

Samuel Hooley, 8885, Belgravia

Researched by Marcia Watson

Aliases: Smith, Humphries, William Johnson, Flash Sam

Born	About 1823, Walsall, Staffordshire
Parents	Samuel Hooley
Parent's marriage	
Siblings	
Wife	Sarah Shooter
Married	1 January 1856, Walsall, Staffordshire
Children	Georgiana Shooter (1841-1841), Elizabeth Shooter (1843), Samuel Shooter (1846), Ann Shooter (~1848), George Shooter (~1850), Patience Shooter (1853), Eliza Hooley (1858), William Hooley (1860)

On various records, Samuel Hooley said he was born in Walsall, Staffordshire. The first trace found of him was in 1849.

At the Guildhall, on Wednesday 19 December 1849, Samuel Smith *alias* Humphries and Henry Russell (previously convicted of a felony) were charged with burglariously entering the house of Henry Gnosill, Blue Lane, Walsall on 12 December and stealing a gun, 3lbs tobacco, several hams, five cheeses, a large quantity of wearing apparel and 30s in silver. Suspicion falling upon the prisoners, the police apprehended them in the Malt Shovel public house, but not before Samuel had struck one of the police officers with a violent blow. In Samuel's lodgings, part of a ham, a gun, two cheeses and nearly all the wearing apparel was found. At the house of John Beebee, two cheeses were found, and Beebee stated they were sold to him by Russell. They were committed to trial. Russell was tried about 18 months ago and acquitted for a similar robbery on Gnosill's house.¹

At their trial at Stafford March Assizes on 12 March 1850: Samuel Smith and Henry Russell were indicted for burglariously breaking into the dwelling house of Henry Gnosill at Walsall, and stealing a gun and five hams, on 12 December 1849. Smith was found guilty and sentenced to 18 months imprisonment. Russell was acquitted.²

On the 1851 census, Samuel Smith, 27, collier, born in Walsall, Staffordshire, was in the Staffordshire County Gaol. ³ He would have been released about September 1851.

His future wife was in the Union Workhouse, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, 90 km away: ⁴
Sarah Shooter, inmate, unmarried, 28, general servant, born in Codnor Park, Derby
Samuel Shooter, 5, inmate, born in Longford, Warwickshire
Ann Shooter, 3, inmate, born in Walsall, Staffordshire
George Shooter, 1, inmate, born in Walsall, Staffordshire

¹ Wolverhampton Chronicle and Staffordshire Advertiser, 26 December 1849, p2

² Staffordshire Advertiser, 23 March 1850, p7; TNA, HO27/49, p97

³ TNA, HO107/1999/389, p13

⁴ TNA, HO107/2124 (1851 census)

The following year, the pair appeared in Court on 9 October 1852 at the Derby Quarter Sessions, and a newspaper reported:

Samuel Hooley, 30, and Sarah Shooter, 30, were charged with uttering four half-crowns, they well knowing the same to be false and counterfeit. From Henry Brown at Kilburn, Samuel purchased 1oz tobacco; from Maria Lander at Kilburn, Sarah bought a small quantity of tea; and passed counterfeit coins to Howard Parker and Sarah Fletcher. Ann Gregory of Derby said she had received a bad coin for biscuits, and Mr Porter of the Ship Inn at Hoseley also claimed he had received a bad half-crown. The couple was apprehended near Burton-on-Trent, about 25km away. Sarah expressed great anxiety about how many cases would be brought against them. Samuel reportedly said, "They cannot transport me; I shall get off for two years". Both prisoners were convicted of being habitual passers of bad coins. Samuel was sentenced to 18 calendar months and Sarah to 9 calendar months imprisonment, with hard labour.⁵ The newspaper mentions Samuel and Sarah were habitual passers of bad coins, but did they always work together? [Samuel was released about April 1854 and Sarah about October 1853]

Sarah was six months pregnant with her next child, Patience, when gaoled, and Samuel is probably the father. He is possibly the father of George, who was baptised in January 1850 at Walsall; the mother was Sarah Shuter. Whether he is the father of Sarah's other two children, Samuel and Ann, is unknown; however, all the children adopted the surname Hooley after Samuel and Sarah married.

At the Registry Office at Walsall on 1 January 1856:

Samuel Hooley, 30, bachelor, coal miner, resides in Birchills; his father was Samuel Hooley, a husbandman (deceased). He signed the register.

Sarah Shooter, 30, spinster, resides on Borough Street, Walsall; her father was William Shooter, a collier. Sarah made her mark in the register.

In September 1857, the newspapers reported that two detectives went to the house of Samuel Hooley, a notoriously bad character residing in Thomas Street, more familiarly known to the dishonest fraternity as "Flash Sam". They advised Hooley they had come to search his house and were readily admitted. They did not find what they were looking for, but the cellar wall between Hooley's residence and next door had three or four courses of bricks removed near the roof. An officer climbed through the space and found some rabbits, which Hooley admitted were his, and he had nowhere else to keep them. The officer asked for the key to next door, which Hooley did not have, but the officers were determined to investigate the other side of the wall. They broke open the back door and found a parcel of counterfeit coins, consisting of half-crowns, florins and shillings, upwards of seven pounds worth. They were all in good condition and ready for circulation. It was further discovered that part of the floor in the front was removed, which allowed easy access to the cellar, and thence to Hooley's residence. Hooley had rented the house next door but gave up the keys about five weeks before, and the doors had been locked. Samuel was taken into custody, and when brought up before the Magistrate, Mr Palmer, who appeared on his behalf, contended there was no evidence whatsoever that could implicate Samuel regarding

⁵ Derbyshire Advertiser and Journal, 22 October 1852, p3; Derbyshire Courier, 23 October 1852, p2

the coins. The coins could have been placed in the house next door by some other person without Samuel's knowledge. The case was remanded until the Mint was consulted. Samuel appears to have been discharged, as no further reference to the case has been found.⁶

Four men arrived at Solihull from Birmingham by train three months later and robbed the Railway Tavern in December. Two men were captured; one said he had lodged at "Flash Sam's" in Thomas Street Birmingham.⁷ The Hooley family lived at 32 Thomas Street, Birmingham, a few km from Walsall. Eliza Hooley was born there on 28 February 1858, and the birth certificate says Samuel was a lodging house keeper. However, on her baptism, it says he was a brass founder.⁸

Samuel and Sarah, using the *aliases* of Samuel and Susan Humphries, were charged with offering counterfeit half-crowns at Pailton, Warwickshire, on 17 June 1859.

Samuel was described as about 30 years old, about 5'8", with an oval face and dark whiskers under his chin and dressed in dark clothes. Susan was about 25 years old, a full face, tall and stout, dressed in a dark green stuff dress, a dark-coloured shawl, nearly new, and with a gruff voice.

The prisoners arrived in Pailton and lodged at the Plough Inn. Samuel then went to the butcher's shop and bought a pound of mutton chops, for which he tendered a counterfeit half-crown and received 1s 10d change. The shopman gave the coin to his mistress, suspecting it to be bad, and she then gave it to the police constable. The female prisoner entered another shop, purchased a small loaf and three pennyworths of cheese, and received 2s change. Samuel was across the street, and they left together. The coin was suspected of being counterfeit and handed to the police.

Then, Samuel tried to pass another counterfeit half-crown at a public house but was told it was counterfeit. He said he did not know it was bad, and his wife, who had gone into the yard, would come and pay with some small change. They paid 6d for a pint of porter.

As they left the village that evening, they were apprehended by the constable. Samuel had £2 18s 4d of good money on him, and 'Susan' had 9s 10d. Samuel said that he had been ill for some time, and the money had been collected for him; he did not know it was bad. Susan claimed she received the money from her husband. They were committed to stand trial *at* the Warwickshire Quarter Sessions on 30 June 1859. Samuel Humphries, 36, a labourer, was found guilty and sentenced to 18 months; Susan Humphries, 25, no trade, was acquitted because she acted under her husband's directions.⁹

Sarah was left with five children, aged from 13 to 18 months. She gave birth to William Hooley on 18 August 1860 and named her husband, Samuel as the father. However, he cannot be the father as William was born 14 months after Samuel was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment.

Samuel was released from prison about December 1860, and the 1861 census, taken in March, shows the Hooley family lived at Bakers Buildings, 3 Green Lane, Walsall, Staffordshire: Samuel Wooley (*sic*), married, 37, coal miner; Sarah, wife, 36, charwoman; Samuel, 14; Ann, 12; Patience, 9; Eliza, 4. They were all born in Walsall. [sons George and William were not recorded]

⁶ Birmingham Journal, 05 September 1857, p10

⁷ Coventry Standard, 11 December 1857, p3

⁸ NOTE: there is another Samuel and Sarah Hooley living in Bramcote, Nottingham with similar named children.

⁹ Northampton Mercury, 25 June 1859, p4; Coventry Standard, 02 July 1859, p4

It was not long before Samuel appeared in Court again at the Stafford General Quarter Sessions on 7 April 1862:

William Johnson, *alias* Humphreys, *alias* Holey, and James Cotterill were charged with having house-breaking implements in their possession and Johnson with having in his possession several counterfeit coins. Superintendent Cole said that on Tuesday evening between eight and nine o'clock, he and two officers met the prisoners at Cobridge Road and, having their suspicions aroused, took them into a house and searched them. On Johnson, he found a bag containing a pair of galoshes strapped to his back. In his pocket were four knives, part of an implement used for cutting holes in doors and shutters and called by burglars a "take away", a gimlet and nine counterfeit shillings. On searching Cotterill, he found the remainder of the "take away", two pieces of a candle wrapped in paper, a box of Lucifer matches, and two pieces of crape for covering the face. The Superintendent added that Johnson's son was committed on Monday on a charge of uttering a large number of counterfeit coins. Under the circumstance, he requested that the prisoners be remanded until Monday. A third man, Joseph Davis, was discharged as there was no evidence against him. Superintendent Cole said he believed that Davis knew nothing of what the other men were up to. Upon hearing this, Johnson stood up and shouted, "Yes, he did; we were all going together to do the depredation". Cotterill was found not guilty.¹⁰

William Johnson was indicted at his trial for uttering counterfeit coin at Burslem. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to three years of penal servitude, as he had been several previous convictions.¹¹ While serving his three-year sentence, the Prison Registers noted:

William Johnson, 40, married with six children, R&W imperfectly, weaver, committed 1 April 1862 at Burslem and convicted on 7 April 1863. He had been convicted twice before, and they were listed as Assizes March 1850, 18 months for burglary¹², and 18 months for uttering base coin in 1859.

He spent three months and 29 days at Stafford Gaol, where his behaviour was good, before being transferred to Millbank Prison on 30 July 1862. While at Millbank Prison, he continued to be well-behaved for just over four months before being transferred to Portland Prison on 8 December 1862. Here his behaviour was exemplary. 'Samuel' had earned £4 7s 7d while in these prisons before being transferred to Broadmoor Prison on 28 April 1864.

From 1862 until 1866, Broadmoor was occupied by a party of male convicts in the latter stages of their sentences, labouring to prepare the establishment for the reception of criminal lunatics. 'Samuel' said his wife Sarah Hooley was at Ilkeston in Derbyshire.¹³

His three years sentence expired in April 1865—however, Ticket of Leave men George Eastman and Samuel Hooley *alias* William Johnson *alias* Flash Sam were charged with having, on 11 February, broken into the house of John Gaunt, at Coal Port and stolen a quantity of bacon, £3.2s.6d, a jacket, waistcoat, a silk shawl, half made silk vest and articles of wearing apparel. They were sent for trial.¹⁴

¹⁰ Staffordshire Advertiser, 22 March 1862, p6

¹¹ Staffordshire Advertiser, 12 April 1862, p6

¹² No conviction in 1850 has been found, however, he was convicted in 1852 and sentenced to 18 months.

¹³ TNA, PCOM2 /390; PCOM2/46; HO24/9

¹⁴ Walsall Free Press and General Advertiser, 25 February 1865;

At the Lent Assizes in Stafford in 1865:

Samuel Hooley, 43, sawyer, and George Eastman, 58, miner, were indicted for breaking and entering the dwelling house of John Grant, on 11 February 1865, at the borough of Walsall, and stealing goods and money to the value of £10, the property of John Grant. The prisoners were undefended. The Judge summed up the evidence, and after lengthy consideration, the Jury found Eastman not guilty and Hooley guilty. Three previous convictions were proved against Hooley, and he was sentenced to 10 years of penal servitude.¹⁵

Samuel Hooley *or* Wm Johnson, 43, married six children, R&W imperfectly, miner, committed 9 March 1865 at Stafford and convicted 3 April 1865 for housebreaking and larceny with former convictions, sentenced to 10 years. He was received as a first-class prisoner at Portsmouth Prison from Wakefield Prison on 2 January 1866. Samuel boarded *Belgravia* on 28 March 1866 for the voyage to Western Australia. ¹⁶

Western Australia

8885. Samuel Hooley, received at Fremantle 4 July 1866, from Portsmouth per *Belgravia*. He was described as 44 years old, 5' 5 ¼", with brown hair, grey eyes, a long fine face, florid complexion, middling stout build, no marks, married with five children, could read and write, Protestant and a sawyer. He said his wife Sarah, 44, lived at No. 5 home in No. 6 court, Dudley Street, Stafford.¹⁷ Their children were Samuel 19, Anne 17, George 15, Patience 13 and Eliza 11. Son William was not mentioned.

The Prison Records in Western Australia record:

Samuel was convicted on 9 March 1865 at Stafford of housebreaking and larceny and former convictions of a felony, ten years penal servitude.

Previous convictions recorded:

Staffordshire March Assizes 1850, burglary, 18 months

[1852 Derby Quarter Sessions – not mentioned]

Warwick Mids Sessions 1859, uttering base coin, 18 months

Staffordshire April Sessions 1862, uttering base coin, three years

Entitled to a ticket of leave on 24 July 1870.¹⁸

Three weeks after he arrived at Fremantle, Samuel was one of 19 convicts discharged from gaol on 26 July 1866 and sent to the Warren Bridge Party. The Warren River is south of Pemberton.

On 28 July, the convicts sailed for Bunbury and Vasse per *Swan*, 25 tons, O'Grady, master: Passengers — H. King and two children, 19 prisoners, and a warder. Cargo — 26 sacks flour, 33 bags sugar, 12½ chests tea, 19 packages of government stores, 54 cases and bags &c, consisting of oilmen's stores, wool bales, iron, nails, horse collars, etc.¹⁹

[Thirteen of the convicts arrived on the *Belgravia*, four on *Vimeira* and two on *Merchantman 2*]

¹⁵ Wolverhampton Chronicle and Staffordshire Advertiser, 15 March 1865, p3

¹⁶ TNA, HO23/2; PCOM2/111

¹⁷ The address is probably Dudley Street, Walsall, Staffordshire.

¹⁸ SROWA, Acc 1156/R14; Acc 128/40-43

¹⁹ The Inquirer and Commercial News (Perth, WA : 1855 - 1901), 1 August 1866, p2

From the Warders Journal: On 17 November at 8 pm at the convict muster, four men had absconded, last seen at 7:30 pm.

They were Charles Ellis (8550), John Flint (8554), Samuel Hooley (8885) and John Smith (8995).

The following day, the Warder visited the huts at 2 am; musters were held at 6:30 am, 8:30 am, 10:30 am and noon; and visited the huts at midnight. Over the next few days, there were two or more musters daily and huts visits at night. Then a new routine of two musters daily and a hut visit at night was instituted.

On 10 December, convict John Flint returned at 6:30 pm and gave himself up.²⁰

In January 1867, two probation prisoners were brought to Albany from Torbay and nearly starved to death. They escaped from a road party in November last and were working their way around the coast, living on raw crabfish. They were in the hospital, slowly recovering. Four were originally in the Party, but one turned back, and another was left nearly dead in the bush. The police are now out searching for him.²¹

A CONVICT'S DIARY.

In our issue of last week, our Albany correspondent reported the capture of two probation prisoners, who, along with two others, made their escape in November last from the Warren Bridge party. We now give the statement made to the Convict authorities by one of the prisoners, which will be read with some interest:—

On Saturday, the 17 November, I absconded from the Warren convict camp, accompanied by Charles Ellis, John Smith, and Samuel Hooley; and the more effectually to evade the police, we started at dusk, all four of us plunging into the Warren River, down which we swam for about half a mile when we landed, and, crossing on some logs, obtained a quantity of flour and damper, which had originally been planted for the occasion; we then struck east, steering as well as we could by the moon, till about 1 am, when we came to a halt.

18th. — Started at daylight, and after travelling in an easterly direction for about two hours, came to a dense thicket through which we had to make our way by pushing aside the brushwood and, whenever opportunity offered, mounting a log to peep through at the sun and ascertain how we were steering. We travelled but very slowly and camped at sundown, all of us feeling very tired and dispirited, but we resolved to push on through all obstacles to the eastward, hoping, in our ignorance, that after much privation and suffering, we should be rewarded by reaching South Australia.

19th. — Started again, and after several hours of severe labour, were rejoiced to find ourselves on the edge of a blackboy plain, about two miles wide, which we crossed, arriving at a very thick blue-gum country, where we camped.

20th.— Travelled through about two miles of blue gum country but found the underwood and dead timber so thick that it took us four hours to accomplish the distance; we then reached what I should call tea-tree scrub, through which we travelled 7 miles in about as many hours, the scrub being about 5 feet in height. This was a fearful day's work, and we could never have done it had there not been plenty of fresh water, with which we refreshed ourselves; we afterwards came to a

²⁰ SROWA, Acc 1156/Occ1. Warders Journal, Warren Bridge

²¹ The Inquirer and Commercial News (Perth, WA : 1855 - 1901), 16 January 1867, p3

very dense thicket with upright scrub about the thickness of a walking stick, and growing so closely that we had to take it in turns to break down the sticks; and after working for 18 hours we had the satisfaction of being quite sure that no mounted police in the world could follow us up; on the other hand, we had only made two miles, and our provisions were nearly all gone. We camped, having travelled another fifteen miles of clear red-gum country, slightly grassed, and finished our provisions.

21st. — Left the camp to proceed on our journey, but after travelling ten miles came to a halt, feeling very faint and tired; we devoted the rest of the day to setting 32 snares, with which we hoped to catch some wallabies or kangaroo rats.

22nd. — This morning, we were up early to examine the snares but only found one wallaby, which was very quickly cooked and disposed of; we then travelled on for a distance of twelve miles through a thinly-grassed black-but country, when we again set the snares and lay down miserably tired and hungry.

23rd. - Found another wallaby this morning, which we divided equally among us, for although we were dispirited, tired, and hungry, we still kept good friends, making occasional attempts to cheer up each other; travelled about four miles through a sort of rolling sand-plain and blue-gum country; we also crossed a deep river and camped for the night, feeling very weak and empty.

24th. — Two kangaroo rats and an iguana had been caught during the night and were very much enjoyed; the latter reptile I fancied the most delicious morsel I had tasted for a very long time. We proceeded on our journey after breakfast and, after travelling five miles through a thinly-grassed country, arrived at a beautiful spring of cool fresh water with lots of roots growing about, such as we had seen the natives eat when *en route* from Busselton to the Warren; we, therefore, camped at once, digging, roasting, and eating roots till night; we also put by a supply for the road.

25th. — Got underway, feeling much stronger and in better spirits, but after travelling seven miles, our hopes were cast down at the sight of a fearful thicket, but there was no alternative, and we went at it like fowls through a corn-field, and succeeded in doing a mile in four hours, when we came to a plain, on which were some old cattle tracks, after crossing

which we reached the Gardiner River; it was running very rapidly; we travelled up it for a mile in search of a tree on which to cross, but being unable to find one, had to swim for it; we then travelled for about a mile through a very bad swamp, in which was eighteen inches of water and six inches of mud, and to make bad worse, a large bush fire surrounded us, and we were nearly suffocated with the smoke before we could find our way out of it; we lay down completely done up with fatigue and anxiety.

26th. — Proceeded along the burnt ground for seven miles when we reached some ironstone hills, which extended about two miles; at their termination, we found a very large rock, about 150 feet high, up which we mounted and obtained a view of the sea, and observed an inlet close to the beach; here I have since learnt the police came to look for us.

When we had taken a good view of the country, we made for the inlet and, having swam across, lost no time in catching some fine fresh-water trout, some of which weighed two pounds; they tasted very nice when cooked.

27th. — This morning, we employed ourselves smoking the fish with a sort of green bush, which we afterwards believed to be the poison-plant. We also ate some of the smoked fish with the roots we had saved. Soon after the meal, I heard Hooley call for assistance; I was going

towards him but fell in the attempt, experiencing a most dreadful thumping sensation in the head, which was followed by severe vomiting and bleeding at the nose; Smith and Ellis were also taken ill with the same symptoms, and before night we were all lying at death's door; with the greatest difficulty we managed to crawl round the fire, but no one was equal to the exertion of putting on a piece of wood.

28th. — Lying at the camp all day, helplessly ill, without the least nourishment, except a tin of water, which I believe saved our lives.

29th. — We all felt much better this morning and ate a few roots, but Hooley, very much against our advice, ate some more fish. We made a start about 10 am, and after travelling half a mile, Hooley was again attacked with vomiting and dysentery; we went a little farther and halted.

30th. — Travelled fifteen miles today and made Deep River.

1 December. — Left the Deep River and travelled another fifteen miles, but we had great difficulty in keeping Hooley on his feet; he appeared so ill and worn out.

2nd. — Travelled only eight miles today, Hooley being too ill to go any farther; we also crossed a road which we supposed must lead to Albany.

3rd and 4th. — Travelled a few miles further, getting Hooley along with great difficulty; we tried to give him a few roots, which he vomited; indeed, all of us felt tired, hungry, and fairly done up, and as we were afraid Hooley might die on our hands, we made up our minds to go into Albany and give ourselves up.

5th. — Travelled towards the beach and sighted Albany from a high hill near the sea; we then held a consultation; I proposed to take Hooley where he would be found and cared for and that Smith and Ellis should accompany me along the beach back to our own Party; but this they would not hear of, and Smith started off for the Sound, which appeared to be only 6 miles off, leaving Hooley to the care of Ellis, until assistance could be procured; for my part I did not wish to give myself up in Albany, and therefore started back by the beach, having shaken hands with my companions, who tried their best to dissuade me from a course which they felt sure must result in my death.

6th, 7th, and 8th. — Travelling along the beach, now and then making considerable rounds through the rocks jutting out to sea, suffering fearfully from cold and hunger, heat and moisture.

9th. — I found myself travelling painfully through the valley of some sea-coast hills when I became as a drunken man, reeling and falling down. I lay for some time isolated, weary, past all feeling of hunger, and thinking that it mattered not how soon death released me, when to my joy and astonishment, I saw a white man approach; with some difficulty, I shouted to him, and as he came near I observed a double-barrelled gun in his hand; he told me that he knew I was one of the four convicts the police had visited his station in search of, and asked for my three companions; I then gave him a most positive assurance that they were in Albany; when he seemed satisfied, and kindly taking me by the arm, led me to his house, where I received every kindness; when somewhat refreshed he placed me on horseback, and we arrived at the Warren Bridge party about dusk; as my old companions gathered round me. I could plainly understand that I was to them and one they never expected to hear of again. To Mr Mottram, under Providence, I owe my life; and

while that lasts, he will ever have the deep gratitude of a poor runaway convict who had laid down to die in the wilds of Western Australia!²²

As a warning, the newspaper reported that - The fate of the four prisoners who bolted from the Warren Road Party will perhaps warn other inexperienced prisoners not to take to the bush. They were nearly starved to death and, with difficulty, made their way to a settler's residence, where they abjectly begged to be taken back to their camp and certain punishment. The fourth is believed to have perished of hunger in the bush.²³

On 12 March 1868, at Albany, it was reported the remains of the missing convict [Samuel Hooley], who escaped from the Warren party, had been found near Torbay. There can be no doubt about the person, as his pannikin, with his number and initials, was found close to the bones discovered by Thomas Knapp while hunting cattle in the bush.²⁴

It seems strange that Samuel would try to escape. Whenever he was in prison in England, he was well-behaved and received good reports.

The others who escaped:

Charles Ellis, 8550, convicted on 2 March 1867 at Fremantle, sentenced to 2 years hard labour in irons for escaping, and to pay £2 for his recapture. He was released from irons on 22 April 1868.

John Smith, 8995, convicted on 2 March 1867 at Fremantle, sentenced to 2 years hard labour in irons for escaping, and to pay £2 for his recapture. He was released from irons on 22 April 1868.

John Flint, 8554, convicted on 17 December 1866 and sentenced to 3 years with the first 6 months in irons. He returned to Fremantle Prison on 22 December 1866 and was released from irons on 16 April 1867. John was granted several periods of remission, totalling almost three years. He received a ticket of leave in March 1870.

The family left behind in Walsall.

Sarah Hooley

Early life: Sarah (or Sally) is the daughter of William Shooter and Elizabeth Dent (or Gent), baptised in Selston, Nottinghamshire, on 7 July 1822. Her father had been in the army, serving in Canada, where he married in 1819 before returning to England the same year. He settled in Selston and obtained work in the mines.

On the 1841 census, the family lived at Riddings in the parish of Alfreton, Derbyshire: William Shooter, 55, coal miner; Elizabeth 40; Sarah 15; John 15, coal miner; Hannah 10; William 7; Richard 5; Joseph 2; and Georgiana 2 months.²⁵

Georgiana, Sarah's daughter, died in July 1841, aged 12 weeks.²⁶

²² The Inquirer and Commercial News (Perth, WA : 1855 - 1901), 23 January 1867, p3

²³ The Perth Gazette and West Australian Times (WA : 1864 - 1874), 11 January 1867, p2

²⁴ The Inquirer and Commercial News (Perth, WA : 1855 - 1901), 18 March 1868, p3

²⁵ TNA, HO107/193/4. There were nine children in the family.

²⁶ Baptised 6 May 1841 and buried 6 July 1841.

Sarah then had a daughter, Elizabeth, born in 1843 but not baptised until 1845 at Riddings. Elizabeth was living with her grandparents in Alfretton in 1851, and in 1861 was living in Ilkeston. She married Walter Harris in 1866.

Sarah Hooley, 58 (sic), died of cerebral disease and coma on 17 January 1868 at Dudley Street, Walsall. She was the widow of Samuel Hooley, collier. Present at death was Mary Gunn. Sarah was 45 years old.

Superintendent Registrar's District <u>Walsall</u>									
Registrar's District <u>Walsall</u>									
18 <u>68</u> . DEATHS in the District of <u>Walsall</u> in the County of <u>Stafford</u>									
No.	When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.
308	Seventeenth January 1868 Dudley Street	Sarah Hooley	Female	58 years	Widow of Samuel Hooley Collier	Cerebral disease. Coma Certified	+ The Mark of Mary Gunn Present at the death Nye's of Hill Walsall	Eighteenth January 1868	J. B. Petty Registrar

The Children

Samuel Hooley

Alias: Humphreys

Samuel was possibly baptised at Riddings church:

Born Feb: 4 1846	May 12	Samuel	Sarah	Shooter	Newlands	Newlands	G. H. Kerwood	No. 808	071
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He was committed at Hanley a few days before his father was charged in March 1862: Samuel Humphreys, 15, and John Finn, 17, were charged with uttering seven pieces of counterfeit coin at Hanley and Stoke. They were remanded for a week while the Mint was consulted.²⁷ At their trial on 7 April, they were both sentenced to two years.

Samuel, a miner, was transferred to Parkhurst prison on 15 July 1862. He said his mother was Sarah Humphrey of Hanley, and he had been summarily convicted once before. Samuel received a pardon on 6 April 1864.²⁸

37	John Finn	Uttering Counterfeit Coin.	2 Years
38	Samuel Humphrey	Uttering Counterfeit Coin.	2 Years
39	William Johnson	Having in his possession counterfeit coin with intent to utter	3 Years

Walsall Petty Sessions.

Incorrigible. Samuel Hooley, 19, was charged, upon a warrant, with having been in the shop of Mr John Jevons, ironmaster, Park Street, for a felonious purpose. On 20 November 1865, Miss Sarah

²⁷ Staffordshire Advertiser, 15 March 1862, p6

²⁸ TNA, PCOM2/69

Moore, niece of the prosecutor, saw the prisoner behind her uncle's counter and caught hold of him, but he escaped. A warrant was issued, and he was apprehended in Digbeth on Monday last. The prisoner, who had been previously convicted, was sentenced to three months imprisonment.²⁹

No further trace of him has been found.

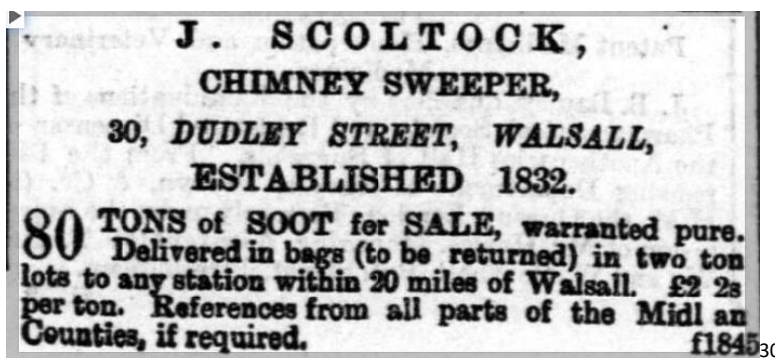
Ann Hooley

Married at The Pleck Church [Methodist], Walsall, Staffordshire, by Banns, on 18 February 1868: Joseph Scoltock, 19, bachelor, chimney sweep, resides at Walsall; his father was Benjamin Scoltock, a chimney sweep.

Ann Hooley, 19, spinster, resides at Long Acre; her father was Samuel Hooley, a collier. Joseph signed the register, and Ann made her mark.

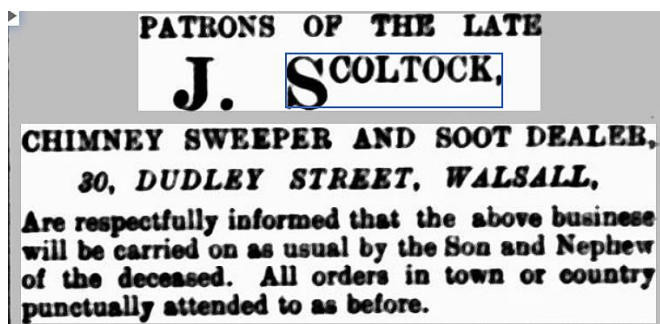
On the 1871 census, the Scoltock family lived at 30 Dudley Street, Walsall. Joseph Scoltock, 22, chimney sweep; his wife Ann, 22, and children Harriet, 3 and Benjamin, 4 months, live with Joseph's parents, Benjamin Scoltock, 69, chimney sweep, and Sarah, 58. The following year, their son Joseph was born; however, he died aged 1.

The 1881 census, 30 Dudley Street, Walsall: Joseph Scoltock, head, 32, chimney sweep employing two men and one boy; Ann, wife, 31; Benjamin, father, 79; and children Hannah (*sic*), 13, scholar; Benjamin, 11; and Harry Sherwin, 12, apprentice, nephew.



Similar adverts appeared in the newspapers in 1888.

After Joseph Scoltock died in 1890, aged 41, this advert appeared in the newspapers:³¹



²⁹ Birmingham Daily Gazette, 01 December 1865, p4

³⁰ Lichfield Mercury, 13 May 1887, p1

³¹ Walsall Observer, 19 April 1890, p4

Anne had dropped her age by ten years and worked as a general servant in 1901 in Walsall. By 1911, she moved north to Leeds and lived with her brother George Hooley and his family.

George Hooley

George Shuter was baptised on 30 January 1850 at Walsall, the son of Sarah Shuter. After the death of his mother, he moved to Leeds, almost 200km north of Walsall.

At the Parish Church of Leeds, Yorkshire, by Banns, on 29 January 1871:

George Holey, 20, bachelor, Engineman, resides in St Peters Square; his father was Samuel Holey, an Engineman.

Mary Ann Ball, 17, spinster, resides in St Peter's Square; her father was Francis Ball, a Nail Cutter
George made his mark, and Mary Ann signed the register.

The 1871 census, Otter Street, Leeds:

George Hooley, married, 20, engine minder, born in Staffordshire

Mary Ann Hooley, married, 18, nail maker, born in Leeds

George and Mary Ann had 13 children - George Francis, William, Anne Elizabeth, Edith, Alfred, Herbert, John, Edward, Agnes, Ethel, Walter, Arthur and Earnest, and 11 were still alive on the 1911 census. Living with them in 1911 was Mrs Scoltock, George's sister Ann who was a widow; and Ernest Gordon, 10, a grandson who was the son of Anne Elizabeth Gordon née Hooley.

George Hooley died in 1936, aged 87.

Patience Hooley

Patience was born in the Derby County Prison on 13 January 1853; her mother was Sarah Shooter. No father is recorded. The Prison Governor registered the birth on 7 February 1853.

On 7 July 1864, Patience Wooley, a little girl, who had been remanded on a charge of attempting to pickpockets in the Market-place, was sentenced to fourteen days imprisonment and to be kept in a reformatory for five years. The Chief Superintendent stated he had an order for her admission into the Coppice Girl's Reformatory at Smethwick.³²

In 1869, Patience Hooley, aged 16, was charged with having, on 30 June 1869, stolen a brooch, the property of Mary Griffiths. From the evidence, it appeared that the prisoner, who was unemployed, was allowed by the prosecutrix's mother to sleep with the prosecutrix. The prisoner got up on the morning in question and took the brooch from the cupboard. She pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 21 days imprisonment with hard labour. The prisoner's father was transported, and since then, her mother has died, and about three years ago, the prisoner was sent to a Reformatory School at Smethwick. However, after absconding several times, she was discharged about a month ago as incorrigible.³³

³² Staffordshire Advertiser, 23 July 1864, p7; Birmingham Daily Post, 21 July 1864, p3

³³ Walsall Free Press and General Advertiser, 03 July 1869, p4

Sarah Ann Ricks and Patience Hooley, prostitutes, were charged with using obscene language at Townend Bank. The defendants with previous convictions admitted the charge and were each fined 10s and costs.³⁴

On 11 June 1874, at St Michael's Church, Rushall, Staffordshire, by Banns:
Samuel Bevington, 23, bachelor, a sweep, resides at Walsall: his father was Samuel Bevington, a sweep. Samuel made his mark.

Patience Hooley, 21, spinster, resides at Rycroft: her father, Samuel Hooley, was a collier.
Patience signed the register. [Rushall is 3-4 km from Walsall]

The marriage did not last. On the 1881 and 1891 census, Samuel Bevington lived with his mother in Walsall. 1881 he said he was married, but in 1891, he was a widower.

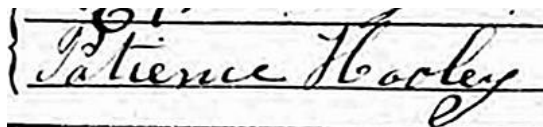
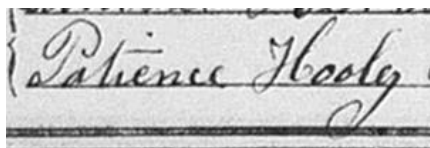
In the meantime, Patience had moved to Derby by 1881, where she worked in a 'disorderly house'. She spent seven days in gaol for being drunk and disorderly in August 1881. In September, she was fined 10s and costs, or 14 days in gaol, for the same offence. Then in January 1882, she and John Maloney were sentenced to three months for stealing 4s from a person.

On 7 July 1883 at All Saints Church, Derby, by Banns:

Edward Hemsley, 27, bachelor, labourer, resides at Court 3, Willow Row; his father was William Hemsley, a labourer, deceased

Patience Hooley, 27, spinster, resides at Court 3, Willow Row; her father was Samuel Hooley, a collier, deceased.

Edward and Patience both signed the register.



Signature on 1874 and 1883 marriage certificates.

In 1886, Edward and Patience Helmsley, husband and wife, were charged on a warrant with keeping a disorderly house at House 7, Court 3, Willow-row, on 24 February. Edward pleaded not guilty, and Patience pleaded guilty. The case was proven, and the Bench considered it a serious offence. There were nine previous minor convictions against Patience and three against Edward, and the magistrate inflicted a fine of £5 and costs or one-month imprisonment with hard labour.³⁵

An Old Offender – Patience Hemsley was charged on a warrant that on the 13 and 22 March 1890, she did keep and manage a house of ill fame. Inspector Waldren said that on the night of the 22nd, he watched the house in question on Bridge Street and saw it frequented by men and women. Detective Sergeant Clay proved the offence on the 13th, and the prisoner, who did not deny the charge, but pleaded that she was no worse than the other people in the street, was fined £10 and costs, or two months imprisonment with hard labour, there being 16 previous convictions, one being for a similar offence.³⁶

Edward appears to have died in 1890. What became of Patience is unknown.

³⁴ Walsall Free Press and General Advertiser, 28 October 1871, p4

³⁵ Derby Mercury, 03 February 1886, p3

³⁶ Derby Daily Telegraph, 25 March 1890, p3

Eliza Hooley

Eliza was born on 28 February 1858 at 32 Thomas Street, Birmingham. Her father was Samuel Hooley, a lodging house keeper; and her mother Sally Hooley, formerly Shuter, who registered the birth. However, when Eliza was baptised in the District of St Peter Church on 5 April 1858, her father said he was a brass founder, and they lived in Thomas Street.

On the 1871 census, Union Workhouse, Walsall Foreign, Staffordshire
Eliza Hooley, 12, no occupation, pauper inmate, born Walsall
William Hooley, 10, no occupation, pauper inmate, born Walsall
Eliza has not been positively identified after 1871.

William Hooley

William Hooley was born on 18 August 1860 at Reeds Wood, Walsall. Samuel's father was a collier; his mother was Sarah Hooley née Shooter, who registered the birth. Reeds Wood is very close to Green Lane, where the family were living in 1861. Note: Samuel cannot be his father as he was in prison from 30 June 1859, and William was conceived around the beginning of November 1859.

On the 1871 census, at the Union Workhouse, Walsall Foreign, Staffordshire:
Eliza Hooley, 12, no occupation, pauper inmate, born Walsall
William Hooley, 10, no occupation, pauper inmate, born Walsall

In 1881, William, aged 19, was lodging with a family in Walsall Foreign and employed as an electroplater.

Then on 25 December 1886, at St Peters Church, Walsall, Staffordshire, by Banns:
William Hooley, 24, bachelor, engine driver, resides in Blue Lane East; his father was Samuel Hooley, deceased, profession unknown.
Mary Jane Freeman, 22, a spinster, resides in Blue Lane East; her father was John Freeman.
Both signed the register.

In 1891, William, Mary and their three children lived at 30 Dudley Street; Benjamin Scoltock was a lodger (William's nephew). Joseph and Ann Scoltock previously occupied the house.

By 1900, William was a chimney sweep, and the family lived at 163 Blue Lane East, Walsall. In 1911 the census showed that William and Mary had ten children, 5 of whom had died. Joseph 1888, John William 1889, Alice 1891-5, George 1893-3, Benjamin 1894-1901, Samuel 1898-9, William Baden 1900-1900, Ivy 1902, Florrie 1904 and Alice 1908.

William died in 1837, aged 78, in Walsall.