

Amos Settle, 118, Hashemy

Researched by Marcia Watson

Born	22 December 1811
Baptism	2 March 1812, Congregational Church, Northowram, Yorkshire
Parents	James Settle and Elizabeth Wild
Parent's marriage	1795, Halifax, Yorkshire
Siblings	William (1796), Samuel (1797), Jonathan (1799), Elizabeth (1802), Frances (1806), Mary (1817)
Wife	
Married	
Children	

Parents: James Settle, a weaver of Halifax, married Elizabeth Wild from nearby Northowram in 1795 at Halifax.¹ Neither could sign their name. The family lived at Northowram, where all their children were baptised, apart from William, who was baptised at Halifax. James worked at one of the many woollen mills in Halifax.

On the 1841 census, Amos, 25, was a weaver and living at Shelf near Halifax. He was living with his sister Mary Laycock, 20, a weaver, and her daughter Martha, aged 4.² Mary's husband Samuel was in gaol awaiting trial for burglary. He was found not guilty. Samuel Laycock faced the judge several times in the early 1840s and was found not guilty on each occasion.

Later in the year, on 20 March 1841, Amos Settle of Shelf was convicted at the Halifax Magistrates Office of assault upon Mrs Stevenson of Shelf. In default of finding surety, he was committed to Wakefield House of Correction for one month.³ Over the next few years, Amos was regularly in trouble.

Pontefract Session, 7 April 1845. Amos Settle, late of Halifax, labourer and five others were charged with warehouse breaking and stealing a large quantity of worsted yarn. Amos was acquitted, and the others were found guilty and sentenced to 7 years transportation.⁴

West Riding Session, Bradford, 2 June 1845 - Amos Settle, 31, illiterate, larceny, not guilty.⁵

West Riding Session, Wakefield, 10 September 1845 - Amos Settle, 30, illiterate, larceny from a person, sentenced to 3 months.⁶

Leeds, 26 February 1847 – Amos Settle, of Shelf, was committed to York Castle to take his trial for burglary with violence. The newspaper described him as '*old delinquent*'.⁷ He and three others were committed to trial at the York Assizes.

At the Yorkshire Spring Assizes, at York, beginning 6 March 1847.

15 March 1847: Amos Settle (32), Sylvester Petty (50), William Petty (47) and David Petty (38), were charged with having at Gildersome, in the West Riding, feloniously broken and entered the counting-house of Edward Ackroyd, and stealing one velveteen jacket, twenty shillings and threepence, the property of Jonathan Mitchell. They were also charged with stealing from the same place, one pair of trowsers, two shillings, two pairs of boots, and one watch the property of John King. The prisoners were undefended.

¹ West Yorkshire Archive Service; Wakefield, Yorkshire, England; Yorkshire Parish Records; WDP53/1/3/10

² HO107/1304/1, p23

³ Bradford Observer, 23 September 1841, p3

⁴ Yorkshire Quarter Session records.

⁵ HO 27/77; Page: 370

⁶ HO 27/77; Page: 389

⁷ Leeds Mercury, 27 February 1847, p8

On 13 January 1847, Mitchell and King were both sleeping in the counting-house. At about half-past five o'clock in the morning, King saw David Petty enter the room armed with a blunderbuss; Amos Settle armed with a hedge-stake; William Petty armed with a gun; and David Petty with a lantern. William Petty threatened to blow King's brains out before striking him on the head with his gun. They then took the articles and left. The prisoners also pleaded guilty to another burglary.

When Amos was detained, a police constable found the jacket in possession of William Settle, Amos's brother. Amos claimed he had bought the jacket for 6s 6d at a sale by auction in Halifax.

The magistrate said it was utterly impossible to allow them to remain in the country, for perhaps their next offence might be murder. He sentenced Amos Settle to 15 years transportation for shop breaking.^{8,9} The Petty's received transportation for life for burglary. William and David Petty were transported per *Mermaid* to Western Australia in 1851. Sylvester Petty died of consumption in York Gaol in May 1847.

On 13 April 1847, Amos was one of nineteen convicts removed from York Castle and sent to Millbank Prison.¹⁰ He was received there the following day.¹¹ After spending six months at Millbank, he was transferred to Wakefield Prison in Yorkshire on 4 October 1847.¹² Just over a year later, Amos was on the move again. He left Wakefield on 13 December 1848 and arrived at Portland Prison in Dorset on 15 December.¹³ His health and behaviour were very good while at Portland.¹⁴ Amos boarded the *Hashemy* on 19 July 1850. The ship conveyed 100 convicts and 131 passengers.

The *Hashemy* arrived on 25 October 1850. A description of each convict was recorded. 118. Amos Settle, 37, single, labourer, 5'4¾", brown hair, grey eyes, oval visage, dark complexion, stout, a scar on the upper lip, a scar on right side of the forehead.¹⁵

He appears on the sick list at Fremantle on the 24th and 25th of January 1851. There is no other information recorded.¹⁶ General Register also gives no information.¹⁷

Amos was eligible and received a ticket-of-leave on 13 May 1851 for the Swan district. He was assigned as a farm labourer to Henry Mead in the Swan District. His rate of wage was 25s per month.¹⁸

He was still working for Henry Mead in February 1852 as he was called as a witness at Guildford Court. Mr Betts complained that 24 of Mead's cattle had strayed onto his land. Amos testified he knew nothing about it. Mead was fined.¹⁹ Amos was still in the Guildford area in August when he was fined 5s and costs for being drunk.²⁰

He was back in Guildford Court on 22 June 1853:

James Ives, Joseph Linsley, John Murphy, and John Cummins, ticket-of-leave men, were charged with stealing seven-pound notes from the person of Amos Settle. The prosecutor, a ticket-holder, had gone to Guildford with the intention of paying the balance of his passage money, and, getting tipsy, laid down by the kitchen fire at the Guildford Hotel, having the notes in his trousers pocket; three of the prisoners were in the same room, and on his awaking he found his money gone. A man in Mr Lee's employ, who was

⁸ Bradford Observer, 04 March 1847, p5

⁹ Bradford Observer, 18 March 1847, p7

¹⁰ York Herald, 17 April 1847, p6

¹¹ Millbank Prison Registers: Male Prisoners. Volume 3, HO24, Piece number 3

¹² Registers Of Prisoners In The County Prisons Of Wakefield, HO23, piece 14

¹³ PCOM2/383, page 19

¹⁴ Quarterly Prison Returns, HO8/105

¹⁵ SROWA Acc 128/1 - 32

¹⁶ SROWA Acc 1156 CS1

¹⁷ SROWA Acc 1156 R21A

¹⁸ Further correspondence on the on the subject of Convict Discipline and Transportation. Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of her Majesty. 30 April 1852, p196

¹⁹ The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, 27 Feb 1852, p4

²⁰ Inquirer, 1 September 1852, p2

sleeping near, heard a conversation between the prisoners, leading him to believe that they had taken the notes. The Resident deemed the evidence insufficient, and the prisoners were dismissed.²¹

In the Murray District, as a ticket of leave man, in 1855.

On 1 December 1856, he was convicted for non-payment of arrears of passage money. He returned to Government service at Fremantle on 30 December from the Murray district. His prized ticket-of-leave was forfeited. On 12 February 1857, Amos was issued with a second ticket-of-leave.²² The conviction could be considered as unfair as from 28 February 1857, convicts no longer had to pay back their passage money. [from Richards, R. The Murray District of Western Australia: A history. Shire of Murray, 1978]

Amos had many brushes with the law over the next few years:

9 June 1860, Sent to Guildford

2 July 1860, discharged on ticket-of-leave

12 December 1860, received at Convict Establishment

11 March 1861 sent to Point Resolution with 14 others

14 May 1861, received from Point Resolution at Convict Establishment

15 May 1861, discharged on ticket-of-leave.²³

A Certificate of Freedom was granted on 18 June 1862 and received on 21 July 1862.²⁴

The following year, Amos Settle, 50, expirée *Hashemy*, convicted on 11 July 1863 for being drunk, sentenced to 21 days of which two days each week on bread and water, discharged 31 July 1863.

At age 54, Amos was convicted on 9 May 1865 for being drunk and sentenced to four days bread and water at Convict Establishment.²⁵

On 8 November 1869, A Settle, 60, expirée 118, was sentenced to three days in prison for being drunk in Fremantle.

Then, on 8 May 1870, Amos was sentenced to 21 days for being drunk and obscene language at Fremantle. The register says he is 67.²⁶

Amos died on or about 6 October 1871 in the bush near Fremantle. He was late of Fremantle, a bachelor, without any known relatives, a labourer and a gatherer of blackboy and firewood. He was buried on the 10 October by G.J. Batck in the Skinner Street Cemetery, Fremantle.²⁷ His estate was put into administration in November, and possessions auctioned in December.^{28, 29}



²¹ Inquirer, 13 July 1853, p 3

²² SROWA Acc 1156 R10, p39

²³ SROWA Acc 1156 RD3 - RD4

²⁴ SROWA Acc 1156 R17; Acc 1156 R21B

²⁵ SROWA Acc 1156 V16, entry Nos 771, 1101

²⁶ SROWA Acc 1156 V16A - V16C

²⁷ <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSJY-8QBQ?i=25&cat=250397>

²⁸ SROWA cons 3458 1871/180

²⁹ The Herald (Fremantle, WA : 1867 - 1886), 23 December 1871, Page 2