

Henry Colton/Coulton, 79, *Hashemy*

Researched by Marcia Watson

Surname variation: Coulton

Aliases - Joseph Thompson, Henry Thompson, Henry Wilson

Baptism	7 November 1826, Clarborough, Nottinghamshire
Parents	Edward Colton and Mary Ann Gabbitass
Parent's marriage	29 December 1825, Gringley On The Hill, Nottingham
Siblings	Charles (~1834), Elizabeth (1841), Alfred (~1845)
Wife	
Married	
Children	

Henry's parents were both from Retford in Nottinghamshire.

By 1841, the family had moved to Victoria Place, Holbeck, Leeds, in Yorkshire.

Edward Colton, 35, flax dresser; Mary, 30; Henry 14, thread m j; Charles 7; Elizabeth 1 week.

They were all born in Yorkshire according to the census form. Henry was probably a thread maker, and j may mean journeyman, although he seems too young to be a journeyman.

Henry's mother, Mary Coulton, had died in 1849, aged 48, at Leeds.

The 1851 census shows the family still lived in Holbeck, Leeds.

Edward, 48, flax dresser; Charles 17; Elizabeth 9; Alfred 6. in Holbeck.

Edward Colton died at Hunslet, Leeds, in 1859, aged 57.

On 31 December 1845, using the name Joseph Thompson (18), Henry was convicted of stealing the cloak of John Dunlevy at Leeds. Henry received one month in prison. This conviction is the first time Henry has been found in prison.

In 1846, just under two months after getting out of prison, Henry Coulton and three others were charged at the Leeds Court House on 21 March 1846 with robbing Mark Simpson of 9s 6d. They had all been gambling, and the four accused thought they were cheated by Simpson, so they robbed him. The Magistrate dismissed the charges, but Henry was fined 20s and costs, or one month in the Wakefield House of Correction, for assaulting the policeman when taken into custody.

The following year, Henry Colton (21) and William Bowers (19), both late of Leeds and labourers, were committed for stealing a clock valued at £2 on 11 November 1847. The clock was on display near the door in the shop of Joseph Scott, jeweller and watchmaker in Lowerhead-row Leeds. They later sold the timepiece to William Banham, greengrocer of Holbeck for 5s, saying they had won it in a lottery.

On 29 December at the Leeds Borough Sessions, Henry Colton alias Joseph Thompson received six months imprisonment at the trial, but Bowers was found not guilty. Later, Thomas Widdy or Withy (18) was tried for the same offence and found not guilty, and all three had a previous conviction.

A year later, Henry was in court again, at the Special Winter Sessions, beginning 9 December 1848 at York Castle.

Thomas Hudson (19), Henry Colton (22) and James Busfield Longstaff (23) were indicted for having, on 18 October, at Leeds, assaulted a lad Hudson Sumpter (12), and robbed him of a bag containing £30. Longstaff and Hudson were each defended; Colton was undefended.

The prosecutors, Messrs Shackleton and Son, millers at Wortley in the parish of Leeds, were regularly sending money to Messrs Marshall of Holbeck. On the morning of Wednesday, the 18 October, between 9 am and 10 am, Shackleton put about £30 of silver coin into a blue bag and gave it to Hudson Sumpter to take to Marshall's mill. On the way, he was knocked over by three men. They covered his eyes, then took the blue bag and ran off. Over the next few days, they tried to exchange silver coins for notes or sovereigns.

Several children witnessed the assault, and a publican stated that Longstaff had offered him £6 5s in silver coins for a £5 note the day after the robbery. The case against Thomas Hudson was not as strong as that against Colton and Longstaff, as he claimed he was in bed until 10 am.

The jury found all prisoners guilty after that, Colton and Longstaff declared they had committed the robbery, and Hudson had nothing to do with it. They all received 15 years' transportation, having been previously convicted of a felony.

A letter from the Home Office to the High Sheriff at York on 21 February 1849 authorised the removal of nine convicts, including Henry Colton, to Millbank Prison. They arrived at Millbank two days later. The following year, Henry was transferred to Portland Prison on 6 March 1850 and boarded the *Hashemy* on 19 July for the voyage to Western Australia.

The convict transport, *Hashemy*, conveyed 100 convicts and 131 passengers to Western Australia and arrived on 25 October 1850; each convict was described:

Henry was 5' 2"; brown hair; light blue eyes; round visage; dark, brown complexion; whiskers shaved; a tattoo of an I and an anchor; a labourer and single.

General Register:

Henry had been apprenticed as an engineer, he had private schooling, read fairly, could write and do simple accounting, and his father Edward Colton, a flax dresser, lived in Leeds.

Attended Divine Service?	No regular
Received Sacrament?	Never
Habits?	Not given to drink, unsettled as to work
Intellect?	Sound
State of Mind?	Hopeful
Knowledge, Secular?	Limited
Knowledge, Religious?	Limited
Alleged cause of crime?	Company

Names of persons referred to for character Mr Richard McLee, Engineering Establishment, Leeds

It wasn't long before Henry was in trouble. On 8 December 1850, his tobacco stopped for three days because of disobedience.

The Casual Sick list, Fremantle Prison records:

Colton H	4 November 1850	Nyctalopia [night blindness]	Shade
Coulton H	10 November 1850	Small ulcer	... Mercurial:
Coulter H	15 November 1850	Costiveness [constipation]	Pilul & draughts
Coulton H	29 November 1850	Boils	Poultice
Coulton Henry	30 November 1850		Continue poultice
Coulton Henry	1 December 1850	Boil	Dressing
Coulton Henry	2 December 1850	Diarrhoea	Castor oil & laudanum
Colton Hy	3 December 1850	Diarrhoea	
Colton Henry	4 December 1850	Bad wrist	Dressing
Coulton Hy	11 December 1850	Boil	Op: medicine-poultice
Coulton Henry	12 December 1850	Boil	Continue poultice
Coulton Henry	26 December 1850	Diarrhoea	Continue chalk mixture
Coulton Henry	27 December 1850		Continue poultice
Coulton Henry	29 December 1850	Boil on the arm	Poultice Aper: medicine
Coulton Henry	30 December 1850	Boil	Poultice
Coulton Henry	16 January 1851	Boils	Sulph powder & poultice
Colton Henry	17 January 1851	Boils	As before
Colton Henry	19 January 1851		
Coulton Henry	24 January 1851		
Coulton Henry	25 January 1851		
Coulton Henry	26 January 1851		
Coulton Hy	26 February 1851		
Colton Henry	18 April 1851	Bad eyes	Lotion
Colton Henry	23 April 1851	Sprained back	Liniment
Colton Henry	24 April 1851	Febricula	Continue feb mist
Colton Henry	29 April 1851	Bad eyes	Gutt:

Colton Henry 79	9 May 1851	Sprain	Liniment
Colton Henry 79	12 May 1851	Diarrhoea	Powder of Cal: & jalup
Colton Henry 79	14 May 1851	Diarrhoea	Discharged

Henry received his ticket-of-leave on 17 February 1852 and was discharged to Fremantle. Three years later, on 3 March 1855, he received his Conditional Pardon.

Henry may have been at Champion Bay. Arriving at Fremantle on 28 May 1859, the schooner *Favorite*, 46 tons, Gall, master, from Champion Bay with passengers—Mr H. Carter, Mr C. Evans, Mrs Gale 2 children and servant, Mr and Mrs Dyer, W. Hodges, W. Danson **H. Colton**.

When Henry arrived in Western Australia, the register noted he had been given access to the following books: Travels in Norway, Sweden etc.; Travels in Africa, etc.; Robinson Crusoe; Cooks Voyages; Parks Travels. Perhaps this gave him an idea as sometime between 1855 and 1861, he made his way back to England.

Back in England.

Using the *alias* Henry Thompson, Henry Colton appeared County Magistrates Court, Ruthin, Denbighshire, on 4 July 1861.

James Ward, John Wilson, David King, and **Henry Thompson** were arraigned for stealing mutton from the slaughterhouse of Evan Roberts, of Coedpoeth.

Elizabeth Williams, who lived next to the slaughterhouse, said she saw the four prisoners lying in a pigsty, sheltering from a heavy shower of rain. She had access to the slaughterhouse as she kept her coals there and could open the padlock without a key. She fetched some coals about the same time and had spoken to the prisoner, but they didn't answer. Another neighbour told her she thought the men were up to no good. Elizabeth saw the men going up the lane, and the lock on the slaughterhouse was unfastened and not how she had left it. She sent a child to tell Evan Roberts the men had stolen meat. Roberts saw the men and asked if they had any of his meat. Wilson gave him the meat and said, 'I felt very hungry and just clemmed'. Roberts then went to fetch the policeman, and the prisoners were apprehended near Tryddyn. Henry Thompson reportedly said, 'I am as deep in mud as the others are in the mire'. The others said, 'Yes, we all did it'.

The jury, after a brief consultation, found the prisoners guilty, and each was sentenced to one-month imprisonment with hard labour.

Henry continued to face the courts. At Doncaster, on 30 October 1861, as **Henry Thompson**, he and John Wilson were charged convicted of larceny. Henry received four months, and John Wilson received four years.

Then at Leeds, on 2 April 1862, **Henry Wilson** was convicted of being unlawfully armed with intent to break into a warehouse and steal. He received 12 months in prison.

The authorities were onto Henry and contacted the Home Office.

50031, to Robt Barr Esq, Leeds, 13 April 1863

In reply to your letter of the 6th inst. I am directed by Sec Sir George Grey to acquaint you that Henry Wilson or Coulton should be committed for trial at the next Assizes for the County of York for being illegally at large. Sir George Grey will instruct the Solicitor of the Treasury to take the proper steps for conducting the prosecution.

H Waddington.

1863. On 7 July 1863 at York, as **Henry Wilson alias Colton**, he was indicted for being illegally at large before the expiration of his sentence of 15 years transportation at Leeds on 9 March 1862. The prosecutor said the prisoner was convicted in 1848 and sent to Millbank Prison, and subsequently taken to one of the British colonies. The prisoner returned to this country and committed another offence, and was sentenced to 12 months in prison. That sentence expired in March 1863, and it was ascertained he was a returned convict and the present charge made against him. In his defence, Henry said he obtained a free pardon from the governor of the colony. He was found guilty and sentenced to six years of penal servitude.

Further clarification was received from the Home Office:

50031, to Mr Justice Blackburn, 5 August 1863

I am directed by Sec Sir George Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter forwarding a statement sent to you by Henry Colton or Wilson, who was convicted at the last York Assizes of being illegally at large, and I

am to acquaint you that the Convicts statement that he received a Free Pardon in Australia is untrue, the Pardon which he received being granted upon the usual condition that he should not return to the United Kingdom during the remainder of his sentence.

H Waddington.

The course of events over the next few years for Henry was:

Committed: 17 April 1863 at Leeds

Convicted: 7 July 1863 at York

Removed: from York Castle 24 October 1863

Received: at Wakefield Prison 24 October 1863

Removed: from Wakefield Prison 21 July 1864

Received: at Chatham Prison 22 July 1864

Removed: from Chatham Prison 12 September 1864

Received: at Gibraltar Prison on 2 November 1864 per *Porchester*.

Removed: from Gibraltar Prison 6 May 1868 per *Thetis*

Received: at Millbank Prison on 22 May 1868.

Henry's conduct in gaol was always good or very good. Perhaps he liked the discipline. He received a Royal License on 6 June 1868, granted by Her Majesty four days earlier. The license was for one year and one month, the time remaining of his penal servitude. There were four conditions attached to the license. First, he wasn't to associate with criminals or re-offend; in such a case, the license would be forfeited.

The accompanying documents indicate Henry was a bricklayer and was very good in prison. He had one brother in London who was a painter and another in Leeds who was a brass moulder. Other personal details:

He could read and write imperfectly, was a labourer at Chatham and Gibraltar and learnt mat making in Wakefield. He was a strong build and had the following marks –

H & anchor in blue on left arm, X1 on right arm & scar inside (scar could be from the boil he suffered at Fremantle that took weeks to heal), Lump on right side of brow, Cut on left eyebrow.

There is also a comment that Henry was in Wakefield Prison for three months, convicted on 26 March 1845, as a rogue and vagabond. (Not found)

His destination was the Prisoner Aid Society in Manchester.

No trace has been found of Henry after 1868.