

Samuel Laughton, 120, Hashemy

Researched by Marcia Watson

Baptised	9 May 1824, Tuxford, Nottinghamshire
Parents	Jonathan Laughton and Elizabeth West
Parent's marriage	27 November 1820, St Wilfred Church, South Muskham
Siblings	Emma (1826-1826), Fanny (1829), William (1832-1832)
Husband	
Married	
Children	

Parents: His father, Jonathan Laughton, was born in 1796 at Tuxford and probably married Elizabeth Ward on 27 November 1820 at St Wilfred Church, South Muskham, about 12 miles from Tuxford.

In 1841, living at Church Street, East Markham were: ¹

Jonathan Laughton, 45, Ag lab; Elizabeth, 50; Fanny, 12

Samuel Laughton, 18, Ag lab, was employed by Ann Wood, 40, farmer at Millton, about 2½ miles away from his parents. Living with Ann Wood were her four children, a female servant and 3 Ag labs. ²

Samuel's mother, Elizabeth, died in 1845, aged 54. His father met an unfortunate death in 1850:

On Saturday morning last, between four and five o'clock, a man named Watts was walking on the towing path of the Chesterfield Canal, a short distance from Retford, and very- near the bridge in Babworth parish, called "Lady Bridge," when he perceived a hat in the water. He procured a rail to enable him to get the hat out and, on moving it, uncovered the head of a man under it.

Some other labourers who were going to their work were fortunately near, and he went for assistance and by whose help they succeeded in getting the body out of the water. After which, it was conveyed to the sign of the Boat, West Retford, where, in the course of the forenoon, it was identified by his daughter as the body of Jonathan Laughton, aged 53 years. For many years an inhabitant of East Markham, from which place he went to reside at Nottingham, about two years ago, but had come over to visit his daughter at Retford, and had gone out on Friday with the intention of walking to Osberton, stating that he should be back again by nine o'clock that night, but had never been heard of until brought home a corpse. On Monday, an inquest was held on the body, and a verdict of "found drowned" was returned. ³

At the Petty Sessions Southwell, on 6 September 1846:

On Tuesday last, William Staniland and **Samuel Laughton**, both of Eganton, were conveyed to the county gaol, at Nottingham, by Inspector Caldwell for trial at the next assizes, charged with breaking into the dwelling house of Charles Smith, of East Markham, and stealing a number of silver spoons, sugarbowls, silk handkerchiefs, and other articles, the property of Mr C. Smith. ⁴

At the Nottingham Lent Assizes, 12 March 1847:

William Staniland, labourer, Eganton, aged 23 (reads and writes imperfectly), and Samuel Laughton, moulder, Mansfield, aged 23 (reads and writes imperfectly), were charged with feloniously and burglariously breaking and entering the dwelling-house of Charles Smith, of East Markham, on the night house on 31 August, and stealing from thence one satin handkerchief, one silk ditto, nine silver spoons, and other articles belonging to Charles Smith. Mr Wilmore was for the prosecution.

¹ HO107/851/17

² HO107/851/18

³ Nottinghamshire Guardian - Thursday 22 August 1850, p5

⁴ Nottingham Review and General Advertiser for the Midland Counties, 11 September 1846, p6

Mary Smith, wife of the prosecutor, having left her house with her husband at five in the morning, and returned at six, found her drawers all unlocked and the articles in question taken away.

Charles Smith, having returned a quarter of an hour before his wife, was standing in the yard when he heard a noise as of men getting out of the window on the other side of the house. Mary Bennett, being opposite Smith's house at the time, saw the prisoners getting out of Smith's garden into the highroad. Benjamin Moss saw both the prisoners about the time in question, coming from the direction of Smith's house.

Thomas Leper apprehended the prisoners at Egmont on the same day; and, comparing Staniland's boots with footmarks in Smith's garden, found them to correspond; but had subsequently pulled a piece of each heel off. Reuben Wade, on comparing Laughton's boots with footmarks in the garden, met with a like result; and, moreover, found three skeleton-keys upon him.

Guilty. A previous conviction against Staniland, in 1845, for stealing peas and wheat was proved. Both to be transported for fourteen years.⁵

Samuel Laughton, 21, single, read and write imperfectly, labourer, convicted on 12 March 1847 at Nottingham for burglary and stealing silver spoons. He received 14 years transportation. There was no gaoler's report. He was transferred from Nottingham Gaol to Wakefield prison on 21 September 1847 and received there the same day. A Warrant to transfer Samuel and other convicts to Portland prison was written on 18 November 1848, and they were removed from Wakefield on 22 November.⁶

On the Isle of Portland, Dorset, Portland Prison opened on 24 November 1848. The first sixty-four convicts from Pentonville and Wakefield prisons arrived the same day.

Fifty of the convicts left Wakefield on 22 November, probably travelling as far as London by train. According to newspaper reports, all the prisoners left London by the South-Western Railway in carriages that took them directly to the victualling yard at Gosport, near Portsmouth. The convicts were housed on the *Stirling Castle* hulk overnight.⁷ From there they boarded the steamer *Driver*, sailing at 7:20 am on the 24 November, for the 73 nautical mile journey to Portland. The ship arrived at half-past twelve.

Newspapers reported the opening of the prison and the arrival of the convicts: They appeared in a pitiable condition, chained together in gangs of ten, looking the worse for their voyage.⁸ There is now a principal building, divided into four corridors, which constitutes one-half of the entire whole, containing 640 separate cells or sleeping berths, ranged one above the other, in four stories, and accessible by galleries; an infirmary capable accommodating 60 patients; baths, gas works, engine immense tanks for an ample supply of water; storerooms, kitchen, bakehouse, laundry, separate cells for punishment; other offices, and inner and outer boundary wall, 15 feet in height, inclosing an area many acres, all admirably adapted for the purposes of the establishment, which next year will afford accommodation for upwards of 1300 prisoners. On each side of the entrance gates are erected houses for the principal officers, and at a short distance, cottages for the subordinate officers and wardens.⁹

Sixty-one, of the first sixty-four convicts, were transported to Australia. Three went to Moreton Bay in 1849; forty-six to Port Philip in 1849; three to Tasmania in 1850; and eight came to Western Australia in 1850.

Portland N ^o	Name	Ship
28	BAKER, James	Scindian
38	JOHNSON, William	Scindian
44	SWEENEY, James	Scindian
48	BEST, Francis	Scindian
54	HARTSHORN, Thomas	Hashemy

⁵ Nottingham Review and General Advertiser for the Midland Counties, 19 March 1847, p1

⁶ HO13/95, p286

⁷ Evening Mail, 24 Nov 1848, p7

⁸ Sherborne Mercury, 02 December 1848, p4

⁹ Morning Advertiser, 05 December 1848, p4

56	LAUGHTON, Samuel	Hashemy
60	ROBINSON, Thomas	Scindian
61	STONE, Martin	Scindian

The first few days at the new Portland Prison were a little chaotic. The Governor, J.S. Whitty,¹⁰ noted in his journal:

Friday 24 November 1848

The arrangements for the reception of the prisoners and their disposal in the only finished Hall, made under the personal direction of Colonel Jebb.

The Rules and Regulations of the prison not being yet finally decided on, and several of the Assistant Warders being unused to the Management of prisoners, they were required to read and sign a proof of the part of the proposed Rules describing their General duties and treatment of Prisoners.

Visited the prison with the deputy Governor as ½ past 9 o'clock at night and found all correct. The prisoners having appeared fatigued and the arrangements for their occupations being as yet imperfect they were allowed to go to bed at ½ past 6.

Saturday 25 November 1848

The Prisoners rose at 7 o'clock - there being no means of useful Employment for them during dark mornings - and the means of lighting being still imperfect.

Daily Prayers at ¼ before 9 o'clock - and Surgical Inspection afterwards - after which the prisoners were employed in cleaning the interior of their Hall.

The Evening School arrangements being still imperfect, and there being no other means of employing the prisoners in the Evening usefully, they were allowed to go to bed at 7 o'clock.

Sunday, 26 November 1848.

Morning and Evening Divine Service performed by the Chaplain in the Prisoners Hall at 11 and ½ past 2 o'clock. After morning Service the prisoners were taken to the Exercising Yard and allowed to converse in an orderly manner till dinner time. In the Evening they were allowed the use of Candles to enable them to read in their cells till bedtime. [the gaslighting was not yet working]

Monday, 27 November 1848

After Breakfast the whole of the prisoners were set to work / except a few employed as Carpenters and in the Cook House / to clean the Exercising Yard adjoining the Building - in which employment they worked effectively - their last few days confinement indoors tending doubtless to render this labour an agreeable change - it seems probable that if the prisoners are allowed such limited conversation with each other as will render it a valuable privilege, the power of placing them for a time in separate confinement without employment would be very useful in bringing idle Prisoners to work effectively rather than place themselves under such irksome privation.

Colonel Jebb read and explained to the assembled Prisoners the proposed system of inducements to good conduct during their probation on public works - and the manner in which a Convict would thus be enabled to diminish the period of his confinement under penal discipline, according to the length of his sentence.

In compliance with Colonel Jebb's wish, I addressed the prisoners immediately afterwards to explain that while every encouragement would be afforded to those disposed to amend, the Rules of the prison would be strictly enforced, and the officers required to maintain strict discipline.

The Chaplain also addressed the prisoners advice as to their conduct and opportunities of improvement in the prisons and recommended due submission to the Regulations under which they would be placed.

Evening School commenced at 5 o'clock under the Superintendence of the Chaplain and continued till bedtime.¹¹

The first sixty-four convicts were generally well behaved, apart from one who was sent back to Millbank because of his bad behaviour.

Samuel boarded the *Hashemy* for the voyage to Fremantle on 19 July 1850.¹²

¹⁰ Governor's journal. Portland, PCOM2/354, pp1-12. (the Journal Is on findmypast)

¹¹ Copnvict Links, Vol: 34 No:3, September 2020

¹² HO8/105

His description on arrival in Western Australia in October 1850 was:
120, Samuel Laughton, 24, 5'2½", brown hair, light hazel eyes, an oval face, dark complexion, stout, three moles and a burn on the back of the neck, labourer and single.¹³

Samuel appeared on the casual sick list at Fremantle.¹⁴

Laughton Saml	4 December 1850	Rheumatism	Liniment, Dovers powder 3 times a daily
Laughton Saml	5 December 1850	Rheumatism	Continue Dovers powder
Laughton Saml	7 December 1850		Continue
Laughton Samuel	16 January 1851		
Laughton Sam	19 January 1851		
Laughton Saml	20 January 1851		
Laughton Sam	24 January 1851		
Laughton Sam	25 January 1851		

Samuel received his Ticket of Leave on 26 January 1851, and a Conditional Pardon was granted on 27 May 1854.¹⁵

Samuel appears to have gone to South Australia in 1854, per *Daphne*.¹⁶

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

ARRIVED.

Saturday, September 16—The schooner *Daphne*, 68 tons, Canney, from Fremantle 2nd September. J. Newman and Son, agents. Passengers: Mr Horn and wife, Mr Witaker, wife and 4 children, Mr Raven and wife, Mr Houghton, wife and 2 children, Messrs Murphy, Laughton, Tourne, White and son, Love, Foskett, Scarce, and Foreman, and Ann Conner. Cargo: 41 hhds oil, Sameon; 7055 feet timber, Smith.

No further trace of Samuel Laughton has been found.

¹³ SROWA Acc 128/40-43

¹⁴ SROWA Acc 1156 CS1

¹⁵ SROWA Acc 1156 R21B

¹⁶ Adelaide Times (SA : 1848 - 1858), 18 September 1854. P2