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# John Jenkins

**Born:** May 22 1791

**Died:** Aug 25 1886 (at age 95)

In: East Malling, Kent, UK

"Square-Vue", Berrima, New South Wales, Australia

**Research**

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InfoEventsTimeline

**Records**

john [snr] jenkins in  
Geni World Family  
Tree

John Jenkins in  
England Births and  
Christenings, 1538-  
1975

**Photos**

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**Immediate family**

**Henry Jenkins**  
His father

**Mary Jenkins (born King)**  
His mother

**Samuel Jenkins**  
His brother

**Sarah Jenkins**  
His sister

**Henry Jenkins**  
His brother

**William Jenkins**  
His brother

**Ann Jenkins**  
His sister

**Elizabeth Clark (born Jenkins)**  
His sister

**Ridley Jenkins**  
His brother

**Thomas Jenkins**  
His brother

**Jane Jenkins**  
His sister

**Charlotte Jenkins**  
His sister

**Margaret Jenkins**  
His sister

**Biography**

John Jenkins was the third son of Henry Jenkins and Mary King. John Jenkins arrived in Australia on convict ship SPEKE (second voyage)which left England on 22 December 1820. He was a convict who was sentenced to life for robbery. Later he was pardoned on 8 September 1836. In 1820 John Jenkins appeared at the Kent Assizes with three others, charged with "feloniously and burglariously" breaking into the dwelling of the widow Elizabeth King and stealing four beds, seventeen blankets, six counterpanes, eight pillows, four bolsters, one pair of snuffers and a pin cushion, all valued at Forty Three pounds two shillings and sixpence. They were found guilty and sentenced to be hanged by the neck until they be dead. All four appeared before the court again in July 1820, where the sentences were commuted to "transportation for life". John arrived in Australia aboard the convict ship "Speke"2, 18th May, 1821 after a voyage lasting 147 days. He was assigned as a servant to James Atkinson of Oldbury, Sutton Forrest. Here, with the help of Atkinson, he successfully petitioned the Government to bring his wife and children to Australia. They arrived on the "Granada" on 23 Januard 1825. John again successfully petitioned the Government, this time to be re-assigned, as a servant to his wife and the family were re-united. Being a convict, he could not own land so Charlotte was granted 60 acres of Sutton Forrest. By 1828 they had five acres cleared, five under cultivation and 30 head of cattle. In 1835 John built the first residence in the new town of Berrima. He purchased the home in 1841 and it became known as "Jenkins House". John died there on the 25 August 1886. The house remained in the Jenkins family until 1950 when it was sold and renamed Berrima House.

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https://www.myheritage.com/person-1000287\_143868541\_143868541/john-jenkins

1/3

Information from Lorraine Keys:

Charlotte probably had Thomas when she was single and John must have adopted him. John came out as a convict, leaving London on 22 December 1820. Charlotte and the 5 children came out in 1826

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John was transported from England in 1822. He was sentenced to hang in East Malling Court (Kent) but the sentence was changed to transportation. He & three other men broke into a house and stole various items, as detailed in the indictment detailed as follows:

ASSI 35/260/2 PFF790  
Kent Assizes  
Indictments Summer 1820  
20 May 1820

The Jurors for our Lord the King upon their oath present the THOMAS WOOD late of the parish of East Malling in the County of Kent, Labourer, JOHN JENKINS late of the same, Labourer, JOHN HOLLANDS late of the same, Labourer, and THOMAS WEBSTER late of the same, Labourer

On the second day of May in the first year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the fourth by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King Defender of the Faith, about the hour of eleven in the night of the same day with force and arms at the parish aforesaid in the county aforesaid the dwelling house of Elizabeth King widow there situate, feloniously and burglariously did break and enter with intent the goods and chattels in the same dwelling house then being, then and there feloniously and burglariously to steal take and carry away four beds of the value of twenty pounds, seventeen blankets of the value of eight pounds, six counterpanes of the value of six pounds, eight pillows of the value of four pounds, four bolsters of the value of five pounds, one pair of snuffers of the value of two shillings, and one pin cushion of the value of six pence, of the goods and chattels of the said Elizabeth King in the same dwelling house then and there being found, then and there feloniously and burglariously did steal take and carry away against the peace of our said Lord the King his crown and dignity.

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From the "Agenda Book" of the South Eastern Circuit  
Ref: ASSI 31/23 95518  
Kent Summer Assizes  
Thursday, 27 July 1820

Put themselves Jury say Guilty, No Goods, to be hanged by the neck until they be dead - Thomas Wood, John Jenkins, John Holland and Thomas Webster. Burglary in the dwelling house of Elizabeth King, widow, and stealing her goods, value 43 pounds/2/6. All 4 reprieved. Transport: Life each

Witnesses were Mary Mills, Mary Atkins, Richard Cashfield, John Punkhurst, Thomas Ayres, George Essell. On the same day, Thomas Wood and John Hollands, both described as of the parish of Birling, Kent, were found guilty of sheepstealing. They killed and took on the 5th. May, a sheep value thirty shillings belonging to Richard Pye of Birling. Witnesses were Richard Pye, Armigate Whitting, George Manley, Richard Cashfield, Thomas Ayres, George Russell. Verdict guilty, already received judgement on the other indictment.

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An entry on the transport lists for the voyage by the Speke is:  
John Jenkins - Kent Assizes 24 July 1820: Life. Convict No. 29/619  
In the ship's list he is described as 5'4" tall, face florid, with brown hair and grey eyes.

It is believed John had 3 sons and 2 daughters. The oldest son was probably illegitimate as he is later shown as adopted and is not buried with the others at Narandera Cemetery. Each of the brothers had 11 children. One sister married a Garner or Gardner who later changed his name to Garner.

The General Muster and Land & Stock Muster of NSW in 1822, lists John (A 11242) as being a Government Servant, employed by James Atkinson at Argyle.

In 1824 John partitioned the Government to bring out his wife and children. They travelled aboard the 'Grenada' (3), sailing from London 2 October 1824, via Teneriffe and arrived in Sydney 23 January 1825 after 113 days at sea. The Master was Alex Anderson and the Surgeon Superintendent was Peter Cunningham (The Grenada was built at Hull in 1810 and displaced 408 ton, class E1).

The family were reunited in 1826 when John was assigned as a servant to Charlotte. As a convict, John could not own land, so Charlotte was granted 60 acres at Sutton Forest. According to the 1828 Census (ref J0277), John was a Protestant Farmer of Sutton Forest, aged 36. They had 60 acres of land, 5 acres cleared, 5 acres under cultivation and 30 head of cattle.

John obtained a Ticket of Leave on 5th August 1829 allowing him 'to remain in the District of Sutton Forest' on the recommendation of the Sutton Forest Bench. This Ticket of Leave was replaced by another on 11th May 1836 (No 36/932) allowing him to remain in the District of Yass and he obtained a court pardon 8th September 1836 (No 709). He was finally granted an absolute pardon 1st December 1838.

In 1835 John built what is now known as Berrima House. Originally known as 'Jenkins House', it is the first residence built in Berrima. John Jenkins purchased the home in 1841 from John and Jane Atkinson ('Mereworth') and it was in the possession of the Jenkins family up until 1965 when it was sold to the Wrightson family. The deeds for the land were signed by Governor Bourke.

Built of sandstone, quarried close to the site, with dressed stone quoins, the house was the traditional 'four up/four down' room house. The height of the door openings are approximately 6' 4" (190cm), which indicates the height of the average person in the early 1800's as compared to the present day. The original flagged verandah is supported by six timber columns with barge board in a charming Georgian style. It has a simple and narrow boarded staircase and had twelve-pane windows, six-panel doors,

simple timber fireplace surrounds with built in cupboards either side - all made from the local stringybark timber. Gone are the detached kitchen, wood shed, stables, laundry and earth-closet lavatory which were positioned along the eastern side of the backyard. The half acre block runs down to the Wingecarribee River. An old cedar settee was sited on one side of the verandah almost from the time the house was built. It is claimed that the bushranger, Ben Hall slept on this settee several times during the 1860's.

During the 1830's, apart from building the house, John was also developing 'Tooyal' run, on the Murrumbidgee River east of Ganmain. His sons, John (15) and Francis (12) had taken up this run for him in 1832. In 1834, John sold two hundred head of cattle to his sons and was looking for more land. Until his absolute pardon was granted he dealt with the government through John and Francis and at the same time helped prepare his sons for the pioneering life which lay ahead of them. The family had formed strong friendships with the Airds Irish who were also seeking land around Sutton Forest and down along the Murrumbidgee.

The 1841 Census records John Jenkins as living in Jellore Street, Berrima and his household consisted of 2 males and 2 females, one of each being married, 1 male and 1 female arrived free in the Colony, 1 female was born in the Colony and 1 male was freed by servitude. All four were Church of England. This is confusing, however in the house at the time were:

John, married, freed by servitude

Charlotte, married, arrived free in the Colony

Thomas, John's son, single, arrived free in the Colony

Charlotte Elizabeth, John's grand daughter, single, born in the Colony (Daughter of James and Mary Ann Garner)

The 1840's would have seen John travelling back and forth between Berrima and the Tooyal run. To date, little information has been uncovered for the period between the early 1840's up to his death.

In the mid 1850's a Mr Halls wanted a public school for Berrima. The school was opened in 1869. People listed as supporting Mr Halls in 1856 include 'J. Jenkins and Mrs Jenkins'.

Anecdotes from a Mrs. Baxter, descended from Mary Ann Jenkins and James Garner: "John Jenkins Snr., his wife and five children lived at Berrima. He built "Berrima House". One unusual story, passed down, which Mrs. Baxter is sure was true, is that John Jenkins had a coffin stored under the stairs of the house. This practise was evidently not uncommon - should a death occur during times when transport and communication were difficult, coffins could be hard to come by when needed. Roads were practically non-existent and bullock teams were a very slow form of transport."

His gravestone (horizontal) reads:

Sacred  
to the Memory of  
John Jenkins  
who departed this life  
25th August 1886  
Aged 97 years

Third son of the late  
Henry Jenkins  
East Morling, West Kent  
England

Eternal process moving on  
From state to state the spirit walks  
And these are but the shatter'd stalks

Of ruin'd chrysalis of on

Share your memories of John



Write your memories here

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