

Martin Harbour, 463, *Pyrenees*

Researched by Marcia Watson

Name variation: Harber, Harbroe

Born	~1813, Kent, possibly Tonbridge
Parents	Henry Martin Harbour (d.1857) and Frances (d.1843)
Parent's marriage	
Siblings	Henry (1817)
Wife	Frances Pearson
Married	20 April 1840, Tonbridge, Kent
Children	William Alfred (1842), Frederick Francis James (1844), Edwin (1846 -1850)

The first record found for Martin was when Banns of marriage between Martin Harbroe and Frances Pearson, both of the parish of Tonbridge, was published on 5 April, 12 April and 19 April 1840. The following day, on 20 April 1840, Martin Harbroe, full-age, bachelor, labourer residing in Tonbridge, married Frances Pearson, full-age, spinster. Martin made his mark, and Frances signed the register. Witnesses were Henry Harbroe and Frances Rose.

Frances Pearson, born 17 May 1818 at Wrotham, daughter of John Pearson and Phillis née Wickings.

Nine months later, Martin Harber, 27, was convicted of stealing a cast iron pot, value 1s., the property of Ibrahim Edwards, at Tonbridge.—One month of hard labour. The Prison Register recorded he was 28 and could not read or write.¹

He was out of gaol when the 1841 census was taken in June 1841. Living in Tonbridge, Kent were Martin Harbour, 25, ag lab, and Frances, 20, both born in County.²

Also on the 1841 census, at Cage Green, Tonbridge, Kent:

Martin Harbour, 70, ag lab; Frances, 70; Henry, 25; Ann Corke, 20, whom Henry married later in the year.

Then, in 1846, committal for the upcoming Spring Assizes in March:

Martin Harber was charged with stealing one mattock, the property of Jeremiah Peacock, at Hadlow.³

At the Spring Assizes, Martin Harber, 32, stealing mattock, value 4s, the property of Jeremiah Peacock, at Hadlow.—Bill not true, i.e. the charge was not proven.⁴

His luck ran out at the Tonbridge Petty Sessions on 25 October 1848:

Martin Harber was charged with stealing a child's chaise, the property of Robert Cheesman, from the yard off the back of his house this morning. On discovering the robbery, Mrs Cheesman went to Hadlow and told the constable, who immediately went in pursuit and overtook the prisoner, drawing the chaise towards Mereworth. He said at first that he had bought it, but afterwards, he told him where he had taken it from. As Mr Cheesman proceeded up Swan-lane with the prisoner in a cart on his journey to Maidstone, Mr George Poole identified the fuchsia plant in the cart as his property, which the prisoner stated belonged to himself. Committed for trial⁵

¹ West Kent Guardian, 16 January 1841, p7; TNA, UK, HO27/64

² TNA, UK, HO107/107/463/5

³ Kentish Independent, 31 January 1846, p7

⁴ Kentish Independent, 21 March 1846, p7

⁵ South Eastern Gazette, 31 October 1848, p5

At the West Kent Quarter Sessions, on 4 January 1849:

Martin Harber, 30, stealing one child's chaise, the property of Robert Cheesman, at Tonbridge—Transported seven years. ⁶

The Prison Register show Martin Harbour, 38, felony previous conviction, tried 4 January 1849 at Maidstone and sentenced to 7 years. No gaoler's report was received. Martin was received at Millbank Prison from Maidstone Gaol on 5 May 1849.

He was born in Kent, was 5'6", could not read or write, was a gardener, had light brown hair, light hazel eyes, proportionate nose and mouth, fresh complexion, long face, slender build, married with three children, had a wart on the forefinger of right hand, scar on forehead and upper lip. He was a labourer and had been twice previously convicted of a felony. His wife Frances, lived in Tonbridge. ⁷

There are many prison registers that often record different information. A Millbank Register has Martin Harber alias Harbour, 30 or 37, married three children, labourer, convicted 4 January 1849, twice felony and once bill ignored. His wife Frances, 28, and children William, 6, Frederick, 4 and Edwin 2, are in the Union Workhouse, Malling, Kent. He was transferred on 15 February 1850 to the *York* hulk at Gosport. Martin boarded the *Pyrenees* on 10 March 1851 for Western Australia. ⁸

On arrival at Fremantle, Western Australia, Martin was assigned number 463, issued with a Ticket of Leave, and a description taken:

463. Martin Harbour, 38, 5'6½", dark brown hair, light hazel eyes, long face, fresh complexion, wart on the right hand, only one tooth in the head, labourer, married, two children. ⁹

On 4 July 1851, the first 57 men, 45 from the *York* hulk at Gosport and 12 men from the *Stirling Castle* hulk were removed from the *Pyrenees* and brought to the Fremantle Prison, including 463. Martin Harbour. ¹⁰

After a week, on 11 July 1851, some Ticket of Leave men were sent to the Mt Eliza Station, including 463, Martin Harbour, gardener. On 21 July, he went to Toodyay by boat with three other convicts and their guard. ¹¹

His Conditional Pardon was granted in June 1853.

There was an Unclaimed Letter at the Post Office on 3 May 1856 for Martin Harbour. ¹²

Perhaps it was from Frances telling Martin that their son William had been convicted on several charges of stealing a variety of goods at Tonbridge and sentenced to 2 years imprisonment in 1855. The Royal Philanthropic Institution at Redhill received permission to take him and two other boys into their care for occupational training. William later went to India, where he was an engine driver in the early 1860s. His younger brother, Frederick Harbour, joined the army and went to India in 1859. Both stayed in India and raised their families there.

Martin returned to England on the barque *Charlotte Padbury*. The vessel left Fremantle on 13 January 1877 with four cabin passengers and 16 steerage passengers, including M. Harbour in steerage. ¹³

St Helena. The *Charlotte Padbury*, Harris, from Swan River for London, in coming to anchor on 10 March, grounded the rocks under Munden's Battery but got off, with assistance, running lines to the

⁶ West Kent Guardian, 13 January 1849, p7

⁷ TNA, UK,PCOM2/136; HO24/4

⁸ TNA, UK,PCOM2/30

⁹ SROWA, Acc 128/1-32

¹⁰ SROWA, Superintendents Orders, So1-So3, p51, p65

¹¹ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 18 July 1851, p2

¹² The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 9 May 1856, p2

¹³ The Herald, 20 Jan 1877, p2

Zambese, French barque, apparently without serious damage; a piece of timber, said to be a portion of false keel, but which was subsequently pronounced to be a piece of the main keel, and a portion of figurehead were picked up and landed; the vessel proceeded on her voyage on 14 March and reported by master not be making water. On 12 March, some sheets of metal were picked up by divers, and on the following day, a piece of timber said to have been wedged in rocks was picked up and landed, apparently a piece of false keel, feet by 14 inches 4 inches. The ship arrived at London on 24 April 1877.¹⁴

Martin must have made enough money in Western Australia to own a pony and cart. In 1881, at Tonbridge, Martin Harbour v. Henry Harbour.—This was a claim for £50 for unlawful detention of a pony and cart and hire since 1879. His Honour said he could not go into the case then and advised the parties to come to some arrangement.¹⁵ Henry Harbour was a Marine Store dealer in Tonbridge.

On the 1881 census, living at Railway Tavern & Lodging House, 8, High Street, Tonbridge: Martin Harbour, 67, lodger, unmarried, 67, farm labourer, born Kent.¹⁶

Martin Harbour, 75, died on 28 November 1888 at the Union Workhouse, West Malling. He died of heart disease and oedema of the lung. The master of the workhouse was present at death.

Frances Harbour

His wife, Frances, appears to have been in and out of the workhouse.

1851 census, Reilakers Cottages, Tonbridge

Frances Harbour, widow, 33, pauper, born Wrotham, Kent; William, 9, scholar; Frederick, 7, scholar, both born Tonbridge, Kent.

1861 census, West Malling Union Workhouse at West Malling

Frances Harbour, 43, married, pauper, born Wrotham

1871 census, Union Workhouse at West Malling

Frances Harbour, 52, married, inmate, servant, born Wrotham.

1881 census, 2 Back Row, Broadland, Rochester.

Frances Harbour, widow, 62, monthly nurse, born Wrotham.

1891 census, Union Workhouse, West Malling

Frances Harbour, 73, widow, no occupation, born Wrotham.¹⁷

Died in about 1895, according to Family Tree's on Ancestry. No death has been found.

¹⁴ Shipping and Mercantile Gazette, 14 April 1877, p4; Lloyd's List, 25 April 1877, p16

¹⁵ Tunbridge Wells Standard, 14 January 1881, p2

¹⁶ TNA, UK, RG11/919

¹⁷ TNA, UK, HO107/1615; RG9/485; RG10/918; RG11/900; RG12/670