

William Linto was baptised 20 June 1808 in Stoke Abbott, Dorset to George Linto and Betty Brown, who were married in Mosterton Dorset 13 January 1807. [courtesy Lynn Penny Dorset]

William married Ann Genge on 15th November, 1830 at Hardington Mandeville in Somerset. [Somerset archives D/D/RR 192A-193A]

The 1841 census for Hardinton Mandeville has William aged 30, Ann 25, Robert 9, Walter 7 and Elizabeth 3.

There are 2 Genge families on the same page of this census. Their fourth child Maria was baptised 17th April, 1841. Ann died the 11th May, 1843, aged 35 and Elizabeth died on 23rd August, 1842.

William was a widower with three teenage children when he and son Walter were convicted at the Summer quarter sessions at Bridgewater on 3rd July, 1849.

His trial was briefly reported in the *Somerset County Herald* dated 7th July, 1849:

"William Linto, 46, was indicted for stealing on hive of bees, the property of Samuel Baker. - The prosecutor stated that he resides at East Coker, and had a hive of bees safe on the 20th of June. He knew the hive from a particular mark on it. Two days after he missed it, Philip Brown shewed it to him, and on his claiming it, gave it into his possession. - Brown is a butcher, and stated that the prisoner had been working for him in June last; on the 22nd, when he came in the morning to work, he brought a hive of bees with him, and placed in the witness' garden, offering to exchange it for 7 lbs. of beef. - The prisoner was found guilty. A prior conviction was proved against him.

Another indictment for stealing a scythe was also brought against him, but no evidence was offered. He was sentenced to transportation for 10 years."

Among the papers in the Taunton archives is the charge sheet and witness statements for his trial. At the end of the witness statements is William's answer to a question if he had anything to say. His response was: "I hope they will not hurt me."

He left behind in England his son Robert aged 19 and daughter Maria aged 10. The 1851 census has them in the care of William's sister-in-law Harriett Genge at Hardington Mandeville. The eldest son Robert married Elizabeth Trask and had three children when he was killed by a railway truck running over his legs. She married again to a William Penny and a descendant Lynne who had married a Penny contacted the convict SIG inquiring after William in WA. Information was exchanged. Thanks Lynne for the information.

Immediately above his press report is the account of son Walter's conviction:

"Walter Linto and Emanuel Purchase, two little boys, each of the age of 14 years, were indicted for burglariously breaking the dwelling house of Sarah Baker, and stealing eight shillings. - The prosecutrix in this case is an old woman, residing at Hardington Mandeville near Yeovil. On the 4th of April she went into the garden several times during the day, leaving the house open. The prisoners subsequently made a confession to the constable that they had some of the money; this was given as evidence against them. There being no evidence to substantiate a case of breaking and entering, they were found guilty only of the felony. A prior conviction was proved against both the prisoners, and they were sentenced to 7 years transportation."

Walter Linto was transported to Tasmania from Parkhurst prison in 1852 and the Tasmanian records have him arriving as a sixteen year old farm labourer of height 4 feet and one half inch. He received his conditional pardon in February, 1856 and the only possible reference to him thereafter is on a list of passengers on the ship *Royal Shepherd* travelling from Launceston to Melbourne arriving on 10 August 1859. He is aged 27 with birth date 1832: [Source Victorian online archives.]

It is possible he found his way back to Yeovil, Somerset, married 20 year old Alma Brown in 1879 and had children Sidney, George, Laura and William, which are the names given on the 1891 census. Who knows? Father Walter is 84 on this record, a tad out, should be 57.

But his wife Alma is also 84. Definitely 22 on 1881 census working as a nurse with married name Alma M Linto. Cannot find Walter or son Sidney in 1881

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/record?id=GBC%2F1891%2F1899%2F0018&parentid=GBC%2F1891%2F0013161532>

Back to William

He was sent to Taunton prison where he stayed until 29th October, 1849 when he was transferred to Millbank prison in London.(No. 18150) The Millbank register has his next of kin as son Robert, of Hardington, near Yeovil. [Pri Comm 2/30 on AJCP reel 5974] William was then transferred to Pentonville prison (No. 2872) on 16th February 1850. [Pri Com 2/63] On 28th November 1850 he was transferred to the hulk *Justitia*, and from here he boarded the *Mermaid*, arriving at Fremantle on the 17th May, 1851 and was given 211 as his convict number.

He was one of the few who spent time with chaplain who recorded he rarely attended Divine service and had never received the Sacrament. He was sober and attentive to work of sound mind and had a hopeful outlook. The chaplain judged he had very limited knowledge, both secular and religious. When queried about the cause of his crime the reverend has written Thoughtless company and for referee, Mr Paul Thomas, farmer of East Coker near Yeovil.

Books he borrowed from the library were Vegetable garden and animal kingdom [Cons1156/R21A]

He was granted his ticket of leave on 17 February 1852 and presumably travelled to York hiring depot for he married 21 year old Mary Reddin (Reading) in York in 1853 and had another six children. Mary had arrived on the *Travancore* in January 1853 with her sister Biddy from Kerry. Mary's death certificate has her parents as John Reading and Mary O'Dea. Biddy's death certificate just has her father John Reddan
William and Mary's children were:

- John Linto 1854
- William Linto 16 November 1856
- Stephen 1858
- George Linto 1860
- Mary Ann Linto 1862
- Bridget Linto 1864

He appears in the 1859 York census with his wife Mary and the 3 eldest children, the youngest misnamed as Walter.

Presumably he became a farm labourer. Trove cannot help. His son William has a lot of press as a successful farm manager for Monger.

William Linto died in York on 23 December 1878 and Mary died in York in 1907.