

Robert Marsh, 617, *Pyrenees*

Researched by Marcia Watson

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| Baptism | 20 November 1817, South Leverton, Nottinghamshire |
| Parents | John Marsh and Lucy Featherston |
| Parent's marriage | 6 May 1811, Warsop, Nottinghamshire. |
| Siblings | John (1812), George (1814), Richard (1815), Thomas (1821), Mary (1822), Charles (1826) |
| Wife | Lydia Wingfield |
| Married | 14 March 1843, Sheffield, Yorkshire |
| Children | Mary Ann (1847) |

Parents: John Marsh of the parish of South Leverton and Lucy Featherston of this parish were married by licence on 6 May 1811 at Warsop, St. Peter & St. Paul, Nottinghamshire. Both signed the register.

At some stage, after 1826, the family moved from South Leverton to Sheffield. There is a newspaper report that may be the earliest record of Robert Marsh.

13 October 1837, Sheffield. Robert Marsh was charged with stealing bottles, the property of Mr Taylor, surgeon, Norfolk Street, but as Mr Taylor did not wish to press charges, he was liberated on payment of costs.¹ Norfolk Street is less than a km from Garden Street where the family lived in 1841.

At the Sheffield Sessions 21 October 1839: Robert Marsh was committed, charged with stealing a quantity of stag-handled table knives from the warehouse of his master, Mr John England, of Daisy Walk. He was proved to have sold them on Friday last, to John Bower, of Castle-green. Committed. According to the indictment record, Robert stole twelve table knives of the value of three shillings and twelve table Forks of the value of three shillings of the Goods and Chattels of one John England. Daisy Walk is a few hundred metres from Garden Street where the family lived.²

At the West Riding Michaelmas Sessions on 23 October 1839, Robert Marsh (22) was charged with stealing knives and forks at Sheffield, the property of John England: two months' imprisonment and hard labour.³

On the 1841 census, Garden Street, Sheffield, Yorkshire.⁴

John Marsh, 64, farmer; Lucy, 54; John, 30; Richard, 26; Mary, 18; Charles, 14, all born in Nottinghamshire. The whereabouts of son Robert has not been discovered.

Then, in February 1843:

James Hambleton and Robert Marsh were charged with entering the warehouse of Mr Thomas Wigfall, Meadow Street.

John Ibbotson proved that he worked for Thomas Wigfall in Revitt's yard, Meadow Street. On Wednesday night, he left the warehouse safe, and during the night, it was robbed. It was entered through the inner door into the low workshops, and a considerable quantity of bone handles, of various sorts, were missing. He went to multiple places in search of the stolen property, and saw a number of the handles, the same day, at Mr Peter Moore's in Orange Street. He knew several of them, particularly, having cut them himself.

Stephen Crighlow proved that he had left the workshop safe in the night before, and that a quantity of handles, of which some were now produced, was missing.

¹ Sheffield Independent, 14 October 1837, p3

² Sheffield Independent, 03 August 1839, p8

³ Sheffield Iris, 29 October 1839, p4

⁴ The National Archives (TNA) UK , HO107/1335/2

Peter Moore, of Orange Street, proved that, on Thursday afternoon, the prisoner Hambleton came and offered him for sale some handles, which he said he had of Mr Dodworth. Witness had heard of Mr Wigfall's robbery, and desired the prisoner to come again and bring a sample. In the evening, he came with 21 handles, and Moore desired him to bring more of them. Hambleton went away, but did not return.

Richard Potton, a policeman, apprehended Hambleton in bed on Thursday night. He told him the charge when Hambleton said a man named Bob had asked him to find a customer for the handles. Potton afterwards apprehended Marsh at a house in Garden Street, where he found several of the scales produced. Hambleton repeated the statement that the prisoner Marsh applied to him to sell the scales, and he went to Mr Moore's in consequence, accompanied by Marsh, who was to have taken the remainder there himself. He called a witness, who said that he went to Marsh's father to inquire for him, but afterwards the prisoner Marsh came from behind the house-door, and when spoken to about the scales, he said he had sold every one of them.

The prisoners were committed for trial.

According to the indictment record, they broke and entered the warehouse of Thomas Wigfall and feloniously stole eight hundred and sixty-four Bone handles of the value of two pounds and twelve hundred bone Scales of the value of two pounds of the Goods and Chattels of the said Thomas Wigfall.⁵

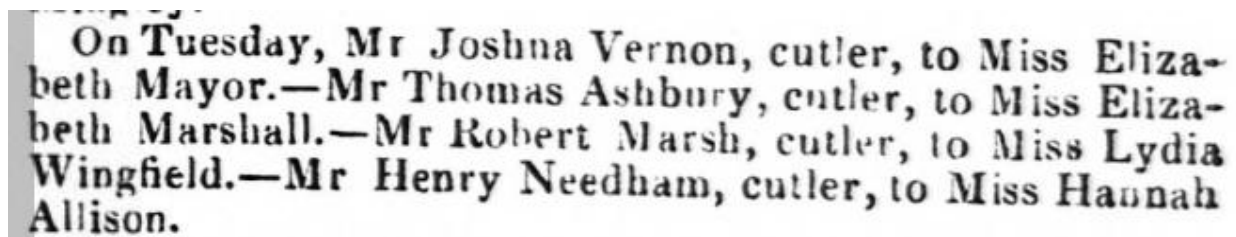
At the Christmas Adjourned Sessions, Sheffield, on 23 February 1843:

Robert Marsh (23) and James Hambleton (28) were indicted for having stolen six gross of table knife handles, eight gross of bone scales, and other articles, from the warehouse of Thomas Wigfall, of Sheffield.—Marsh pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to four months' hard labour; and against Hambleton, Mr Overend declined to offer evidence and Hambleton was freed.⁶

Robert was released from prison at the end of June 1843. He married later in the year:

On 14 November 1843 at Sheffield, by Banns, Robert Marsh, 25, bachelor, cutler, resides Garden street, father John Marsh, victualler, married Lydia Wingfield, 21, spinster, resides Broad-lane, father Josh Wingfield, silver plater. Robert signed, and Lydia made her mark.

Although Robert said his father was a victualler, all other records found refer to his father as a farmer, labourer or warehouseman. The marriage was announced in the newspapers:⁷



On Tuesday, Mr Joshna Vernon, cutler, to Miss Elizabeth Mayor.—Mr Thomas Ashbury, cutler, to Miss Elizabeth Marshall.—Mr Robert Marsh, cutler, to Miss Lydia Wingfield.—Mr Henry Needham, cutler, to Miss Hannah Allison.

The following year, in October 1844, John Glossop and Robert Marsh were charged by Geo. Howe, of Eldon Street, with obtaining goods by false pretences. Howe is a dealer in cast metal and works at Washington Place. Among his customers is Charles Williamson, in Roscoe Field, for whom the prisoner has worked. Last week, the two prisoners came to him when Glossop produced an order professedly from Williamson, for a gross of scale-tang forks, and Marsh a similar order for a gross of rounds tangs. Marsh was told that the round tangs could not be ready till the next day, but Howe's wife at once delivered the scale-tangs to Glossop. Glossop had often come before with notes from Williamson, who had always paid for the goods. He left the note with Mrs Howe, and it is now produced. Williamson, however, proved that it was not his note, that he had not sent the prisoners last week for any forks, nor received any through them. When Glossop was apprehended, there was

⁵ Sheffield Independent, 18 February 1843, p2

⁶ Sheffield Iris, 04 March 1843, p6

⁷ Sheffield Independent, 18 November 1843, p5

found on him another note like that he had delivered to Mrs Howe, on which was written, "12 doz forks - C. Williamson". The prisoners were committed for trial.⁸

At the Doncaster Sessions, on 21 October 1844:

Robert Marsh and John Glossop were charged with obtaining goods by false pretences from Geo. Howe. The 144 forks were valued at ten shillings. Guilty. Four months each to hard labour.⁹

Birth of a daughter:

Mary Ann, daughter of Robert Marsh and Lydia Marsh, formerly Wingfield, table knife cutler, was born on 26 April 1847, at 20 minutes past 4 am, in Hammond Street, Sheffield. The birth was registered by Robert Marsh on 27 April 1847.

At the Town Hall, Sheffield, on 12 August 1848.

Robert Marsh, for a like misdemeanour, was fined 10s, including costs.¹⁰ Unfortunately, the exact nature of the misdemeanour was not mentioned.

In March 1849, Robert and John Glossop were again caught stealing from Charles Williamson. Robert Marsh and John Glossop, of Doctor's field, were charged with stealing a quantity of unfinished knives, the property of Chas. Williamson, of Charlotte Street. It appeared, from the evidence of George Liston, table knife cutter, in the employ of Mr Williamson, that, on leaving his workshop on the previous evening, he locked the doors, placing the key in the place in which it was usually kept, for the convenience of the persons who might come first next morning. There were then in his workshop twelve dozen black-hafted table knives, and ten dozen table knife blades. The next morning, the shop was found to have been entered, and the knives and blades stolen. Wm White, of the detective police, apprehended the prisoners on Friday night, at a house in Allen Street. They had the knives and blades, which were marked "Ashton and Jackson" in their coat pockets.

Glossop, in defence, said he had committed the theft in order that he might be sent to prison, as, if he applied at the Workhouse, he was sent to the vagrant ward. Marsh declined to say anything. Committed for trial.¹¹

The indictment record says on 23 March 1849, they stole twenty-two Table Knives of the value of thirty shillings of the goods and chattels of one Charles Williamson.

At the Pontefract Sessions, 2 April 1849:

John Glossop, 31, single, (with Robert Marsh) twelve dozen and two horn-hafted table knives, etc., at Sheffield, from the workshop of Charles Williams, 6 months.

Robert Marsh, 30, single, (along with John Glossop) twelve dozen and two horn-hafted table knives, five dozen and ten bone-hafted table knives, and ten dozen table knife blades at Sheffield, from the workshop of Charles Williamson, his property. 7 years transportation.¹²

The prison Registers show that Robert Marsh, 30, married, read and write-ignorant, cutler, was convicted on 2 April 1849 at Pontefract of stealing four dozen knives and sentenced to 7 years. He was received at Preston Gaol on 10 August 1849 from York Castle. He had been twice convicted of a felony and once for a misdemeanour. Robert had actually been convicted three times, in 1839, 1843 and 1844. On 2 July 1850, he was transferred to Portland Prison, and from here, he boarded the *Pyrenees* on 13 March 1851 for the voyage to Western Australia.¹³

On arrival at Fremantle, Western Australia, on 28 June 1851, Robert was assigned number 617, issued with a Ticket of Leave and a physical description was recorded.

⁸ Sheffield Independent, 26 October 1844, p3

⁹ Sheffield Independent, 26 October 1844, p3

¹⁰ Sheffield Independent, 19 August 1848, p2

¹¹ Sheffield Independent, 31 March 1849, p6

¹² Halifax Guardian, 07 April 1849, p8

¹³ TNA, HO23/11; PCOM2/383

617. Robert Marsh, 33, 5'8¾", dark brown hair, grey eyes, oval face, dark complexion, rather stout, scar and mole on right side, one tooth out top jaw, rest irregular, cutler, single, no children.¹⁴

The Superintendents Journal shows:

18 July 1851. The last 23 men from the *Pyrenees* were removed and located in No. 3 Division of the prison, including 617 Robert Marsh.

21 July 1851. The four undermentioned men will proceed to the M.E.S. [Mt Eliza Station] along with the boat taking men for York, and will take bed and bedding, including 617 Robert Marsh.¹⁵

The Perth District Ticket of Leave Register shows:

Robert Marsh, 617, 33 years, *Pyrenees*

Hired by Henry Gray, Peninsula on 1 August 1851.

Wages: £1 per month, £1.10 per month board and lodging

He left on 27 March and entered the service of J. Dobson on 29 March 1852.

Entered the service of William Dudley on 30 July 1852. Wages: 4/6 per week.

Robert left on 31 December 1852

The Geraldine Mining Company engaged him on 28 December 1852.¹⁶

Robert was still in Perth on 11 January 1853 - R. Marsh, t.l., and Joseph Isom, t.l., were out after hours; and were fined 6s and 3s costs.¹⁷

By the end of December 1852, Robert had repaid £4.8.2½ of his passage money. By the end of the following year, the passage money was repaid.¹⁸

A Conditional Pardon was granted in January 1854.

What happened to Robert is unknown.

There is, however, a possible death: Robert Marsh, aged 40, died in 1858, registered at Fremantle.

Unfortunately, there is a gap in the Alma Street and Skinner Street Cemetery records between 1855 and 1860.

Family in England.

His mother, Lucy Marsh, age 66, died in February 1850 at Bailey Street, Sheffield. The family had moved to Bailey Street between 1846 and 1850.

1851 census, Bailey Street, court 17, Sheffield.¹⁹

John Marsh, widower, 74, lodger, Bailiff-under

John Marsh, 28, unmarried, lodger, ag lab.

Robert's father, John, died in May 1856, aged 77.

Robert's wife, Lydia, has not been found on the 1851 census.

On the 1861 census, 68 Duke Street, Sheffield.²⁰

Lodging with William Stevenson, 41, widower, pen blade grinder, was:

Lydia Marsh, married, 41, charwoman; Mary Wingfield, widow, 61, on parish relief (her mother).

Mary Ann, 12, scholar, is listed as the daughter of William Stevenson; however, on the 1841 census, he and his wife did not have any children. Mary Ann may be Lydia's daughter.

¹⁴ SROWA, Acc 128/32

¹⁵ SROWA, Superintendent's Orders, SO1-So3, p63, p65

¹⁶ SROWA, Perth TOL Register Cons 1386/1 1851 - Aug 1854, p87. Dobson and Dudley were brick makers.

¹⁷ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 21 Jan 1853, p3

¹⁸ TNA, CO18/69

¹⁹ TNA, HO107/2338

²⁰ TNA, RG9/3588

Lydia Marsh died on 5 March 1879 at the Union Workhouse, Sheffield, aged 58. Her spouse was unknown. She died of bronchitis and was buried in Sheffield General Cemetery on 8 March, a pauper. Her mother, Mary Wingfield, died two years earlier in the Workhouse.

These two entries may refer to Robert's daughter.

Mary Ann Marsh, committed 17 February 1879, Sheffield Borough, disorderly pauper absenting herself from the Workhouse, 3 days hard labour, no education, 29 years old, 5'4", sandy hair, no trade or calling, born Sheffield, R.C., no previous convictions, discharged 19 February 1879.

Mary Ann Marsh, committed 12 April 1879, Sheffield, drunk and, 1? month hard labour, no education, age 30, 5'4", sandy hair, scissor burnisher, R.C, born Sheffield. [binding tight]