

**John Nye, 160, Hashemy**

Researched by Marcia Watson

Baptism	25 January 1824 at St. Mary's, Chatham, Kent
Parents	George Ney ( <i>sic</i> ) and Sarah Kitchingham
Parent's marriage	26 April 1818, S Mary's, Chatham
Siblings	William (1821), James Abel (1826), Henry (1829), Charles (1831), Sarah Rebecca (1834 - 1835), Maria (1836)
Wife	
Married	
Children	

All the children of George and Sarah Nye were born at Chatham; the last four were baptised at the Bible Christian Church.

On the 1841 census, George Nye, 53, a labourer, and his children Henry 11, Charles 10 and Maria 5 were living at Whittaker Street, Chatham. George's wife, Sarah, was not on the census, but she was with him in 1851.

John Nye is possibly the John Nye, 15, a retailer of fish in Kent County Gaol at Maidstone. No information has been found as to why he was in Gaol, but it was probably for common assault.

At the Kent Lent Assizes, on 9 March 1846:

*John Nye and Edward Welter, for stealing a bag, forty-five pounds' weight of bones, twenty-eight pounds' weight of iron, fifteen pounds' weight of rope, and a sack, the property of John Townsend, at Chatham. He was sentenced to three calendar months in the house correction, with hard labour.*<sup>1</sup>

Two years later, at the County Magistrates' Office, Kent on 24 March 1848:

John Nye was brought up in custody on a charge of stealing a pickaxe, the property of John Benster, victualler, at Chatham. The prisoner had offered the pickaxe for sale to a person named Harrison. Benster has identified the pickaxe as his property but has declined to appear against the prisoner. As the prisoner had been previously convicted, an order was issued for Benster's attendance at court at the next sitting. John was remanded.<sup>2</sup> At the West Kent Quarter Sessions, at Maidstone on 4 April 1848, John was acquitted.<sup>3</sup>

John was up before the Court on 29 June 1848. At the West Kent Quarter Sessions:

Margaret Loughton, 55, John Nye, 24, and John Cobb, 33, for stealing one watch, one handkerchief, and one key, to the value of £2 5s, the property Thomas William; and one chain, one knife, and one key valued at 2s 3d, and four shillings end twopence, the property and monies William James Moss, Chatham. John Nye and Margaret Loughton received 15 years transportation, and Cobb was acquitted.<sup>4</sup> Margaret Loughton received a free pardon in 1850.

John was transferred from Maidstone Gaol to Millbank Prison on 30 April 1849. The registers noted: John Nye, 24, is single and can't read or write as he had no education or religious training and his behaviour was orderly. His father was a Milkman at Chatham, and John had previous convictions of once for a felony, three for common assault, and a career of crime of 8 years. His health was good.<sup>5</sup> John was transferred to

<sup>1</sup> *Kentish Gazette* - Tuesday 24 March 1846, p4

<sup>2</sup> *Kentish Independent* - Saturday 01 April 1848, p3

<sup>3</sup> *Kentish Independent* - Saturday 08 April 1848, p8

<sup>4</sup> *West Kent Guardian* - Saturday 08 July 1848, p8

<sup>5</sup> PCOM2/107, p23

Portland Prison on 6 March 1850.<sup>6</sup> He boarded the *Hashemy* on 19 July 1850 for the voyage to Western Australia.

His description on arrival in October 1850 was:

160. John Nye, 28 years old, 5' 2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>", dark brown hair, blue eyes, an oval face, dark complexion, well set, small scar on the right eye, a labourer and single.<sup>7</sup>

The General Register recorded:

160, John Nye, 28 years old, single, labourer, Methodist, attended the parish school, can read and write a little.

Father George Nye, labourer, Best Street, Chatham

Attended Divine Service? Fell off before his Committal

Received Sacrament? Never

Habits? Not sober. Generally attentive at work

Intellect? Sound

State of Mind? Hopeful

Knowledge, Secular? Limited

Knowledge, Religious? Limited

Alleged Cause of Crime? Drunkenness and bad company

Name of Person referred to for Character, %c. Mr Henry Hobb, corner Dick Street, Chatham.<sup>8</sup>

John was in Fremantle when he appeared on the casual sick list at the prison.<sup>9</sup>

21 Nov 1850	Nye J	Costiveness [constipation]	Pilul Draughts
29 Apr 1851	Nye John	Weak eyes	Lotion

Just over a year after arriving in Western Australia, John received a Ticket of leave issued on 26 November 1851.<sup>10</sup>

He was reconvicted and received at Fremantle Prison on 27 March 1860. Now aged 31, he was admitted to hospital on 25 June 1860 was a contused wound and discharged four days later.<sup>11</sup> On 1 September, he was transferred to the Mt Eliza Depot, where he worked until 9 November, when he was sent back to prison. The following day he was discharged to Ticket of leave.

No Conditional Pardon was issued or applied for, and his sentence expired on 28 December 1863.<sup>12</sup>

In 1886, the death index recorded John Nye, 74, unknown parents and place of birth<sup>13</sup>

<sup>6</sup> HO24/4/2

<sup>7</sup> SROWA Acc 128/1 - 32

<sup>8</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 R21A

<sup>9</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 CS1

<sup>10</sup> SROWA Acc 128/40-43

<sup>11</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 M32

<sup>12</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 R21B

<sup>13</sup> Death Certificate, WA 1886/14105