

John Robinson, 110, *Hashemy*

Researched by Marcia Watson

Baptism	~1819, Warwickshire
Parents	William Robinson and Ann <i>Smith</i> ?
Parent's marriage	9 November 1819, Aston, Birmingham, Warwickshire
Siblings	William (1820), Joseph (1822), Ann (1824), Emma (1827-1831), James (1829-1847)
Wife	Mary Ann
Married	
Children	John Robinson (~1842) Betsey Robinson (~1844)

John Robinson was possibly born in Aston, Birmingham, before his parents married, although no baptism has been found. From the information John gave to authorities, his family lived in Camden Street, Birmingham. Initially, the father, William Robinson, was a clerk to a Japan Manufacturer, and the family lived in Tower Street until the mid-1820s. By 1827 William was a coal dealer living in Bromsgrove Street, and by 1829 the family lived in Camden Street. William died in 1837, aged 48, and is buried at St Paul's Churchyard, Hockley, Birmingham.

The 1841 census for Camden Street, Birmingham:

Ann Robinson, 44

William, 20, clerk

Joseph, 19, carpenter

Ann, 17, straw bonnet maker

James, 11

The family still lived in Camden Street in 1848 when son James died.

The 1851 census shows Ann, a widow, and her son William lived at 66 King Edward Rd, Birmingham. She was a proprietor of houses. Later census records show Ann Robinson was born in Aston, Birmingham and lived with her son William until she died in 1888.

The first record found for John Robinson is in September 1848:

A daring burglary at Hurdsfield - Between two and three o'clock on Wednesday morning week, the dwelling house Mr David Clarke, Commercial Road, Hurdsfield, was entered by the cellar grid, and the following articles stolen therefrom; 4 overcoats, two blue, one drab, and one brown; blue cloth cloak; a man's black hat; a pair of French shoes; two 42nd Stuart plaid frocks; one cotton nightgown; one opera-glass, with a small handle to it, cased pearl and set gold enclosed a brown morocco box lined with purple satin; and a brown paper parcel, containing six new linen shirts, two shirt fronts one old shirt marked "David Clarke", two children's brown Holland pinafores, and a quantity victuals.

The robbery was first discovered by Mr Clarke's watchman, who observed the front door of the house partly open, and alarmed the inmates. The perpetrators of this robbery must have been remarkably



proficient in their profession, as the duty of the watchman was to pass and repass Mr Clarke's door every quarter-hour.¹ Hurdsfield is about 100km north of Birmingham and 20km south of Manchester.

At the Cheshire Winter Assizes, in December 1848:

John Hill and John Robinson were charged that on 19 September, they burglariously broke into the house of David Clark, Macclesfield. Guilty, both sentenced to be transported for fifteen years.²

In 1850, John petitioned the Government:

Received on 18 May 1850.³

John Robinson 1141 [his Portland number]

Convicted on 5 December 1848, Chester, Burglary, sentenced to 15 years transportation, received at Portland Prison on 4 March 1850

To the Right Honorable Sir George Grey, Baronet, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department. The petition of John Robinson, now a prisoner in the Portland prison, humbly sheweth - That your petitioner was convicted as being the accomplice of a man named John Hill, on the charge of burglary; of which your humble petitioner beyond the fact of having been in his company, is wholly innocent: he however admits that unfortunately, the chain of evidence against him is such as to offer reasonable ground for his conviction.

That your petitioner since he has been in this prison, having been thrown into the company of the said John Hill, has been rendered very unhappy in consequence of the said John Hill's malice, and ill-treatment, and is therefore earnestly desirous of being separated from him.

That your petitioner is by trade a tailor and is capable of earning an honest livelihood.

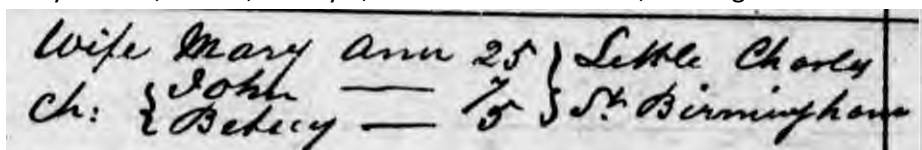
Your petitioner therefore humbly implores that he may be removed from this prison, to one of the colonies, or to such other place as the Government may think fit to ordain, there to serve the remaining portion of his probationary period on public works; is duty bound he will with feelings of the deepest gratitude ever pray &c



[he signed his name]

Cover: 278/47 John Robinson (28), Chester W Ass, December 1848, Burglary, 15 years, Gaol report - Not known, Portland. The prisoner affirms his innocence & prays to be removed from Portland prison, where his life is rendered miserable by the malice of his fellow convict.

John Robinson was received at Millbank Prison on 28 December 1848, a short time after his conviction. The register says he is 28, married, reads and writes imperfectly and is a tailor. He was transferred to Pentonville Prison on 26 May 1849. The PCOM2 record for the same prison says John is married with 2 children. Wife Mary Ann 25, John 7, Betsey 5, live at Little Charles St, Birmingham.



The Pentonville register has John's occupation as a sailor, and he can read and write. No gaolers report was received. On the 4 March 1850 he was transferred to Portland Prison. He boarded the *Hashemy*, on 19 July 1850, for the voyage to Western Australia.⁴

On arrival at Fremantle in October 1850, his description was:

¹ Chester Chronicle, 29 September 1848, p4

² Chester Chronicle, 15 December 1848, p4

³ HO18/278

⁴ HO24/5; HO24/16; HO8/105, p17, PCOM2/29, p128; PCOM2/383, p173

110. John Robinson, 30 years old, 5'5", brown hair, blue eyes, oval face, fair complexion, his appearance was fresh and stout, no marks, a tailor, widower with one child.⁵

General Register:

John Robinson, 30 years old, single, a tailor, Church of England, private schooling, and went to Sunday School. He could read well, write fairly, and accounts were tolerable. His mother, Anne Robinson, lived in Camden Street, Birmingham.

Attended Divine Service? Not very regular
 Received Sacrament? Never before being in prison
 Habits? Occasionally given to drink
 Intellect? Sound
 State of Mind? Hopeful
 Knowledge, Secular? Limited
 Knowledge, Religious? Fair
 Alleged Cause of Crime? Company

Name of Person referred to for Character, &c. The party by whom he was employed has since died.⁶

John appears on the sick list at the prison over a period of 6-7 months.⁷

Robinson John	2 November 1850	Cough	Pilul & draught
Robinson John	10 November 1850		
Robinson John	15 December 1850	Tooth ache
Robinson Jno	18 December 1850	Tooth ache	
Robinson John	27 December 1850	Indigestion	Infus quassia
Robinson Jno	1 January 1850 (1851)	Tooth ache	
Robinson Jno	2 January 1851	Swelled face	
Robinson Jno	23 February 1851		
Robinson Jno	9 March 1851	Diarrhoea	Chalk mixture
Robinson John	30 March 1851	Boil	Sulph: Emp basilu ?
Robinson John	15 May 1851		

John was entitled to a Ticket of leave on 26 January 1852.⁸ He received his ticket on 8 March 1852. On 8 November 1852, John Robinson, by order of Police Magistrate for misconduct, was confined at the Comptrollers pleasure. He was discharged a year later on 10 November 1853. At some stage, John returned to prison and was discharged on 8 May 1854. On 17 November 1854, John Robinson, 110, a ticket of leave, sent to hospital. He was discharged on 24 November 1854.⁹ Then, on 23 September 1856, John was sentenced to 16 months for picking the pocket of Joseph Blane, at Guildford, and stealing £2 4s.¹⁰

John appears numerous times on the sick list at Fremantle Prison. John Robinson was 32 years old.¹¹

Date	Complaint	Treatment	Sleeping berth, occupation
13 January 1857	Bowel Complaint	Castor oil 10ml	Cells, tailor
18 February 1857	Constipation	Purg	Cells, tailor
4 March 1857	Constipation	Cells, tailor
29 March 1857	Sore on tongue		Cells, tailor
22 May 1857		Recommended for outdoor work	Cells, tailor

⁵ SROWA Acc 128/40-43

⁶ SROWA Acc 1156 R21A

⁷ SROWA Acc 1156 CS1

⁸ SROWA Acc 1156 S1-3; SROWA Acc 1156 R21B

⁹ SROWA Acc 1156 RD1 - RD2

¹⁰ SROWA acc 1156 R10

¹¹ SROWA Acc 1156 M2; SROWA Acc 1156 CS3; SROWA Acc 1156 M14 - M16

25 May 1857		Recommended for outdoor work on 22nd	Cells, tailor
7 June 1857	Pain in chest	Pil Aper, plaister	
8 June 1857	Impaired nutrition	Quarry, cells
20 September 1857	Inflamed leg		Cells, Road party
21 September 1857	Constipation		Cells, Quarry
19 October 1857	Febricula	Reported sick at 8am. Observation for the day	Cells, tailor
20 October 1857	Cynanche		Cells, tailor
12 November 1857	Cynanche		Cells, tailor

Cynanche - Any disease of the tonsils, throat, or windpipe, attended with inflammation, swelling, and difficulty in breathing and swallowing.

On 12 October 1860, he applied for a Conditional Pardon, and was refused.¹²

John spent time in the prison:

26 January 1862, John Robinson, 40, *Hashemy*, labourer, sick at Fremantle prison, with a bad tooth.

16 February 1862, J Robinson, 40, *Hashemy*, labourer, cough.

17 February 1862, J Robinson, 40, *Hashemy*, labourer, cough.¹³

28 July 1863, John Robinson, 110, received at Fremantle, 2 months, from Perth.

22 December 1863, John Robinson, 110, discharged to Ticket of leave.¹⁴

His sentence expired on 1 March 1865, and he received a Certificate of freedom the same day.

From 1867 to 1879, John was in Geraldton. See, Mid West Convict Database:

<https://midwestwaheritage.com/resultmcr/?id=480>

Examples of John's conduct are found in the Police Gazette

e.g. for 1878: 6 April, 18 May, 31 May, 20 July, 21 September, 19 October

<https://slwa.wa.gov.au/collections/collections/police-gazettes>

Possible death:

1879. Mount Eliza Invalid Depot. — The following deaths have recently taken place at this institution: —

1 September, John Robinson (60). He died of debility.

Buried on 2 September 1879 at East Perth Cemetery, aged 60.^{15, 16}

¹² SROWA Acc 1156 S1-S3; SROWA Acc 1156 R21B

¹³ SROWA Acc 1156 CS6 - CS8

¹⁴ SROWA Acc 1156 RD5 - RD7

¹⁵ The Inquirer and Commercial News (Perth, WA : 1855 – 1901 10 September 1879, p1; East Perth Database lists records.

¹⁶ East Perth Cemetery Database

Mary Ann, wife of John Robinson, convict 110

Baptism	
Parents	
Parent's marriage	
Siblings	
Husband	John Robinson
Married	
Children	John Robinson (~1842) Betsey Robinson (~1844)

John Robinson and John Hill appeared at the Chester Winter Assizes in December 1848. The pair were convicted of stealing four overcoats; a blue cloth cloak; a man's black hat; a pair of French shoes; two 42nd Stuart plaid frocks; one cotton nightgown; one opera-glass, with a small handle, in a case; a brown paper parcel, containing six new linen shirts; two shirt fronts; one old shirt marked "David Clarke"; two children's brown Holland pinafores; and several victuals, from the house of David Clarke in Macclesfield. Both men were sentenced to fifteen years of transportation.

Why he was in Macclesfield is unknown, as he said his family were in Birmingham, 100 km away, in 1849. However, he mentioned in 1850 that his former employer has died, so perhaps he was seeking work elsewhere. John was a tailor.

According to the prison register, John was married with two children. His wife Mary Ann 25, John 7, Betsey 5, lived at Little Charles St, Birmingham (now Edmund Street in Birmingham).

By the time John arrived in Fremantle in 1850, the one record says he is a widower with one child. No records have been found for his wife and children.