

Joseph Trimmer, 124, Hashemy

Researched by Marcia Watson

Baptism	17 March 1822, St Margaret's, Barking, Essex ¹
Parents	Joseph Trimmer and Elizabeth
Parent's marriage	
Siblings	Rebecca (1810), James (1812), Susanna (1815), William (1817-1874), Amelia (1820-1820)
Wife	Sophia Russell
Married	2 April 1845, Frindsbury, All Saints, Kent, by banns
Children	

Parents: Joseph and Elizabeth Trimmer.

They might be the Joseph Trimmer and Elizabeth King who married at St Marys, Whitechapel, Tower Hamlets on 10 February 1808.

Elizabeth Trimmer died 1833, aged 48, at Barking Side, Essex. Joseph Trimmer appears to have died on 28 December 1838 in the workhouse at St Botolph without Bishopsgate, London, aged 60.

In 1841, living at Newells Corner, Barking, Essex were:²

William Trimmer, 20 Ag lab

Joseph Trimmer, 15, Ag lab

At some stage, Joseph moved to Kent, where he married on 2 April 1845.

Joseph Tremmer, full age, from Frindsbury in Kent, labourer, father was Joseph Tremmer, a labourer.

Sophia Russell, full age, from Frindsbury, her father is George Russell, a labourer.

Sophia can only have been 15 years old and needed the consent of a parent as she was a minor. The marriage certificate may be incorrect, or Sophia lied about her age. One witness was Catherine Tremmer.

In April 1848, at the County Magistrate's office, Rochester, on Monday, George Bennett, Charles Tomlyn, Alexander Wood, John Miller, Mark Brown, **Joseph Trimmer**, and Charles Jeal, agricultural labourers, mostly under twenty-one years of age, were brought before the Rev. G Davies, Captain Baker, and James Smith Esq., in custody of Everist, the constable of Northfleet, charged with having burglariously entered a dwelling house of Mr Joseph Thorpe, a retired farmer, at Meopham, near Gravesend, on the night of the previous Wednesday.

The prisoners were committed to Maidstone gaol for trial at the next assizes.³

These newspaper accounts give different amounts of detail.^{4,5}

Then, at the Kent Summer Assizes, Crown Court in August 1848:

George Bennett, 19; Alexander Wood, 19; John Miller, Charles Tomlin, 19; Mark Brown, 26; Joseph Trimmer, 24, and Charles Jeal, 20, were indicted for burglary, and dealing five sovereigns, eight half-sovereigns, one half-crown, shilling, and one sixpence, one pistol, one gun, and other value £7 3s 6d, the moneys and property Joseph Thorp and one bundle, one mug, and other articles, value £2 4s, the property of Ann Boorman; and at the same time feloniously beating the said Joseph Thorpe, at Meopham.

George Bennett pleaded guilty. Sir Walter Riddell conducted the prosecution. Mr M. Chambers appeared for Wood and Trimmer, Mr Russell for Brown, and Mr Horn for Jeal.

Mrs Catherine Simmons deposed—I am a widow, residing at Meopham with my uncle, Mr Thorpe, whose house adorns the road leading through Wrotham and to Gravesend. Mr Thorpe is 84 years old; Mrs Boorman, his sister, 86. I and Mrs Boorman slept in the front room. I went to bed the night of the robbery at ten o'clock. I was disturbed by a slight tapping and then heard persons at the door. There was light in my room. The door was forced open, and a person said, "We must have your money or life." My aunt first said

¹ Essex Record Office, D/P 81/1/14

² HO107/323/4, p52

³ The Era, 23 April 1848

⁴ South Eastern Gazette, 18 April 1848, p5

⁵ North Devon Journal, 27 April 1848, p4

we had no money; the money they wanted and money they must have. I said there was some money in a drawer, in a piece of blue paper, heard the drawer opened, but they could not find the money. They then made get out and find it. There were then three persons in the room. I gave them the money, amounting to £3 10d. They took it and dropped a sovereign and a half, we afterwards found. They said it was not much as I said before. I then found the rest and gave it to them; so that all the money they had was £7. As one of the men was searching the drawer, he turned around, and I saw him but cannot identify him. The men stopped in the room for about a quarter of an hour. They then went away, having asked for our watches and pockets. I begged them not to touch my uncle; they said they would not. I heard them go away just before the clock struck one. I heard one of the persons in my uncle's room call another by the of "Mark" and another "Joe." They said I had better not go out for two hours. I found my uncle with his hands and legs tied. I untied his hands and gave the alarm to a servant in the farmyard adjoining. I examined the house and found some panes glass broken, the window open, and a five-barred gate placed under the window had been listened by an iron screw the night before. The door had been opened from the inside. I had locked it the before. I found a piece of crape the stairs in the morning. The articles taken from my room were five gown pieces belonging Mrs Boorman, to whom the money belonged, a punch ladle with a sovereign in it; several pairs of spectacles, belonging to Mrs Boorman, a gun, and a pistol, and two watches, belonging to me and my uncle. I found that the house downstairs had been ransacked.

Mr Joseph Thorp deposed—I am 84 years. I recollect being in bed when I was alarmed the night of the robbery. I was lying with my head towards the door. When I was satisfied that I saw a man with a light, called out "Halloa, who are you?" when he took hold of me, and the other said he would split my skull if he did not find some money. There were three men in the room; two of them had candles. I saw that they had crape their faces. I stood over me with a pistol, another with my own hammer. I said, "Don't abuse us poor old creatures." The one with a hammer said, "You've gone long enough." The man the pistol asked for drink and money. I had about 5s or 6s in my watch pocket at the foot of the bed. The man with the hammer tied my arms twice round and then tied feet; they said if I stirred before an hour's time, they would murder me, and the man with the pistol kept coming every little while looking at me. I took every opportunity to recognise them. I saw them afterwards at Rochester before the magistrates. I then pointed out the person who had the hammer; I knew it was him because I took particular notice of him. I recognised the man with the pistol before the magistrates. I also recognised the third man, and his name was Trimmer. The name of the man with the pistol was Bennett. The name of the man who held the hammer was Brown. I identified the articles before the magistrates that I had lost.

Lillywhite, police-constable at Dartford, deposed that he saw the three prisoners a quarter past five in the morning on Blue bell-road; they were Mark Brown, Joseph and Charles Jeal; they were going into Dartford, and each had a bundle. Brown asked me how I was. I walked after them about three hundred yards when I saw Brown give his bund to one of the others and pass down a lane; the other two entered the One Bell public-house. I asked them what they had in the bundle; they said it clothes, and they were going to work.

Thomas Robert Everest, a constable at Northfleet, corroborated the preceding evidence. Apprehended Tomlin and Miller, and found some crape, a punch ladle, and gun, also a coin that Tomlin said he had found. Tomlin and Miller said that they were in the robbery, and the other prisoners also; they said, "we never went into the house—we received the property outside."

The learned Judge, having summed up, the jury retired for about a quarter of an hour and then returned a verdict of Guilty against all the prisoners.

Brown and Trimmer transported for fifteen years

Miller and Tomlin were transported for seven years

George Bennett (who pleaded guilty), Wood, and Jeal to two years' hard labour.

The Court awarded £10 to Everest, the constable, for his meritorious conduct in this case. The trial occupied the Court during the entire day.⁶

On 2 May 1849, the undermentioned convicts, under sentence of transportation, were on the following day removed from the County Gaol to the Millbank Prison:Transported for fifteen years, Mark Brown, Joseph Trimmer,⁷

⁶ West Kent Guardian, 05 August 1848, p7

Joseph was received at Millbank Prison on 2 May 1849 from Maidstone Gaol. He was 24, a widower, labourer, could read and write imperfectly, no gaolers report received, and was sent to Portland on 6 March 1850. A register labelled Portsmouth Prison says Joseph was 'quiet, moderately intelligent as to religion, behaviour- orderly'. His state of health was good. In Portland Prison, he was visited by Mary Brown on 18 July 1850. She was his friend, and she also visited her husband, Mark Brown. Joseph boarded the *Hashemy* the following day for the voyage to Western Australia. Portland quarterly in return September 1850 records Joseph as 26 years old.⁸

On arrival at Fremantle in October 1850, his description was: Joseph Trimmer, 28, 5'4½", black hair, hazel eyes, long face with a prominent nose, dark complexion, stout build, mole on the right breast, a miller and single.⁹

General Register:

124. Joseph Trimmer, 28 years old in 1852, single, labourer, Church of England, never went to school, can read, write and do accounts fairly. His brother William Trimmer, a labourer, lives in Barking near London.

Attended Divine Service? Fell away in his attendance before committal.

Received Sacrament? Never

Habits? Rather inclined to drink latterly

Intellect? Sound

State of Mind?

Knowledge, Secular? Limited

Knowledge, Religious? Very limited

Alleged Cause of Crime? Company

Name of Person referred to for Character, &c. Mr Henry Nooks, Shorne Highfield near Gravesend.

Received books while in prison.¹⁰

Joseph appears a few times on the sick list while at Fremantle.¹¹

H=in hospital

		Condition	Treatment
Trimmer Joseph	30 December 1850	Boil	Poultice
Trimmer Joseph	1 February 1851	Griping & Laxity	Chalk mixture
Trimmer Jos	17 March 1851		Puli Sod: Carb
Trimmer Joseph 134 H	19 June 1851	Debility P.F.	Continue tonic
Trimmer Joseph 134 H	20 June 1851	Debility P. Feb	Continue tonic
Trimmer Joseph 134 H	21 June 1851	Debility P. Feb	James night
Trimmer Joseph H	24 June 1851	Debility	Acid prussic
Trimmer Joseph H	25 June 1851	Diarrhoea	Castor oil
Trimmer Joseph H	26 June 1851	Febris	Fever mixture
Trimmer Joseph H	28 June 1851		Mix ^t con ^t

Joseph received his Ticket of Leave on 27 January 1852, and a Conditional Pardon was obtained on 24 August 1857.¹²

Joseph appears to have worked in the Vasse area. In 1860, it came to Perth as a witness in a trial: Shipping. The schooner *Amelia* arrived on 28 December 1860 at Fremantle, from Vasse and Bunbury. Passengers — Mr G. Chapman, Mrs H. Chapman, Mr J. Bussell, Mrs V. Bussell, Mr Harris, wife, and family, H. Amers, H. Collins, J. Cooper, H. Doffer, **J. Trimmer**, D. Conelly, E. Hughes, J. Molloy, J. Taylor, T. Cook, E. Holt, J. Carroll, W. Curtis, J. Cross, J. Griffiths, F. H. Jennis, T. Delaney, L. Myers, T. Whealan, W. McCarthy. Cargo — 1 cask colonel wine, 29 pkgs butter, 173 bags potatoes, 26 hides, 14 bags barley, 10 bales wool.¹³

⁷ South Eastern Gazette, 15 May 1849, p5

⁸ HO24/4; PCOM2/107, p26; PCOM2/83, p180; HO8/105

⁹ SROWA Acc 128/40-43

¹⁰ SROWA Acc 1156 R21A

¹¹ SROWA Acc 1156 CS1

¹² SROWA Acc 1156R, 21B

¹³ The Inquirer and Commercial News (Perth, WA : 1855 - 1901), 2 January 1861, p2

At the Quarter Sessions, on 9 January 1861, Joseph was a witness: (part of a lengthy article) Trial of Henry Watson, charged with stealing 2000 feet of sawn timber, the property of Mr George Chapman, of the Vasse.

Mr Howell, for the defence, called Joseph Trimmer. — Is a sawyer and lives at the Vasse. Knows Collins; had a conversation with him. Asked witness to go to a certain place to cut timber; said it was too far. He said if we went there, we should get more than we cut. He said he had got timber there already cut; said it was where Mr Chapman's timber was; said he helped cut a little and the remainder he took from the pits, and buried it beside the pits; did not go to the pits. He is an expirée.

Cross-examined — Collins did not say he had taken it from the plain. He said Watson helped him to cut a little timber. Henry Watson was found not guilty. ¹⁴

Joseph returned to Vasse on the ship *Escort*, sailing on 12 January 1861 from Fremantle.

Passengers: — Messrs. G. F. Guerrier, A. Heppingstone, W. Curtis, E. Hughes, J. Davis, E. Smith, A. Duffey, **J. Trimmer**, J. Molloy, J. Watson, H. Wise, J. and I. Wilson, J. McKinley, E. Kaughan, wife, and family. ¹⁵

In 1865, Joseph went to South Australia. In May 1865, the Vasse correspondent, for the newspaper, said that the schooner *Gem* cleared out from the Quindalup Station for Adelaide, on Monday, the 15th inst, with a cargo of 57 loads jarrah, 17 do tuart, 925 tuart fellies, and 500 red-gum spokes, and the following passengers: — John King, Mrs King and family (4), Richard Jones, James Lane, Andrew Wilson, Joseph Trimmer, Norah Dillon, and Anne Ferny. ¹⁶

At an Inquest at Linwood, South Australia in 1871, Joseph was a witness: (part of a long article) On 5 December, Mr B. Rankine, J.P., held an inquest respecting the fire which had occurred at the Light Bridge Motel; Mr G. L. Burton was foreman, and Mr J. Watts attended to watch the proceedings on behalf of the Insurance Companies

Joseph Trimmer helped to save the furniture in the parlour, and Blake saved all the things he could in the bedrooms. By the time we rescued the things from the parlour the roof had fallen in.

Joseph Trimmer, a labourer, said—Stayed at Mr Murray's hotel in an outside room on Saturday night. I got up about 3 or 4 o'clock. I heard an unusual noise like something cracking. I went to the corner and saw smoke issue through the roof. I went to the doors but could not get in. I knocked and did all I could to awaken those inside. I kicked a door open and then woke up Blake and Mr Murray's son George. I went down the passage and saw flames going through the roof. Blake then burst open Mr Murray's bedroom. By Mr Watts—Mr Murray came out nearly naked and assisted in saving articles of furniture. He smoked but not in bed.

John Blake, labourer—Slept in the hotel on Saturday night. I went to bed about a quarter to 11. Trimmer came into my room about 3.30 a.m. and woke me. He said the house was on fire. Jumped out of bed and ran up the passage; the door leading into it was partly open; it also led into the kitchen. Saw the roof on fire. Turned round to Mr Murray's bedroom door and called to them. Burst the door and cried out fire. ¹⁷

1884. Destitute Asylum

202. Joseph Trimmer, 60, was admitted to the Asylum on 21 July 1884. He arrived in Western Australia per *Sophia*, 30 years ago and came to South Australia in 1866. He was a labourer residing in Saddleworth, and had no relatives. Sent up from Adelaide Hospital, with Medical Certificate; suffering from Phthisis and destitute. He died on 15 May 1885. ¹⁸

1885. Mortuary Returns.

Return of persons who have died in the Destitute Asylum from 1 January to 30 June 1885, who had no relatives in the colony, as far as known.

Joseph Trimmer, 61, 15 May, Phthisis in Adelaide. Phthisis is pulmonary tuberculosis or similar progressive wasting disease.]¹⁹ Joseph Trimmer, buried on 16 May 1885, aged 61, at West Terrace Cemetery, Adelaide.

¹⁴ The Inquirer and Commercial News (Perth, WA: 1855 - 1901), 23 January 186. P3

¹⁵ The Inquirer and Commercial News (Perth, WA : 1855 - 1901), 23 January 1861, p2

¹⁶ The Inquirer and Commercial News (Perth, WA: 1855 - 1901), 24 May 1865, p2

¹⁷ Adelaide Observer (SA: 1843 - 1904), 9 December 1871, p3

¹⁸ Register of Admission to the Destitute Asylum.

¹⁹ The South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA: 1858 - 1889), 30 July 1885, p2

Sophia Russell, wife of Joseph Trimmer, convict 124

Baptism	21 February 1830, Meopham, Kent
Parents	George Russell and Susan Langford
Parent's marriage	16 February 1829, Meopham, Kent
Siblings	George*(1828), William (1831), John (1833), James (1835), Ann (1838), Harriet (1841), Eliza (1846)
Husband	Joseph Trimmer (1822-1885)
Marriage	2 April 1845, Frindsbury, All Saints, Kent, by banns
Children	

* George Langford was baptised on 28 August 1828 at Cobham, Kent, the illegitimate son of Susan Langford.

When Sophia Russell was born, the family lived at Meopham Green in Kent. Her father, George, was a labourer. By 1833 the family were living 8km away at Shorne. In 1851 and 1861, their address was Shorne Ridgway, Shorne, North Aylesford, Kent.

On 2 April 1845, Sophia married Joseph Trimmer (23) at Frindsbury in Kent, about 7km from Shorne. Both their ages are registered as "of full age". Sophia can only have been 15 years old, and needed the consent of a parent as she was a minor. The marriage certificate may be incorrect or Sophia lied about her age.

Less than two years later, Sophia Trimmer, 16, wife of Joseph Trimmer, died on 29 January 1847 at Shorne, Kent. She died of consumption, although the death was not certified and there was no medical attendant. The informant was a neighbour. Sophia was buried at Shorne, on 7 February 1847.

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
176	Second of April 1845	Joseph Trimmer Sophia Russell	of full age of full age	Bachelor Spinster	Laborer -	Frindsbury Frindsbury	Joseph Trimmer George Russell	Laborer Laborer

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, After Banns by me, Attest

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Joseph Trimmer in the Presence of us, Sophia Russell The marks of James Hall The marks of Catherine Trimmer

Marriage

No.	When Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.
250	Twenty ninth of January 1847 Shorne	Sophia Trimmer	Female	16 years	Wife of Joseph Trimmer Labourer	Consumption Not Certified No Medical Attendant

Death