

John Kinnear (1780-1860)

Early Life

John Kinnear was born in Montrose, Scotland on 1st July 1780. His father was John Kinnear, a linen merchant, and his mother, Helen Crystal née Archibald. Family folklore says that his mother was a direct descendant of Rob Roy.

After finishing his education, John Kinnear started work as a clerk for the firm of Robertson, Tate & Co., manufacturers, of Glasgow. He initially impressed and was made a partner.

On 30th April 1807, John Kinnear married Isabella Donaldson in Perth. Isabella came with a dowry of £10,000, of which Kinnear had £3000 and settled the other £7000 on his wife and children.¹ Together they had five children, before her untimely death in London in 1815.

Whilst a partner with the firm, Kinnear reportedly made a considerable wager that he would walk from Glasgow to Perth (a distance of sixty miles), without sitting down, reclining or resting (otherwise than standing on his feet). Kinnear accomplished the feat but was so exhausted when he arrived at Perth that he needed to be helped to ascend the stairs of the house in which he was staying the night.²

After about three years, Kinnear was reportedly forced to withdraw from the partnership albeit with a considerable consideration.³ The partnership was dissolved in June 1808.⁴

Bankruptcy

In 1809, John Kinnear moved to Liverpool and, despite having no capital, set himself up as a merchant, managing to obtain substantial credit. He accepted a bill of exchange for the sum of £84,000, which he effected to get paid by fabricating bills with fictitious endorsements to the amount of £200,000.

In June 1810, a Commission of Bankruptcy was awarded against him⁵; debts were estimated to be in the order of £1million.

The assignees were reportedly struggling so much to make sense of Kinnear's accounts that they employed him (reportedly at £1000/year) to gather in his own assets - most of which he seems to have diverted to his

¹ *The Patriot* 23 October 1837

² *Perthshire Constitutional* 8 November 1837

³ *The Satirist* 5 November 1837

⁴ *London Gazette* 28 June 1808

⁵ *London Gazette* 2 June 1810

own profit.⁶ After about 6 months, Kinnear left the assignees to it. No dividends were ever paid to the creditors.

In November, Kinnear's house was put up for sale at auction. He had been living in a mansion called Anfield, together with outbuildings and 27 acres of land, at Walton, some 2-3 miles from Liverpool.

ANFIELD-HOUSE AND LANDS.
TO be peremptorily sold by Auction, before the Commissioners in a Commission of Bankrupt awarded and in Prosecution against John Kinnear, of Liverpool, Merchant, at the Golden-Lion, Dale-Street, in Liverpool aforesaid, on Thursday the 6th of December next, at Two o'Clock in the Afternoon, subject to Conditions then to be produced,
The very desirable Mansion, called Anfield, in Walton, with Coach-House, Stables, and other Offices, and several Parcels of Land, containing 27 Acres, Statute Measure, or thereabouts, lately the Residence of the said Mr. Kinnear.
The Grounds, in high Condition, are surrounded by good Walls and Fences; the Plantations are of considerable Growth, and in great Perfection.
The House has undergone many Alterations, and is made very commodious for a large Family.
The Gardens, are very productive, and the Grapery is said to be one of the best in the Neighbourhood.
The Situation is high and healthy, the Prospect extensive, the Soil productive, and the whole forms an elegant and comfortable Residence.
The Distance from Liverpool is between Two and Three Miles.
The Tenure Freehold of Inheritance, and immediate Possession may be had.
For Particulars apply to Messrs. Gird and Baines, Exchange-Buildings, Liverpool, the Solicitors to the Assignees, or to Mr. Leigh, in Balfett-Street, in Liverpool aforesaid.



Figure 1. Anfield House on 1850 OS plan

Conspiracy

By 1813, John Kinnear had moved to London, where his fifth child was born in February 1814. He was living in Gower Street, Bedford Square.

Kinnear's wife, Isabella, died in December 1815; she was 27.

In January 1817, Kinnear married Georgiana Boileau⁷, daughter of Peter Boileau and Isabelle Caroline Le Breton. With her he would have a further six children.

Figure 2. Georgina Kinnear
née Boileau



Kinnear then embarked upon the swindle which made him infamous. A contemporary account of the trial

⁶ *Manchester Times* 7 April 1838

⁷ She used the name Georgiana throughout her time in England (although she signed the marriage register 'Georgina'); after she moved to Australia, she used Georgina (the inquest and her death record show 'Blanche Isabella Georgina')

(which took place on 20/21 April 1819) was published.⁸ Along with Kinnear, the architects of the swindle were Lewis Levy and Mozely Woolf:

These dishonest sons of Israel were reputed merchants in London, and contrived for several years to keep up a tolerable character. They were in extensive trade, and kept separate concerns, turning each in business something like three hundred thousand pounds a year.

With the profits resulting from this trade they were, however, dissatisfied, and resolved to grow rich by speedier means. They originated three mercantile houses, and placed as proprietors in them three men, who were, in fact, merely paupers. The first was John Meyer, a Jew, who kept a house on Tower Hill, for the reception of sailors. This man they supplied with money, gave him a character, and reported him as a merchant of an inexhaustible capital. The next was Henry Weiller, a German Jew, who, having served under Napoleon, came, in 1816, to England, with ten francs in his pocket. This fellow they dressed up, and instructed him to represent himself as a foreign merchant. Weiller having been once in business in Paris, and being known to a respectable house there, he procured a letter of recommendation to a London banker. By this means he established his credit, and began to pass bills with amazing rapidity.

Having these two houses under their control, they wanted another, and in the formation of this they shewed the greatest skill; for they established it in such a manner, as to procure goods to a large amount, without creating suspicion. They took a Jew boy, named Joseph Leigh, who had been once or twice tried at the Old Bailey, and represented him as the son of a Dutch merchant. Levy then called upon a man named Reeves, who had been known in the Manchester trade, but who had been unfortunate in business, though his character stood yet high at Manchester. To him Levy represented Leigh as a youth well acquainted with the Continental trade, and stated that his father, being a wealthy man, proposed giving him a thousand pounds, provided he could get a person to join him who understood the country trade of England. Reeves consented to become his partner, and articles of partnership, with a great shew of candour, were drawn up between them. The one thousand pounds was then handed to Reeves, and lodged at a banker's. Levy also lent them five hundred pounds, and appeared a very good friend. He introduced Reeves to Meyer, as well as to Weiller, and recommended his dealing with them, as they generally traded on ready money. Reeves readily became their dupe. He made a circuit of the manufacturing countries, being supplied with the loan of one thousand pounds, and sent home goods to the amount of thirty-three thousand pounds, for which he paid by bills on Meyer. Before the conclusion of his business, however, he was informed that Meyer had absconded; and, on hastening to London, he found himself not possessed of a shilling, all the goods he had purchased having been sold, on their arrival, to Meyer.

A disclosure now took place, and it was found that these fictitious houses had practised the vilest impositions. Weiller was sent out of the way, but, being apprehended in Holland, he was brought back, and made a bankrupt of. On his examinations it was discovered that Kinnear, Woolf, and Levy, were the

⁸ *The Trial of John Kinnear, Lewis Levy, & Mozely Woolf, Indicted With John Meyer and Others, for A Conspiracy, at Guildhall, London*, published by Sherwood, Neely and Jones, August 1819

contrivers of the fraud, and, in consequence of this information, they, with several others, were indicted for a conspiracy. Meyer and several others who were implicated escaped detection, but the three leaders in, and contrivers of, the scheme were brought to justice in the Court of King's Bench, April the 20th, 1819, before Lord Chief Justice Abbott and a special jury.

Reeves, Leigh, and Weiller, were the principal evidence against them, and after an investigation of two days they were found guilty. No sooner was the verdict made known, than the vast crowds who waited for the decision manifested the greatest satisfaction. A man named Le Vay, who was indicted with them, was acquitted. The trial disclosed the means by which they procured credit. One of the fictitious houses served to give a character to the others, while at the same time they played into each other's hands, by drawing and discounting bills, accepting and negotiating drafts, &c. &c. The goods thus dishonestly procured were shipped off to Holland, India, &c. on Levy's account.

On the 30th of April a motion was made for a new trial, on the ground of the jury having dispersed and slept at home, no officer being sworn to keep them together, or prevent their intermixing with the multitude. The Court, however, decided that the mere separation of the jury was no ground for setting aside the verdict, unless some improper tampering with them could be shown, the Court having a discretion to allow the jury to disperse. The application was, therefore, refused, though it was the opinion of some leading counsel that a new trial would have been granted in consequence of this irregularity.

On the 14th of May they were brought up to receive judgment, when two affidavits were put in on the part of the defendants, stating that the deponents had seen two of the jurymen, on the first night of the trial, conversing with Mr. Harmer and Mr. Adams, the solicitors for the prosecution. In answer to these, affidavits of the jury, the above gentlemen, &c. were put in, denying that any such intercourse had taken place; also two affidavits of the owners of the houses, where the deponents on the part of the defendants stated themselves to reside, stating that no such persons lived there; whence they were supposed to be fictitious names.

The sentence of the Court was, that John Kinnear should be imprisoned in the gaol of Ilchester for two years; that Lewis Levy should be imprisoned in the gaol of Gloucester for two years, and pay a fine of five thousand pounds; that Mosely Woolf should be imprisoned in the House of Correction, Coldbath Fields, for two years, and pay a fine of ten thousand pounds: and that Levy and Woolf should be further imprisoned till those fines were paid. Levy had sent large quantities of goods to India, obtained by this conspiracy, and the Court considered that from the sale of those goods he might obtain remittances to pay his fine.

John Kinnear was found guilty of conspiracy to defraud and sentenced to two years in prison⁹. His sentence expired on 15th May 1821.

⁹ *Public Ledger and Daily Advertiser* 3rd January 1820; *Liverpool Mercury* 12th September 1823

Mersey Bank

The Mersey Bank, Liverpool first came to the public attention in May 1821, when a report appeared in the local press of a Birmingham engraver employed to make three plates for printing £1 and £5 notes and bills for £15, for the Mersey Bank. When delivered of the plates, the customer absconded without paying for the work. The name of the partnership on the plates was “Morton, Hardie, Walker & Smyth” and they purportedly drew on Mess.^{rs} Willerton, Beaumont, Graham & Co. of Waterloo Place, London. On enquiries being made, neither of these firms could be found.¹⁰

In January 1822, it was reported that the Mersey Bank was insolvent. The bank responded by taking out an advertisement stating that it would pay all its notes; the £1 notes in the last week of February and the £5 notes in the last week of March and second week of April. However ...

In February 1822, the announcement shown in Figure 3 appeared in the press. It seems clear that John Doe and Richard Roe were made up names. Within days, banknotes appeared, headed ‘Liverpool Bank’, bearing the partnership name of ‘Willerton, Haynes & Co.’¹¹.

MERSEY BANK.
This respectable body have, for the present, retired from the fatigues of business, to enjoy *otium cum dignitate*; as they have declined in favour of *John Doe and Richard Roe*, who have present possession of the Bank in Church-street, where they will transact business on as respectable a footing as the late firm.

Figure 3. Press announcement



Figure 4. Liverpool Bank £1 note

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¹⁰ *Leicester Chronicle* 12 May 1821

¹¹ Willerton was also one of the partners in the Waterloo Bank, on which the Mersey Bank supposedly drew. This had also disappeared.

The announcement of the dissolution of the former partnership stated that their notes would be paid by Willerton, Haynes & Co. It seems that for a short period, Liverpool Bank notes were paid for the Mersey Bank notes until they themselves were found to be worthless.

There is no clear evidence of John Kinnear being involved with the Mersey and/or Liverpool Banks, other than it being stated as fact in the *Caledonian Mercury*, published the 28th October 1837, and other newspapers. Notes about the Mersey Bank also appear in the Home Office file concerning appeals following Kinnear's conviction in 1838.

On May 13th 1821, John Kinnear was transferred from Ilchester Gaol to Fleet debtors' prison. In April 1823, one Ellis Needham was indicted, at the Old Bailey, for 'that he, on the 5th of November 1822, did falsely make, forge, and counterfeit a certain order for payment of money... with intent to defraud John Kinnear'.¹² Within the Old Bailey trial transcript, conflicting statements are made about exactly how long Kinnear was 'within the walls'.¹³ It appears that he was within the walls for some eleven months, after which he was 'within the rules', living and conducting business at the house of a Mrs Hoare in Ludgate Hill.



Figure 5. Fleet Prison

Notes of the Mersey Bank were still circulating, and being refused for payment, in October 1822¹⁴.

Coincidentally, October 1822 was when John Kinnear was released from Fleet Prison. On his discharge record, he was recorded as having previously been known by twenty different aliases.

¹² He was acquitted

¹³ At that time, prisons were profit-making enterprises. Prisoners had to pay for food and lodging and Fleet Prison had the highest fees in England. But prisoners did not necessarily have to live within Fleet Prison itself; as long as they paid the keeper to compensate him for loss of earnings, they could take lodgings within a particular area outside the prison walls called the 'Liberty of the Fleet' or the 'Rules of the Fleet'.

¹⁴ *Morning Post* 25 October 1822

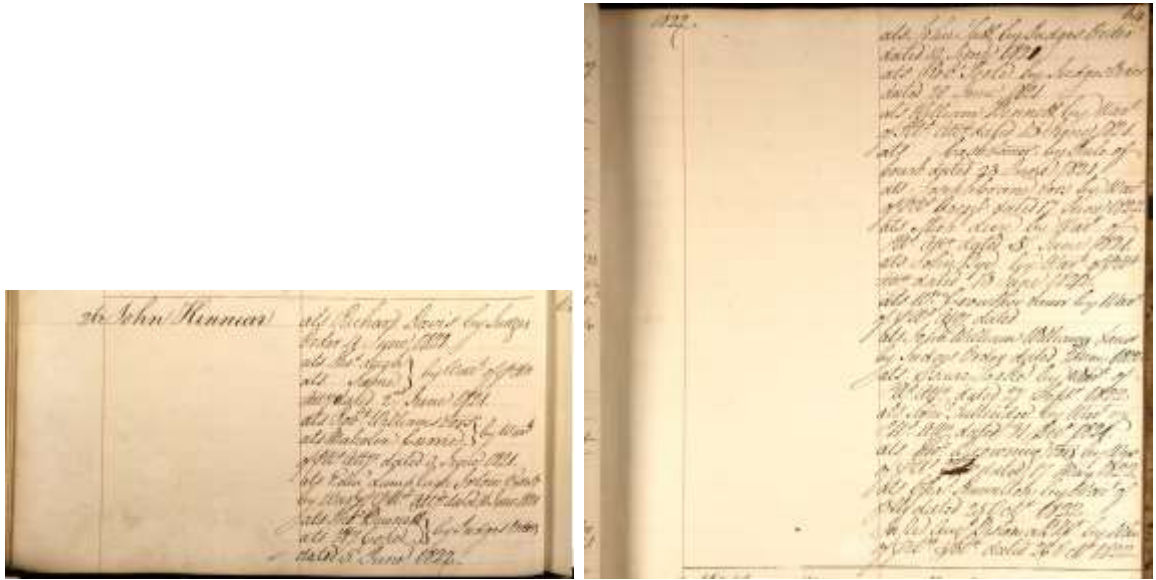


Figure 6. Fleet Prison discharge book

Brighton Royal Bank

In the autumn of 1823, Kinnear established the Brighton Royal Bank. It was, according to the address which appears on the surviving notes, located at no. 37 Old Steine (spelled 'Stejne' on the notes).

The bank issued two different £1 notes – one payable in Brighton, the other in Brighton or London.



Figure 7. Brighton Royal Bank notes

In February 1824, the bank stopped payment and John Kinnear had a commission of bankruptcy awarded against him¹⁵. Once again, there is no record of any dividends being paid.

¹⁵ London Gazette 10th February 1824

Scarborough & Yorkshire Bank

Just 5 months later, in July 1824, John Kinnear started up a new bank in Scarborough, designated the Scarborough & Yorkshire Bank¹⁶. This was despite the ongoing bankruptcy proceedings. The final examination of the bankrupt, at which the creditors would assent to or dissent from the allowance of his certificate, was originally fixed for 23rd March 1824; it was rearranged for 11th May, then adjourned until 19th June, adjourned until 14th August, and rearranged for 6th November.¹⁷ An announcement in the *London Gazette* of 20 June 1826 states that the final examination is scheduled for 24th June 1826, having been adjourned from the 26th May that year. John Kinnear was obviously not being very co-operative.



Figure 8. Scarborough & Yorkshire Bank £1 note

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The partners in the Scarborough & Yorkshire Bank were described as John Richardson 'formerly of the Mersey Bank, Liverpool'¹⁸ and John Kinnear 'late of the Brighton Royal Bank'. The announcement appeared in the classified columns of several regional papers, including the *Liverpool Mercury* which, knowing the history of these establishments and gentlemen, was less than enthusiastic (Figure 9).

¹⁶ *Lancaster Gazette* 17th July 1824

¹⁷ *London Gazette*, 10 February, 1 May, 8 June, 14 August and 23 October 1824

¹⁸ John Richardson's name was not mentioned in any of the reporting of the activities of the Mersey Bank

"MONSIEUR TONSON COME AGAIN!"

Extract from the last Circular of the Guardian Society:
 —"John Richardson, formerly of the Mersey Bank, Liverpool, and John Kinnear (late of the Brighton Royal Bank) have established a bank at Scarborough, under the firm of Richardson and Wilson, designated the Scarborough and Yorkshire Bank."

In copying this paragraph, our editorial pen as it were instinctively hesitated, thereby reminding us that there is some peril attending meddling with such tickle subjects as the *Mersey Bank*. We shall, therefore, confine ourselves to the general caution not only to Yorkshiremen but to all others to have nothing to do with paper-money of any kind, except they can thoroughly depend upon the stability of the endorsers.—*Edits. Mercury.*

Figure 9. From the Liverpool Mercury 25 June 1824

The bank does not seem to have existed for any length of time; perhaps adverse publicity scotched the scheme before it could be fully implemented. The Chartered Institute of Bankers' collection at the British Museum has one example of a £1 note.

London & Paris

When John and Georgina's fifth child was baptised, in 1827, they were recorded as living in Bayswater and John described himself as 'gentleman'.

Between the mid-1920s and early 1930s, John Kinnear seems to have split his time between London and Paris.¹⁹

In April 1832, John Kinnear was once again in Fleet Prison. His discharge record lists the alias 'John Todd'.

The *Satirist*, in June 1832, published the following:

We noticed slightly, some weeks since, a swindling establishment in the neighbourhood of Paddington; and, by such notice of it, the villain—the infamous and branded swindler—Kinnear, suspended his operations. Since then, he has again ventured in the field, and is endeavouring to circulate bills, filled up from the following blank copy, which is engraved with various mercantile devices about it:—

No. _____ RUNCORN BANKING COMPANY Post. Bill.
 £ _____, 1832.
 _____ day after date, pay to _____
 or order (without acceptance) the sum of _____
 _____, value received, as advised.
 For the RUNCORN BANKING COMPANY!
 _____, Agent,
 To Messrs. MAC GREGOR AND Co., No. 1, Paddington-green, London.

We publish this, as a caution to the public, to avoid parting with goods or money, for bills drawn after this fashion. And all those, on whom this barefaced cheat may be attempted to be practised, would perform but their duty to the public, immediately on the tendering of a bill of this kind, to give the party so offering it into custody.

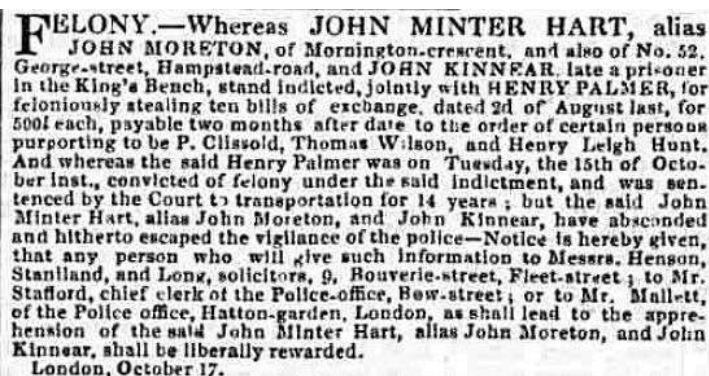
Two of the ruffians in league with Kinnear, in this scheme of robbery, are named Robert Pollock and _____ Todd; the latter an elderly man, with grey hair, and uses spectacles.

¹⁹ *Caledonian Mercury* 18 October 1837

There is no corroborating evidence for these claims, but the fact that no legal action was taken, or even threatened, for libel suggests at some truth behind them.

In October 1833, John Kinnear was indicted, along with John Minter Hart, alias John Moreton, and Henry Palmer, for stealing ten bills of exchange.

Henry Palmer was tried, convicted and sentenced to 14 years transportation. Hart and Kinnear had absconded and managed to evade the police; a reward was offered for information leading to an arrest.²⁰



FELONY.—Whereas JOHN MINTER HART, alias JOHN MORETON, of Mornington-crescent, and also of No. 52, George-street, Hampstead-road, and JOHN KINNEAR, late a prisoner in the King's Bench, stand indicted, jointly with HENRY PALMER, for feloniously stealing ten bills of exchange, dated 2d of August last, for 500l each, payable two months after date to the order of certain persons purporting to be P. Clissold, Thomas Wilson, and Henry Leigh Hunt. And whereas the said Henry Palmer was on Tuesday, the 15th of October inst., convicted of felony under the said indictment, and was sentenced by the Court to transportation for 14 years; but the said John Minter Hart, alias John Moreton, and John Kinnear, have absconded and hitherto escaped the vigilance of the police—Notice is hereby given, that any person who will give such information to Messrs. Henson, Staniland, and Long, solicitors, 9, Bouverie-street, Fleet-street; to Mr. Stafford, chief clerk of the Police-office, Bow-street; or to Mr. Mallitt, of the Police office, Hatton-garden, London, as shall lead to the apprehension of the said John Minter Hart, alias John Moreton, and John Kinnear, shall be liberally rewarded. London, October 17.

Figure 10. Reward announcement

In 1834, Kinnear was declared bankrupt in Paris and fled back to England. He was apparently using the alias Vincent and had several 'swindling bill establishments'.²¹

Sheerness & Queensborough Bank

In September 1837, a man calling himself William Charles Abrams arrived in Sheerness. He set about contacting several house agents enquiring about obtaining a house in the most desirable part of town, his intention to open a business for the discounting of bills and transmission of money. When asked "you mean a bank?" he answered "yes, but not one of issue".²²

Unable to obtain the most desirable premises before Christmas, Abrams rented a house in another part of town. He engaged several workmen to install a mahogany-topped counter, desks and a baized door with glass window, on which the word 'Bank' was to be painted. Work had barely started when a gentleman arrived from Birmingham making enquiries as to the existence of a Sheerness & Queensborough Bank. He stated that several bills had been in circulation at Birmingham, of the firm of Abrams & Co., of the Sheerness & Queensborough Bank²³.

In October 1837, four persons were arrested in Manchester for passing bills of the Sheerness & Queensborough Bank; they were John Jones, Joseph Wood, Samuel Dawes and John Kinnear, alias Roberts, alias Donaldson. Kinnear and Jones were charged with forgery and all four of them with

²⁰ *Morning Herald* 18 October 1833

²¹ *The Satirist* 5 November 1837

²² Testimony of Mr Mead, solicitor, of Sheerness, at trial of Henry Palmer reported in the *Monmouthshire Merlin* 4 November 1837

²³ There is a town in Kent, near to Sheerness, called Queenborough (without an 's')

uttering notes with intent to defraud.²⁴ When Kinnear was searched, four keys were found on him. He stated they were keys to his trunk; the police having heard that a trunk had been sent to Liverpool, went to the railway station there and, upon opening Kinnear's luggage, found bills of the Sheerness & Queensborough Bank to the amount of £8,000-£10,000. At Kinnear's address in Liverpool, they found another trunk (which the keys fitted) and discovered a copper plate and several hundred impressions of the Flintshire District Banking Company.

Trial and Transportation

There are no pictures of John Kinnear. At the time of his arrest, when he was 57 years of age, he was described as *'about 60 years of age, 5 feet 10 inches high, rather high shouldered, with dark hair, bald on the forehead, with a face somewhat weather-beaten'*.

John Kinnear was tried at the 1838 Lancashire Spring Assizes. Kinnear declined counsel and defended himself. The most damaging testimony against him came from his accomplice, John Jones, whom Kinnear called as a defence witness; his evidence unravelled under cross-examination. Jones and Kinnear were found guilty of uttering and forgery on 22nd March.

Kinnear was sentenced to transportation for life²⁵. On the 19th April, he was transferred from Kirkdale Gaol to the prison hulk ship *Justitia*, moored at Woolwich.

John Kinnear's wife, Georgiana, in May 1838, petitioned Lord John Russell 'One of Her Majesty's principal Secretaries of State', for mitigation of punishment on the grounds that:²⁶

- John Kinnear was 58 years old
- He had long been afflicted with a disease of the spine brought on by over exertion and which is likely to prove fatal by any great suffering or privation
- He has always moved in a respectable circle of society and is a man of education and great mental acquirements.

The petition was presumably refused as, a month later, a second appeal was made, addressed directly to Queen Victoria, giving his medical history (attested by Sir Astley Cooper) and adding the additional grounds:

- He had a wife and ten children
- The prosecutors had sustained no pecuniary loss by the crime of which he was accused.

In July, a third appeal was made for leniency of treatment and to permit Georgiana and six of her children to emigrate to Sydney, there to run a

²⁴ The case was reported in detail in the *Birmingham Journal* 28 October 1837

²⁵ Transportation of convicts to NSW ceased in 1840

²⁶ TNA, HO 17/101/63

school. It was stated that they were capable of teaching 'without the aid of masters, English, French and Italian, vocal and instrumental Music, Dancing and the other usual branches of modern female education'. This appeal was also unsuccessful as far as her and her children's passage to Sydney was concerned.

Kinnear was embarked on the convict ship *Earl Grey*²⁷; the *Earl Grey* departed Deptford for Woolwich on 18th July 1838. At Woolwich, 180 male convicts were embarked and at Sheerness another 110. They were delayed a day in the Downs before proceeding down the channel and remained at Spithead for four days because of wet, windy weather. The *Earl Grey* departed Portsmouth on the 8th August 1838.

The convicts were generally healthy. Catarrh, diarrhoea and a few ulcers were present in the early part of the voyage. After crossing the equator and getting into the south-easterly trade winds, there were a few cases of mild fever and, while running down the Easting between the Cape of Good Hope and New Holland, the fevers became more numerous but remained mild. The winds became unfavourable as they reached the longitude of New Holland, the sick list rose to over thirty and scurvy began to affect the men. Sickness abated after about a week when the weather improved. In all, there were only four days on which the convicts were entirely confined below deck because of bad weather. Two convicts died on the voyage.²⁸ It is not recorded as to whether John Kinnear was afforded lenient treatment.



Figure 11. Old Gaol, Port Macquarie

²⁷ The *Earl Grey* was a 571 ton (bm) sailing vessel, built at Newcastle in 1835 - she transported convicts to in 1836 and 1838 and to Van Diemen's Land in 1842

²⁸ TNA, *Royal Navy Medical Journals, 1817-1857: Medical Journal of Alexander Nisbet on the voyage of the Earl Grey in 1838*

The ship arrived in New South Wales, berthing in Port Jackson on 21st November 1838. The convicts were landed on Tuesday 27th November and Kinnear was sent to the penal colony at Port Macquarie.

Georgiana and her three youngest children, did follow John Kinnear to Port Macquarie, under their own efforts, reportedly under an alias.

On 19th August 1846, John Kinnear was granted a Ticket of Leave. A Ticket of Leave allowed convicts to work for themselves provided that they remained in a specified area, reported regularly to local authorities, and attended divine worship every Sunday, if possible; they could not leave the colony. In 1847, he was granted a Conditional Pardon²⁹. His description states him as five feet seven inches tall (three inches shorter than when he was arrested), due presumably from curvature of the spine.

John Kinnear died on the 13th June 1860 in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia and is buried in Camperdown Cemetery.

In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, England and especially London was plagued by gangs of conmen, counterfeiters, forgers and fraudsters. In 1838, in an article (in which they claim for themselves the greatest portion of merit in bringing them to dock), *The Satirist* highlighted six perpetrators³⁰ and masterminds of 'deeds of consummate villainy perpetrated with comparative impunity, treated by public opinion as coming merely within the recognised pale of civil breaches of faith, and of commercial dealing'. John Kinnear, it was stated, the oldest, the most talented and the most deeply steeped in cool calculating crime, is the last in the catalogue of villainy, whose removal from society may be regarded as the deliverance from a public pest.³¹

²⁹ A conditional pardon allowed convicts with life sentences freedom of the colony, but they were not allowed to return to the UK

³⁰ John Minter Hart, Henry Palmer, Richard Coster, George Forbes Atkinson, James Hance & John Kinnear

³¹ *The Satirist* 15 April 1838

A

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 Abrams & Co., 10
 Abrams, William Charles, 10
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Q

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Richardson, John, 8
Rob Roy, 1
Robertson, Tate & Co., 1
Roe, Richard, 5
Runcorn Banking Company, 9
Russell, Lord John, 11

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Scarborough, 8
Scarborough & Yorkshire Bank, 8
Sheerness, 10, 11, 12
Sheerness & Queensborough Bank, 10

Spithead, 12
Sydney, 11, 13

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V

Van Diemen's Land, 12

W

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Waterloo Place, 5
Weiller, Henry, 3, 4
Willerton, Beaumont, Graham & Co., 5
Willerton, Haynes & Co., 5, 6
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