

Walter Lovedin, 364, *Mermaid*

Researched by Marcia Watson

Name variation: Loveden, Lovdin, Lovden

Baptism	1 April 1832, Huddersfield, Yorkshire
Parents	Thomas Loveden and Mary Backhouse
Parent's marriage	12 October 1828, Kirkheaton, Yorkshire
Siblings	Edwin (1829-1846), <i>Tom (1833-1833)?</i> , Alfred (1838-1845)

Walter's father was a labourer. Initially, the family appears to have lived at Kirkheaton; by the time Walter was born, they had moved to Huddersfield about 4km away.

His mother, Mary Lovedin, died 14 November 1840 at Shore Head, Huddersfield, aged 37, wife of Thomas Lovedin, labourer, dropsy, Thomas present at death. Mary buried 17 November 1840, aged 37, from Ramsden Street.

Four months later, Thomas Lovden married Hannah Riley on 14 March 1841 at Kirkheaton.¹

The 1841 census, Top Side Shore Head, Huddersfield, Yorkshire. ²

Thomas Lovdin, 35, labourer, not born in the county

Hannah, 30, born in the county

Edwin 12; Walter 10, Alfred 4, all born in the county

By 1846, all Walter's siblings had died. Then in June 1847:

Huddersfield. At the Magistrates' Office, on Tuesday last, four young lads, named Jonathan Milner, James Balderson, Walter Loveden and Wm Siddall, were brought up by Townsend, charged with breaking through the roof of the warehouse of Mr Abel Slee, confectioner, in Buxton-road, during the night of yesterday week, and stealing thence seven pounds weight of mint shells, and some bread. The evidence against the first being clear, he was committed for trial at the Sessions. The other three were remanded. Only Milner faced the court. ³

At the Quarter Sessions, held in Leeds, 18 October 1848.

Walter Loveden, 17, late of Wakefield, labourer. In the parish of Huddersfield, on 23 September 1848, stole one cotton shirt value 2/-, the goods and chattels of James Townsend Wigney. On the same day, stole one cotton shirt value 2/- the goods and chattels of Mary Ann Rhodes. Pleads guilty, one calendar month hard labour.

The newspaper said Walter had stolen the shirt from Mr Wigney at Almondbury about 3km from Huddersfield. ⁴

Walter was hardly out of gaol when he was in trouble again.

Huddersfield. On Thursday, Joseph L. Liversedge, G. Beaumont, Wm Denton, Walter Loveden and Joseph Hirst, were placed in the dock at the Guildhall charged with robbing the warehouse of Mr Adam Holdroyd, grocer, New-street. The prisoners were observed by Thomas Kitson, about seven on Sunday morning, to break open the window shutter, then break a pane in the window, which is grated with iron bars, about seven inches asunder, when one of them put a hook through the pane, and pulled out a parcel, containing 12 lbs of sugar, weighed up in pounds. They unloosed it and began to take out the sugar, by the pound at once; the other pulled out some half-pounds of soap in the same way. The prisoners fled, but were known, and being pursued, were found in the act of emptying the sugar into a jar; the soap, eleven and a half pounds, lying on the table. The prisoners

¹ Fathers were John Lovden and Joshua Riley.

² The National Archives (TNA) UK, HO107/1275/4

³ Leeds Intelligencer, 5 June 1847, p7

⁴ Leeds Intelligencer, 21 October 1848, p8

were also further charged with stealing a quantity of shirts, smocks &c the property of Mr J Rayner, clothes dealer, King Street. Some of the articles were found at Beaumont's house, some on the prisoners' backs, and others by the pawn tickets pledged with Mr Hadfield in Castlegate. All were committed for trial at the quarter sessions.⁵

Wakefield Sessions, 3 January 1849.

Walter Loveden late of Wakefield, labourer, George Beaumont, Joseph Hirst and Joseph Lister Liversedge all of the same place and labourers did on 12 December 1848, at Huddersfield, break and enter the warehouse of Adam Oldroyd and steal 24 pounds weight of sugar value 10/-, 5 pounds weight of soap value 2/-, the goods and chattels of Charles Oldroyd. Charged with stealing the same from Adam Oldroyd.

W. Loveden pleaded guilty, to be transported for 7 years.

Beaumont and Hirst acquitted. Liversedge pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 6 months.

Second charge: Joseph Lister Liversedge late of Wakefield, labourer, William Denton, Walter Loveden and George Beaumont, all of the same place and labourers. On 28 November 1848 stole two linen frocks value 5/-, two shirts value 2/- and four linen slops value 10/- the goods and chattels of James Rayner.

Liversedge pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 3 months hard labour. Walter and the others acquitted.

The Prison Registers show that Walter Loveden, 17, single, read and write imperfectly, factory boy, was convicted 3 January 1849 at Wakefield of warehouse breaking after a previous felony. He was sentenced to 7 years, as he had been previously convicted twice. Walter was received at Millbank Prison on 23 February 1849 from York Castle. A month later, on 22 March 1849, he was transferred to Parkhurst Prison. He boarded *Mermaid* on 28 December 1850 for the voyage to Western Australia.⁶

Portsmouth, 6 January 1851. The *Mermaid* convict-ship was detained in port due to measles, which had broken out among the children. She sailed on 10 January but had to put into Torbay on 16 January due to bad weather.⁷ *Mermaid* finally set sail on 22 January, arriving at Fremantle on 13 May 1851.

Just after arriving at Fremantle, *Mermaid* rode out the heavy gale of Monday night and Tuesday in Gage's Roads, without dragging her anchors in the slightest degree; her draught of water prevented her entering Owen's anchorage until light. The landing of the convicts and pensioners was completed on Wednesday.⁸

On arrival, Walter was assigned number 364, and a physical description recorded.

364. Walter Lovedin, 19, 5'6½", dark brown hair, grey eyes, long face, fresh complexion, deeply pock-pitted, a groom and single.

The Chaplain at Fremantle Prison interviewed some of the early convicts arriving in Western Australia.

Walter Loveden. 19 years old, single, he worked in the Wooltrade (a slabber), is Methodist, went to National School, can read and write pretty well, said his father, Thomas Loveden, confectioner, lives in Dale Street, Huddersfield.

Had left off attending for some time before his committal. Never received the sacraments.

A little inclined to drink; usually attentive at work.

Sound intellect.

⁵ Manchester Times, 9 December 1848, p7

⁶ TNA UK, HO24/41; HO24/15; PCOM2/29

⁷ Shipping and Mercantile Gazette, 07 January 1851, p3; Dundee, Perth, and Cupar Advertiser, 17 January 1851

⁸ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 23 May 1851, p2

He is hopeful; from subsequent I would modify this term

Limited secular and religious knowledge.

Cause of crime was drink.

Character reference: Mr Joseph Schofield, Woollen Manufacturer, Huddersfield and Mr Joseph Pearson, Woollen Manufacturer, Huddersfield.

Comments by the Chaplain: Professes much indifference to and unbelief in the Christian Religion. I think through disappointment in his expectations of liberty & c. on arrival here, which he says the Chaplain at Parkhurst, Mr Smith, falsely held out to him. I find his Religious attainment was never much a concern to him. I trust my conversation and counsel may be entertained by him.

Four books delivered to the prisoner from time to time. ⁹

Walter received a Ticket of Leave on 28 August 1851, and his sentence expired on 3 January 1856.

No further trace has been found of Walter Loveden.

Back in England.

The 1851 census, Dale Street, Huddersfield.

Thomas Lardin, head, married, 43, Carrier's labourer, born Collingham, Nottinghamshire.

Hanna Lardin, wife, 39, born Huddersfield. ¹⁰

Thomas Loveden died on 11 April 1854 at Dale Street, Huddersfield, aged 51, of Phthisis for 3 months. Rebecca Sanderson, who lived in the same street, was present at death.

Thomas was buried on 16 April 1854, from Dale Street, aged 51.

Hannah continued to live alone in Dale Street until after the 1881 census. She died in 1883.

⁹ State Records Office, Acc 1156/R17

¹⁰ TNA UK, HO107/2295