

## Henry Hutchinson, 126, *Hashemy*

Researched by Marcia Watson

Baptism	~1830, Sutterton, Lincolnshire
Parents	John Hutchinson and <i>Sarah</i>
Parent's marriage	
Siblings	
Wife	
Married	
Children	

Henry Hutchinson said he was born about 1830 near Sutterton, Lincolnshire, and his father was called John.

In 1841, living at Old workhouse, Algarkirk near Sutterton, Lincolnshire were:<sup>1</sup>

John Hutchinson, 56, ag lab; Sarah, 51; Henry, 12; Elizabeth, 10; Sarah, 8

By 1851, Henry's parents were living back at Sutterton, Lincolnshire: <sup>2</sup>

John Hutchinson, 66, receives weekly relief, is a farmer born at Sutterton.

Sarah, 64, pauper receiving weekly relief, born at Sutterton

At the Sessions-house, Boston in October 1846:

Two young men named Henry Hutchinson and Thomas Greenfield, both of Sutterton, were also committed for trial at the next assizes, charged with having set fire to a straw stack in Algarkirke, the property of Mr Lawrence of Sutterton, victualler.<sup>3</sup>

A newspaper reported: Fire at Algarkirke.—About a quarter before seven o'clock on Saturday night last, a stack of mustard and bean straw, belonging to Mr Thomas Lawrence, standing on his close in Algarkirke, was discovered to be on fire.

Assistance was procured, but it was, notwithstanding, entirely destroyed nine o'clock. About ten o'clock the same night, a young man named Henry Hutchinson was apprehended by John Muse, the constable; and during the same evening, another lad, named Thomas Greenfield, both of Sutterton, was delivered into his custody by Mr Lawrence.

Whilst the prisoners were together, Hutchinson said Greenfield is the worst of this, and the other said Hutchinson held the box whilst I struck the matches off and set it on fire. It also appears that Greenfield went to Mr Lawrence's house on the night the stacks were fired and said to him, "I set fire to the stack, I hope you will forgive me", and he shortly afterwards gave him into custody. Both prisoners were committed to trial at the next assizes.<sup>4</sup>

In March 1847, the following prisoners, for trial at the approaching Lincoln assizes, were removed from Boston Gaol to Lincoln in the packet, in the custody of Capt. Nicholson, on Tuesday last: Henry Hutchinson and Thomas Greenfield, for incendiarism at Sutterton.....<sup>5</sup>

A few days later, the Lincoln Assizes:

Arson at Algarkirk. Henry Hutchinson, 16, and Thos. Greenfield, 17, pleaded guilty to the charge of having on the 17 October set fire to stack straw, the property of Mr Thos. Lawrence.— Fifteen years transportation each.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> HO107/606/1, p10

<sup>2</sup> HO107/2098, p62

<sup>3</sup> Lincolnshire Chronicle, 23 October 1846, p3

<sup>4</sup> Lincolnshire Chronicle, 23 October 1846, p3

<sup>5</sup> Lincolnshire Chronicle, 05 March 1847, p6

<sup>6</sup> Stamford Mercury, 12 March 1847, p2

## Petitions

1. 1848 [Sir James Duke M.P. written across top, not part of petition]

We, the undersigned Inhabitants of Sutterton in the County of Lincoln, including the prosecutor after named earnestly recommend to your Lordship favourable consideration the case of Henry Hutchinson and Thomas Greenfield convicted at the last Lincolnshire Assizes of Arson and each sentenced to fifteen years transportation

The age of one Prisoner is but 16 years and the other 17 years and both Prisoners have lived in Sutterton all their lives with their Parents and have always borne excellent characters.

The property consumed consisted of a stack of bean straw and mustard stumps and did not exceed in value five pounds The greater part of the stack had been on the Prosecutors premises for several years and stood in the centre of a field where it was used as a shelter for cattle.

We are given to understand that no ill feeling existed on the part of the Prisoners towards the Prosecutor and the act of the Prisoners we attribute to wanton mischief rather than to any of those bad motives which usually induce the Commission of the offence of arson and this view is borne out by the subsequent conduct of the Prisoners who immediately after the offence committed confessed to having done it.

We earnestly beg therefore that your Lordships will take the case into your favourable consideration and that you will commute the sentence to such term of imprisonment as your Lordship thinks will meet our case.

Signed by about 110 people, including the prosecutor.

Cover: 195/5

Thomas Greenfield, Henry Hutchinson, Lincoln Assizes, March 1847, Arson, 15 years transportation

Gaol Report - character not known

Nil G.G.

Presented by Sir James Duke MP

Answered 1 May 1848

The prisoners are stated to have borne good character & to have had no malicious motive for setting fire to the prosecutor's property which was of small value. Mitigation & prayed for on account of their youth.

2. Received 30 October 1849

To the Right Honourable Sir George Grey Secretary of State for the Home Department

The humble Petition of John Hutchinson of Sutterton in the Parish of Holland in the County of Lincoln, cottager

Sheweth

That your Petitioner is the father of six children now alive, whom he has constantly endeavoured "to bring up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord", yet, notwithstanding such endeavour he regrets to say That one of his sons named Henry Hutchinson and an accomplice Thomas Greenfield, an orphan, have been led, through the demoralizing agency of evil communications, to the commission of a crime for which they are now undergoing the sentence of transportation for Fifteen years.

That though a punishment so severe would argue the perpetration of an enormous offence your Petitioner submits that it was not of so heinous a nature as to render them and serving of their Sovereign's clemency, and he earnestly hopes Your Honour will be pleased on reading the following statement to recommend them to the merciful consideration of the Crown.

That on 17 October 1846 the criminals aged 16 and 17 years respectively, without malice aforethought but solely through boyish mischief did set fire to a heap of mustard and bean straw of trifling value, belonging to Mr Thomas Lawrence of Sutterton aforesaid, publican, standing in the middle of a field, and quite apart from any stacks or other combustible matter whatsoever.

That the desire to witness a blaze or fire was their sole motive for the act, and this desire was generated by having been present a few nights previously at a fire of a precisely similar description of stubble which the owner thereof was burning for its ashes.

That at the time of the trial of the unfortunate criminals at the Lent Assizes for the County of Lincoln A.D. 1847 it was the generally expressed opinion that a slight punishment only would have been inflicted and have sufficed for the vindication of the majesty of the law. Your Petitioner in common with others entertaining that opinion and relying thereon did not deem it necessary in his narrow circumstances to employ counsel for their defence, and the criminals themselves, ignorant of the critical position in which

they stood pleaded Guilty to the charge of maliciously and feloniously setting fire to the said Mustard and Bean stubble.

That your Petitioner seeks not to call in question the humanity of Sir J Patterson the presiding judge on this occasion, but he with all humility submits, that the punishment under the circumstance mentioned, & which were not brought under the notice of the Court, is excessive. Your petitioner therefore hopes that this Application for a mitigation of the sentence, supported as it is by the recommendation of the prosecutor himself and the gentry of Sutterton and its vicinity will lead Your Honour to compassionate the convicts who have been incarcerated Three Years from the date hereof and are now in Portland Prison and induce you to recommend them to the Mercy of our Gracious Queen to restore them to the homes of their sorrowing and afflicted friends. And Your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever Pray

John Hutchinson

Sutterton, 19 October 1849

I, Thomas Lawrence of Sutterton the prosecutor in the cause of Regina V. Henry Hutchinson and Thomas Greenfield, who were tried convicted and sentenced to 15 years' transportation at the Lent Assizes for the County of Lincoln A.D. 1847, on the charge of maliciously and feloniously setting fire to a heap of Mustard and Bean stubble, my property, do hereby declare my firm conviction that the criminals were not maliciously disposed towards me, but committed the crime solely through boyish mischief; I therefore concur in the prayer of the annexed Petition of John Hutchinson the father of one of the convicts and beg you will be pleased to recommend them as fitting objects for her Majesty's pardon.

Thomas Lawrence

19 October, 1849

We whose names are hereunder written to hereby certify the truth of the statement contained in the annexed petition of John Hutchinson, and respectfully request that its prayer may be complied with.

19 October, 1849

Signed by about 112 people, including Thomas Lawrence.

Cover: Thomas Greenfield, Henry Hutchinson

2nd application

As below

Nil H.W

Answered 2 November 1849.<sup>7</sup>

Henry Hutchinson, 16, single, can read and write imperfectly, convicted at Lincoln Assizes on 6 March 1847 of arson and sentenced to 15 years transportation. He was received at Millbank Prison, from Lincoln, on 26 March 1847. About six months later, Henry was transferred sent to Wakefield prison on 18 September 1847. He was then transferred to Portland Prison on 20 December 1848.

While at Portland Prison, Henry was reported twice for irregularity, on 25 January and 20 February 1850, and disposed of as in Report Book and Misconduct Book.<sup>8</sup> He boarded the *Hashemy* on 19 July 1850 for the voyage to Western Australia.<sup>9</sup>

During the voyage, from the Surgeon's journal:

Folio 2: Henry Hutcheson, aged 19, prisoner; sick or hurt, dyspepsia; put on sick list, 17 August 1850, discharged 23 August 1850 well.

More details of his treatment:

Folios 18-19: case no 10, Henry Hutchinson, aged 19; prisoner; sick or hurt, dyspepsia, belonged to Littleton, Lincolnshire, sentenced to fifteen years for arson, embarked on board in tolerable good health, his complexion sallow, frame somewhat attenuated and an anxious expression of features indicative of

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<sup>7</sup> HO18/195

<sup>8</sup> Portland Prison. Governor's Journal, 24 November 1848 to 9 August 1850. PCOM 2/354

<sup>9</sup> HO24/3; HO2/14; HO8/105

impaired functions if not an organic disease. At presented experienced loss of appetite, languor and general debility; put on sick list 17 August 1850, discharged 23 August 1850 well.<sup>10</sup>

On arrival at Fremantle in October 1850, Henry was described as:

126. Henry Hutchinson, 21, 5' 6", brown hair, hazel eyes, an oval face, fair complexion, stout, anchor and tree on the right arm and HH on left arm, groom and single.<sup>11</sup>

Henry appears on the Casual sick list at Fremantle Prison.<sup>12</sup>

		Complaint	Treatment
Hutchinson Henry	2 February 1851	Bad eyes	Unreadable
Hutchinson Henry	17 February 1851	Bad eye	Lotio argent: Nilvat?
Hutchinson Henry	21 February 1851	Diarrhoea	Chalk mixture

A Ticket of leave was issued to Henry on 26 February 1851. As a labourer, he was assigned to Mr W Clifton Esq in the Wellington district. His rate of pay was £18 per annum.<sup>13</sup>

A Conditional Pardon was granted on 11 December 1854.<sup>14</sup>

No further trace found of Henry Hutchinson in Western Australia has been found.

Henry may have gone to South Australia in February 1855, leaving from Port Leschenault (Bunbury). He was working in the Wellington District a few years earlier.

Arriving in Adelaide on 2 March 1855 – The brig Champion, 226 tons, Jack, master, from Port Leschenault 9 February. Passengers – Mrs Hall and 3 children, in cabin; Mr and Mrs Cheil, Messrs J Abrahams, Wm Luke, J McDonald, Hutchinson, and J Milne, in the steerage.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>10</sup> ADM 101/32/6/1-6

<sup>11</sup> SROWA Acc 128/40-43

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

<sup>13</sup> Further correspondence on the on the subject of Convict Discipline and Transportation. Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of her Majesty. 30 April 1852, p196

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

<sup>15</sup> South Australian Register (Adelaide, SA : 1839 - 1900), 3 March 1855, p2

### Thomas Greenfield.

Thomas was in Millbank, Wakefield and Portand Prisons with Henry Hutchinson. He is on the list of petition, same number as Henry Hutchinson. A separate petition not found.

He received a free pardon on 25 April 1851.<sup>16</sup>

The following year, **1852**: Arson at Sutterton.

Thomas Greenfield, 21, John Sedon, 22, were indicted for having, on 8 September last, at Sutterton, in the parts of Holland, feloniously set fire to a stack of straw, the property of William Fisher.—The prisoner Greenfield refused to plead; Sedon pleaded not guilty.

Mr Adams prosecuted; the prisoners were undefended.

Caroline Fisher, the wife of W. Fisher, stated that on 8 September, she saw the two prisoners together, a short distance from her house, they had made a fire and were cooking potatoes. Greenfield asked for relief which was refused. At eight the same evening Mr Hebb called her attention to the straw stack, which was then blazing, and which was eventually entirely consumed. An active search for the incendiaries was instituted, and they were taken by Strapps, the Sutterton constable, at Boston; whilst being conveyed to a place of detention, and during their incarceration, the prisoners made various statements, having a tendency to criminate themselves, most of which were denied the prisoners, on their re-statement by the constable and the keeper of the lock-up-house, at Boston.—The jury found both prisoners Guilty.

A former conviction was proved against Greenfield, who, at the Lincoln Lent Assizes, 1847, was found guilty of a similar offence, but who, in April 1851, was set at liberty before the termination of his sentence, in consequence of ill health. The prisoners were sentenced to 15 years transportation.<sup>17</sup>

31 May 1852, petitioned again (index). He was in Leicester gaol and was then sent to Bethlem on 4 June 1852.<sup>18</sup>

Admitted to Bethlem on 7 June 1852. Their records say:

Nothing is known about him or his history except he was brought from Lincoln to Leicester in the same state he is in now silent, dull and vacant. — he has not spoken a word since he has been at Leicester (about a month), and will not speak now but eats and drinks, will dress himself. It is stated that he has great fears of being pushed into fire. His mother or father are said to have died in an asylum.

4 May, 1853. The latter end of last year he was very reserved, silent, and suspicious, rarely answering a question except evasively, and extremely ill tempered if at all put out in any of his ways - he carried out his ill feeling to people who annoyed him, for days and weeks and was then insolent if addressed. For about 3 months after his admission into this Hospital he was perfectly silent and apparently idiotic, but he has since stated that this stupidity was assumed. For the last 3 weeks he has been engaged in the Gallerys while washing and painting for which he has had little extra's and he has become very industrious and much better tempered in consequence. Removed to Salisbury on 6 May 1853.<sup>19</sup>

1867. Thomas was on the *Stirling Castle* hulk, then Dartmoor Prison as an invalid. On 25 February 1867 he was sent to Millbank for discharge.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> HO8/108.

<sup>17</sup> Lincolnshire Chronicle, 05 March 1852, p3

<sup>18</sup> HO19/12

<sup>19</sup> Bethlem, Criminal Patient Admission Registers 1816-1864, ARD-01, p38; Admission Registers 1683-1902, ARA-07, p243; Incurable & Criminal Patient Casebooks 1778-1864, CBC-03, p33

<sup>20</sup> HO8/170 and HO8/171