

Levi Walker, 1501

Marcia Watson

Levi Walker, born about 1831, son of Thomas Walker (from death index). They were Baptists.

Siblings:

Joseph married Sarah Ann

Mary b.~1830

1841. West Riding General Sessions, Pontefract, 7 April

Imprisoned One Year.— Levi Walker, aged 10 years, for stealing a jacket from Richard Totten at Halifax.

[This sentence, which might seem disproportionate to the offence, was pronounced in order that the lad might be taken into the Penitentiary Ward of the House of Correction, and taught some handicraft trade.]¹ He was in the House of Correction when the 1841 census was taken.

1843. Halifax, 2 January

Juvenile Delinquent. Levi Walker, a little lad whose head hardly peered over the front of the dock, but who has already had twelve months in the House of Correction, and whose brother is in the same place now for felony, was brought up by Carter, a Northowram parochial constable, on a charge of stealing 4s in copper from a basket in the market place, on Saturday. There was another lad in his company, and also now in custody, but he had a good character he was discharged with a reprimand. Levi was sent to the House of Correction for three months. This is a case to which the magistrates would do well to take heed; as it is one of a class continually recurring, the lad having been to all appearance thoroughly reclaimed in the House of Correction, but being afterwards turned out upon society **with no master but the worse than useless one, a drunken, careless father**, has fallen into his old ways. In cases of this kind the House of Correction is powerless in itself; and it would be perhaps less expensive to let the lad run on in undisturbed wickedness till he had done something for which he could be transported.²

1847. November

STEALING SUET.—On Monday, as a cut belonging to Edward Holmes was proceeding along Cross Hill, a quantity of suet was stolen from it. A little lad Wm. Ingham noticed four young men about the cart, and saw one of them lift the lid a box which the suet had been placed tied up in a handkerchief, and pull out the bundle, on which they all ran away. They were traced under the North Bridge into a place where straw is kept, where they were seen dividing the booty, which they had evidently expected to be a more valuable one. They were ad brought before G. T. Pollard, Esq. Tuesday when they gave their names Thomas Nicholl, Levi Walker, Joseph Sutcliffe, and Joseph Field. Rawson proved that were all suspicious characters, having no visible means of subsistence, and some of them having been already convicted or committed. One, though only about 16 years of age, had been in Rawson's hands six years ago, when he got 12 months imprisonment. They were committed summarily for one month. ³

1848. Halifax, February

Prince Lamb. Levi Walker, and Thos Sykes, three of the inmates in the Union Workhouse, were charged with being disorderly characters; in having the previous night violated the rules of the house, by scaling the walls and getting into the ward appropriated to the unfortunate females on Sunday night. Nancy Holgate, one of this latter class, proved the case against the three defendants. The lads said they went for a bit of a spree. They were committed to Wakefield for 21 days to hard labour. Mr. Barstow supported the case, which was laid by the porter. ⁴

¹ Leeds Intelligencer - Saturday 10 April 1841, p8

² Halifax Guardian - Saturday 07 January 1843, p7

³ Halifax Guardian - Saturday 27 November 1847, p4

⁴ Halifax Guardian - Saturday 19 February 1848, p7

1851 census. 28, South Street, Halifax, Yorkshire & Yorkshire (West Riding), England ⁵

Joseph Walker, head, 27, fruit dealer, born Halifax, Yorkshire

Sarah Ann, wife, 27, born Brighouse, Yorkshire

Levy Walker, brother, 21, fruit dealer, born Halifax.

1851, Halifax, July

Felonies. Levi Walker was brought before their worships, charged with having taken 3s. 6d. from the person of the prosecutor Robert Binns, in Lister-lane, on the 17th instant, and committed to the sessions. ⁶

1851. West Riding Intermediate Sessions, Wakefield

Levi Walker (20), for feloniously assaulting Robert Binns, at Halifax, and stealing from his person 3s. 6d.—7 years. ⁷

1854. Witness in trial. ⁸

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/3175133?searchTerm=%22levi%20walker%22&searchLimits=-state=Western+Australia>

1855. Conditional Pardon.

1857. Levi Walker, 1501, per *Dudbrook* to WA, went to South Australia per *Estrella da Norte* on 9 October 1857.

ARRIVED.

Saturday, October 24—The ship Estrella do Norte, 393 tons, R. Parkinson, master, from Swan River October 9. E. G. Collinson, agent. Passengers—Messrs. Gravett and Baker, Mrs. Russell, and Mrs. Scrivener and child, in the cabin; J. Robinson, wife, and child, Susan and Jane Robinson, Bridget Ryan, Richard, Louisa, Henry, Emily, Ann, Alfred, John and Charles Dunbridge, Mrs. Miller and two children, Richard Harris and wife, Robert Long, wife, and two children, Thomas Brett, Thomas and Adam Carlin, Thomas Boddington, John Jenner, Levi Walker, John Barney, John Nethery, wife, and child, John Caffrey, William Bufton, Mrs. Rollins and two children, George Smith, Peter Carbay, Thos. Mitchell, Mrs. Brown and child, Alexander Anderson, Archibald Peffers, John Godfrey, Richard Robinson, Edward Pascoe, Samuel, Henry, John, and Sarah Wells, and Frederick Pettet, in the steerage.

9

1858. Supreme Court, Adelaide
Stealing from a Dwelling-House.

⁵ HO107/2298/723, p31

⁶ Leeds Times - Saturday 26 July 1851, p5

⁷ Leeds Intelligencer - Saturday 06 September 1851, p8

⁸ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News (WA : 1848 - 1864), Fri 7 Apr 1854, p3

⁹ Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Sat 31 Oct 1857, P5

Levi Walker was indicted for stealing from the dwelling house of Charlotte Horn an opossum rug, the property of George Porter, at Port Adelaide, on the 29th July last.

Mr. Bagot defended the prisoner.

Charlotte Horn, wife of Thomas Horn, stated that on the 29th July last, she saw the prisoner about the house. He was at the front door, and as soon as he saw her he pretended to be pulling the door too.

Previously to seeing the prisoner that morning she noticed the rug hanging on a line in her back room. After she saw the prisoner she (witness) went out to visit a neighbour, and returned about 6 o'clock, and then missed the rug. It was worth £5, and belonged to George Porter.

Mr. Bagot asked the witness who George Porter was? -to which she answered that he lived in her house.

Mr. Bagot then asked if he did not live with he? The witness was mute at that form of the question, and Mr.

Bagot pressing her for a reply, she appealed to His Honor to know if she was compelled to answer. His Honor said she was not, and her cross-examination by Mr. Bagot was then resumed. She stated that the day the rug was missed Porter left for town, where he remained that day, and did not return all night.

Before he left he had a few words with her, but did not leave in a passion and take the rug with him.

Margaret Ramsden, examined by the Crown Solicitor, stated that she lived near Mrs. Horn's, and saw the prisoner standing in the back door-way of Mrs. Horn's, and saw him pitch an opossum rug from Mrs. Horn's door into his own house, which was only a few feet from Mrs. Horn's.

By Mr. Bagot - She had no conversation with the prisoner before she gave information to the police, neither did she talk to the young woman he was living with, nor any one else.

The witness caused a great deal of merriment amongst a large number of Port ladies and gentlemen who were in Court, by the indignant way in which she replied to Mr. Bagot's questions, put by the learned gentleman to test her loquacious talents and her reputation for veracity.

The mirth of the Portonians reached its climax when the witness gave a contemptuous glance round the Court and scornfully exclaimed that she never spoke to anybody and always kept at home, and never corresponded with such folk except on such occasions as the present one when she came to town with decent people. The glee of the Portonians at the words "decent people" burst out most audibly.

By His Honor - She saw the rug again at night when the prisoner was removing it from his house.

George Porter stated that while staying at Mrs. Horn's he missed the rug in question. The last time he saw it was on the 12th July, at Mrs. Horn's.

By Mr. Bagot - He was then living with Mrs. Horn, and saw the rug in the afternoon before he went to town.

Corporal Badman stated that when he arrested the prisoner he denied the charge. The rug had not been found, the doors of Mrs. Horn's and the prisoners were nearly opposite, and were only separated by a narrow passage.

By Mr. Bagot - Examined the place the same evening the rug was missed.

This was the case for the Crown.

Mr. Bagot addressed the Jury for the defence, and said that the only evidence against the prisoner was that of Mrs. Ramsden, and the Jury would see from the way in which she gave her evidence in relation to her account of the affair, that no reliance could be placed in her statement. With regard to Mrs. Horn, her statement could not be believed, for she had admitted that she quarrelled with the man she had been living with, and the only evidence the Jury had to fall back upon was Mrs. Ramsden. They (the Jury) would be able to form an opinion of the value of her testimony, for he (Mr. Bagot) had allowed her to run on at her own rate as the best way to exhibit to the Jury the kind of evidence upon which the indictment was attempted to be supported. One of the most singular reasons she had given for not mentioning the affair before the 14th of August was that she was afraid her husband would scold her. That would be a strange excuse for any woman to make, but in the witness's case it appeared most singular, as her whole demeanour, even in Court, had been a vivid illustration of the old saying, that "the grey mare is the better horse."

After further drawing the attention of the Jury to the evidence, the learned counsel said that no confidence could be placed on the evidence of the woman Ramsden, and that the doubt there was in the case the Jury were bound to give his client the benefit of.

Mr. Bagot called Mrs. Berry, who stated that in the afternoon of the day in question she saw Porter leave Mrs. Horn's house with the rug in his possession, and start off for town. Before he left, he and Mrs. Horn quarrelled, and most unseemly epithets passed between them about some lost money. By way of making up the quarrel, she heard Mrs. Horn tell Porter that she loved him better than her husband. Porter left the

place with the rug in his possession. Mrs. Horn's husband was away from the colony. She (witness) also heard some quarrelling between Mrs. Ramsden and the prisoner's wife the day before the prisoner was apprehended.

By the Crown Solicitor - The witness never but on one occasion spoke to the prisoner. She (witness) lived opposite Mrs. Ramsden's. The houses were all in a cluster there, and what was said in one house could easily be heard in all the others.

His Honor, at this point of the case, told the Jury it would not be at all safe to convict upon such evidence. The only evidence for the Crown was Mrs. Ramsden, whose statement was flatly contradicted; besides the fact that she had not given information till a long time had elapsed after the occurrence made her evidence extremely suspicious.

The Jury at once acquitted the prisoner.

His Honor, in discharging him, advised him to keep better company in future. ¹⁰

1857.

George Porter (Hashemy convict No 135), went to South Australia per *Swallow*. The ship sailed from Fremantle on 30 April 1857 for Adelaide, arriving 27 May. Also on board was Charlotte Horn.

George Porter and Charlotte Horn were mentioned in the court case in 1858.

1858. Port Adelaide, 20 May

Assaults.—Emily Warner was charged on information by **Levi Walker** with an assault with intent to do him grievous bodily harm. Several witnesses were called on both sides, and the Magistrate considered the charge not proved, and that the whole affair arose from the drunkenness of the several parties. Information dismissed.¹¹

1864, Victoria. (from the Argus of 17 June 1864)

On Wednesday morning, the man Samuel Woods, who was captured on the spot by the bank officials, together with **Levi Walker**, who was arrested on Tuesday afternoon by Detective Berliner, on suspicion of being one of the missing men, was brought up and placed in the dock at the City Police Court, As one of the man had been arrested at Fitzroy, and the offence had been committed within that district, it was at first intended to take them up to the Fitzroy watchhouse for the purpose of getting them remanded for a week. But it was afterwards considered that this would be a needless trouble, and, in fact, the police seemed anxious to transfer the custody of the prisoners to the prison department as speedily as possible.

Accordingly the charges were entered on the sheet at the City Court. The prisoners having been placed in the dock, a remand was applied for, and they were at once remanded for a week. Woods had his head covered with bandages, this being necessitated by the state of the wounds which he had received from Mr. Grut and his brass candlestick. He was dressed in a suit of black, and his demeanour was as collected and undaunted as ever. When remanded, before leaving the box, he turned round for about a minute, and cast a singularly searching look amongst the crowd in attendance, evidently looking to see if he could recognise any faces known to him. Neither of the men made any observation before leaving the Court.

It is right to state as early as possible, with respect to his companion in the dock, **Levi Walker**, that it has since been positively ascertained that he had no connexion whatever with the affair. Consequently **his arrest was a mistake**; but as he was known to the police as a "**Swan River man**," and is accordingly included within the category of the suspected on such occasions as the present, the liberty of the subject is not seriously infringed by the temporary detention he has suffered. ¹²

"Married" Louisa Brown about 1858 in Adelaide
Children:

¹⁰ The South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1858 - 1889), Sat 27 Nov 1858, p3

¹¹ Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Sat 28 May 1859, p4

¹² The Mercury (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954), Fri 24 Jun 1864, p3

Mary Jane	15 May 1859, Port Adelaide, father a boiler maker
William George	10 July 1861, Port Adelaide, father a boiler maker
Louisa	1862-3, Melbourne, died 1879
Hannah	1863, Fitzroy
Elizabeth	1865, Collingwood
Marshall	1867, Melbourne
Sarah	1871, Melbourne

Levi Walker
Birth 1835
Death 23 Apr 1875 (aged 39–40)
Burial Melbourne General Cemetery

Louisa married again in 1877 to Thomas Denning, and had 3 more children. One born the same year Levi died.

Louisa died in 1892.