

## Alfred Holton, 129, *Hashemy*

Researched by Marcia Watson

Baptism	9 August 1822, Warminster, Wiltshire
Parents	Richard Holton and Charlotte Dredge
Parent's marriage	24 March 1818, Warminster, Wiltshire.
Siblings	Benjamin (1818), Maria (1820), George (1824), Samuel (1827-1852), Mary Ann (1832)
Wife	Hannah Combes
Married	
Children	

**Parents:** Richard Holton (1783-1864) was the son of Benjamin and Mary Holton. Charlotte Dredge (1790-1840) was the daughter of Betty Dredge.

When Alfred was born, his father was a labourer, and the family resided at Common, Warminster.

In 1841, living at Brook Street, Warminster, Wiltshire were:<sup>1</sup>

Mary Holton, 90, pauper; Richard, 55, Ag lab; Maria, 15; Alfred, 15, a bone collector; George, 14, servant; Samuel, 12; Mary, 11; Ann Holton, 50, pauper

On the 1851 census, at King Street, Warminster:<sup>2</sup>

Richard Holton, 55, widower, pensioner; Samuel, 22, son, unmarried, (idiot) pauper; Mary Ann, 19, unmarried, pauper; George, 24, son, widower, labourer [married Hannah Warden in 1846, and she died in 1850]

At the Wiltshire Lent Assizes, Salisbury, on 4 March 1848:

Thomas Goodfellow, 17, and Alfred Holton, 22, were each found guilty—the former of stealing and the latter of receiving six chisels and a copper kettle, the property Thomas and Warne Browne, of Warminster. Goodfellow was sentenced to twelve months' hard labour, and Holton, the receiver, to fourteen years transportation.<sup>3</sup>

During the past week, the following convicts have been removed to the Milbank Prison, London:—Geo Smith, Newport, Alfred Holton, John Smith, Thomas Miles, Charles Caynes, Joseph Down, James Macey, George Sawyer. Rueben Waite, John Rawlings, and John Purnall. <sup>4</sup>

Alfred Holton, 22, single, cannot read or write, a labourer was received at Millbank prison on 20 April 1848, from Fisherton Anger (Salisbury County Gaol). There was no gaoler's report. He was transferred to Pentonville Prison on 6 December 1848.<sup>5</sup> Pentonville Prison record shows Alfred arrived on 9 December 1848. He was recorded at 28 years old, could neither read nor write and was a butcher. He was sent to Portland Prison on 9 August 1849 and received the same day.<sup>6</sup> At Portland Prison, Alfred's behaviour started off as good, went to very good, and then became indifferent. The Surgeon's report was always 'indifferent', until the final quarter when Alfred's health became 'good' and behaviour 'very good'. He was reported three times for irregularity, on 2 February, 2 April and 6 May 1850, and disposed of as in Report

<sup>1</sup> HO 107/1187/10, p14

<sup>2</sup> HO 107/1843, p90-1

<sup>3</sup> Wiltshire Independent, 16 March 1848, p3

<sup>4</sup> Wiltshire Independent, 27 April 1848, p3

<sup>5</sup> HO24/4

<sup>6</sup> HO24/16, p105

Book and Misconduct Book.<sup>7</sup> He boarded the *Hashemy* on 19 July 1850 for the voyage to Western Australia.<sup>8</sup>

During the voyage Alfred was placed on the sick list. His surname has been transcribed as Halton by the Archives in England.

Folio 3: Alfred Halton, aged 29, prisoner; sick or hurt, psora; put on sick list, 13 September 1850, discharged 21 September 1850 well.

Folio 5: Alfred Halton, aged 29, prisoner; sick or hurt, catarrhus/ cynanche; put on sick list, 15 October 1850, discharged 22 October 1850 well.

Six other convicts also contacted Psora and one was written up in the Surgeon's Journal. It gives an idea of what treatment Alfred received:

*Psora. Case 7. James Nation about 59 Prisoner put upon the Sick list 12 September and discharged 26 September, 1850.*

*.... The eruptions upon this man which is principally situate upon the upper and lower extremities exhibiting unequivocal marks of that Disease, ordered the following.*

*13 September 1860. Complains of general uneasiness intense heat of skin and constant itching increased by the application of the treatment, bowels frequently relieved.*

*16th. less itching and heat of skin. Continue treatment*

*19th. Eruption decreasing. Continue Remedies*

*23rd. Eruptions entirely disappeared. The above case is scarcely worth recording were it not that six others occurred about the same period all in persons in the habit of attending the stock, but in no other persons, altogether these men were Messing and sleeping in different Parts of the Prison, subjected to similar treatment and discharged cured.*

Convicts with Psora: David Sutherland, 87; Joseph Trimmer, 125; Charles Ware, 138; John Jennings, 137; Alfred Halton [Holton], 129, James Nation, 169.<sup>9</sup>

Alfred's description on arrival at Fremantle in October 1850 was:

129, Alfred Holton, 29, 5'9¼", light brown hair, blue eyes, an oval face, fair complexion, a scar on the chest from cancer, labourer and single.<sup>10</sup>

General Register:

129. Alfred Holton, 27, married, a farrier, Church of England, went to Sunday School but could not read or write. His father, Richard Holton, was a coal carrier of Warminster Common near Warminster in Wiltshire.

Attended Divine Service? Went once every Sunday

Received Sacrament? Never

Habits? Sober habits; usually attentive to work

Intellect? Imperfect

State of Mind? Well disposed and means to be careful with his earnings

Knowledge, Secular? Very limited

Knowledge, Religious? Very limited

Alleged Cause of Crime? Ignorant of goods being stolen which he purchased

Name of Person referred to for Character, &c. Mr Timothy Goodman, lawyer of Warminster; John Ravenhill Esq, Warminster.<sup>11</sup>

Alfred suffered ill health and appears on Casual Sick Registers at Fremantle.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Portland Prison. Governor's Journal, 24 November 1848 to 9 August 1850. PCOM 2/354

<sup>8</sup> HO 08/101-105

<sup>9</sup> ADM 100/32/6, p15-6

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

<sup>11</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 R21A

<sup>12</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 CS1

Day	Name	Condition	Treatment
30 October 1850	Alfred Holton	Bad chest	Blister, cough mixture
31 October 1850	A Holton	Bad chest	Continue mixture
1 November 1850	Alfred Holton	Pain in chest	Squill pills
2 November 1850	Holton	Pain in limbs	Pilul scilla
4 November 1850	Alfred Holton	Pain in ankle	Continue pills, .....
15 November 1850	A Holton		Pury draught
25 November 1850	A Holton	Eruption	Puls: Sulph
5 December 1850	Alfred Holton	Diarrhoea	Chalk mixture
16 December 1850	Alf Holton	Headache	Op: medicine
11 February 1851	Alfred Holton		
23 February 1851	Alfred Holton	Boil	Poultice
24 February 1851	Al Holton	Boil	Poultice
25 February 1851	Alf Holton	Boil	Continue poultice
27 February 1851	Alf Holton	Scolled elbow	Ointment iodine
28 February 1851	Alf Holton		Poultice
1 March 1851	Alf Holton		
2 March 1851	Alfred Holton	Boil	Continue poultice
3 March 1851	Alfred Holton	Abscess	Continue poultice
4 March 1851	Alfred Holton	Abscess	Poultice
5 March 1851	Holton Alfred		Open abscess, poultice
7 March 1851	Holton Alfred	Abscess	Continue poultice
8 March 1851	Holton Alfred	Abscess in neck	Poultice
9 March 1851	Holton Alfred	Abscess	Continue
10 March 1851	Holton Alfred	Bad leg	Continue Oint: iodine
11 March 1851	Holton Alfred		Continue ointment
15 March 1851	Holton Alfred		
19 March 1851	Holton Alfred	Swelled glands	... Iodine .....
20 March 1851	Holton Alfred	Swelled glands	Continue ointment
21 March 1851	Holton Alfred	Abscess in neck	Poultice
22 March 1851	Holton Alfred	Abscess	Continue poultice
23 March 1851	Holton Alfred		Continue poultice
25 Mar 1851	Holton Alfred		Oint: Iodine
26 Mar 1851	Holton Alfred		Continue
30 Mar 1851	Holton Alfred	Pain in shoulder	Liniment
1 Apr 1851	Holton Alfred	Boil	Plummer pills, poultice
26 Apr 1851	Holton Alfred		Liniment
13 May 1851	Holton Alfred		Aper: Med

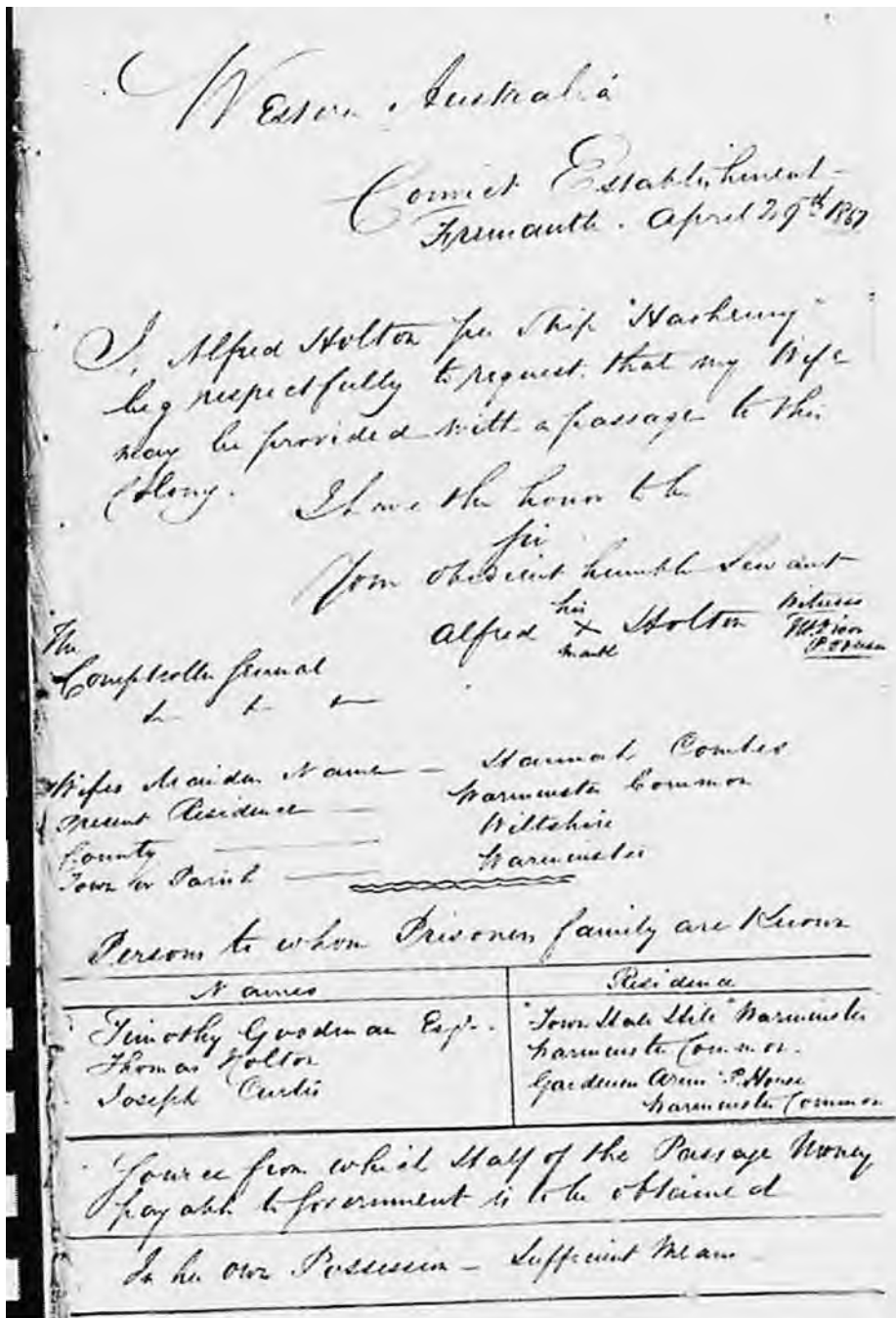
*Comptroller General Office, Fremantle 30 April, 1851.*

*Sir,*

*I have the honor to request that the accompanying Petition from Alfred Holton, who will receive a Ticket-of-Leave, on 26 August 1851, may be forwarded for the favourable consideration of Earl Grey.<sup>13</sup>*

The accompanying Petition, looks like the year has been inserted later. Alfred died before 1867!

<sup>13</sup> SROWA, AU WA S2941 cons36 214, item 335



No marriage has been found for Alfred Holton to Hannah Combes or an Alfred to a Hannah in Wiltshire. Hannah has not been found on any census.

Alfred received his ticket of leave on 26 August 1851. He did not receive a Conditional Pardon.<sup>14</sup> He worked in the service of:

Mr Cope, Guildford on 29 August 1851

Arthur Pead, Perth on 2 October 1852

W Williams, Herdsman Lake on 5 May 1853<sup>15</sup>

In 1852 at Fremantle: A. Holton, in the street after 10 o'clock p.m; fined 5s, and 2s 6d expenses.<sup>16</sup>

In 1856, Alfred received a sentence that included hard labour at Toodyay.<sup>17</sup> Convicted on 11 January 1856

<sup>14</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 R21B

<sup>15</sup> Rica Erickson's notes. From Police Department, Vol 1.

<sup>16</sup> *Inquirer* (Perth, WA : 1840 - 1855), 13 October 1852, p3

<sup>17</sup> SROWA Acc128/38 - 39, 29 January 1856

for refusing to work and abusive language. Received 6 months hard labour. Discharged on 16 October 1856.<sup>18</sup>

Casual Sick list, Fremantle.<sup>19</sup>

H.L. = hard labour, usually meant working in the quarry.

Date	Name	Condition	Treatment
22 Jul 1856	Holton Alf <b>H.L.</b>	Cough at night	Dover powder at bedtime
24 July 1856	Holton Alf <b>H.L.</b>	Ear ache	...??
6 August 1856	Holton Alf <b>H.L.</b>	Boils on face	
19 August 1856	Holton Alfred <b>H.L.</b>	Slight cough	
29 August 1856	Holton Alf <b>H.L.</b>	Want of sleep	Dover powder at bedtime
4 September 1856	Holton Alfred <b>H.L.</b>	Chronic cough	
15 September 1856	Holton Alfred <b>H.L.</b>		Nil
30 Sep 1856	Holton Alf <sup>d</sup> <b>H.L.</b>		To request repetition of cough pills

Then on 27 February 1857, he was sentenced to 6 months hard labour for threatening to abscond and create a disturbance. Received from Guildford on 2 March 1857. Discharged on 21 June 1858 to ticket of leave.

Date	Name	Condition	Where working
24 July 1857	Houlton Alf <sup>d</sup> <b>H.L.</b>	Vertigo	Water party
11 August 1857	Houlton Alfred <b>H.L.</b>	Vertigo	Quarry
25 August 1857	Houlton Alfred <b>H.L.</b>	Constipation	Quarry
2 November 1857	Houlton Alfred <b>H.L.</b>	Chronic chest disease	Quarry, admitted to hospital

10 August 1857; Reported sick and detained overnight for observation

7 November 1857. Transferred from his cell, again, to hospital.

Reported for highly insubordinate & violent conduct & language to the Surgeon of the establishment, whilst a patient in Hospital (in a sane state of mind) – the Compounder has every reason from the repeated acts & language he has lately indulged in, to presume he is labouring under mental aberration.

The Compounder begs to observe that he is borne out in this idea by the expressed opinion on the 20 October of the Assistant Colonial Surgeon then doing duty in the Infirmary.

10 November 1857. Alfred who was in hospital was "again violent in his language, threatening to kill himself if not discharged from hospital".<sup>20</sup>

4 December 1857. Sent to North Fremantle.

14 January 1858: reported sick at 2.45pm, and re-joined his division at 6.60pm

1 February 1858: reported sick with palpitation and debility. Recommended for light labour.

2 April 1858: Alfred, aged 33, was admitted to the prison hospital with general debility. He was discharged

24 April 1858. He was "pallid and enfeebled, very disorientated and restless". (see following medical record)

21 June 1858: discharged

Men who have been ordered a change of diet, as out patients, or recommended on medical grounds for an alteration in discipline by the Surgeon.

1 February 1858	Houlton Alfred		Light labour
2 May 1858	Holton Alfred	Pudding diet	Discontinued 4 May

### Medical Record:

129 Alfred Holton, age 33, R.C.P. (re-convicted prisoner)

<sup>18</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 R10, p 44

<sup>19</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 CS3

<sup>20</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 M2

Millbank 9 months

Portland 11 months

Arrived Oct 1850 on '*Ashmee*'.

2 April 1858: complains of pains in body and limbs with inability to do his work.

Is now in a severe rigor, T(ongue) moist coated with a pasty fur no appetite but is thirsty & nauseated, was restless and unable to sleep last night. Has been subject to a cough (a slight one) for 12 years. Was in his usual health till 12 o'clock last night when he was suddenly attacked with nausea & vomiting, followed this morning by pain in the head & limbs shivering & rigors. The breathing is hurried and jerkin and he has a peculiarity in his mode of speech as if his utterance was continually cut short by a spasm in the air tubes (however he says this is nat(ural) to him) There is impaired resonance all down the right side of chest anterior and posterior no moist sounds, no bronchial breathing but there is almost total absence of vesicular murmur suppressed & very muffled breathing infer<sup>as</sup>. A faint systolic murmur is audible at base of Heart (most probably the whole of right lung is adherent). Has been in the Colony 8 years and though frequently ailing, has only been laid up about 1 month during that time, he states that he was stout when he 1st arrived in the Colony, now he is attenuated with a pinched & anxious expression. Extras allowed – Arrowroot. Spoon diet.

3rd: Spelt pretty well, aspect is sallow anaemic & anxious. Sk(in) hotter than nat(ural) harsh, P mod vol..... T(ongue) moist pasty, has less thirst & nausea, but very little appetite. B(owel) open many times yesterday & twice this morning. Extras allowed – beef tea.

4th: feels better, aspect improved. U(rine) nat(ural) T.G. acid reaction

5<sup>th</sup>: Half diet

7th: Chest examined again today, there is a..... absence of respiratory murmur throughout more especially on the right side, he says he has been asthmatic for 12 years & I have no doubt has had Pleurisy once or more, he is thin, anaemic & enfeebled, he complains much of hunger. Full diet.

16th: Much the same, 19th ditto

24th: aspect is now less anxious & downcast than on admission but he is still pallid, attenuated & has a most unhealthy look. He is extremely dissatisfied at being detained in Hospital & is discharged chiefly on that account. Discharged

4 August: Readmitted.

Sent down from Guildford yesterday stated to be of unsound mind, he has been out on his ticket 6 weeks: he is not altered in appearance since note of 14 April & feels exactly in the same state of health. He complains only of debility, has a good appetite, sleeps well & is free from pain.

He is wonderfully anaemic. Heart's system is regular sounds loud, harsh systolic murmur at base, audible high up in the aorta, but not in the pulmonary artery - distress on percussion obtained down in the anterior part of left Chest where there is deficiency of respiratory murmur the breathing however is very feeble throughout.

24 April 1858: Discharged to Freshwater Bay Invalid Depot. <sup>21</sup>

At some stage in 1858, Alfred was sent to Guildford Depot:

3 August 1858: Received from Guildford into the prison hospital with general debility. He was discharged on 23 August, and probably to Freshwater Bay Depot. Alfred was a ticket of leave man. <sup>22</sup>

9 September: Received back in prison from Freshwater Bay.

15 September: discharged to ticket of leave.

18 November: refused a Conditional Pardon on account of his reconvictions.

<sup>21</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 M4-6, folio 138, 149

<sup>22</sup> SROWA Acc 1156 M3

**Death.** Alfred Holton died 27 January 1859 of anasarca; he was 36 years old.

Anasarca is not a disease; it is a symptom or result of a medical condition. It is a severe and generalized form of oedema with widespread subcutaneous tissue swelling.<sup>23</sup> Death registered as Alfred Hutton.

Possibly buried at Alma and Skinner Street cemetery, but there are no records between 1856 and 1865.

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<sup>23</sup> SROWA Acc 128/38 - 39