perches.

In January 1837, the newspaper reported that thieves broke into the house of Mr James Nation, a butcher at West Monkton, while he and his family were at the Taunton market. Three doors were forced by breaking the locks, a writing desk and trunk were broken open, and eleven packets of half-pence, amounting to fifty-one shillings, were stolen.²

The 1841 census shows:

James Nation, 40, butcher; Sebell Nation, 27, his wife; and children Emma 6, Elizabeth 2 and Richard 6 months lived at West Monkton. All were born in Somerset.³

North Petherton, April 1849.

At a justice meeting on Saturday last, R. K. M. King, Esq, the presiding magistrate, James Jones, tailor, of Coombe, was committed to take his trial for stealing sheep, from Mr Banfield, of Thurloxton, and James Nation, butcher, West Monckton; was also committed for receiving the same knowing it to have been stolen. This robbery was detected by the ingenuity of a poor man named William Packer, who works a quarry belonging to Mr Baker Alway, of Coombe, about midway between Nation's house and Mr Banfield's field. On Packer going to work on Friday morning, he discovered track a single sheep, and having his suspicions aroused, he followed the same a circuitous route over hedges and fields into Nation's premises. Packer believing the sheep had been stolen, returned were first discovered the track, and followed the

¹ Taunton Courier, and Western Advertiser - Wednesday 05 December 1832, p7

² Taunton Courier, and Western Advertiser - Wednesday 18 January 1837, p7

³ HO107/964/12, p21

same the other way to Mr Banfield's field at Thurloxtton, and was the first to inform the farmer of his loss. A subscription is about to be entered into for Packer for his assiduity and perseverance.⁴

At the Somerset Lent Assizes, held at the Castle in Taunton on 4 April, James Jones, 36, and James Nation, 57, butcher, were indicted, the former for stealing, and the latter for feloniously receiving, a wether sheep, the property of Thomas Banfield, of West Monkton. The jury returned a verdict of Guilty against both prisoners.⁵ The judge, Lord Denman, observed *that it would have been rather a stain upon the court of justice had any other verdict been returned. It was clear that Jones had stolen the sheep, and it was equally clear that Nation had received it, knowing it had been stolen. The only way in which the increase of sheep-stealers would be accounted for was the encouragement given to them by those pests of society who were apparently respectable and who could get someone to give them a character. The most cruel position any man could be placed in was that of an individual when temptation was held out to commit a crime by a man who, for the sake of the filthy lucre he could by low cunning secure to himself, induced the individual to incur the greatest possible danger and guilt. It was necessary an example should be made. Jones, the thief, must be transported for 10 years, and Nation, the receiver, for 12 years.*⁶

The Wilton Gaol register shows:

James Nation, 56, 5' 6½", blue eyes, grey hair bald on crown of the head, fresh complexion, married, scar on the right cheek, born and lives in West Monkton, butcher, received into prison on 10 February 1849.⁷ His age varies in the records from 50 to 59.

Seebel Nation petitioned nine times, including the Queen, to have her husband's case reconsidered and mitigation in his sentence. She said James was an honest and respectable man; she and the family, including his 96-year-old mother, were brokenhearted; and if James, who was 60 years old, were sent abroad, it would be the death of her and ruin of the family. Her petitions caused the case to be reviewed, but there was no change in the sentence. Note: his mother was 90, and James was almost 50 years old. Petition: see the separate document.

James was received at Millbank Prison on 7 June 1849. His character was good. After nearly a year at Millbank, he was transferred to Portland Prison, arriving there on 1 May 1850.⁸ James boarded the *Hashemy* for the voyage to Western Australia on 19 July 1850 at Portland. He appears on the sick list of *Hashemy*.

Folio 3: James Nation, aged 59, prisoner; sick or hurt, Psora; put on sick list, 12 September 1850, discharged 23 September 1850 well.

Folios 15-16: case no 7, James Nation, aged 59; prisoner; sick or hurt, Psora, belonged to West Monkton, Somersetshire, imprisoned 14 months for felony and sentenced to 12 years transportation, enjoyed good health since he came on board was employed feeding and attending the Stock from which he contracted Psora, the eruption of which was principally situated upon the upper and lower extremities; put on sick list 12 September 1850, discharged 26 September 1850.⁹

The Medical Journal¹⁰ gave a little more information:

Psora. Case 7. James Nation about 59, Prisoner put upon the Sick list 12 September and discharged 26 September 1850.

James Nation Prisoner belonging to West Mockton(*sic*) Somersetshire imprisoned 14 months for felony and sentenced to twelve years transportation, always enjoyed good health. Since his Embarkation on board the

⁴ Sherborne Mercury - Saturday 17 February 1849, p3

⁵ Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette - Thursday 05 April 1849, 2p

⁶ Evening Mail - Friday 06 April 1849, p7

⁷ Taunton, Somerset; Reference Number: Q/AGW/15/5

⁸ HO4/255

⁹ The National Archives, UK, ADM 101/32/6/1-6 (transcribed by the Archives)

¹⁰ ADM 100/32/6, p15-6

Hashemy employed feeding and attending the Stock from which he must have contracted Psora, they having for some time previously suffering from mange. The eruptions upon this man which is principally situate upon the upper and lower extremities exhibiting unequivocal marks of that Disease, ordered the following.

Treatments listed:

13 September 1860. Complains of general uneasiness, the intense heat of skin and constant itching increased by the application of the treatment, bowels frequently relieved. Treatment listed

16th. Less itching and heat of skin. Continue treatment

19th. Eruption decreasing. Continue Remedies

23rd. Eruptions entirely disappeared. The above case is scarcely worth recording were it not that six others occurred about the same period all in persons in the habit of attending the Stock, but in no other persons, altogether these men were Messing and sleeping in different Parts of the Prison, subjected to similar treatment and discharged cured.

Other convicts with Psora:

David Sutherland, 87; Joseph Trimmer, 125; Charles Ware, 138; John Jennings, 137; Alfred Halton [Holton], 129; and A T Hardess, aged 42, ship's steward.

Description of James on arrival at Fremantle in October 1850:¹¹

169. James Nation, 50, 5' 6³/₄", light brown hair, blue eyes, an oval face, fair complexion, scar under the right eye, butcher, married with two children.

General Register noted¹²:

James Nation, 53 years old, married, a butcher, Church of England, went to a public school, could read and write, and had some knowledge of accounts. His wife, Sebeel Nation, lived at West Monkton neat Taunton.

Attended Divine Service? Always

Received Sacrament? In earlier years

Habits? Usually sober and attentive

Intellect? Sound

State of Mind? Hopeful

Knowledge, Secular? Limited

Knowledge, Religious? Also limited

Alleged Cause of Crime? Suspected of receiving stolen meat

Name of Person referred to for Character, &c. The Rev Kinglsey, West Monkton near Taunton, Somerset

The casual sick list, Fremantle Prison, shows James had severe ulcers on his legs, possibly caused by shackles.¹³

Nation	James	27 Nov 1850 (26th)	Bad elbow	Dressing
Nation		29 Nov 1850	Bad elbow	Dressing
Nation	James	15 Jan 1851	Bad legs	Ap ^l draught & G... and lotion
Nation	James	16 January 1851	Bad legs	As before
Nation	James	17 January 1851	Bad legs	As before
Nation	James	18 January 1851	Bad legs	As before
Nation	James	19 January 1851 - 28 January 1851		
Nation	James	29 Jan 1851		Dressing
Nation	James	30 Jan 1851	Bad legs	Continue dressing
Nation	James	31 January 1851	Bad legs	Continue dressing & poultice

¹¹ SROWA Acc 128/40 - 43

¹² SROWA Acc 1156 R21A

¹³ SROWA Acc 1156 CS 1

Nation	James	1 Feb 1851	Sore mouth	Gargle
Nation	James	2 Feb 1851	Bad legs	Continue poultice & dressing
Nation	James	3 Feb 1851	Bad legs	Continue poultice & lotion
Nation	James	4 February 1851	Ulcus	Poultice & confined to bed
Nation	James	5 Feb 1851	Ulcus	Poultice & pil coly th
Nation	James	6 Feb 1851	Ulcus	Poultice
Nation	James	7 Feb 1851	Ulcer	????
Nation	Jas	8 Feb 1851	Ulcus	Strapping
Nation	James	9 Feb 1851	Ulcus	Strapping
Nation	James	10 Feb 1851	Ulcus	Nil
Nation	James	11 Feb 1851	Ulcus	Dressed sore
Nation	James	12 Feb 1851	Ulcus	
Nation	James	13 Feb 1851	Ulcus	
Nation	Jas	26 February 1851	Ulcus	Dress with collodium
Nation	James	27 February 1851		
Nation	James	28 February 1851		
Nation	James	3 Mar 1851		Discharged
Nation	James	7 Mar 1851	Ulcus cruris	Dress
Nation	James	10 Mar 1851	Bad leg	Dress
Nation	James	12 Mar 1851	Ulcus cruris	Dress
Nation	James	13 Mar 1851		Dressing
Nation	James	14 Mar 1851	Ulcus cruris	Dressing
Nation	James	6 Jun 1851	Bad leg	Dress bandage
Nation	James	10 Jun 1851	Bad leg	Admitted
Nation	James	11 Jun 1851	H ulcer cruris	Poultice
Nation	James	12 Jun 1851	H bad leg	Poultice
Nation	James	18 Jun 1851	H	Continue dressing
Nation	James	19 June 1851	H bad leg	
Nation	James	20 June 1851	H ulcer of leg	Continue dressing
Nation	James	21 June 1851	H ulcer of leg	Continue Discharged
Nation	James	23 June 1851	Bad leg	Dress

H = hospital

James received his Ticket of Leave on 21 September 1851.¹⁴

In the half-year ending 30 June 1853, James had worked on public works and contributed £1.03.04 towards his passage money. The total he had paid towards his passage was £6.15.8¼.¹⁵

Conditional Pardons have been received by the following men during the month of June 1856:-- Reg. No. 169 James Nation (and others).¹⁶ His sentence expired in 1861 when James was about 60 years old.

James probably went to South Australia in 1856, per *Robert Clive*.¹⁷ The ship sailed from Fremantle on 25 February and from King George Sound on 7 March and listed in steerage is J Nation. No further trace has been found of James in Australia.

Did James manage to get back to London and arrange for his wife and children to join him? His wife and children moved to London between the 1851 census and January 1858. There is no trace of his wife on the 1861 or 1871 census; however, she died in 1879 at Clerkenwell. Both daughters married in Shoreditch in 1858.

¹⁴ SROWA Acc 1156 R21B

¹⁵ CO18/69, p439 [AJCP reel 455-6]

¹⁶ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News (WA : 1848 - 1864), Fri 18 Jul 1856, p2

¹⁷ Adelaide Times (SA : 1848 - 1858), Sat 22 Mar 1856, p2

Sybel (Seebell, Sybil) Jones, wife of James Nation, convict 169

Baptism	~1813, North Curry, Somerset
Parents	
Parent's marriage	
Siblings	
Husband	James Nation (1801-)
Marriage	28 November 1833, North Curry, Somerset, by banns
Children	Emma Isabella Nation (1836 -1867) Elizabeth Maria Nation (1838-1879) Richard Nation (1840-1845)

Sybel said she came from North Curry, in Somerset. The only Jones family in the parish register is Rees Jones, a tailor, and his wife, Mary. They are probably her parents. Rees and Mary had eleven children between 1803 and 1819, Walter (1803), Mary (1805), John (1807), Samuel (1809), James (1810), David (1812), Jonathan (1814-1814), Elizabeth (1816) and Jonathan (1819-1820), Rees (1822).

Sybel Jones of this parish married James Nation, a sojourner of this parish at the North Curry by banns, on 28 November 1833. Witnesses: David Jones and Martha Trott. Both James and 'Seebell' signed their names.

Their first child, Emma Isabella, was baptised at North Curry in 1836, the parents recorded as James and Sybel.

In 1837, a newspaper reported: Some thieves on Saturday last broke into the house of Mr James Nation, butcher, at West Monkton. Mr Nation and his family were at the Taunton market. Three doors were forced by breaking the locks, and a writing desk and trunk were broken open. About fifty-one shillings, in small change, was stolen.

Their second daughter, Elizabeth Maria, was baptised in 1838 at West Monkton, the parents recorded as James and Seebell. A son, Richard, born in 1840, died in 1845.

The family still lived at West Monkton on the 1841 census: James Nation, 40, butcher, Seebell Nation, 27, wife, and Emma 6, Elizabeth 2, Richard 6 months, and a servant, all born in Somerset.

In 1849, James Jones was convicted of sheep stealing and James Nation of receiving the same. Jones was sentenced to be transported for ten years and Nation for twelve years.

James Jones is the son of Rees and Mary Jones and probably the brother of Sybel Nation. James, a tailor like his father, was married with nine surviving children. He was transported to Tasmania in 1852 per *Fairlie* and died in 1865 of phthisis pulmonalis.

Sybel petitioned the Home Office and the Queen nine times, begging for the Royal Mercy of a pardon to be extended to her husband. She stated James (60) was entirely innocent; he had never been in trouble before, he had been in the asylum twice, and she provided the certificates, and his widowed mother (96) was brokenhearted. Sybel said she and her two children were destitute. If James was sent abroad, it would be the death of her and the ruin of the family. The age of James and his mother were exaggerated, as James was 49 and his mother 90.

On the 1851 census, at West Monkton:

Seebel Nation, married, 38, butcher's wife, born North Curry, Somerset

Emma Nation, 15, milliner, born West Monkton

Elizabeth Nation, 12, scholar, born West Monkton.

Shortly after, the family moved to London. No trace of Sybel has been found on the 1861 and 1871 censuses. It seems unusual for Sybel not to be living with one of her daughters. She died on 5 February 1879.

No.	When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.
7	5 th Feb February 1879 39 Winchester Street	Sarah Sibyl Nation	Female	61 years	Widow of Richard James Nation Farmer	Pneumonia 10 days Certified by J. Chalors M.D.	William Grubb Son in Law present at the Death 39 Winchester Street Berkhamstead

Will: Nation, Sarah Sibyl. - Personal Estate under £50.

21 February 1880. Administration of the Personal Estate of Sarah Sibyl Nation late of 39 Winchester-street, Pentonville in the County of Middlesex Widow who died 5 February 1879 at 39 Winchester-street was granted at the Principal Registry to Rosa Elizabeth Grubb of 3 Rydon-street Islington in the said County Spinster the Granddaughter and one of the Next of Kin.

Children

Emma Isabella Nation, 23, married James Negus, 35, a carpenter, in October 1858 at St Leonards, Shoreditch. William and Elizabeth Grubb were the witnesses. They had one daughter, Elizabeth, in 1864. Emma died in 1867.

Elizabeth Maria Nation married William Grubb, a coachman, in January 1858 at West Hackney, Shoreditch. They had two children, Rosa Elizabeth in 1858 and William Frederick in 1866. Elizabeth died in 1879.