

Alfred Daniel Letch, 114, Hashemy

Researched by Marcia Watson

Name variations: Litch, DeLeech, Leech

Baptism	5 July 1823, Finchingfield, Essex
Parents	Edward Letch and Mary Darby
Parent's marriage	12 May 1817, Finchingfield, Essex.
Siblings	Edward Thomas (1818), Harriet (1820), Charles Darby (1824), George Abner (1826), John Henry (1828-1830), Thomas Augustus (1831), Luke Andrew (1833), Josiah (1837-1837)
Wife	Amelia French
Married	14 September 1863, Perth, Western Australia
Children	Edward Alfred (1864) Ada Mary (1867) Charles William Essex (1870) Arthur Albert (1872) Lionel Cecil (1875 – 1875) Henry Frederich (1877) Thomas Augustus (1880 -1880)

In 1841, living at Finchingfield, Braintree, Essex. ¹

Edward Letch, 50, miller; Mary, 50; George, 14; Thomas, 10; Andrew, 7

Living at Felsted, Dunmow, Essex, about 12 miles from Finchingfield, was: ²

Alfred Letch, 17, apprentice to Samuel Mumford, a harness maker, and living with the Mumford family.

Mr Edward Letch, much respected of Finchingfield, died on 29 May 1852, aged 62, after an illness of only two days. ³ Mary, widow of Mr E. Letch, late of Finchingfield, died 1 March 1864, aged 74⁴

There is extensive coverage in the local papers on the indictment and trial of Alfred Letch. The following two examples are of the indictment and trial

December 1849:

A most systematic robbery, or we might rather say, series of robberies, which have been perpetrated with very great temerity by a young man occupying a respectable station in society, have recently been discovered by the activity and keenness of Watson, a member of the Essex constabulary, whose tact has been more than once tested in the capture of some daring offenders in the neighbourhood of great Baddow.

About four years since **Alfred Daniel Letch**, son of a respectable miller at Finchingfield, was taken into the house of Mr Bell of Great Baddow, as an assistant in the grocery and drapery department of his business, and conducted himself so credibly that he gained the esteem of his employer, and was relied upon with implicit confidence. His proceedings during the last two years have, however, been such as to awaken the suspicions of many by whom he was known, while his pedantic manners and ostentatious demeanour have rendered him a prominent character, not only in the village of Baddow, but more especially in the town of Chelmsford, where he was generally known.

Mr Bell, who is largely engaged in the wool business was of necessity much from home, and the care of the shop principally devolved upon the accused; upon Mr Bell's return to his shop he was surprised to find that the weekly receipts had decreased as much as £4 or £5 per week, and that several articles were missed from the shop. The suspicions occasioned by the discovery were considerably strengthened by a communication from Watson, who expressed his belief that Mr Bell was robbed to some extent; but that gentleman thought some trifle only had been removed from his premises, and that he could avoid

¹ HO107/331/17. P14

² HO107/331/16, p17

³ Essex Herald, 20 July 1852, p2

⁴ Essex Standard, 11 March 1864, p3

prosecuting Letch. Anxious to discover the amount of property taken away and the party acting as accessory, Mr Bell, with Dennis, the parish constable, and Watson, for some nights watched the locality of Letch's walks and found that he constantly visited the house of an inhabitant of the village named Rolfe, whither it was suspected some of the property had been removed. On Tuesday last, 1½lbs of tobacco was sent out from the shop by the prisoner, and this coming to the knowledge of the prosecutor, he gave Letch into custody on the following day; the prisoner's trunks were examined by Superintendant May, who found a most extensive wardrobe, including about 30 handsome satin and other waistcoats, and every other article of wearing apparel of equal quality and number. A considerable sum of money had doubtless been expended on jewellery, as gold pins, rings, and similar ornaments were found in profusion; among them being a pair of gold-mounted eye glasses, to which was attached a gold chain and chased seal, representing the head of a dog.

On Saturday morning, the Superintendent with Mr Bell, repaired to Rolfe's house, where they found a handsome wardrobe, a chest of drawers, and other furniture belonging to the prisoner, all literally crammed with articles belonging to the Bell's shop, consisting of nearly 20 lbs weight of tea, a large quantity of sugar and other articles of grocery, which we cannot enumerate, sufficient to stock a small shop; and linen drapery, comprising whole pieces of Irish, calico, prints, dresses, and similar goods, many of which bore Mr Bell's name, and were of the value of upwards of £100. The property was not then removed, but a constable was left in charge; and it is but justice to state that Rolfe protested his ignorance of the property being stolen, and said the prisoner called about once a month before and requested permission to leave the goods, which was granted, as the prisoner was well known to Mrs Rolfe, who formerly lived as servant to Mr Bell.

The prisoner was the same day taken before Captain Skinner RA, when Mr Bell said he had no doubt, if a remand was granted, he should succeed in tracing property of considerable value. It was impossible at present to ascertain the worth of the stolen goods, or to state who would be implicated, for he was determined to investigate the affair and prosecute all the parties concerned. Under these circumstances the examination of the prisoner was adjourned until Thursday (yesterday) at ten o'clock.

It was believed by some parties that the prisoner, after securing his booty, intended to emigrate, an idea which was strengthened by a recent discovery that two very strong iron bound chests were being made by his order, and by a request for a holiday about Christmas, when he alleged his brother was to be married. The prisoner, who it is stated, was a favourite with many young ladies residing at Chelmsford, was extremely liberal in the disposal of presents, and amongst the articles brought to light were an immense number of letters written chiefly by females, acknowledging the receipt of his favours, which frequently were of the most expensive kind, in proof of which we may mention that a short time since a male companion was presented with a dressing case fitted up in first-rate style, and articles of equal value were lavished upon females who listened to his pretensions.

We are also informed that a clue had been obtained to other property feloniously received, and that a most startling discovery is expected to be made, but at present we deem it prudent to withhold the names of the parties suspected to be implicated, as the disclosure might thwart the ends of justice.

On Saturday morning Superintendant May repaired to the house of the prisoner's father at Finchingfield, where he discovered some articles of silk which had been stolen from Mr Bell's shop, and took the father into custody. It appeared, however that the prisoner had informed his father that his salary was £60 per annum, and the articles in question were made presents to his sisters. During the week the police-officers have been engaged day and night in tracing property, and in addition to two cart loads removed from the house of Rolfe, at Baddow, a greater quantity of all descriptions of articles have been found in another place, whither they have been removed by the prisoner.⁵

The late Extensive Robbery by a Shopman. Examination of the Prisoners. The police have been very active during the past week endeavouring to bring to light any accomplices in the extensive depredations committed by Alfred Letch upon the property of his employer, Mr Bell, of Baddow; but beyond the apprehension of the latter, who was brought up on the first examination and admitted to bail for his subsequent appearance, no accessories have been traced.

⁵ The Essex Standard, 01 December 1848

It was rumoured in the early part of the week that the younger prisoner was about to be married to a young lady resident in Chelmsford, and that a seizure had been made of the bridal attire, consisting of satin dresses made up of stolen property; but upon enquiry this was ascertained to be untrue, although articles of wearing apparel were found at the house of a milliner near Baddow, made up by direction of the prisoner for his mother.

Yesterday (Thursday) the prisoners were brought up for examination before Captain Skinner, R.A., and J. Boggis, Esq. — Mr Rodwell, the barrister, was present to conduct the prosecution; and Mr Lake, solicitor, of Braintree, watched the proceedings on the part of Edward Letch, who was charged as a receiver. In the course of the enquiry the magistrates deemed it necessary to issue a warrant for the apprehension of the mother, for having, in connexion with her husband, received the stolen property with a guilty knowledge. The evidence adduced was extremely voluminous. Mr Bell, the prosecutor, spoke to searching the house of the elder prisoner at Finchingfield, where goods were found exceeding £100 in value. This was exclusive of parcels at present unpacked, and which were of very considerable value. From the examinations he had no doubt his shop had been robbed to the extent of £400 or £500.

Superintendent Oakley deposed to statements made by the different prisoners. Alfred when taken into custody said they would find nothing at his father's at Finchingfield; and the father and mother, though pointing out various articles as having been received from him, denied the presence of any such property in several boxes and drawers where some were afterwards found.

Richard Letch, a carrier, proved carrying a number of parcels for the younger prisoner directed to his father, and left for him at the Cock Inn, Braintree.

Mr John Wade, landlord of the Cock Inn, Braintree, proved delivering the parcels left there to the prisoner Edward Letch. Two or three other witnesses were examined.

At the conclusion of the case for the prosecution, the prisoner made a lengthened statement, in which he admitted stealing a number of the articles produced; but declared that his parents were entirely innocent, as he had told them he was connected with some foreign brokers.

Mr Lane addressed the Bench for the father and mother, and read the following memorial in their behalf: — " To the Justices of the Peace in Sessions assembled at Chelmsford, in the County "We, the undersigned inhabitant, of Finchingfield, having known Edward Letch, of this, parish, miller, for many years, and having always considered him to be a very industrious, honest, and respectable man, not believing him to have had any guilty knowledge of his son's transactions, beg to declare our unanimous hope that he may be discharged, and honourably acquitted . "4 December. 1848."

J. Ruggles Brise, J.P., Spain's Hall; John Stock, Vicar of Finchingfield; J. Beddall, church warden; John Russell Stock, incumbent of St. John's, Finchingfield; Samuel Myhill, churchwarden; Thos. Yeldham, John Yeldham, John Beddall, C.Beddall, Abraham Totman, Martin Outward, farmers; Thomas B. Sainsbury, minister of the Independent Meeting-House, Finchingfield; T.T. Hardy, farmer; Thomas Waters, farmer and tradesman; R. E. Smith, John Hart, Thomas Beddall jun.. Henry Beddall, John Giblin, Charles Weld Wilsher, farmers; Josiah Simms, G. P. Wolton, John Wolton, Jos. Linsell, Frederick Alien, George Yeulet, Thomas Smith, Uriah Darby, J. S. Legerton, John Freeborn, William Freeborn, farmers; Thos. Messent, gentleman: Wm. B. Owen, surgeon; Thos. Giblin, James Gatward, Benjamin Bright, farmers.

In their own statements they denied all knowledge of the goods having been stolen.

The Bench, however, decided on the committal of all the prisoners; but accepted bail for Mr and Mrs. Letch — themselves in £300, and two sureties in £180 each. The investigation, which excited great interest, lasted eight hours.⁶

At the Essex Quarter Session in January 1849:

The trial of Letch, for the robberies upon the premises of Mr C Bell, at Baddow, and of the parties implicated as receivers of the property, which was fixed for Friday morning caused the greatest excitement in the vicinity of the Court, every entrance being crowded by persons from the town and neighbourhood, anxious to hear the circumstances of this extraordinary case.

The first charge was against Letch, for stealing, and Charles Rolfe and Hannah, his wife, for receiving a quantity of tea and sugar, and several articles of drapery and haberdashery.

⁶ Essex Standard, 08 December 1848, p2

Letch, on being asked what answer he had to make to the charge said, he would just state that neither Rolfe nor his wife had any knowledge that he was transacting business in an illicit manner – in a manner, which he would admit was by no means respectable, and therefore with parties whom he could not get there to show that he had not the goods of Mr Bell. He had been in the habit of getting goods from smugglers in an illicit manner. With respect to several articles of which Mr Bell had sworn by his private mark, he was decidedly wrong, as was shown by his going to the house of Mr Harris, in Chelmsford, and swearing to some cigar boxes as his, which were proved to have come from Mr Cooper's, his private mark being the same as that of Mr Bell; and Mr Bell had been misguided in this way. He repeated that the Rolfe's had no knowledge but that he came by the goods honestly; they had been conveyed to their house from time to time; it had been going on for 18 months. The policeman had one of the bills to show some articles that could be produced for goods he had from various places. He had been obliged to misrepresent matters to the Rolfes, in consequence of the illicit transactions to which he had referred; but he asserted the money never came from Mr Bell's, for his income, since he had been with Mr Bell, had been £183 – from Mr Bell, £60; his own private property, £30; and the profit of these illicit transactions with smugglers, £93.

The learned Chairman, in summing up, commented upon the evidence, and, alluding to the fact of Mr Bell not having taken stock for some years, said he thought it was not a judicious step upon the part of a man who had an extensive business, and, whose stock was of the value of about £5,000.

After a brief deliberation, the jury returned a verdict of Guilty against all the prisoners, with a recommendation of the Rolfes to mercy.

The second charge was against Letch for stealing, and against Edward Letch, his father, and Mary Letch, his mother, for receiving various articles, the property of Mr Bell.

The jury, after deliberating about 10 minutes, returned a verdict of Guilty against the principal, and Not Guilty against the receivers. This decision elicited marks of approval from all of the Court, which were with difficulty suppressed.

The Chairman said he quite concurred in the decision of the jury; for although the parties might have acted indiscreetly and not with sufficient caution, there was no proof of a guilty knowledge on their parts, and they left the Court without any imputation on their characters. This remark was also applauded, one on the jury being loudest in his expression of satisfaction.

On Saturday morning the trial were continued, the first charge being against Letch, for stealing 24 lbs of tea, 12lbs of candles, 10lbs of tobacco, and other articles; and Mr George Bond, seller of musical instruments, High street, Chelmsford, for receiving same.

In his defence, Letch, who was unsupported, said that Bond was perfectly innocent of any guilty knowledge of the way the property was procured, thinking the goods came from Mr Bell; he most solemnly declared, in the presence of Almighty God, that Bond had no knowledge whatever of his transaction with the smugglers at Burnham, and that he induced Bond to look upon him as an agent for Mr Bell.

The jury returned a verdict of Not Guilty against Bond (which was received with marks of satisfaction in Court), but convicted Letch.

The last charge was against Letch, for stealing 29lbs of tea, 10lbs of tobacco, and various other articles; and Wm Black, a tailor and tea-dealer, of Great Baddow, for receiving them.

The jury found both prisoners Guilty, recommending Black to mercy, as they thought he had been led to the commission of the offence by Letch; and Mr Bell, seconded their recommendation. On hearing the verdict, Black, who is in very indifferent health, burst into tears.

The Chairman in passing sentence said – Alfred Letch, you have been found guilty of four separate indictments of robbing your master. It has been in evidence that you were placed in a situation of great confidence; you were residing in his house, where you were kindly treated, and where very possible attention was paid to you; but it has been clearly proved that you have been guilty of robbing your master to a very great extent. Indeed you in your own confession state that while in that master's service you humbled yourself in your own eyes, and that does not speak well for you. But of the fact of the robberies to a great extent there cannot be any doubt; and under the law on each of these indictments you are liable to fourteen years transportation. We are not disposed to give you so long a period on each of them, or to make the sentence passed on cumulative; but the court would not be performing their duty if you were suffered to remain in this country after the conduct of which you have been guilty, not only to your master but to others; for I believe, as the jury have stated, that you were the instigator of other parties, and the principal encourager to their committing the offence. I believe it is the opinion of all the Magistrates on the

bench, and it is my firm opinion, that you were the originator of all the offences for which indictments have been preferred; and the sentence is, that you be Transported for the space of Fourteen years. You are not an old man – you are not advanced in years, though I am sorry to say advanced far in dishonesty and robbery, and I hope you will, during this period of punishment, reflect on your conduct, remember the good advice you have received from your father, and endeavour to make some amends for the injury you have done to society, not only in robbing your master of his property, but by the evil example you have set. I should have been disposed to give you two periods of transportation for 14 years each, but the circumstances, that we think Mr Bell, whatever confidence he placed in you – and many young men would have considered that confidence a strong stimulus to be very correct in their conduct- whatever confidence he placed in you, we do not fully exonerate Mr Bell from blame, for not taking the usual precaution that every tradesman is bound to adopt, taking stock every year. Had that been done, in the first year you commenced your frauds you might have been stopped in that career which you have carried on for so long a period – you might have been stopped in that course which you have carried on against society and the property of your employer. For the future endeavour to act honestly; though transportation for fourteen years, the position of transported felons much depends on their conduct in that situation; and therefore I recommend you to be very careful of your conduct and character even there. As to you Black, I am willing to believe that you have been led into it by Letch, but I think you had a real guilty knowledge that these articles were stolen from Mr Bell. You would be liable to transportation; but considering that the jury have said, and the temptation put in your way, the sentence is that you be confined for six months, and kept to such hard labour as the medical man thinks you can perform, the first and last week in solitude. I trust you will in gaol reflect upon your conduct, and that you will never be brought into Court again for an offence against the law.

The trials did not terminate until 3 o'clock on Saturday, the Court, on both days, being crowded to suffocation. ⁷

Essex Prison Register. ⁸ Parents acquitted.

Alfred Daniel Letch	Male	23	D ^o	D ^o four bond.
Edward Letch	Male	57	D ^o	Receiving Stolen Goods
Mary Letch	Male	54	D ^o	D ^o

Alfred Daniel Letch, 23, single, can read & write imperfectly, draper, was convicted on 2 January 1849 at the Chelmsford Sessions in Essex, of larceny (4 indictments) and embezzlement. He was sentenced to 14 years transportation. Alfred was received at Millbank prison on 28 April 1849 from Springfield Gaol. He was a Dissenter. On the 6 March 1850 he was transferred to Portland Prison.⁹ He was one of 44 prisoners who arrived from Millbank via Southampton and Dorchester, arriving at 4pm. At Portland, it was noted his father was a miller of Finchingfield, of excellent character. It was known if he had any previous convictions. Alfred was the confidential shopman of an unsuspecting master who has since died of brain fever brought on by the excitement caused by the discovery of his great losses amounting to about £500, stolen by the prisoner under circumstances of great aggravation.¹⁰ Alfred boarded the *Hashemy* on 19 July 1850 for the voyage to Western Australia.¹¹

On arrival at Fremantle in October 1850, his description was:

114. Alfred D letch, 24, 5' 6³/₄" , dark brown hair, grey eyes, long face, dark complexion, stout, marked with small pox and a scar on small of right arm, a tailor and single. ¹²

⁷ The Ipswich Journal 13 January 1849.

⁸ HO27/87

⁹ PCOM2/30, p38

¹⁰ PCOM2/107, p16

¹¹ HO8/105

¹² SROWA Acc 128/40-3

General Register:

114 Alfred D Leetch (Alfred Daniel Letch written underneath), 25 (in 1852), single, grocer & draper, Independent Church, private schooling, can read & write, and is fair at maths. He said his father Edward Leitch, farmer and miller, lives in Finchingfield Mills, Essex.

Attended Divine Service? Went regularly
 Received Sacrament? On one occasion
 Habits? Sober and attentive to business
 Intellect? Sound
 State of Mind? Hopeful
 Knowledge, Secular? Limited
 Knowledge, Religious? Tolerable
 Alleged Cause of Crime? Covetous impulse of the moment

Name of Person referred to for Character, &c. J R Bride, Spains Hall, Finchingfield, Essex. ¹³

Alfred was one of the few convicts who did not appear on the Casual Sick List while in Fremantle prison before gaining a Ticket of Leave.

A Ticket of leave was issued on 26 January 1852. He worked in Perth for one year: ¹⁴ Wages were £1 per week. He was working for himself from 11 January 1855.

He was granted a Conditional Pardon on 30 July 1855.¹⁵

Alfred appears regularly in the newspapers. He was robbed several times. The following are a few examples from the early newspapers.

24 November 1853, Perth: Henry Thomas Aston, stealing one gold finger ring, silk bag and prayer book, the property of A. De Leech, t.l., from his premises; committed to take trial at Quarter Sessions. ¹⁶

October 1854: Daniel Murray, charged with stealing three loaves of bread and a silk handkerchief the property of Alfred De Leech at Perth. Verdict.-Guilty. Sentence – (not in paper) ¹⁷

Some examples of newspaper advertisements follow:

Notice.

PERSONS neglecting to recover any article from the **VICTORY BOARDING HOUSE, Hay-street, Perth,** before the 1st March, 1853, are informed that such unclaimed effects will be disposed of, and the proceeds placed to their credit.

A. DE LEECH.

N.B.—Accommodations as usual. Board and Lodging 14s per week.
Perth, February 24th, 1853.

The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News (WA : 1848 - 1864), 25 February 1853, p3

For Sale. The Gig "FLY,"
Complete.

THE above Boat is moored close along side the Perth Jetty.
Upset price 20 Guineas.
Terms—Cash.

A. DE LEECH.

Victory Eating House, Perth, Oct. 20.
Persons from the country will find this a convenient house. Meals, 1s each.
Table always spread. Night and Day Beds, &c., as usual,

The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News (WA : 1848 - 1864), 28 October 1853, p1

¹³ SROWA Acc 1156 R21A

¹⁴ SROWA cons 1386/1, p234

¹⁵ SROWA Acc 1156 R21B

¹⁶ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News (WA : 1848 - 1864), Fri 2 Dec 1853, p2

¹⁷ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News (WA : 1848 - 1864), Fri 6 Oct 1854, p3

ALFRED DE LEECH
Grocer, Draper, &c.

A well-selected General Stock always on hand, too comprehensive for advertisement.

From a Patient in Guildford to a Doctor in Perth :

Pray Doctor Cure-'em, cans't thou tell
Of anything to make me well?
I feel so chilly of a morning,
And then besides I'm always yawning.

I've taken gin, and taken brandy,
And wine and beer, and rum if handy;
Yet, notwithstanding I must say,
I'm getting worse and worse each day.

Cure-'em, —

Why, yes, though Pills should not avail,
And Draughts and Powders both should fail,
I tell you, throw all these away,
And take **HOT COFFEE** every day.

This is your cure Sir, only try it,
And I will tell you where to buy it,
Health and comfort at once you reach,
If you buy your **COFFEE** from De Leech.

The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News (WA : 1848 - 1864), 6 November 1857, p5

At the Congregational Chapel, Perth, W.A., on the 14 September 1863, by the Rev. J. M. Innes, Mr A. DeLeech, of Perth and Guildford, to Miss Amelia French, late of Commercial Road, London.¹⁸ Their youngest child, Thomas Augustus was born in England and died of 'wasting away' on the returned voyage in 1880, aged 6 months)¹⁹

**WANTED, a plain COOK and
GENERAL SERVANT. Also,
HOUSEMAID, and to assist with the
Children.**

Liberal wages.

MRS. ALFRED LETCH.

Perth, Feb. 21, 1879.

The Inquirer and Commercial News (Perth, WA : 1855 - 1901), 26 February 1879, p2

¹⁸ The Inquirer and Commercial News (Perth, WA : 1855 - 1901), 16 September 1863, p2

¹⁹ Registers Of Deaths At Sea, BT 159/4A

1907. LETCH.-The Friends of the late Mr Alfred Daniel Letch are respectfully invited to follow his remain to the place of interment, the East Perth Cemetery. The Funeral is appointed to leave his late residence, Robinson-street, North Perth, at 10 o'clock THIS (Saturday) MORNING.

BOWRA, and O'DEA; Undertakers, 195 Pier-street, Perth. Tel, 308
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The East Perth Cemetery database has:

Name LETCH, Alfred Daniel
Date of death 14 March 1907
Burial date 16 March 1907 Congregational, East Perth
Cemetery. No headstone.
Age 84 years

WA Biographical Index

De LEECH (LEACH/LETCH) Alfred b. 1826 (Eng) (expiree) son of Edward

Arrived 25.10.1850 per 'Hashemy'

m. 14.9.1863. Amelia FRENCH b. 1844 d 11.8.1918 She arr
8.4.1863 per *Burlington* (chd).

Merchant, broker, dealer at PERTH & GUILDFORD 1856 - 1872.

Also Coach Proprietor at Guildford & contractor for York Mail run.

Employed 46 T/L men 1852 - 1876, 6 shopmen & bookkeepers in
1860s. Cooks & baker at Williams R. 1870's.

Mr & Mrs de Leech + 3 chd visited Eng & returned 11.1.1881 per
Fitzroy. Congreg.



1918. MRS. AMELIA LETCH.

A very old resident of the State, in the person of Mrs. Amelia Letch, mother, of Mr E. A. Letch, of "Eadine," Clackline, died at her son's residence on Sunday morning, aged 77 years . The deceased lady was a native of London and came to this State 76 years ago. Her husband, who died some eleven years ago, was the late Alfred Daniel Letch, who for many years was proprietor of the line of coaches that ran between Fremantle, Perth and Guildford. The late Mrs. Letch resided in Perth up to five years ago, when she took up her residence with her son, Mr E. A. Letch, at Clackline. Four sons, Messrs E. A., C. W., A. A. and H. F. Letch. survive her. The funeral, which was of a private nature, took place on Monday, the interment being at the Anglican portion of the Northam Cemetery, the Rev. J. Mason being the officiating clergyman. The chief mourners were Messrs. Edward A. and Charles Letch (sons), and Mr T. H. Wilding, Mr J. W- Purslowe, conducted the mortuary arrangements.²¹

1907. Mr GEORGE ABNER LETCH. (brother of Alfred)

The funeral of the late Mr George Abner Letch took place on Monday afternoon, and was largely attended. The deceased gentleman arrived in this State with his family in the ship *Ivy* on 18 February, 1872, and shortly afterwards opened the Commercial School in St. George's-terrace. After conducting that institution for many years he was at last, on account of old age, compelled to discontinue it. The cortege moved from the residence of his son-in-law, Mr W. Sparks, 73 Hay street, Subiaco, and proceeded to the Trinity Congregational church, St. George's-terrace, where the first portion of the funeral service was conducted by the Rev. C. H. Bradbury, assisted by the Rev. J. Chapman, of Bunbury.

From thence the cortege proceeded to the Congregational portion of the Karrakatta Cemetery, where the remains, which were enclosed in a massive jarrah casket, were interred.²²

²⁰ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 16 March 1907, p1

²¹ The Northam Advertiser (WA : 1895 - 1918; 1948 - 1955), 14 August 1918, p3

²² Western Mail (Perth, WA : 1885 - 1954), 20 April 1907, Page 18