

# Ruth Marshman

## The Witch of Shepton Mallet, Somerset, England



A genealogy and history of Ruth Litman Marshman of Shepton Mallet  
18th to 19th centuries Somerset, England

William Wallworth

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## Ruth Marshman the Witch of Shepton Mallet, Somerset, England

Shepton Mallet Gaol (Prison) - on the cover and below



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Researched and compiled

by William Wallworth

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## Ramblings

This version of the history of Ruth Marshman the Witch of Shepton Mallet, Somerset, England has grown in size since its first publication in 2013.

I started to rework the history in 2017 but was halted by the preparing for and moving in April 2018. I move from San Jose, California to a nice place in the forest in the mountains about 15 miles from Mt. Hood in Oregon.

This version includes the history and genealogy of Ruth Marshman's mother and sisters and Ruth's daughter, Jane, and grandson John Marshman.

There were many newspaper articles and criminal records on the family. Many members of the family were born illegitimate. Don't know if the women in the family has done prostitution, they may have in hard times in trying to survive. If they did, they escaped being caught with it as nothing about prostitution with them was found in the criminal records.

Today is Father's Day here and I dedicate this to my father who left this Earth six years ago.

1st generation

## Elizabeth Litman ( 1770 - 1849)

1. **ELIZABETH LITMAN** was baptized 23 June 1770 in St. Peter and St. Paul church in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

Father: George Litman

Mother: Ruth Lockstone

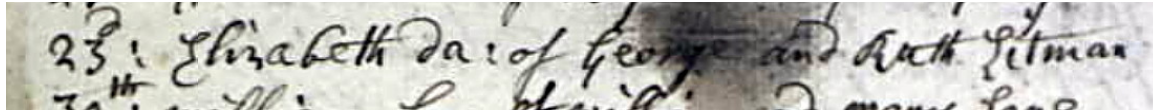
~ **1770**

From the parish register of the church in Shepton Mallet:

June Christenings 1770

23<sup>d</sup>: Elizabeth da: of George and Ruth Litman

Image of the record in the parish register:



### ~ **more about Elizabeth's parents**

Elizabeth's parents, George Litman and Ruth Lockstone, were married on 3 September 1769 in St. Peter and St. Paul church in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

From the parish register of the church:

Marriages 1769 - Page 21 No 63

George Litman of this Parish and Ruth Lockstone of the same were Married in the Church by Banns this third Day of September in the Year One Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Nine By me Rich<sup>d</sup>. Hughes Curate

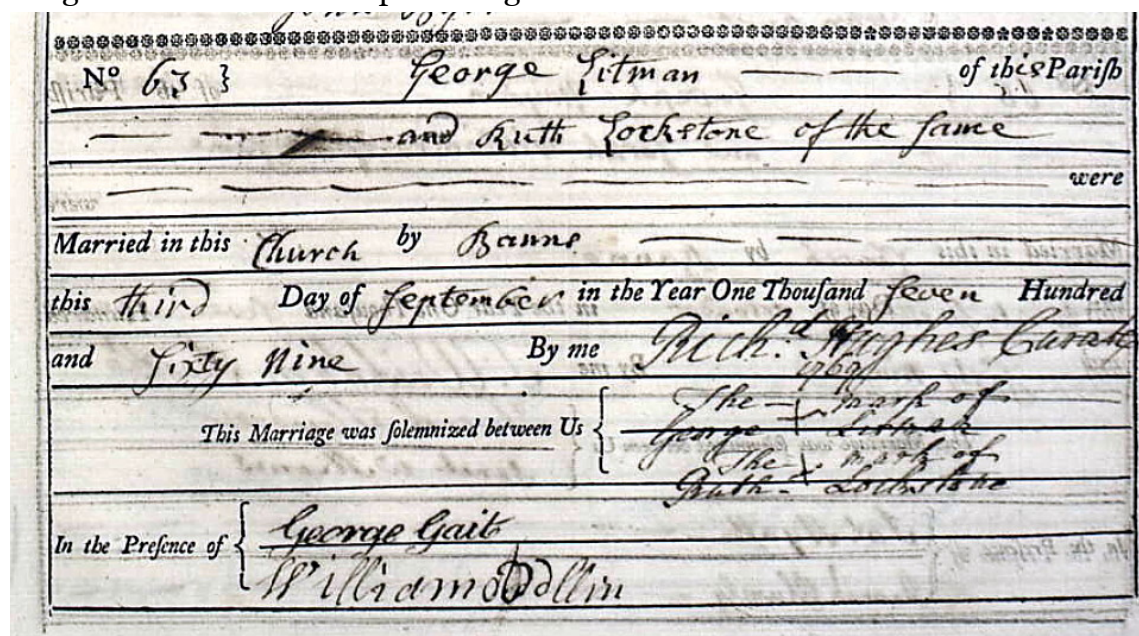
This Marriage was solemnized between Us

The X mark of George Litman

The X mark of Ruth Lockstone

In the Presence of  
George Gaite  
William Addllin

Image of the record in the parish register:



George Litman died at the age of 43 years and was buried 27 April 1791 in the churchyard of St. Mary in Bathwick, Somerset.

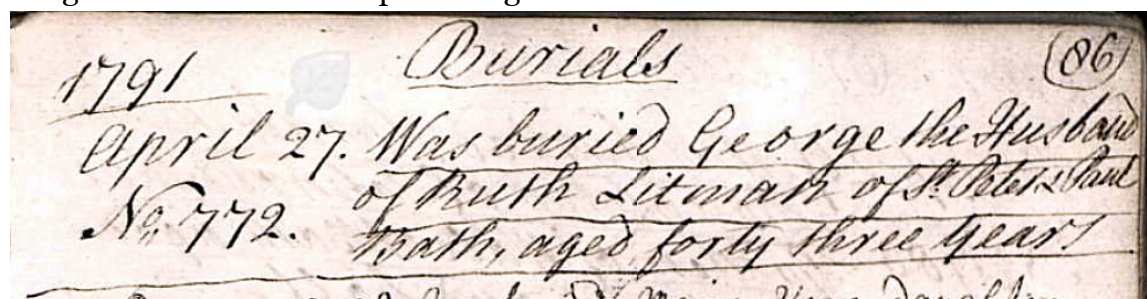
The record stated that they were living in Bath, Somerset.

From the parish register of the church:

Burials 1791 - Page 86 No. 772.

April 27. Was buried George the Husband of Ruth Litman of St. Peter & Paul Bath, aged forty three years.

Image of the record in the parish register:





Ruth Litman died at the age of 76 years and was buried 25 February 1824 in the churchyard of St Michel church in Bath, Somerset.

The record states Ruth was living on Green Street.

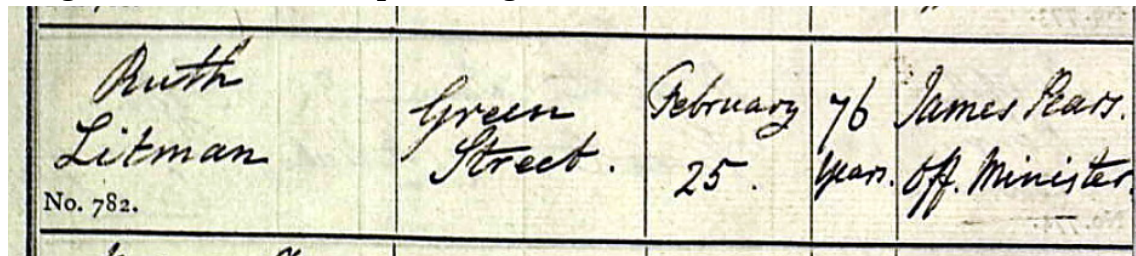
From the parish register of the church:

Burials 1824 - Page 98. No. 782.

*Name. / Abode. / When buried. / Age. / By whom the Ceremony was performed.*

Ruth Litman / Green Street. / February 25. / 76 Years. / James Pears. Off. Minister.

Image of the record in the parish register:



#### ~ 1804

Elizabeth Litman's daughter, Rebecca, was born in 1804 in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

#### ~ 1811

Elizabeth Litman's daughter, Priscilla, was baptized in 1811 in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

#### ~ 1812

Elizabeth Litman's daughter, Ruth, was baptized in 1812 in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

#### ~ 1841

In 1841, Elizabeth Litman, age 75, was living at Quarr in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

Her daughter, Ruth Marshman and her family, were living with her.

The next family in the listing (next door) was Charles and Rebecca Spratt. Rebecca was Elizabeth Litman's daughter.

From the 1841 census of Shepton Mallet:

*Name / Age & Sex / Profession / Whether Born in County*

Quar

Elizabeth Litman / 75 F / ----- / Y  
 Char<sup>s</sup>. Mashman / 25 M / Labourer / Y  
 Ruth D<sup>o</sup> / 30 F / ----- / Y  
 Jane D<sup>o</sup> / 4 F / ----- / Y  
 Sabina D<sup>o</sup> / 3 Mo F / ----- / F  
 Robert Litman / 10 M / ----- / Y  
 Mary Ingram / 45 F / washing woman / Y  
 Henry Stokes / 20 M / Labourer / Y

(the next door in the listing after the above household)

*Name / Age & Sex / Profession / Whether Born in County*

Quar

Charles Spratt / 30 M / Labourer / Yes

Rebecca D<sup>o</sup> / 35 F / ----- / Yes

## ~ 1849

Elizabeth Litman died at the age of 85 years in Shepton Mallet, Somerset and was buried 8 December 1849 in the churchyard of St. Peter and St. Paul in Shepton Mallet. The death certificate mentions that she died on Gorston street while the burial record says her abode is at Quarr. And if looking at her baptism year she was actually 79 years old when she died.

From the copy of the death certificate:

Registration District - Shepton Mallet

1849 Death in the Sub-district of Shepton Mallet in the County of Somerset

*No. / When and where died / Name / Sex / Age / Occupation / Cause of death /*

*Informant / When registered / Signature of registrar /*

49 / Fifth December 1849 Gorston Street Shepton Mallet / Elizabeth Litman / Female /  
 85 years / Spinster / Old Age not certified / The Mark of X Betty Timbrey present at  
 Death Kilver Street Shepton Mallet / Seventh of December 1849 / Robert Collett  
 Registrar /

From the parish register of the church:

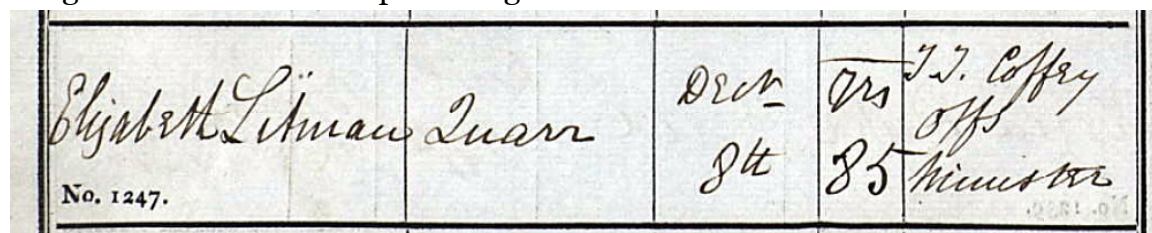
*Name. / Abode. / When buried. / Age. / By whom the Ceremony was performed.*

Burials 1849 - Page 156. No. 1247.

Elizabeth Litman / Quarr / Dec<sup>r</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> / yrs 85 / J. J.Coffey Offg Minister



Image of the record in the parish register:



## Children of Elizabeth Litman and ?

2. x **REBECCA LITMAN** was born 11 May 1804 and baptized 26 May 1804 in St. Peter and St. Paul church in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

Rebecca Litman married Charles Spratt.

3. x **PRISCILLA LITMAN** was born 24 May 1811 and baptized 8 June 1811 in St. Peter and St. Paul church in Shepton Mallet, Somerset. She probably was born in 1810 rather than 1811.

Priscilla Litman married John Blenman Webb.

4. + **RUTH LITMAN** was born 26 August 1811 in Shepton Mallet, Somerset and was baptized 9 May 1812 in St. Peter and St. Paul church in Shepton Mallet.

Ruth Litman married Charles Marshman.

### Sources:

1. 1769 marriage of George Litman and Ruth Lockstone. Somerset, England, Marriage Registers, Bonds and Allegations, 1754-1914, online at Ancestry.com. Marriage Registers, Shepton Mallet, 1768-1771, Image no. 33. Image right side, Marriages 1769, page 21, no. 63. Searched on November 21, 2017 Tuesday 7:31 PM.
2. 1770 baptism of Elizabeth Litman. Somerset, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1531-1812, image 16, online at Ancestry.com. Image 16 right side, June Christenings 1770. Searched on November 17, 2017 Friday 6:33 PM.
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5. 1811 birth and baptism of Priscilla Litman. Somerset, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1531-1812, online at Ancestry.com. Shepton Mallet, 1791-1812, image 113. Image 113 right side, Baptism 1811, page 221. Searched on November 17, 2017 Friday 3:28 PM.
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Shepton Mallet, 1791-1812, image no. 118. Image left side, Baptisms 1812, page 230, no. [blank]. Searched on November 18, 2017 Saturday 6:35 PM.
7. 1824 burial of Ruth Litman. Somerset, England, Church of England Burials, 1813-1914, online at Ancestry.com. Bath, St Michael, 1813-1851, image no. 52. Image left side, Burials 1824, page 98, no. 782. Searched November 22, 2017 Wednesday 3:51 PM.
8. 1841 census of England, Somerset, Shepton Mallet, District 4, image 2, online at Ancestry.com. Public Record Office reference HO 107/963/12, original page no. 1. Household of Elizabeth Litman and of Charles and Rebecca Spratt. Searched on July 7, 2013 Sunday 1:24 AM.
9. 1849 death certificate of Elizabeth Litman. From the General Register Office, PO Box 2, Southport, Merseyside, PR8 2JD United Kingdom. Received December 18, 2017 Monday morning.
10. 1849 burial of Elizabeth Litman. Somerset, England, Church of England Burials, 1813-1914 online at Ancestry.com. Parish Register, Shepton Mallet, 1839-1863, image 81. Image 81 left side, Burials 1849, page 156, no. 1247. Searched on November 17, 2017 Friday 6:18 PM.
11. On the first page: Picture of Shepton Mallet Prison. From Viva Lifestyle and Travel website, online at <http://vivalifestyleandtravel.com>. Searched June 16, 2019 Sunday 8:11 PM.
12. On the Cover: Picture of Shepton Mallet Prison, North entrance. From Wikipedia Commons. Searched June 16, 2019 Sunday 8:11 PM.

2nd generation

## Rebecca Litman (1804 - 1848)

Wife of Charles Spratt

2. **REBECCA LITMAN** (of Elizabeth Litman<sup>1</sup>) was born 11 May 1804 and baptized 26 May 1804 in St. Peter and St. Paul church in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

Father: (Unknown)

Mother: Elizabeth Litman (No. 1)

Rebecca Litman was born as an illegitimate child of Elizabeth Litman.

~ **1804**

From the parish register of the church in Shepton Mallet:

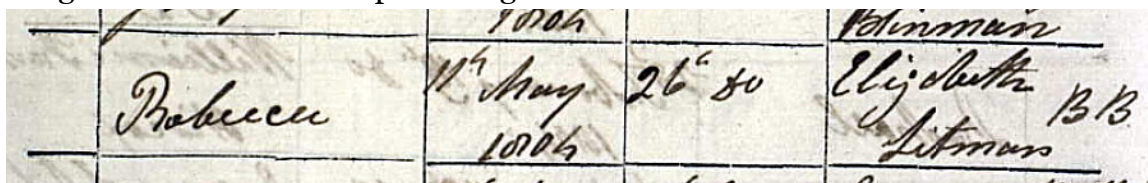
Baptisms 1804 - Page 158 No. [blank]

*No. / Name of the Child. / When Born. / When Baptized. / Names of the Parents.*

----- / Rebecca / 11<sup>th</sup> May 1804 / 26<sup>th</sup> May 1804 / Elizabeth Litman BB

(B B = Base Born)

Image of the record in the parish register:



	1804		Edinman
Rebecca	11 <sup>th</sup> May 1804	26 <sup>th</sup> 80	Elizabeth BB Litman

From a different record of the same church.

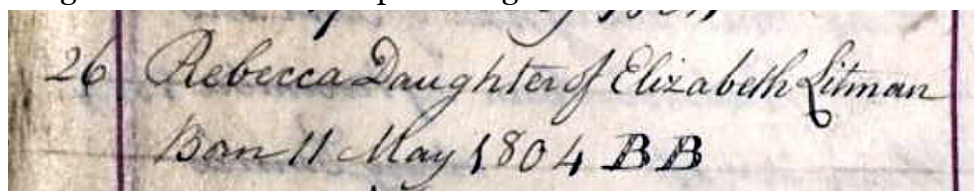
From the parish register of the church in Shepton Mallet:

May Christenings 1804

26 / Rebecca Daughter of Elizabeth Litman Born 11 May 1804 BB

(B B = Base Born)

Image of the record in the parish register:



### ~ 1833

Rebecca Litman married **CHARLES SPRATT** on 10 December 1833 in St. Peter and St. Paul church in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

From the parish register of the church:

Marriages 1833 - Page 236. No. 707.

Marriages solemnized in the Parish of Shepton Mallet in the County of Somerset in the Year 1833

Charles Spratt of this Parish Bachelor and Rebecca Litman of this Parish Spinster were married in this Church by Banns this tenth Day of December in the Year One thousand eight hundred and Thirty three By me Edwd Nares Hennings Curate

This Marriage was solemnized between us

The mark X of Chas Spratt

The mark X of Rebecca Litman

In the Presence of

The mark X of Edmund Spratt

David Gaite

Charles Spratt was born 3 May 1809 in Croscombe, Somerset and baptized 9 August 1809 in St. Peter and St. Paul church in Shepton Mallet, Somerset. He was a son of Jacob and Elizabeth Spratt.

From the parish register of the church in Shepton Mallet:

Baptisms 1809 - Page 204 No. 77

No. / Name of the Child. / When Born. / When Baptized. / Names of the Parents.

77 / Charles / May 3<sup>rd</sup>. / August 9<sup>th</sup>. / Jacob & Elizabeth Spratt

### ~ 1841

In 1841, Charles and Rebecca Spratt were living on Quarr in Shepton Mallet, Somerset. Charles was listed as a labourer.

They were living next door to Elizabeth Litman's place. She was Rebecca's mother.

From the 1841 census of Shepton Mallet:

Name / Age & Sex / Profession / Whether Born in County

Quar

Elizabeth Litman / 75 F / ----- / Y

Char<sup>s</sup>. Mashman / 25 M / Labourer / Y

Ruth D<sup>o</sup> / 30 F / ----- / Y

Jane D<sup>o</sup> / 4 F / ----- / Y

Sabina D<sup>o</sup> / 3 Mo F / ----- / F

Robert Litman / 10 M / ----- / Y

Mary Ingram / 45 F / washing woman / Y

Henry Stokes / 20 M / Labourer / Y

(the next listing after the above household)

*Names / Age & Sex / Profession / Whether Born in same County*

Quar

Charles Spratt / 30 M / Labourer / Yes

Rebecca Do / 35 F / ----- / Yes

## ~ 1848

Rebecca Spratt died at the age of 46 years at Quarr in Shepton Mallet, Somerset and was buried in the churchyard of St. Peter and St. Paul in Shepton Mallet:

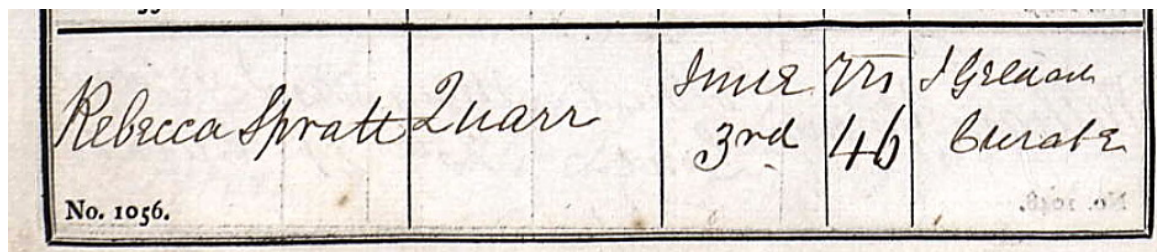
From the parish register of the church:

*Name. / Abode. / When buried. / Age. / By whom the Ceremony was performed.*

Burials 1848 - Page 132. No. 1056.

Rebecca Spratt / Quarr / June 3<sup>rd</sup>. / yrs 46 / J Geldart Curate

Image of the record in the parish register:



## ~ **January 1851**

Charles Spratt of Shepton Mallet, Somerset was convicted of assault.

From the newspaper, Bristol Times and Mirror, Saturday 11 January 1851:

FROM OUR SHEPTON MALLET CORRESPONDET.

Shepton Mallet Petty Session, holden at the Argyle Rooms on Wednesday last, before E. C. Strode, K. C. B., J. M. Paget, and Robert Clark, Esqrs.

Charles Spratt, of Shepton Mallet, was summoned by John Millard, of the same place, for an assault. Defendant convicted in the penalty of 2s. 6d., with costs.

## ~ **March 1851**

In 1851, Charles Spratt, a widower age 41 years, was living at Lower Downside in Shepton Mallet, Somerset. Charles was listed as a coal dealer.

From the 1851 census of Shepton Mallet:

Name / Relationship / Marital status / Age & Sex / Profession / Where Born

Lower Downside

Charles Spratt / Head / Widr / 41 M / Coal Dealer / Somerset Croscombe

Elizabeth Stevens / Serv / U / 27 F / General Serv / D<sup>o</sup> Wells

John Stevens / Visitor / ---- / 8 M / ----- / D<sup>o</sup> Shepton Mallet

William Masters / Lodger / Widr / 79 M / Receive Parochial Relief / D<sup>o</sup> Pitton

Charles Jacobs / Lodger / U / 16 M / Ag Lab / D<sup>o</sup> Shepton Mallet

## ~ **1857**

Charles Spratt married 2nd to Elizabeth Stevens on 4 June 1857 in St. Peter and St. Paul church in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

From the parish register of the church:

Marriages 1857 - Page 221. No. 422.

1857. Marriage solemnized at the Church in the Parish of Shepton Mallet in the County of Somerset.

No. 422

When Married. 4<sup>th</sup> June

*Name. / Age. / Marital status. / Profession. / Residence at the Time of Marriage. / Father's name. / Father's profession.*

Charles Spratt / of full age / Widower / Labourer / Downside / Jacob Spratt / Weaver

Elizabeth Stevens / of full age / Spinster / ----- / Downside / John Stevens / Labourer

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremony of the Established Church after banns by me, James M [Canger?] Curate

This Marriage was solemnized between us,

The Mark X of Charles Spratt

The Mark X of Elizabeth Stevens

in the Presence of us.

The Mark X of Henry Stevens

The Mark X of Eliza Stevens

Elizabeth Stevens was Charles Spratt's servant. She was listed as a servant in his household in the 1851 census.

### ~ 1859

Charles Spratt in trouble with the law again.

From the newspaper, Sherborne Mercury, Tuesday 24 May 1859:

Shepton Mallet - Petty Sessions, Wednesday, 18th May, before R. Clerk, and E. H. Clerk, Esqs. - Charles Spratt, of Shepton Mallet, was summoned by P.C. Bishop for being drunk and disorderly in the Market place, on the morning of the 6th instant. Fined 5s. and costs.

### ~ 1860

Charles Spratt in trouble with the law again.

From the newspaper, Shepton Mallet Journal, Friday 06 April 1860:

PETTY SESSIONS, Wednesday. Present: - Col. Phipps, R. Clerk, R. Strachey, and J. L. Burnard, Esqrs.

- Charles Spratt, coal-haulier, was summoned for riding without reins, and cruelly ill-treating horse, on Saturday last. The charge was proved to the entire satisfaction of the Bench, and defendant fined 5s. and costs for each offence—in all 23s.

### ~ 1861

In 1861, Charles and Elizabeth Spratt were living at Downside in Shepton Mallet, Somerset. Charles was listed as a Coal Merchant.

From the 1861 census of Shepton Mallet:

*Name / Relationship / Marital status / Age & Sex / Profession / Where Born*

Downside

Charles Spratt / Head / Mar / 50 M / Coal Merchant / Somerset Croscombe



Elizabeth do / Wife/ Mar / 37 F / ----- / " Wells

Joseph [?]ullifer / Servant / W<sup>r</sup>. / 66 M / Coal Haulier / " Midsomer Norton

James Moon / Lodger / Un / 24 M / do / " Shepton Mallet

## **~ 1862**

Charles Spratt was involved in a lawsuit. He sued Edward Norman for 6 shillings that he thought was owed.

From the newspaper, Shepton Mallet Journal, Friday 16 May 1862:

"NO GO."

Charles Spratt v. Edward Norman. - Plaintiff lives at Downside, Shepton Mallet, and sued the defendant, a farmer, living at Charlton, for 6s., for hauling some hay at Mendip during the harvest of 1860. Mr. Norman, however, distinctly proved, by the evidence of himself and two witnesses, who were present when the bargain was made, that he had let plaintiff have the "after-grass" of a field Stump's Cross, in that year, in consideration of his hauling the hay there, as well as that at Mendip, and lending his horse to plough one of his (Mr. N.'s) fields. Not a syllable had been said about this 6s., although accounts had been settled between them several times during the two years, till a month or two ago, when, as Spratt refused to let his horse plough the ground, according to the agreement, plaintiff got another quadruped to do the work, for which Spratt had to pay. It was then the 6s. were demanded for the first time. His Honour had no doubt the hauling the hay at Mendip was part of the agreement on which Mr. Norman let plaintiff have the " after-grass" of the field at Stump's Cross, and therefore ordered a non-suit.

## **~ 1865**

Charles Spratt died of an accident on 13 June 1865. He was delivering some cider and he fell and the carriage ran over him. He was loaded with alcohol when the accident happened.

From the newspaper, Sherborne Mercury - Tuesday 20 June 1865:

Fatal Accident. - On Tuesday evening, a coal haulier, named Charles Spratt, was conveying two hogsheads of cider to the town for Mr. Wilcox, of Lower Downside, when, by some means, he fell at the bottom of Lambert's-hill. One of the wheels passed over his ribs, fracturing them, and he died shortly after. It is said he was the worse for liquor. An inquest was opened on Wednesday evening, and adjourned.

From the newspaper, Shepton Mallet Journal - Friday 23 June 1865:

THE LATE FATAL ACCID[-]NTS. - The adjourned inquest on the body of Charles Spratt, who was killed from injuries sustained on the night of the 13th inst., between

Pilton and Shepton Mallet, particulars of which appeared in our last, was held at the York House Inn, on Saturday morning last, before Dr. Wybrants, county coroner, when the following additional evidence was adduced: - Mr. Thomas St. John Hudson said: I made a post mortem examination of the body on the 15th inst. There were no unnatural marks externally, excepting on the right leg and the inside of the thigh, which appeared have received an abrasion of the skin.

On opening the chest, I found five ribs broken off in two places, on the left side. The sac of the heart was full of fluid, and the lung on that side was congested and quite black. The rest of the body was healthy. One of the ribs penetrated the left lung. There was no mark on the head or any stab on the body. The injuries received was no doubt the cause of death. Deceased might have had a fi[t?] and fallen out of the waggon, from the pericardium being so full of fluid.

- P.C. George Cox said: I am a police constable stationed at Pilton. On Tuesday night last, the 13th inst., about quarter-past nine o'clock, I saw the deceased at the bottom of Whitestone Hill. He was slashing the horses with a whip, and was running after them. I saw he was intoxicated, and told him to be careful and not get under the wheels. Bryant was about forty yards behind.

I said to him, are you going to Shepton ? He said, yes. I said, just see that the old fellow does not get under the wheels. Bryant was not tipsy at the time, and I did not know that he was with the deceased, who appeared very tipsy. - This being all the evidence in the case, the coroner, addressing the jury, said: From the additional particulars brought before you, it appears that the statement of Mr. Glisson, at the former inquiry, is corroborated the post mortem examination of Mr. Hudson.

With regard to the cause of death, Mr. Hudson says the deceased had five ribs broken, one of which penetrated the left lung, and the bag of the heart was full of fluid. This, in his opinion, was quite sufficient to cause death, which, he says, might also have resulted through a fall in consequence of the state of the heart at the time.

The policeman states that deceased was very tipsy when he saw him, and that Bryant was not so. From that assertion then, they could only reconcile Bryant's statement by concluding that he was so frightened at the time that he was not aware of what transpired. The coroner suggested that a verdict of accidental death should be recorded, which was at once unanimously acquiesced in by the jury.

Charles Spratt was buried 17 June 1865 in the churchyard of St. Peter and St. Paul in Shepton Mallet:

From the parish register of the church:

Burials 1865 - Page 20 No. 154

*Name. / Abode / When buried. / Age. / By whom the Ceremony was performed.*

Charles Spratt / Downside / 17<sup>th</sup>. June / Years 60 / W. H. Tarleton Curate

Rebecca (Litman) Spratt died with no children.

Sources:

1. 1804 birth and baptism of Rebecca Litman. Somerset, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1531-1812, online at Ancestry.com. Shepton Mallet, 1791-1812, image no. 82. Image 82 left side, Baptisms 1804, page 158, no. [blank]. Searched on November 12, 2017 Sunday 7:19 PM.
2. 1804 birth and baptism of Rebecca Litman. Somerset, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1531-1812, online at Ancestry.com. Shepton Mallet, 1789-1804, image no. 76. Image 76 right side, May Christenings 1804. Searched on November 12, 2017 Sunday 7:36 PM.
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10. 1859 Charles Spratt in trouble with the law. The British Newspaper Archives online at [www.britishnewspaperarchives.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchives.co.uk). Sherborne Mercury, Tuesday 24 May 1859, page 5. Searched on November 18, 2017 Saturday 3:19 PM.
11. 1860 Charles Spratt in trouble with the law. The British Newspaper Archives online at [www.britishnewspaperarchives.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchives.co.uk). Shepton Mallet Journal, Friday 06 April 1860, page 4. Searched on November 18, 2017 Saturday 4:17 PM.
12. 1861 census of England, Somerset, Shepton Mallet, District 15, image no. 23, online at Ancestry.com. Public Record Office reference R.G. 9/1662, original page no. 22. No. of Schedule 116, household of Charles Spratt. Searched on November 25, 2017 Saturday 7:20 PM.
13. 1862 lawsuit, Charles Spratt verses Edward Norman. The British Newspaper Archive online at [www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk). Shepton Mallet Journal - Friday 16 May 1862, page 4. Searched November 26, 2017 Sunday 6:56 PM.

14. 1865 accidental death of Charles Spratt. The British Newspaper Archives online at [www.britishnewspaperarchives.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchives.co.uk). Sherborne Mercury, Tuesday 20 June 1865, page 3. Searched on November 18, 2017 Saturday 4:08 PM.
15. 1865 accidental death of Charles Spratt. The British Newspaper Archives online at [www.britishnewspaperarchives.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchives.co.uk). Shepton Mallet Journal, Friday 23 June 1865, page 4. Searched on November 18, 2017 Saturday 3:41 PM.
16. 1865 burial of Charles Spratt. Somerset, England, Church of England Burials, 1813-1914, online at [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com). Shepton Mallet, 1863-1899, image no. 13. Image left side, Burials 1865, page 20, no. 154. Searched on November 25, 2017 Saturday 8:20 PM.

2nd generation

## Priscilla Litman (1810? - 1847)

Wife of John Blenman Webb

3. **PRISCILLA LITMAN** (of Elizabeth Litman<sup>1</sup>) was born 24 May 1811 and baptized 8 June 1811 in St. Peter and St. Paul church in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

Father: (Unknown)

Mother: Elizabeth Litman (No. 1)

Priscilla Litman was born as an illegitimate child of Elizabeth Litman.

Research note:

Priscilla was probably born in 1810 rather than 1811. As her sister Ruth was born in 1811. Priscilla age at burial in 1847 was 37 years. That would put her born in 1810, or 1809 if she died before her birthday in 1847.

### ~ 1811

From the parish register of the church in Shepton Mallet:

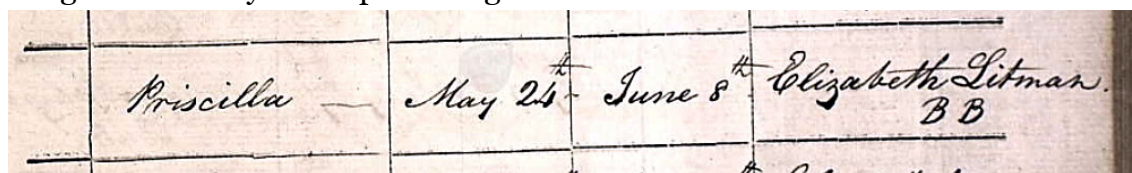
Baptism 1811 - Page 221.

*No. / Name of Child. / When Born. / When Baptized. / Names of the Parents.*

---- / Priscilla / (1811) May 24<sup>th</sup> / June 8<sup>th</sup> / Elizabeth Litman B B

(B B = Base born)

Image of the entry in the parish register:



### ~ 1838

Priscilla Litman married **JOHN BLENMAN WEBB** on 25 December 1838 in St. Peter and St. Paul church in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

From the parish register of the church:

Marriages 1838 - Page 18. No. 35

1838. Marriage solemnized at the parish Church in the parish of Shepton Mallet in the County of Somerset

No. 35

When Married. December 25<sup>th</sup> 1838

*Name. / Age. / Condition. / Profession. / Residence at the Time of Marriage. / Father's Name. / Father's Profession.*

John Blenman Webb / of full age / Bachelor / Labourer / New Row / Thomas Webb / Labourer

Priscilla Litman / of full age / Spinster / ----- / New Row / ----- / ----- /

Married in the parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church by banns by me, Francis Tho<sup>s</sup> New. Curate

This Marriage was solemnized between us,

The mark of John Blenman Webb

The mark of Priscilla Litman

in the Presence of us,

Francis Bush

David Gaite

The spaces for Priscilla Litman's father's name and the father's occupation were both left blank.

John Webb was born ca. 1804 in Croscombe, Somerset. His father was Thomas Webb

## **~ 1841**

In 1841, John and Priscilla Webb were living on New Row in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

John was listed as a Laborer.

From the 1841 census of Shepton Mallet:

*Name / Age & Sex / Profession / Whether Born in same County*

New Row

John Webb / 35 M / Laborer / Y

Priscilla d<sup>o</sup> / 30 F / ----- / Y

Mary Trotman / 30 F / Dress M / Y

## ~ 1847

Priscilla Webb died at the age of 37 years and was buried 7 May 1847 in the churchyard of St. Peter and St. Paul in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

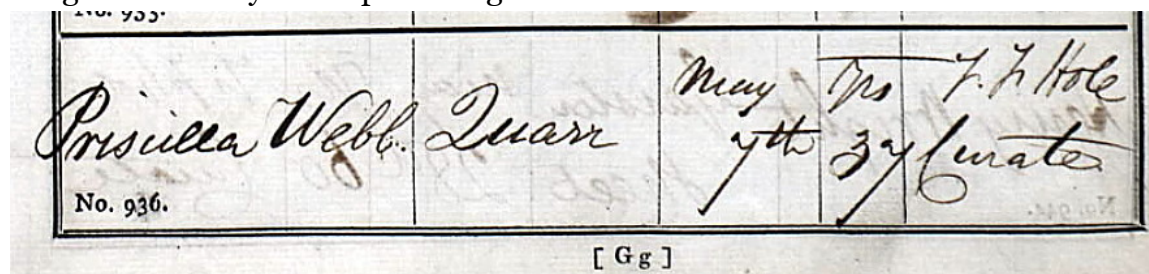
From the parish register of the church:

Burials 1847 - Page 117. No. 936.

*Name. / Abode. / When buried. / Age. / By whom the Ceremony was performed.*

Priscilla Webb. / Quarr / May 7<sup>th</sup> / Yrs 37 / F. F Hole Curate

Image of the entry in the parish register:



## ~ 1851

In 1851, John Webb, a widower and age 44, was a lodger in William Collins's home at Lower Lane in Shepton Mallet, Somerset. John was listed as a labourer.

From the 1851 census of Shepton Mallet:

*Name / Relationship / Marital status / Age & Sex / Profession / Where Born*

Lower Lane

William Collins / Head / Mar / 59 M / Farm Labourer / Somerset Croscombe

Ellen do / Wife / Mar / 58 F / ----- / do Burrough bridge

Louisa do / Dur / U / 24 F / Shoe binder / do Shepton Mallet

George do / Son / ---- / 14 M / Errand Boy / do do

John Webb / Lodger / widower / 44 M / Labourer / do Croscombe

## ~ 1861

In 1861, John Webb, a widower and age 56, was a lodger in James Carter's home at Towns End in Shepton Mallet, Somerset. John was listed as an agricultural laborer.

From the 1861 census of Shepton Mallet:

*Name / Relationship / Marital status / Age & Sex / Profession / Where Born*

Towns End



James Carter / Head / mar / 60 M / General laborer / Somerset Shepton Mallet  
 Priscilla do / Wife / mar / 52 F / ----- / Wilts Beckington  
 George Gibbons / Lodger / mar / 69 M / Stone mason / Somerset Wells  
 John Taylor / do / widr / 55 M / Butcher / do Shepton Mallet  
 John Conway / Lodger / un / 22 M / General laborer / Somerset Shepton Mallet  
 John Webb / do / wid<sup>r</sup>. / 56 M / Agricultural laborer / do Croscombe  
 Edmund Shouring / do / un / 50 M / Ostler / do Shepton Mallet  
 Frederick Burgess / do / un / 45 M / General laborer / do do

## ~ 1867

John Webb died at the age of 63 years in the Union House (workhouse) in Shepton Mallet, Somerset and was buried 21 January 1867 in the churchyard of St. Peter and St. Paul in Shepton Mallet.

From the parish register of the church:

Burials 1867 - Page 34 No. 269

*Name. / Abode / When buried. / Age. / By whom the Ceremony was performed.*

John Webb / Union House / 21<sup>st</sup> January / 63 / W. H. Tarleton Curate

Priscilla (Litman) Webb died with no children.

## Sources:

1. 1811 birth and baptism of Priscilla Litman. Somerset, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1531-1812, online at Ancestry.com. Shepton Mallet, 1791-1812, image 113. Image 113 right side, Baptism 1811, page 221. Searched on November 17, 2017 Friday 3:28 PM.
2. 1838 marriage of Priscilla Litman and John Blenman Webb. Somerset, England, Marriage Registers, Bonds and Allegations, 1754-1914 online at Ancestry.com. Marriage Registers, Shepton Mallet, 1837-1861, image 20. Image 20, Marriages 1838, page 18, no. 35. Searched on August 11, 2017 Friday 8:31 PM.
3. 1841 census of England, Somerset, Shepton Mallet, District 2, image 8, online at Ancestry.com. Public Record Office reference HO 107/963/11, original page no. 14, stamped page no. 28. Household of John Webb. Searched on November 12, 2017 Sunday 6:59 PM.
4. 1847 burial of Priscilla Webb. Somerset, England, Church of England Burials, 1813-1914, online at Ancestry.com. Shepton Mallet, 1839-1863, image no. 61. Image 61 right side, Burials 1847, page 117, no. 936. Searched on November 12, 2017 Sunday 6:44 PM.
5. 1851 census of England, Somerset, Shepton Mallet, (District) 4e, image no. 21, online at Ancestry.com. Public Record Office reference H.O. 107/1933, original page no. 20, stamped page no. 546. No. of Householder's Schedule 90, John Webb a lodger in the household of William Collins. Searched on November 26, 2017 Sunday 5:29 PM.

6. 1861 census of England, Somerset, Shepton Mallet, District 08, image nos. 4 & 5, online at Ancestry.com. Public Record Office reference R.G. 9/1661, original pages nos. 3 & 4, stamped page no. 75. No. of Schedule 16, John Webb in the household of James Carter. Searched on November 26, 2017 Sunday 5:40 PM.
7. 1867 burial of John Webb. Somerset, England, Church of England Burials, 1813-1914, online at Ancestry.com. Shepton Mallet, 1863-1899, image no. 20. Image left side, Burials 1867, page 34, no. 269. Searched on November 26, 2017 Sunday 6:19 PM.

2nd generation

## Ruth Litman (1811 - 1878)

Wife of Charles Marshman

The Witch of Shepton Mallet

4. **RUTH LITMAN** (of Elizabeth Litman<sup>1</sup>) was born 26 August 1811 in Shepton Mallet, Somerset and was baptized 9 May 1812 in St. Peter and St. Paul church in Shepton Mallet.

Father: (Unknown)

Mother: Elizabeth Litman (No. 1)

Ruth Litman was born as an illegitimate child of Elizabeth Litman.

### ~ 1811 & 1812

From the parish register of the church in Shepton Mallet:

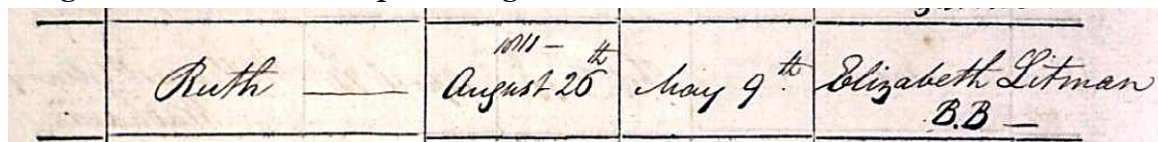
Baptisms 1812 - Page 230, No. [blank]

*No. / Name of the Child. / When Born. / When Baptized. / Names of the Parents.*

[blank] / Ruth / 1811 August 26<sup>th</sup> / May 9<sup>th</sup> / Elizabeth Litman B B

(B B = Base Born)

Image of the record in the parish register



### ~ 1831

Ruth Litman's son, Robert, was born in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

## ~ 1834

Ruth Litman's daughter, Jane, was baptized in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

## ~ also in 1834

Charles Mashman was at the Wilton Gaol when he was convicted of a Felony on 30 June 1834. His sentence was 3 calendar months of hard labor.

From the Wilton Gaol, Register of Prisoners:

1834

*No. / Name. / Age. / Read. / Write. / ff taught at Sunday or Charity School. .... Name of School. / .... Years left. / If an old Offender when and where convicted. / By whom committed. / Date of Warrant, and when received into custody. / Charge or Offence. / Assizes or Session. / Sentence.*

409 / Charles Mashman / 22 / R / ----- / Croscombe / 8 / ----- / Mids<sup>r</sup> Session / June 30 / Conv<sup>d</sup> of Felony / ----- / 3 C<sup>r</sup> Mon H. L. /

## ~ 1835

Ruth Litman married **CHARLES MARSHMAN** on 19 January 1835 in St. Peter and St. Paul church in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

From the parish register of the church:

Marriages 1835 - Page 249. No. 747.

Charles Marsham of this Parish Bachelor and Ruth Litman of this Parish Spinster were married in this Church by Banns this nineteenth Day of January in the Year One thousand eight hundred and thirty five By me Francis Tho<sup>s</sup>. New. Curate

This Marriage was solemnized between us

X the mark of Charles Marsham

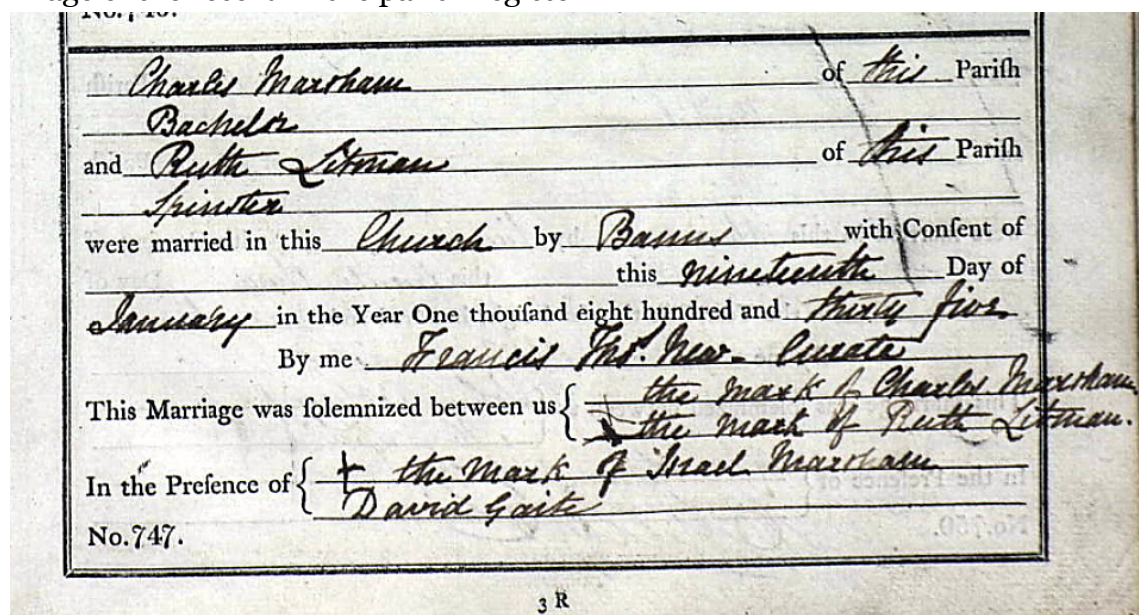
X the mark of Ruth Litman

In the Presence of

X the mark of Israel Marsham

David Gaite

Image of the record in the parish register



Charles Marshman was born 18 February 1812 in Croscombe, Somerset and was baptized 22 September 1812 at St Mary the Virgin church in Croscombe.

He was a son of Joseph Marshman and Hannah Harris.

From the parish register of the church:

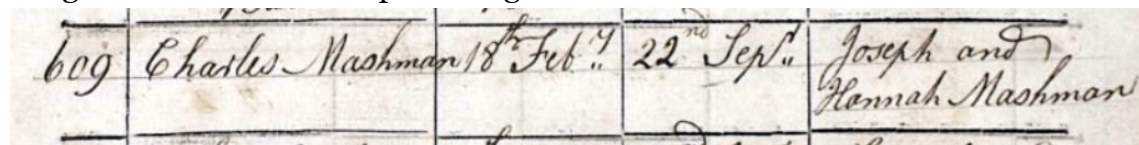
Baptisms 1812 - Page 51 No. 609

Page 51<sup>st</sup>.

No. / Name of the Child. / When Born. / When Baptized. / Name of the Parents.

609 / Charles Mashman / 18<sup>th</sup> Feb'y. / 22<sup>nd</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup>. / Joseph and Hannah Mashman

Image of the record in the parish register :



The family name is Marshman but it occurs in the records as "Mashman" several times.

### ~ More about Charles Marshman's parents

Joseph Mashman and Hannah Harris were married 21 April 1806 at St Mary the Virgin church in Croscombe, Somerset.

From the parish register of the church:

Page 31<sup>st</sup>

Marriages 1806 - Page 31 No. 122

Joseph Mashman of this Parish Bachelor and Hannah Harris Spinster of the same were Married in this Church by Banns this Twenty first Day of April in the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Six By me Charles Browns Minister

This Marriage was solemnized between Us

The Mark of X Joseph Mashman

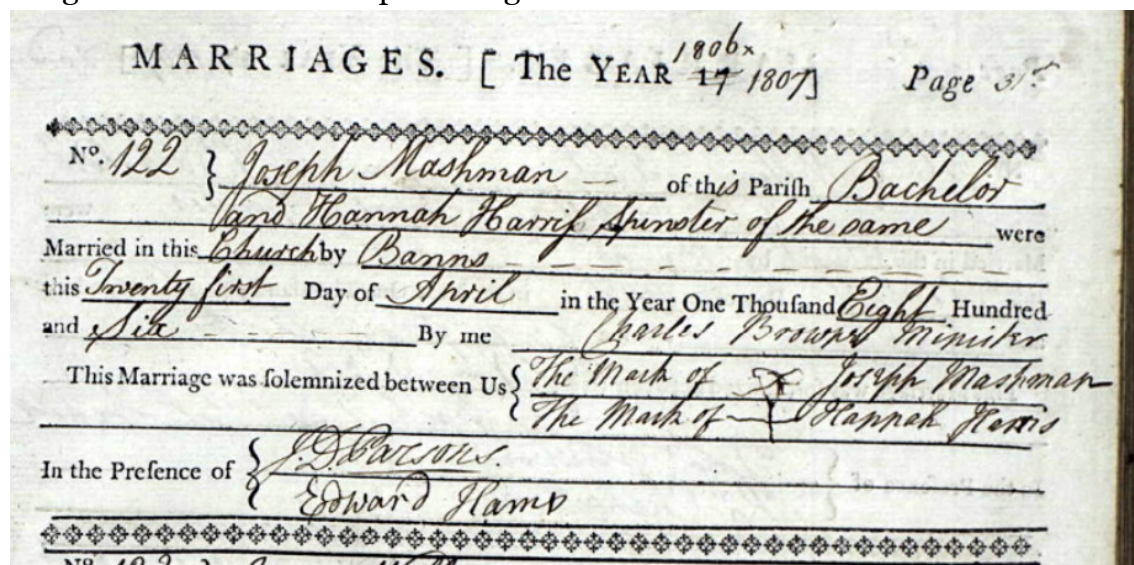
The Mark of X Hannah Harris

In the Presence of

J.D. Parsons

Edward Hams

Image of the record in the parish register:



Hannah Marshman died at the age of 69 and was buried 4 April 1852 in the churchyard of St Mary the Virgin in Croscombe, Somerset.

From the parish register of the church:

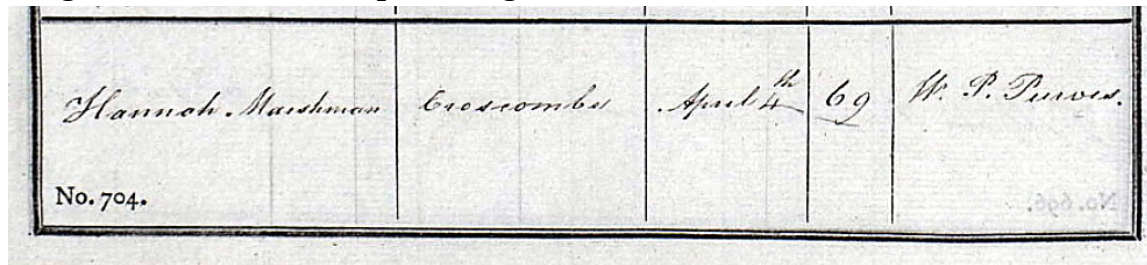
Burials 1852 - Page 88. No. 704.

Name. / Abode. / When buried. / Age. / By whom the Ceremony was performed.

Hannah Marshman / Croscombe / April 4<sup>th</sup> / 69 / W. P. Purvis.



Image of the record in the parish register:



Joseph Marshman died at the age of 92 years and was buried 26 November 1872 in the churchyard of St Mary the Virgin in Croscombe, Somerset.

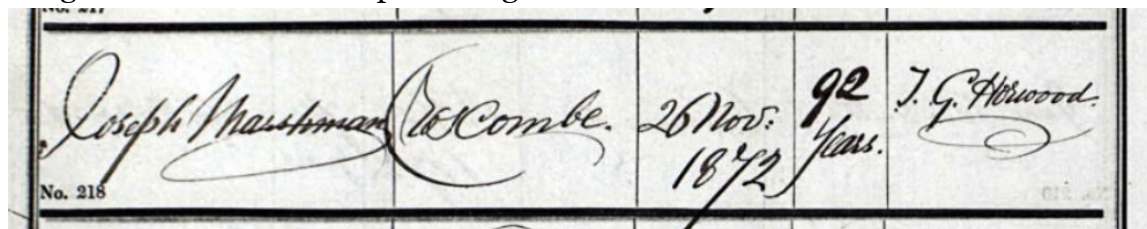
From the parish register of the church:

Burials 1872 - Page 28 No. 218

*Name. / Abode. / When buried. / Age. / By whom the Ceremony was performed.*

Joseph Marshman / Croscombe. / 26 Nov: 1872 / 92 Years. / S. G. Horwood.

Image of the record in the parish register:



## ~ March & April 1841

Charles Mashman and David Hyatt were charged with stealing and breaking into houses. Later, David Hyatt was convicted and whipped and Charles Mashman was found not guilty.

From the newspaper, Taunton Courier, and Western Advertiser, Wednesday 31 March 1841:

WELLS SESSION.

These Quarter Sessions commenced at Wells, on Monday last, before a full Bench. There were 91 prisoners on the calendar, 80 for felonies and 11 for misdemeanors.

CALENDAR OF THE PRISONERS.

PRISONERS FOR FELONIES.



Charles Mashman, David Hyatt, breaking and entering a dwelling-house, and stealing a quantity of bread and cheese, and other articles; also breaking and entering a dwelling-house and stealing seven watches.

From the newspaper, Dorset County Chronicle, Thursday 8 April 1841:

WELLS SESSIONS.

The following is a summary of the sentences of the prisoners: --

IMPRISONMENT. -

Six Months. - David Hyatt (and twice whipped), breaking into a dwelling house

NOT GUILTY. -

Charles Mashman

At the Ilchester Gaol, Charles Mashman was found not guilty for breaking into two houses and stealing. He was tried on 29 March 1841 and discharged.

From the Ilchester Gaol, Felons Register:

1841 - Page 124

*No. / Name. / Age. / Trade, &c. / By whom Committed. (written in "and when") / If from any other Prison, and when. / Offence charged with. / When Tried, and before whom. / Verdict. / Sentence. / If executed and when. / Reprieved, or Pardoned. / When Discharged, Removed, or otherwise disposed of. / If Died in Prison and when. / If before convicted of Felony, or Imprisoned for any Offence.*

70 / Charles Mashman / 28 / Laborer / John Wickham. Esq<sup>re</sup> / Shepton Gaol / Breaking & Entering the Dwelling house of Maria Harvey, and Stealing a quantity of Bread Cheese & other articles, also breaking & Entering the Dwelling house of Anne Rossiter & Stealing Seven watches the property of John Smith / Wells Spring Session March 29<sup>th</sup> 1841 - The Right Honorable Henry Hobhouse & William Miles, Esq<sup>re</sup> Chairmen / Not Guilty / ----- / ----- / ----- / Discharged / ----- / ----- /

## **~ June 1841**

In 1841, Charles and Ruth Marshman were living at her mother Elizabeth Litman's place at Quarr in Shepton Mallet, Somerset. Charles was listed as a labourer.

The next family in the listing (next door) was Charles and Rebecca Spratt. Rebecca was Ruth's sister.

From the 1841 census of Shepton Mallet:

*Name / Age & Sex / Profession / Whether Born in County*

Quar

Elizabeth Litman / 75 F / ----- / Y

Char<sup>s</sup>. Mashman / 25 M / Labourer / Y

Ruth D<sup>o</sup> / 30 F / ----- / Y

Jane D<sup>o</sup> / 4 F / ----- / Y

Sabina D<sup>o</sup> / 3 Mo F / ----- / F

Robert Litman / 10 M / ----- / Y

Mary Ingram / 45 F / washing woman / Y

Henry Stokes / 20 M / Labourer / Y

(the next listing after the above household)

*Name / Age & Sex / Profession / Whether Born in County*

Quar

Charles Spratt / 30 M / Labourer / Yes

Rebecca D<sup>o</sup> / 35 F / ----- / Yes

## ~ 1842

Charles Marshman was convicted on 4 July 1842 for stealing eleven fowls the property of George Pearce. He was sentenced to seven years transportation. Charles Marshman was removed to the Sterling Castle Hulk at Devonport on 4 August 1842.

These hulks were former warships that were converted to prison ships that stayed stationary in some harbor at some distance away from the ports.

From the Ilchester Gaol, Description Book:

Page 60 - 1842

*Date. / Names. / Age. / Height. / Person. / Complexion / Visage. / Hair. / Eyes. / Where Born. / Marks, &c. &c. / Trade. / Last Place of Abode. / Married or Single. / No. of Children. / Read. / Write. / Remarks.*

1842. July 11<sup>th</sup>. / Charles Marshman / 31 / 5 - 7 / slight / sallow / Round / Dark / Dark / Coscombe / summer freckled / Labourer / Shepton Mallet / Mar<sup>d</sup>. / 3 / Imp. / No. / 7 Years.

From the Ilchester Gaol, Felons Register:

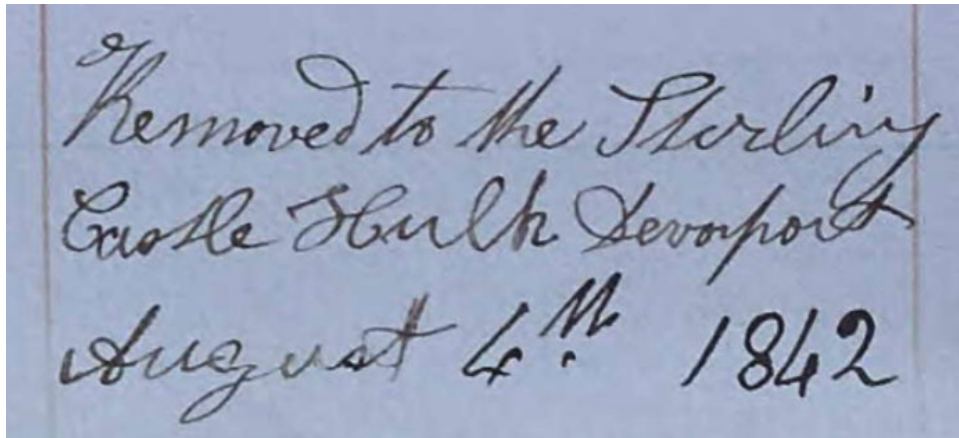
Page 202 - 1842

*No. / Name. / Age. / Trade, &c. / By whom Committed. / If from any other Prison, and when. / Offence charged with. / When Tried, and before whom. / Verdict. / Sentence. /*

*If executed and when. / Reprieved, or Pardoned. / When Discharged, Removed, or otherwise disposed of. / If Died in Prison and when. / If before convicted of Felony, or Imprisoned for any Offence.*

45 / Charles Mashman / 30 / Labourer / J. S. Lean, Esq. / ditto (Shepton ) / Stealing 11 Fowls, the property of George Pearce / Wells Midsummer Adjourned Sessions July 4<sup>th</sup>. 1842. William Miles, Esquire / Guilty / Trans. 7 Years. / ----- / ----- / Removed to the Sterling Castle Hulk Devonport August 4<sup>th</sup>. 1842 / ----- / Conv<sup>d</sup> Mid<sup>r</sup>. 1833, 3 Mo<sup>s</sup>. Wilton and acqu<sup>d</sup>. Spring, 1841

Image of the record



From the newspaper, Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette - Thursday 14 July 1842:  
SOMERSET WELLS ADJOURNED SESSSIONS [sic].

Sentences of the prisoners, continued from our last.

TRANSPORTATION. -

Seven Years: Charles Mashman, stealing fowls of George Pearce

## ~ 1851

In 1851, Charles and Ruth Marshman were living at Quarr Street in Shepton Mallet, Somerset. Charles was listed as a Labourer and Ruth a silk throwster.

From the 1851 census of Shepton Mallet:

*Name / Relationship / Marital status / Age & Sex / Profession/ Where Born*

Quarr Street

Charles Marshman / Head / Mar / 39 M / Labourer / Somerset Croscombe

Ruth do / Wife / Mar / 40 F / Silk Throster / do Shepton Mallet

Jane do / Daur / ----- / 14 F / do / do do  
Henry do / Son / ----- / 8 M / ~~Farm Labourer~~ / do do  
Henry Bartlett / Lodger / U / 19 M / Farm Labourer / do do

### **~ June to July 1854**

In July 1854, Charles Marshman and William James were charged with stealing a quantity of wool in Shepton Mallet, Somerset. Charles Marshman was acquitted but William James was found guilty.

From the newspaper, Wells Journal, Saturday 8 July 1854:

#### **THE ADJOURNED QUARTER SESSIONS.**

Thursday.

Charles Marshman, 44, and William James, 22, were charged with stealing a quantity of wool, the property of John Luff, of Shepton Mallet.

William Webb, in the employ of the prosecutor, stated that his master's sheep, 145 in number, were shorn in June last; two of the fleeces were taken home, and the remainder were put in a cupboard, under the stairs of an empty house belonging to his master; the door of the house was not locked; on Monday week last the whole of the fleeces in the house were safe; he went to the house on the Tuesday following, and on opening the door one of the fleeces fell against the door, and the others were strewn about; his master's son afterwards came and counted the fleeces with him, and they then found 118 there; the sheep from which the wool was taken were Downs, Devons, and cross-breeds; on Friday last a constable showed him some wool (24 fleeces), which he knew to belong to his master by a mark across the shoulder.

Frederick Taylor, wool rug manufacturer, of Baltonsborough, remembered the prisoners coming to his house, on Thursday, the 29th of June, with two sacks of wool; James said he had some wool for sale, and asked witness to buy it; he said that he must see it first; James then showed the wool, and witness told him to weigh it; he did so, and witness asked him to take it into the loft, that he might see the sample; witness then told James that he could not think of buying wool of men of his description, and he was not that sort of man to come by it honestly; during this conversation the other prisoner was outside, and he sent for a constable, who took them into custody; the wool was worth about £4; Marshman took no part in selling the wool.

William Luff, son of the prosecutor, corroborated the principal part of Webb's evidence.

A statement made by the prisoners at the time of their committal was read. Marshman said that James gave him 2s. to carry the wool to Baltonsborough, and James said he found the wool outside the Downside turn-pike gate. In defence, Marshman said he was quite innocent of knowing as to how James came by the wool, and James repeated his former statement.

Marshman was acquitted, but James was found guilty, and it being shown that he had been in custody on seven different occasions, he was sentenced to eighteen months' hard labour.

### **~ December 1854 to January 1855**

Charles Marshman was convicted of stealing 80 lbs. of coal and sentenced to twelve months hard labor.

From the newspaper, Bristol Mercury, Saturday 13 January 1855:

SOMERSET ADJOURNED SESSION

IMPRISONMENT. - Twelve Months: Charles Marshman, stealing 80 lbs. of coal, the property of Albion Allen, of Shepton-Mallet.

And from another newspaper, Wells Journal, Saturday 13 January 1855:

SOMERSET ADJOURNED EPIPHANY SESSIONS.

Tuesday.

Charles Marshman, 45, was charged with stealing 80lbs. of coal, at Shepton Mallet, the property of A. Allen, on the 16th of December. Guilty: three former convictions were recorded against him, and he was sentenced to twelve months' hard labour.

Charles Marshman was sent to serve his 12 months with hard labor at the Wilton Gaol. His description was entered the book when he arrived there.

From the Wilton Gaol, Description Book:

1855

*No. / Names. / Age. / Height. Ft. /..... In. / Complexion. / Eyes. / Hair. / Married or Single. / If Maimed, or otherwise particularly Marked. / Where Born. / Last Residence. / His or Her Trade, or Occupation. / When Received.*

244 / Charles Marshman / 45 / 5 / 6 / Sallow / D Hazel / D Brown / Married / Scar on Middle finger right hand / Croscombe / Shepton Mallet / Laborer / Jan<sup>ry</sup> 10<sup>th</sup>

### **~ September 1856 to April 1857**

Charles Marshman was convicted for stealing three pecks of apples and sentenced to 6 months hard labor.

From the Shepton Mallet Gaol register of prisoners:

Page 13 - 1856

*No. / Name. / Age. / Read. / Write. / Superior Education. / Trade. / By whom Committed and when. / When received into this Prison. / From what Division. / If an*

*old Offender, when and where Convicted. / Charge or Offence. / Assizes. / Sessions. / SENTENCE. / When discharged from this Prison.*

125 / Charles Marshman - Fully Committed by E. H. Dickinson, Esq<sup>re</sup>. October 3<sup>rd</sup>. 1856./ 49 / N / " (N) / " (N) / Laborer / E. H. Dickinson, Esq<sup>r</sup>. Sep<sup>r</sup>. 30<sup>th</sup>. 1856. / September 30<sup>th</sup>. 1856. / Shepton Mallet / ----- / Re. Examination. Charged with stealing three pecks of apples growing in an orchard at Croscombe the property of John Perkins. Value 2 P & 6d / ----- / ----- / 6 Cal. Months hard labour / April 3<sup>rd</sup>. 1857

## ~ November 1856

Ruth Mashman, a reputed witch, was charged and convicted of extorting money and she was committed to the Shepton-Mallet house of correction for six weeks.

This case described some of the items that were part of her witchcraft. Such as the enchanted box, when opened the devil's portrait, by Mashman, in colours, was found inside, together with a verse of scripture written backwards, and some toads' legs.

From the newspaper, Sheffield Daily Telegraph, Saturday 08 November 1856:  
WITCHCRAFT.

A woman named Bathe preferred a charge against Ruth Mashman, a reputed witch, for extorting money, at the petty sessions, Shepton-Mallet, on Wednesday last.

It seems that Mrs. Bathe applied to the witch to have her assistance in breaking the spell of another witch upon her husband, who lately has been very unfortunate in his undertakings.

Mashman agreed to charm away the spell, and as a remuneration she obtained a coup of onions, a great portion of the woman's clothes, and a large sum of money; indeed, she was in the habit of paying the credulous Mrs. Bathe a visit whenever she wanted any of the above articles, which was pretty frequently.

Mrs. Bathe one day, needing the witch's advice on some point, paid her a visit, and at the end of the conversation had a small box given her, with strict injunctions not to open or show it to any one but her husband. Shortly after her coming into possession of the box she became very ill, and believed herself under the influence of the witch's craft, and the little box was considered the cause of illness.

At this point two "wis acres," respectable farmers, were consulted about the box, but on being told that the witch had averred the house would be blown up on its being opened, they declined doing it; and a man named Rood was sent for, who declared his readiness to open the enchanted box though the devil himself was there.

The box was opened, and sure enough the devil's portrait, by Mashman, in colours, was found inside, together with a verse of scripture written backwards, and some toads' legs.

The discovery led to the taking up of Mrs. Mashman, and it being proved she had obtained money, &c., by unlawful means, she was committed to the Shepton-Mallet house of correction for six weeks.

In the same woman's house, on it being searched a few weeks ago, Police-Constable Emery stepped on a loose stone, and on its removal discovered a crock containing several toads.

It is probable the practice has been handed down from the days of Shakespere of preserving under a stone, as in Macbeth: -

Toad that, under coldest stone, Days and nights hath thirty-one Sweltering venom sleeping got.

- Bristol Advertiser.

From the Shepton Mallet Gaol, Register of Prisoners:

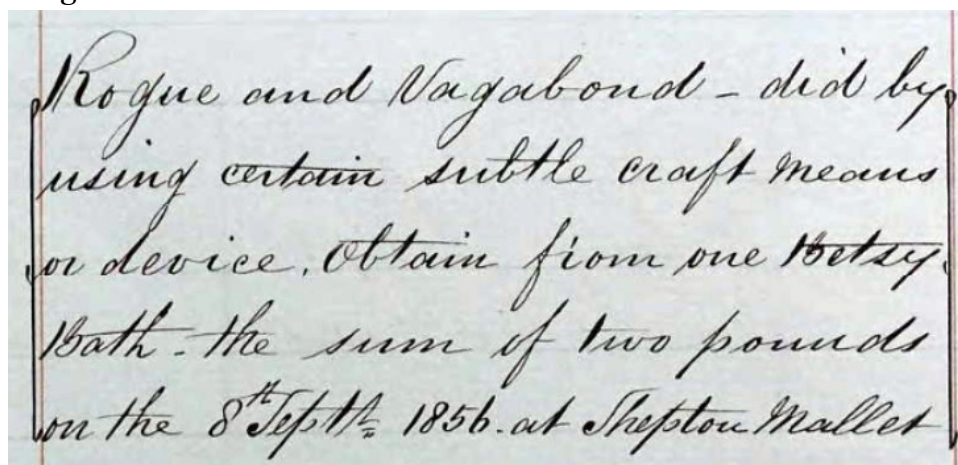
Page 20 - 1856

*No. / Name. / Age. / Read. / Write. / Superior Education. / Trade. / By whom Committed and when. / When received into this Prison. / From what Division. / If an old Offender, when and where Convicted. / Charge or Offence. / Assizes. / Sessions. / SENTENCE. / When discharged from this Prison.*

188 / Ruth Marshman Wife of Charles Marshman / 44 / N / " (N) / " (N) / Married Laborer / R. Clerk & H. Ernest, Esq<sup>rs</sup>. October 29<sup>th</sup>. 1856. / October 29<sup>th</sup>. 1856 / Shepton Mallet / ----- / Rogue and Vagabond, did by using certain subtle craft means or device, obtain from one Betsy Bath, the sum of two pounds on the 8<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup>. 1856. at Shepton Mallet / ----- / ----- / 6 Weeks Hard Labor / December 10<sup>th</sup>. 1856



Image of the record



Rogue and Nagabond - did by  
using certain subtle craft means  
or device. Obtain from one Betsy  
Bath the sum of two pounds  
on the 8<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1856. at Shepton Mallet

### ~ June 1858

Joseph Jacobs was sent to prison for doing something illegal on Ruth Marshman's premises.

From the newspaper, Shepton Mallet Journal, Friday 11 June 1858:

PETTY SESSIONS, Wednesday, June 9.

Before Sir E. C. Strode, K.C.B., Capt. Ernest, R. Clerk, and E. B. Napier, Esqrs.

Joseph Jacobs was sent to prison for fourteen days, for being on the premises of a woman, named Ruth Marshman, living in Catsash, for unlawful purpose, and for having, while there, cut off the tail of her pig.

### ~ July to August 1858

On 7 August 1858, Jane Marshman pleaded guilty to stealing wearing apparels from Elizabeth Keen on 27 July 1858. Jane was given one month's imprisonment.

Charles and Ruth Marshman, were charged for receiving the stolen articles with a guilty knowledge. It appears that the charges were dropped for the parents as no bill was found against them.

From the newspaper, Shepton Mallet Journal, Friday 6 August 1858:

BOROUGH POLICE OFFICE, Monday. - (Before the Mayor and Jas. Garrod, Esqr.)

- Jane Marshman was brought up charged with stealing three borders, a piece of satin, neckerchief, a piece of muslin work, and other articles, on the 27th ult., the property of Elizabeth Keen, who deposed that the prisoner, Jane Marshman, took a room in her house as a lodger at 3s. a-week.

On Wednesday, the 28th July, she missed a bit of muslin work out of her work-box; she then searched her other boxes and missed two babies' caps, one lace collar, three borders, a piece of satin, and neckerchief. She afterwards went to Shepton Mallet, to the house of prisoner's parents, Charles and Ruth Marshman, accompanied by P.C. Rawlins, and there found most of the missing articles.

The prisoner's mother, Ruth Marshman, did not deny having the things, and showed some of them to her, and said her daughter brought them. The prisoner, after the usual address by the magistrates, said she picked up the cap. She took it home to get her mother to do it up, and was going to take it back again. Committed for trial at the Assizes.

- Charles Marshman and Ruth Marshman, parents of the prisoner, were then charged with receiving the goods, well knowing the same to have been stolen. The evidence adduced in this case was the same in the previous one. The statement of the former prisoner was: "I never knowed anything of the sort, I never seed it till now I see it on the table;" and of the latter, "I didn't know it was stolen when she brought it to my house. She said she was going to have the baby christened and was going to take it back." Both prisoners were committed for trial at the Assizes.

From another newspaper, Sherbourne Mercury, Tuesday 10 August 1858:

On Monday last, Jane Marsham was charged before the city Magistrates with stealing from Elizabeth Keen, certain articles of baby linen, lace collars, muslin, &c., and Charles Marshman, and Ruth, his wife (who reside at Shepton Mallet), were also charged with receiving the things, knowing them to have been stolen.

After hearing Mrs. Keen's evidence and that of the policeman (Rawlings, No. 242), who apprehended the prisoners, the magistrates committed them all for trial at the ensuing assizes. It is said that Charles Marshman is a ticket of leave man, and that his wife has been also convicted of a felony.

From another newspaper, Wells Journal, Saturday 7 August 1858:

Jane Marshman (23), for stealing wearing apparel from Elizabeth Keen, at Wells, on the 27th July, pleaded guilty. One month's imprisonment. No bill was found against Charles and Ruth Marshman, the parents of the prisoner, who had been indicted for receiving the articles with a guilty knowledge.

From another newspaper, Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette, Thursday 12 August 1858:

TRIALS OF THE PRISONERS.

Saturday.

(Before Mr. Baron Watson.)

Jane Marshman, 28, pleaded guilty to stealing three cap borders, a piece of ribbon, and other articles, the property of her mistress, Elizabeth Keen, at Wells. - Sentence deferred.

BILLS IGNORED.

- Edward Heath, for felonious assault on Charity Brooks, a child 8 years of age, at Wiveliscombe; Charles Marshman and Ruth Marshman, charged with receiving stolen property at Wells.

Monday.

(Before Mr. Baron Watson.)

DEFERRED SENTENCES.

Jane Marshman, for stealing several articles of wearing apparel at Wells, one month's imprisonment with hard labour

From the Shepton Mallet Gaol, Register of Prisoners:

Page 166 - 1858

*No. / Name. / Age. / Read. / Write. / Superior Education. / Trade. / By whom Committed and when. / When received into this Prison. / From what Division. / If an old Offender, when and where Convicted. / Charge or Offence. / Assizes. / Sessions. / SENTENCE. / When discharged from this Prison.*

1422 / Jane Marshman - Once before / 23 / N / " (N) / " (N) / Singlewoman Laborer / J. C. Everett and J. Garrod, Esq<sup>rs</sup>. August 2<sup>nd</sup>. 1858. / August 2<sup>nd</sup>. 1858 at 4. P.M / Wells / February 13<sup>th</sup>. 1857, 10 days hard labour as a Rogue and Vagabond, leaving her bastard child chargeable to the Parish of Shepton Mallet / Stealing three borders, two baby's Caps, a piece of Satin, a Neckerchief, a piece of Muslin work, a piece of Yellow Ribbon and other articles the property of Elizabeth Keen at Wells on the 27<sup>th</sup> July 1858. / Assizes / ----- / one C Month hard labor Shepton Gaol / Sep<sup>r</sup>. 4<sup>th</sup>. 1858

1423 / Charles Marshman - 6 times before / 50 / N / " (N) / " (N) / Laborer / Same / Same / Wells / Conv<sup>d</sup>. B. Water Mids<sup>r</sup>. Sessions 1833, stealing a She Ass. 3 C mo<sup>s</sup>. H L Taunton also, Acq<sup>d</sup>. of Housebreaking Spring Sess. 1841 also Conv<sup>d</sup>. Wells Mids<sup>r</sup>. Adj<sup>d</sup>. Sess. 1842 stealing Fowls. Transp<sup>d</sup>. 7 Years. also, Acq<sup>d</sup>. Wells Mids<sup>r</sup>. Adj<sup>d</sup>. Sess. 1854 stealing wool of John Luff. also, Conv<sup>d</sup>. Wells Epip<sup>y</sup> Adj<sup>d</sup>. Sess: 1855 stealing Coal. 12 C Mo<sup>s</sup>. H L Taunton. also, Oct<sup>r</sup>. 3<sup>rd</sup>. 1856, 6 C Mo<sup>s</sup>. H L stealing apples. / Charles and Ruth did on the 27<sup>th</sup>. July 1858 feloniously receive from Jane Marshman three borders,

a lace collar, two baby's Caps, a piece of Satin, a Neckerchief, a piece of Muslin work, a piece of Yellow Ribbon and other articles the property of Elizabeth Keen, they well knowing the same to have been stolen. / Assizes / ----- / Bill Ignored / " (Sep<sup>r</sup>. 4<sup>th</sup>. 1858)

Image of the record

bono<sup>r</sup> B. Water Midst<sup>r</sup> Session 1833 -  
 stealing @ the ass. 3 CMos HL Tamerton  
 also, acq<sup>r</sup> of Housebreaking Spring Sess; 1841  
 also, com<sup>r</sup> Wells Midst<sup>r</sup> adj<sup>r</sup> Sess; 1842  
 stealing Fowls. Transp<sup>r</sup> 7 Years -  
 also, acq<sup>r</sup> Wells Midst<sup>r</sup> adj<sup>r</sup> Sess; 1854  
 stealing wool of John Luff.  
 also, bono<sup>r</sup> Wells Sep<sup>r</sup> adj<sup>r</sup> Sess; 1855  
 stealing Coal - 12 CMos HL Tamerton.  
 also, Oct<sup>r</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 1856 - 6 CMos HL  
 stealing apples. -

1424 / Ruth Marshman - once before / 50 / N / " (N) / " (N) / Married Laborer / Same / Same / Wells / October 29<sup>th</sup>. 1856, 6 Weeks H L as a Rogue and Vagabond did by using certain subtle Craft, obtain from one Betsy Bath £2 on the 8<sup>th</sup>. of September 1856/ (see in Charles Marshman above) / Assizes / ----- / Bill Ignored / " (Sep<sup>r</sup>. 4<sup>th</sup>. 1858)

## ~ October 1859

Ruth Marshman charged for using threatening language at an 89 year old woman.

From the newspaper, Shepton Mallet Journal, Friday 14 October 1859:

PETTY SESSIONS, Wednesday, October 12th.

Magistrates: - Col. Phipps, R. Clerk, and J. M. Paget, Esqrs.

USING THREATENING LANGUAGE. - Ruth Marshman, no stranger to the police court, she having some time ago been brought up and sentenced to six weeks hard labour, under the vagrancy act, as a witch and fortune teller, was charged with using

threatening language towards a poor old woman, living in Catash, named Mary Tucker, who was, she stated, 89 years of age. - Ordered to find one surety in £10 to keep the peace for three months. The required surety was immediately forthcoming in the person of the prisoner's husband, and she was then at once released.

### ~ April 1861

In 1861, Charles and Ruth Marshman were living on Pike Lane in Shepton Mallet, Somerset. Charles was listed as a Labourer.

From the 1861 census of Shepton Mallet:

*Name / Relationship / Marital status / Age & Sex / Profession / Where Born*

Pike Lane

Charles Marshman / Head / Mar / 48 M / Labourer / Somerset Croscomb

Ruth D<sup>o</sup> / Wife / Mar / 50 F / ----- / D<sup>o</sup> Shepton Mallet

Henery D<sup>o</sup> / Son / Un / 16 M / Farm Servant / D<sup>o</sup> D<sup>o</sup>

John D<sup>o</sup> / Grand Son / Un / 6 M / ----- / D<sup>o</sup> D<sup>o</sup>

### ~ July to September 1861

There was a court case, Burgess versus Charles Marshman, concerning Mr. and Mrs. Marshman's refusal to quit the place that they were renting. Charles Marshman claims that the landlord won't let him leave.

From the newspaper, Wells Journal, Saturday 21 September 1861:

Burgess v. Charles Marshman. Refusal to quit.

His Honor, (to defendant): Why do you not give up possession? Defendant: When I am going out he will not allow me (laughter). His Honor: What do you mean? Defendant: It is not for the rent I owe him. I have witnesses to prove that he will not allow me to go out. We are willing to go, but when we attempt to do so he stops us.

Plaintiff: Well, your Honor, that does not seem very reasonable. I have given defendant several notices; here is one of them. When I given defendant's wife the last notice, she said she would see me, the judge, and everybody else b----- before she would go out.

The last notice was served on the 16th July. Defendant was a weekly tenant, and should have left the house at the end of the week. I have not had the arrears of rent (£1 19s.) and defendant's wife said she would see me ----- before she would pay me anything.

His Honor decided that defendant should give up possess on in a week.

## ~ May 1862

Ruth Marshman was charged with being a rogue and a vagabond, and pretending to tell fortunes. She was convicted and sentenced with two months' imprisonment, with hard labour.

From the newspaper, Wells Journal, Saturday 10 May 1862:

SHEPTON MALLET.

FORTUNE TELLING.

- An old woman, named Ruth Marshman, who has previously been in gaol for pretending to practice the "black art", was brought before E. H. Dickinson and John Hippisley, jun., Esqrs., at the magistrates' office, on Friday last, charged with being a rogue and a vagabond, and pretending to tell fortunes.

The only witness was a well-dressed young woman, named Priscilla Taylor, who said the prisoner met her one day and told her she had something to say to her. As she could not stop then, she went to Marshman's house some time afterwards, when she told her she could get a young man with a fortune for her, and that they would be married on the following Saturday.

For this purpose she obtained 1s. 10d. and some articles from the girl, to work the "charm". The prophecy not coming to pass, Priscilla gave information to the police.

The magistrates, sentenced the accused to two months' imprisonment, with hard labour.

This case was written by Owen Davies in his book. He found the deposition of Pricilla Taylor of the case.

From the book, A People Bewitched: Witchcraft and Magic in Nineteenth-Century Somerset:

Page ? - ? (for some reason the page numbers are not shown on the Google book version)

Cunning-folk were clever at building up the expectations of young female clients with their promises, and milking them of their money or property by pretending to slowly work spells over their future husbands.

This process is well illustrated by the experience of Pricilla Taylor, a single young woman, about twenty years of age, who lived in the Market Place, Shepton Mallet. The following is her own account of her dealings with the cunning-woman Ruth Marshman, as deposed at Shepton Mallet magistrates' office in May 1862:

On the afternoon of the 20th January last, the prisoner met me in the street, and said she wanted to speak to me; I don't remember ever speaking to her before myself; I then told her I couldn't stop, and she asked me to go and see her, telling me where she lived; I said perhaps I might;

about a month afterwards I was coming home from Wells, when I called to see what she wanted of me; she brought forward some cards, and said she knew young people were fond of meddling with such things; I laughed, and she began to tell me different things; she said she saw by the cards there was a young man who wanted me then, but I was not to have anything to do with him, for she would get a young man with a fortune, whom I had never seen or heard of; that was on Monday, and she said she would get it all done, and we should be married by the next Saturday;

she also said I should enjoy better health than ever I had before; she asked me for 6d, and I gave it to her; I said to her "Do you really think there are such things?" - that was, what she had been telling me she could do; she replied, "Bless the child! I have turned many servants out of their situation and put others in," and said she had brought a Mr. Brown and his wife together; I asked her what the charge was to be for all this, and she told me 1s; but if I had no money she would take something the worth of 1s; I told her I didn't like to let my things go, and I would consider it;

I then went home, but before I had been there a quarter of an hour the prisoner came and asked me if I had made up my mind; I told her I did not know; I hadn't thought of it; she said I had no heart upon it, but I again told her I would consider it, and that I thought it was rather presumptuous work; she said, "Nonsense, girl! There's no time like the present", she also said I needn't be afraid, as it would be all right;

there was a shawl lying across the table, and I said she might have that; she took the shawl, but the young man never came, and I waited so long that I became uneasy about it, and went to her; she said the shawl was all right; she was working over it, and I must not move it, or the charm would be broken;

I afterwards found the shawl had been pawned, but on going and asking her for the pawn-ticket she said if I move the shawl I must give her something else to work upon, or the spell would be broken; she said I must cross my hand with a shilling, and I did so; she took the shilling and spat upon it, and said she could put the charm on again now; she then let me have the duplicate, and I redeemed the shawl;

She came to me some time afterwards, and said she must have something more to keep the charm on, and I let her have a dress; at other times I gave her a mantle, a piece of print, and 4d., because she said what she had was not enough to work with; I let her have all this to get the young man, but he never came.

After hearing Taylor's evidence a lengthy consultation ensued between the presiding magistrates, E. H. Dickenson and John Hipisley. They finally decided on sending Marshman to gaol for two months with hard labour.

From the Shepton Mallet Gaol, Register of Prisoners:

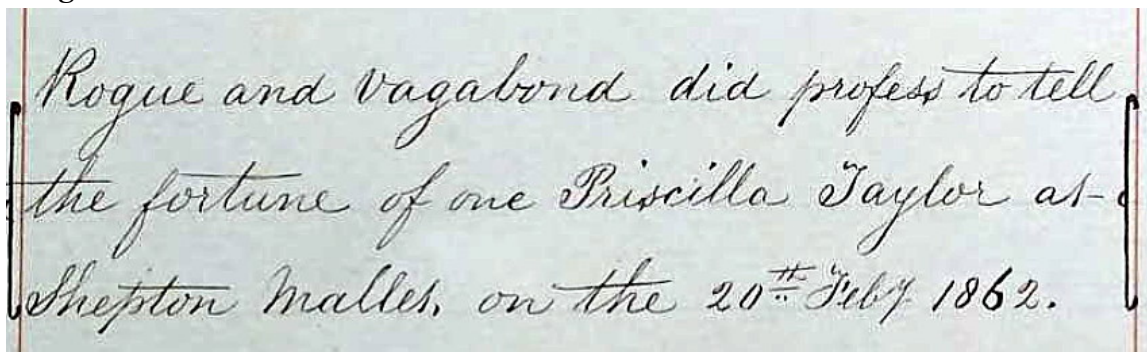
Page 486 - 1862



*No. / Name. / Age. / Read. / Write. / Superior Education. / Trade. / By whom Committed and when. / When received into this Prison. / From what Division. / If an old Offender, when and where Convicted. / Charge or Offence. / Assizes. / Sessions. / SENTENCE. / When discharged from this Prison.*

3991 / Ruth Marshman - twice before / 50 / N / " (N) / " (N) / Labourer / Edw<sup>d</sup>. H. Dickinson, and John Hippisley Jun<sup>r</sup>., Esq<sup>rs</sup>. May 2<sup>nd</sup>. 1862. / May 2<sup>nd</sup>. 1862 at 3: 20 P.M. / Shepton Mallet / 1856. Oct<sup>r</sup>. 29<sup>th</sup>. 6 Weeks H L for Vagrancy. 1858. Wells Summer Assizes Aug<sup>t</sup> 5 Bill Ignored, receiving stolen property. / Rogue and Vagabond did profess to tell the fortune of one Priscilla Taylor at Shepton Mallet, on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Feb<sup>y</sup>. 1862. / ----- / ----- / 2 C. Months hard labour / July 1<sup>st</sup>. 1862.

Image of the record



*Rogue and vagabond did profess to tell the fortune of one Priscilla Taylor at Shepton Mallet, on the 20<sup>th</sup> Feb 1862.*

## ~ 1871

In 1871, Charles and Ruth Marshman were living at Cats Ash in Shepton Mallet, Somerset. Charles was listed as a labourer.

The next family listed was Ruth's daughter, Jane Heath and her children.

From the 1871 census of Shepton Mallet:

*Name / Relationship / Marital status / Age & Sex / Profession / Where Born*  
Cats Ash

Charles Marshman / Head / Mar / 66 M / Labourer / Somerset Croscombe

Ruth do / Wife / Mar / 66 F / ----- / do Shepton Mallet

(the next family on the page)

*Name / Relationship / Marital status / Age & Sex / Profession / Where Born*  
Cats Ash

Jane Heath / Head / W / 37 F / Silk Factory Worker / Somerset Shepton Mallet



John Marshman / Son / ---- / 16 M / Farm Servant / do do

Edward do / Son / ---- / 13 M / do do / do do

Robert do / Son / ---- / 11 M / do do / do do

Albert do / Son / ---- / 8 M / ----- / do do

### ~ **January to February 1873**

Charles Marshman was convicted for malicious trespassing and breaking a window of a dwelling in Shepton Mallet on 22 January 1873. He was sentenced to 10 days.

From the Shepton Mallet Gaol register of prisoners:

Page 458

*No. / Name / Age / Read / Write / Superior Education / Trade / By whom Committed and when / When received into this Prison / From what Division / If an old Offender, when and where Convicted / Charge or Offence / Assizes or Sessions / SENTENCE / When discharged from this Prison*

247 / Charles Marshman - 7 Times Before / 66 / N / N / " (N) / Laborer / E. B. Napier, Esq: 24<sup>th</sup>. Jan<sup>y</sup> 1873 / 24<sup>th</sup>. Jan<sup>y</sup> 1873, at 3.30 P.M. / Shepton Mallet / 1833 Bridgwater Mid<sup>sr</sup>. Sess<sup>ns</sup>. Stealing a She Ass 3 M<sup>os</sup>. H.L. Taunton 1841 Spring Sessions Acquitted of Housebreaking 1842 Wells Mid<sup>sr</sup>. Adj<sup>d</sup>. Sessions Stealing Fowls 7 Years Transportation 1854 Wells Mid<sup>sr</sup>. Adj<sup>d</sup>. Sessions Acquitted of Stealing Wool 1855 Wells Ep<sup>y</sup> Adj<sup>d</sup>. Sessions Stealing Coals 12 M<sup>os</sup>. H.L. Taunton 1856 Oct<sup>r</sup>. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Stealing Apples growing 6 M<sup>os</sup>. H.L. Shepton 1858 Wells Summer Assizes Bill Ignored for receiving Stolen property / Malicious Trespass - Damaging a Window in the dwelling house of Joseph Hawkins, and doing injury to the amount of 1s at Shepton Mallet on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1873. / ----- / 10 Days unless 6s Fine & 6s Costs be sooner paid / 2<sup>nd</sup>. Feb<sup>y</sup>. 1873

### ~ **1878**

Ruth Marshman died at the age of 73, on 10 January 1878 at Lower Lane in Shepton Mallet, Somerset and was buried 15 January 1878 in the churchyard of St. Peter and St. Paul in Shepton Mallet.

From the copy of the death certificate:

Registration District - Shepton Mallet

1878 Death in the Sub-district of Shepton Mallet in the County of Somerset

*No. / When and where died / Name / Sex / Age / Occupation / Cause of death / Informant / When registered / Signature of registrar /*

37 / Tenth January 1878 Lower Lane Shepton Mallet / Ruth Marshman / Female / 73 years / Wife of Charles Marshman a Labourer / ----- Disease Old Age Certified by B. N. Hyatt M.R.C.S. / X The mark of Charles Marshman Widower of the deceased Present at the Death Longbridge Shepton Mallet / Tenth January 1878 / Joseph Hawkins Registrar /

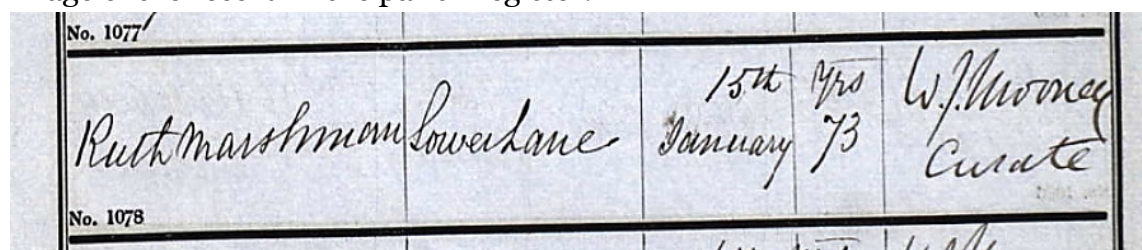
From the parish register of the church:

Burials 1878 - Page 135 No. 1078

*Name. / Abode. / When buried. / Age. / By whom the Ceremony was performed.*

Ruth Marshman / Lower Lane / 15<sup>th</sup> January / Yrs 73 / W. J. Mooney Curate

Image of the record in the parish register:



The death certificate mentioned that Ruth Marshman had the Scrofulous disease.

I checked the internet for Scrofulous and on Medicinenet.com it mentions "Scrofulous:

1. Literally, relating to scrofula (tuberculosis (or TB like bacteria) of the lymph nodes, particularly of the neck)."

Looking at pictures of victims with scrofula, it is a horrible looking disease to have at the neck extending to the face.

Don't know if she had the disease for years.

## ~ 1881

Charles Marshman, age 76 and a widower, was living at his grandson John Marshman's home at 40 Cats Ash Pike Lane in Shepton Mallet, Somerset. Charles was listed as a general laborer.

From the 1881 census of Shepton Mallet:

*Name / Relationship / Marital status / Age & Sex / Profession / Where Born*

40 Cats Ash (Pike Lane)

John Marshman / Head / Mar / 25 M / General Laborer / Somerset S. Mallet

Elizabeth D<sup>o</sup> / Wife / Mar / 26 F / Laundress / D<sup>o</sup> D<sup>o</sup>

[John?] D<sup>o</sup> / Son / ----- / 7 M / Scholar / D<sup>o</sup> D<sup>o</sup>

Willie D<sup>o</sup> / D<sup>o</sup> / ----- / 6 M / D<sup>o</sup> / D<sup>o</sup> D<sup>o</sup>

Charles D<sup>o</sup> / Lodger / Widower / 76 M / General Laborer / D<sup>o</sup> Croscombe

Albert D<sup>o</sup> / Lodger / ----- / 15 M / ----- / D<sup>o</sup> S. Mallet

## ~ 1890

Charles Marshman died at the age of 81 years in the Union Workhouse in Shepton Mallet, Somerset and was buried 18 October 1890 in the churchyard of St. Peter and St. Paul in Shepton Mallet.

From the parish register of the church:

Burials 1890 - Page 232 No. 1851

*Name. / Abode. / When buried. / Age. / By whom the Ceremony was performed.*

Charles Marshman / Union Workhouse Shepton Mallet / October 18<sup>th</sup>. / 81 Yrs / R H Jones Rector

Image of the record in the parish register:

No. 1850				
Charles Marshman	Union Workhouse Shepton Mallet	October 18 <sup>th</sup>	81 yrs	R. H. Jones Rector
No. 1851				

From the England & Wales Death Index:

Name:	Charles Marshman
Date:	Oct-Nov-Dec 1890
Age:	81
Registration District:	Shepton Mallet
County:	Somerset
Vol.:	5c
Page:	349

## Children of Ruth Litman and ?

5. **ROBERT LITMAN** was born 11 January 1831 and baptized the first time on 27 September 1832, recorded as a private baptism probably done at home with the minister of the St. Peter and St. Paul church in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

From the parish register of the church in Shepton Mallet:

Baptisms 1832 - Page 285. No. 2275.

*When Baptized. / Child's name. / Parent's names. / Surname. / Abode. / Profession. / By whom the Ceremony was performed.*

Sep<sup>r</sup>. 27. Private / Robert / Ruth / Litman / ----- / ----- / E H

(written on the left margin) B. B.

(B. B. = Base Born)

Image of the record in the parish register

1832.	27.	Private	Robert	Ruth	Litman	-	-	J. H. G.
No. 2275.								

Robert Litman was baptized a second time on 29 June 1837 at St. Peter and St. Paul church in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

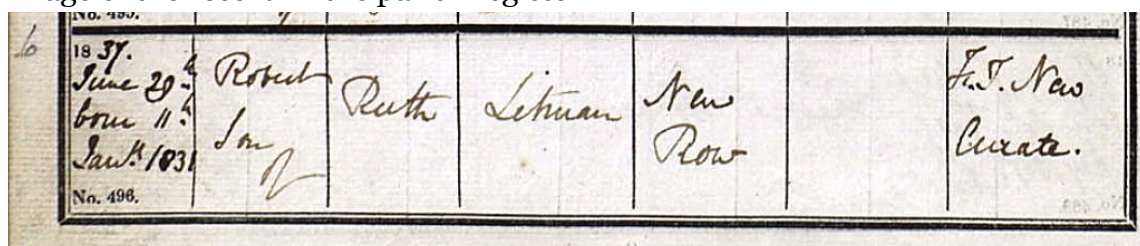
From the parish register of the church in Shepton Mallet:

Baptisms 1837 - Page 62 No. 496.

*When Baptized. / Child's name. / Parent's names. / Surname. / Abode. / Profession. / By whom the Ceremony was performed.*

1837. June 29<sup>th</sup>. born 11<sup>th</sup>. Jan<sup>y</sup>. 1831 / Robert Son of / Ruth / Litman / New Row / ----  
---- / F. T. New Curate.

Image of the record in the parish register



Robert Litman was born as an illegitimate child of Ruth Litman.

6. + **JANE LITMAN / MARSHMAN** was born ca. 1834 in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

Jane Litman was born as an illegitimate child of Ruth Litman.

She was first baptized as Jane Litman on 24 November 1834, recorded as a private baptism at St. Peter and St. Paul church in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

Jane was baptized again as Jane Marshman after the marriage of the parents. The baptism again was done privately. She was baptized on 20 February 1837 at St. Peter and St. Paul church in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

Jane Marshman married John Heath.

## Children of Charles and Ruth (Litman) Marshman

7. **JOHN MARSHMAN** was born 25 March 1840 and was baptized 27 March 1840 in St. Peter and St. Paul church in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

From the parish register of the church in Shepton Mallet:

Baptisms 1840 - Page 99 No.785.

*When Baptized. / Child's name. / Parent's names. / Surname. / Abode. / Profession. / By whom the Ceremony was performed.*

1840 March 27<sup>th</sup>. born 25<sup>th</sup>. March 1840 / John Son of / Charles & Ruth / Mashman / -  
----- / Labourer / E. H. [Cows?] Offg. Min<sup>r</sup>.



Image of the record in the parish register

**Page 99**

**BAPTISMS** solemnized in the Parish of Shepton Mallet  
in the County of Somerset in the Year 1840

When Baptised.	Child's Christian Name.	Parent's Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
1840 March 27 <sup>th</sup> born 25 <sup>th</sup> March 1840	John son of	Charles + Ruth	Marshman		Laborer	L. H. Lucas Off <sup>ce</sup> Min <sup>ster</sup>

No. 785.

John Marshman died at the age of 1 week and was buried 6 April 1840 in the churchyard of St. Peter and St. Paul in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

From the parish register of the church in Shepton Mallet:

Burials 1840 - Page 21. No. 164.

Name. / Abode. / When buried. / Age. / By whom the Ceremony was performed.

John Marshman / New Row / April 6<sup>th</sup>. / Wk 1 / F. T. New Curate.

Image of the record in the parish register

John Marshman	New Row	April 6 <sup>th</sup>	Wk 1	F. T. New Curate.
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No. 164.

8. **SABINA MARSHMAN** was born 28 February 1841 in Shepton Mallet, Somerset and was baptized 17 March 1841 in St. Peter and St. Paul church in Shepton Mallet.

From the parish register of the church in Shepton Mallet:

Baptisms 1841 - Page 112 No. 893.

When Baptized. / Child's name. / Parent's names. / Surname. / Abode. / Profession. / By whom the Ceremony was performed.

1841 March 17<sup>th</sup>. Born 28<sup>th</sup>. Feb<sup>y</sup> 1841 / Sabina Daugh<sup>r</sup>. of / Charles & Ruth /  
 Mashman / Quarr / labourer / P. T. Wickham Rector

Image of the record in the parish register:

No. 892.						
1841	Sabina	Charles				P. T. Wickham
March 17 <sup>th</sup>	Daugh <sup>r</sup>	&	Mashman	Quarr	labourer	Rector
Born						
28 <sup>th</sup> Feb <sup>y</sup>		Ruth				
1841						
No. 893.						

In 1841, Sabina Marshman, age 3 months, and her parents were living in her grandmother Elizabeth Litman's place at Quarr in Shepton Mallet, Somerset (see above under Ruth Litman and Charles Marshman for census details).

Sabina Marshman died at the age of nine and was buried 19 February 1850 in the churchyard of St. Peter and St. Paul in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

From the parish register of the church in Shepton Mallet:

Burials 1850, page 161, no. 1285

*Name. / Abode. / When buried. / Age. / By whom the Ceremony was performed.*

Sabina Marshman / Garston Street. / Feb<sup>y</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> / 9 / Ja<sup>s</sup> Goldart

Image of the record in the parish register

No. 1284.					
Sabina Marshman	Garston Street.	Feb <sup>y</sup> 19 <sup>th</sup>	9		Ja <sup>s</sup> Goldart
					Curate
No. 1285.					

## Children of Ruth Marshman and ?

9. **HENRY WILLIAM MARSHMAN** was born 7 April 1845 in Shepton Mallet, Somerset and was baptized 16 July 1845 at St. Peter and St. Paul church in Shepton Mallet.

Henry William Marshman was born as an illegitimate child of Ruth Marshman, born while Charles Marshman was away for several years serving time on a prison hulk ship.

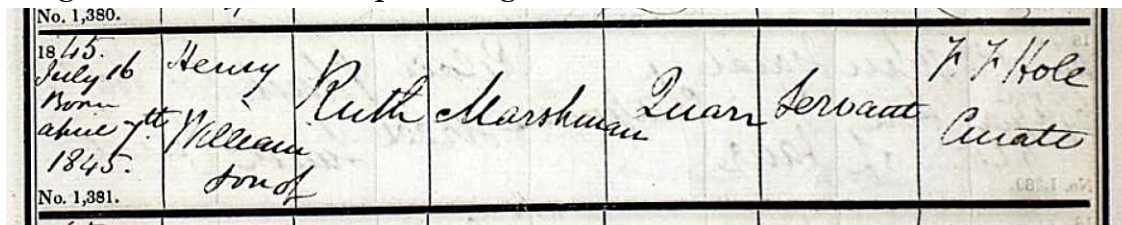
From the parish register of the church in Shepton Mallet:

Baptisms 1845 - Page 173. No. 1,381

*When Baptized. / Child's name. / Parent's names. / Surname. / Abode. / Profession. / By whom the Ceremony was performed.*

1845. July 16 Born April 7<sup>th</sup>. 1845. / Henry William Son of / Ruth / Marshman / Quarr / Servant / F F Hole Curate

Image of the record in the parish register



The father's name was not mentioned in this baptism record.

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3rd generation

## Jane Litman / Marshman (1834 - 1880)

Wife of John Heath

6. **JANE LITMAN / MARSHMAN** (of Ruth Litman<sup>2</sup>, Elizabeth Litman<sup>1</sup>) was born ca. 1834 in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

Father: (unknown)

Mother: Ruth Litman (No. 4)

Even though that Ruth married Charles Marshman 3 months after the birth of Jane, we do not know for certain if he was the father of Jane.

Charles Marshman was in prison for three months from June to August 1834 (see above under Ruth and Charles Marshman for details of the record).

### ~ 1834

Jane Litman was born as an illegitimate child of Ruth Litman.

She was first baptized as Jane Litman on 24 November 1834, recorded as a private baptism at St. Peter and St. Paul church in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

From the parish register of the church in Shepton Mallet:

Baptisms 1834 - Page 17 No.136

*When Baptized. / Child's name. / Parent's names. / Surname. / Abode. / Profession. / By whom the Ceremony was performed.*

1834 Nov<sup>r</sup>. 24<sup>th</sup> Private / Jane Daug<sup>r</sup>. of / Ruth / Litman / Quar / Silk. worker / F. T.  
New Curate

(written in the left margin) B. B.

(B. B. = Base Born)

Image of the record in the parish register

No. 139.	18 34	Jane	Ruth	Litman	Quar	Wk. worker	F. T. New
Private	24	Daug. of					Curate
No. 136.							

The father's name wasn't mentioned in this baptism record.

~ 1837

Jane was baptized again as Jane Marshman after the marriage of the parents. The baptism again was done privately. She was baptized on 20 February 1837 at St. Peter and St. Paul church in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

From the parish register of the church in Shepton Mallet:

Baptisms 1837 - Page 55 No.433.

*When Baptized. / Child's name. / Parent's names. / Surname. / Abode. / Profession. / By whom the Ceremony was performed.*

1837 Feb'y. 20<sup>th</sup>. born Nov<sup>r</sup>. 10<sup>th</sup>. 1836 Private. / Jane Daug<sup>r</sup> of / Charles and Ruth / Marshman / New Row / Labourer / F. T. New Curate.

Image of the record in the parish register

Page 55						
BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <i>Shepton Mallet</i>						
in the County of <i>Somerset</i> in the Year 18 <i>37</i>						
When Baptised.	Child's Christian Name.	Parent's Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
18 37 Feb'y 20 <sup>th</sup> born Nov <sup>r</sup> . 10 <sup>th</sup> . 1836 Private. No. 433.	Jane Daug <sup>r</sup> of	Charles & Ruth	Marshman	New Row	Labourer	F. T. New Curate.

It mentioned a birth date of 10 November 1836.

It is probably not the correct birth date. She was actually born in ca. 1834 as the first baptism occurred in 1834 and the later censuses have ages that support her being born

in ca. 1834. This was probably to make it look like she was born after the marriage rather than before.

In this baptism the father, Charles Marshman, was mentioned.

### ~ 1841

In 1841, Jane Mashman, age 4, and her parents were living in her grandmother Elizabeth Litman's place at Quarr in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

From the 1841 census of Shepton Mallet:

*Name / Age & Sex / Profession / Whether Born in County*

Quar

Elizabeth Litman / 75 F / ----- / Y

Char<sup>s</sup>. Mashman / 25 M / Labourer / Y

Ruth D<sup>o</sup> / 30 F / ----- / Y

Jane D<sup>o</sup> / 4 F / ----- / Y

Sabina D<sup>o</sup> / 3 Mo F / ----- / F

Robert Litman / 10 M / ----- / Y

Mary Ingram / 45 F / washing woman / Y

Henry Stokes / 20 M / Labourer / Y

### ~ 1851

In 1851, Jane Marshman, age 14, was living with her parents at Quarr Street in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

From the 1851 census of Shepton Mallet:

*Name / Relationship / Marital status / Age & Sex / Profession/ Where Born*

Quarr Street

Charles Marshman / Head / Mar / 39 M / Labourer / Somerset Croscombe

Ruth do / Wife / Mar / 40 F / Silk Throster / do Shepton Mallet

Jane do / Daur / ----- / 14 F / do / do do

Henry do / Son / ----- / 8 M / ~~Farm Labourer~~ / do do

Henry Bartlett / Lodger / U / 19 M / Farm Labourer / do do

### ~ 1857

Jane Marshman was sent to the Gaol in Shepton Mallet, Somerset to serve ten days hard labor for "Leaving her Bastard child chargeable to the Parish of Shepton Mallet". She went in 13 February 1857 and was released ten days later.

From the Shepton Mallet Gaol Register:

Page 43 - 1857

*No. / Name. / Age. / Read. / Write. / Superior Education. / Trade. / By whom  
Committed and when. / When received into this Prison. / From what Division. / If an  
old Offender, when and where Convicted. / Charge or Offence. / Assizes. / Sessions. /  
SENTENCE. / When discharged from this Prison.*

399 / Jane Marshman / 21 / N / " (N) / " (N) / Single / Edw<sup>d</sup>. H. Dickinson Esq<sup>r</sup>.  
February 13<sup>th</sup>. 1857 / February 13<sup>th</sup>. 1857 at 1/2 P. 3. P.M. / Shepton Mallet / -----  
/ Leaving her Bastard child chargeable to the Parish of Shepton Mallet / ----- / -----  
/ ten days hard labour / February 23<sup>rd</sup> 1857

### **~ July to August 1858**

On 7 August 1858, Jane Marshman pleaded guilty to stealing wearing apparels from Elizabeth Keen on 27 July 1858. Jane was given one month's imprisonment.

Charles and Ruth Marshman, were charged for receiving the stolen articles with a guilty knowledge. It appears that the charges were dropped for the parents as no bill was found against them.

From the newspaper, Shepton Mallet Journal, Friday 6 August 1858:

BOROUGH POLICE OFFICE, Monday. - (Before the Mayor and Jas. Garrod, Esqr.)

- Jane Marshman was brought up charged with stealing three borders, a piece of satin, neckerchief, a piece of muslin work, and other articles, on the 27th ult., the property of Elizabeth Keen, who deposed that the prisoner, Jane Marshman, took a room in her house as a lodger at 3s. a-week.

On Wednesday, the 28th July, she missed a bit of muslin work out of her work-box; she then searched her other boxes and missed two babies' caps, one lace collar, three borders, a piece of satin, and neckerchief. She afterwards went to Shepton Mallet, to the house of prisoner's parents, Charles and Ruth Marshman, accompanied by P.C. Rawlins, and there found most of the missing articles.

The prisoner's mother, Ruth Marshman, did not deny having the things, and showed some of them to her, and said her daughter brought them. The prisoner, after the usual address by the magistrates, said she picked up the cap. She took it home to get her mother to do it up, and was going to take it back again. Committed for trial at the Assizes.

- Charles Marshman and Ruth Marshman, parents of the prisoner, were then charged with receiving the goods, well knowing the same to have been stolen. The evidence adduced in this case was the same in the previous one. The statement of the former prisoner was: "I never knowed anything of the sort, I never seed it till now I see it on the table;" and of the latter, "I didn't know it was stolen when she brought it to my house.



She said she was going to have the baby christened and was going to take it back." Both prisoners were committed for trial at the Assizes.

From another newspaper, Sherbourne Mercury, Tuesday 10 August 1858:

On Monday last, Jane Marsham was charged before the city Magistrates with stealing from Elizabeth Keen, certain articles of baby linen, lace collars, muslin, &c., and Charles Marshman, and Ruth, his wife (who reside at Shepton Mallet), were also charged with receiving the things, knowing them to have been stolen.

After hearing Mrs. Keen's evidence and that of the policeman (Rawlings, No. 242), who apprehended the prisoners, the magistrates committed them all for trial at the ensuing assizes. It is said that Charles Marshman is a ticket of leave man, and that his wife has been also convicted of a felony.

From another newspaper, Wells Journal, Saturday 7 August 1858:

Jane Marshman (23), for stealing wearing apparel from Elizabeth Keen, at Wells, on the 27th July, pleaded guilty. One month's imprisonment. No bill was found against Charles and Ruth Marshman, the parents of the prisoner, who had been indicted for receiving the articles with a guilty knowledge.

From another newspaper, Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette, Thursday 12 August 1858:

#### TRIALS OF THE PRISONERS.

Saturday.

(Before Mr. Baron Watson.)

Jane Marshman, 28, pleaded guilty to stealing three cap borders, a piece of ribbon, and other articles, the property of her mistress, Elizabeth Keen, at Wells. - Sentence deferred.

#### BILLS IGNORED.

- Edward Heath, for felonious assault on Charity Brooks, a child 8 years of age, at Wiveliscombe; Charles Marshman and Ruth Marshman, charged with receiving stolen property at Wells.

Monday.

(Before Mr. Baron Watson.)

#### DEFERRED SENTENCES.

Jane Marshman, for stealing several articles of wearing apparel at Wells, one month's imprisonment with hard labour

From the Shepton Mallet Gaol, Register of Prisoners:

Page 166 - 1858

*No. / Name. / Age. / Read. / Write. / Superior Education. / Trade. / By whom  
Committed and when. / When received into this Prison. / From what Division. / If an  
old Offender, when and where Convicted. / Charge or Offence. / Assizes. / Sessions. /  
SENTENCE. / When discharged from this Prison.*

1422 / Jane Marshman - Once before / 23 / N / " (N) / " (N) / Singlewoman Laborer / J.  
C. Everett and J. Garrod, Esq<sup>rs</sup>. August 2<sup>nd</sup>. 1858. / August 2<sup>nd</sup>. 1858 at 4. P.M / Wells  
/ February 13<sup>th</sup>. 1857, 10 days hard labour as a Rogue and Vagabond, leaving her  
bastard child chargeable to the Parish of Shepton Mallet / Stealing three borders, two  
baby's Caps, a piece of Satin, a Neckerchief, a piece of Muslin work, a piece of Yellow  
Ribbon and other articles the property of Elizabeth Keen at Wells on the 27<sup>th</sup> July 1858.  
/ Assizes / ----- / one C Month hard labor Shepton Gaol / Sep<sup>r</sup>. 4<sup>th</sup>. 1858

Image from the record

The image shows a handwritten record from the Shepton Mallet Gaol register. The text is written in cursive and is divided into two columns by a vertical line. The left column contains the following text: "February 13<sup>th</sup> 1857 - 10 days hard labour as a Rogue and Vagabond, leaving her bastard child chargeable to the Parish of Shepton Mallet. -". The right column contains the following text: "Stealing three borders, two baby's caps, a piece of satin, a neckerchief, a piece of Muslin work, a piece of Yellow Ribbon and other articles the property of Elizabeth Keen at Wells on the 27<sup>th</sup> July 1858. -".

~ 1860

Jane Marshman married **JOHN HEATH** in the 3rd quarter (Jul-Aug-Sep) of 1860 in the Shepton Mallet registration district of Somerset.

From the England & Wales, Marriage Index:

Names:	Jane Marshman and John Heath
Date:	Jul-Aug-Sep 1860
Registration district:	Shepton Mallet
County:	Somerset
Vol.:	5c
Page:	883

## ~ April 1861

In 1861, John and Jane Heath were living in Town Lane in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

From the 1861 census of Shepton Mallet:

*Name / Relationship / Condition / Age & Sex / Profession / Where Born*

Town Lane

John Heath / Head / Mar / 33 M / Elxcavator / Glos<sup>shire</sup> Tetbury

Jane Do / Wife / Mar / 27 F / ----- / Somerset Shepton Mallet

Edward Do / Son / ---- / 2 M / ----- / Do Do

George Do / Son / ---- / 1 M M / ----- / Do Do

## ~ October 1861

Jane Heath was mentioned in a Petty Session case in the newspaper. She was the complainant and the defendant was a Mary Carpenter.

From the newspaper, Shepton Mallet Journal, Friday 18 October 1861:

Petty Sessions, Friday, October 11th.

Magistrates present: - R. Clerk and E. B. Napier, Esqrs., and Capt. Ernst.

THE UNRULY MEMBER.

Mary Carpenter, a woman living in Catsash, was summoned by Jane Heath, the wife of a navy, in Pike lane, to show cause why she should not be bound over to keep the peace. On Tuesday, the 1st inst., it appears the two women had a row, and as defendant clearly used some very bad expressions towards complainant, she was bound over to be of good behaviour for three months.

## ~ 1871

In 1871, Jane Heath, a widow age 37, was living on Cat's Ash in Shepton Mallet, Somerset. She was listed as a silk factory worker.

Next door to Jane was her parents, Charles and Ruth Marshman.

From the 1871 census of Shepton Mallet:

*Name / Relationship / Marital status / Age & Sex / Profession / Where Born*

Cats Ash

Jane Heath / Head / W / 37 F / Silk Factory Worker / Somerset Shepton Mallet

John Marshman / Son / ---- / 16 M / Farm Servant / do do

Edward do / Son / ---- / 13 M / do do / do do

Robert do / Son / ---- / 11 M / do do / do do

Albert do / Son / ---- / 8 M / ----- / do do

## **~ 1879**

Jane Heath was mentioned in a case that involved her son, John Marshman, being asked to contribute to the maintenance of an illegitimate child.

From the newspaper, Shepton Mallet Journal, Friday 15 August 1879:

Petty Sessions, - Friday. - Before E. B. Napier, Esq., Chairman, J. W. W. Tyndale, Esq, and Capt Sherston.

*John Marshman*, labourer, of Lower Lane, Shepton Mallet, was summoned by Hannah Targett, domestic servant, of Evercreech, to show cause why he should not contribute towards the maintenance of her illegitimate child, of which he was the putative father. Defendant, who was a married man, did not appear.

Complainant, not knowing defendant had a wife, had lodged with him in Bristol, and they had lived together at the house of his mother at Shepton Mallet, and also at Dunkerton. Defendant's wife fetched him away from the latter place and then complainant first knew that he was married.

Jane Heath, mother of defendant, stated that while the complainant was out of a situation she slept at her house, at Quarr, for three or four months, at intervals. Her son also occupied the some room on the ground floor, while witness, her own children and defendant's three children slept in an upstairs room.

Ordered to pay 1s 6d a week.

## **~ May 1880**

Jane Heath was fined one shilling plus cost for disobedient of school bye-laws in the Petty Sessions.

From the newspaper, Shepton Mallet Journal, Friday 21 May 1880:

Shepton Mallet Petty Sessions, - Friday.

School Cases.

Before Captain Clerk, and G. B. Napier, Esq.

Jane Heath, and Thomas Sansom, both of Shepton Mallet, for disobedience of school bye-laws, were each fined 1s and costs.

## **~ November 1880**

Jane Heath died at the age of 45 years in the Union House (workhouse) and was buried 23 November 1880 in the churchyard of St. Peter and St. Paul church in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

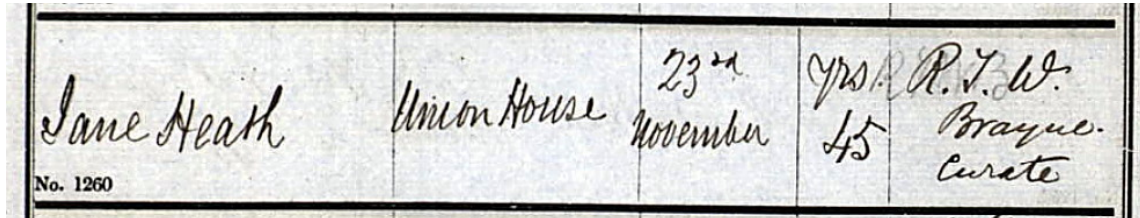
From the parish register of the church:

Burials 1880 - Page 158 No. 1260

*Name. / Abode. / When buried. / Age. / By whom the Ceremony was performed.*

Jane Heath / Union House / 23<sup>rd</sup> November / Yrs. 45 / R. J. W. Brayne. Curate

Image of the record in the parish register:



### ~ 1881

In 1881, after the death of Jane Heath in the previous year, three of her sons, Charles, Henry, and William Heath, were placed in the Union Workhouse.

From the 1881 census of the Union Workhouse in Shepton Mallet:

*Name / Relationship / Marital status / Age & Sex / Profession / Where Born*

Charles Heath / Inmate / ----- / 10 M / Scholar / Somerset. Shepton Mallet

Henry do / do / ----- / 6 M / do / do do

William do / do / ----- / 4 M / ----- / do do

## Children of Jane Marshman and ?

10. + **JOHN (JONATHAN) MARSHMAN** was born 25 January 1855 and baptized 16 February 1855 at St. Peter and St. Paul church in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

John Marshman married Elizabeth Door

11. **EDWARD MARSHMAN** was born 10 June 1858 and baptized 5 July 1858 at St. Peter and St. Paul church in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

Edward was born as an illegitimate child of Jane Marshman.

From the parish register of the church:

Baptisms 1858 - Page 42 No. 335

*When Baptized. / Child's Name. / Parent's Name. / Surname. / Abode. / Profession. / By whom the Ceremony was performed.*

1858 July 5<sup>th</sup>. born June 10<sup>th</sup>. / Edward Son of / Jane / Marshman / ----- / Coomb Lane / E. H. Cosens offg Min<sup>r</sup>.

## Children of John and Jane (Marshman) Heath

12. **ROBERT HEATH** was born 6 March 1861 and was baptized 2 May 1861 at St. Peter and St. Paul church in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

From the parish register of the church:

Baptisms 1861 - Page 83 No. 664

*When Baptized. / Child's Name. / Parent's Name. / Surname. / Abode. / Profession. / By whom the Ceremony was performed.*

1861 2 May born 6 March / Robert / John & Jane / Heath / Pike lane / Labourer / W<sup>m</sup> Te Pearl Curate

13. **ALBERT HEATH** was born 5 April 1864 and baptized 20 June 1864 at St. Peter and St. Paul church in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

From the parish register of the church:

Baptisms 1864 - Page 121 No. 963

*When Baptized. / Child's Name. / Parent's Name. / Surname. / Abode. / Profession. / By whom the Ceremony was performed.*

1864 June 20<sup>th</sup> born April 5<sup>th</sup> / Albert / John & Jane / Heath / Town Lane / Labourer P\* / W. H. Tarleton Curate

\* P = Pauper

## Children of Jane Heath and ?

14. **ALFRED CHARLES HEATH** was baptized 6 January 1872 at St. Peter and St. Paul church in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

Alfred was born as an illegitimate child of Jane Heath.

From the parish register of the church:

Baptisms 1872 - Page 227, No. 1812

*When Baptized. / Child's Name. / Parent's Name. / Surname. / Abode. / Profession. / By whom the Ceremony was performed.*

1872 Jan<sup>y</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> / Alfred Charles / Jane / Heath / Pike Lane / ----- P / T. M. Hayter  
Curate. /

Large letter P written indicating Pauper

15. **HENRY HEATH** was born ca. 1875 in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.  
Henry was born as an illegitimate child of Jane Heath.

16. **WILLIAM HEATH** was born 27 March 1877 and baptized 10 April 1877 at St.  
Peter and St. Paul church in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

William was born as an illegitimate child of Jane Heath.

From the parish register of the church:

Baptisms 1877 - Page 7, No. 50

*When Baptized. / Child's Name. / Parent's Name. / Surname. / Abode. / Profession. /  
By whom the Ceremony was performed.*

1877 April 10. born March 27 / William / Jane / Heath / Lower Lane / ----- / W. J.  
Mooney Curate / (at the right margin is written) P (pauper)

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4th generation

## John Marshman (1855 - 1891)

Husband of Elizabeth Door

10. **JOHN (JONATHAN) MARSHMAN** (of Jane Litman<sup>3</sup>, of Ruth Litman<sup>2</sup>, Elizabeth Litman<sup>1</sup>) was born 25 January 1855 in Shepton Mallet, Somerset and baptized 16 February 1855 at St. Peter and St. Paul church in Shepton Mallet.

Father: (unknown)

Mother: Jane Litman / Marshman (No. 6)

John Marshman was born as an illegitimate child of Jane Marshman.

### ~ 1855

From the parish register of the church:

Baptisms 1855 - Page 300 No. 2393

*When Baptized. / Child's Name. / Parent's Name. / Surname. / Abode. / Profession. / By whom the Ceremony was performed.*

1855 FebY 16<sup>th</sup> born JanY. 25<sup>th</sup>. / Jonathan Son of / Jane / Marshman / Town Lane / Silk Workings / Tho<sup>S</sup> York

His father's name wasn't mentioned in the baptism record.

His baptism record is the only time he is referred as "Jonathan Marshman", all records of him afterwards is "John Marshman".

### ~ 1861

In 1861, John Marshman, age 6, was living with his grandparents, Charles and Ruth Marshman, at Pike Lane in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

From the 1861 census of Shepton Mallet:

*Name / Relationship / Marital status / Age & Sex / Profession / Where Born*

Pike Lane

Charles Marshman / Head / Mar / 48 M / Labourer / Somerset Croscomb

Ruth D<sup>O</sup> / Wife / Mar / 50 F / ----- / D<sup>O</sup> Shepton Mallet

Henery D<sup>o</sup> / Son / Un / 16 M / Farm Servant / D<sup>o</sup> D<sup>o</sup>  
John D<sup>o</sup> / Grand Son / Un / 6 M / ----- / D<sup>o</sup> D<sup>o</sup>

### ~ 1871

In 1871, John Marshman, age 16, was living at his mother, Jane Heath's, home at Cats Ash in Shepton Mallet, Somerset. He was listed as a Farm Worker.

From the 1871 census of Shepton Mallet:

*Name / Relationship / Marital status / Age & Sex / Profession / Where Born*

Cats Ash

Jane Heath / Head / W / 37 F / Silk Factory Worker / Somerset Shepton Mallet

John Marshman / Son / ---- / 16 M / Farm Servant / do do

Edward do / Son / ---- / 13 M / do do / do do

Robert do / Son / ---- / 11 M / do do / do do

Albert do / Son / ---- / 8 M / ----- / do do

### ~ 1872

John Marshman married **ELIZABETH DOOR** on 22 August 1872 at Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

From the newspaper, Western Gazette - Friday 30 August 1872:

Marriages.

Aug. 22, at Shepton Mallet, Mr. JOHN MARSHMAN, to Miss ELIZABETH DOOR, both of Shepton Mallet.

### ~ 1874

Elizabeth Marshman was summoned by her sister, Eliza Dore, for using abusive language against her.

From the newspaper, Shepton Mallet Journal, Friday 31 July 1874:

A SISTER v. A SISTER.

Elizabeth Marshman, a married woman, was summoned by her sister Eliza Dore for using abusive language towards her on Monday last. It appeared from the evidence that as prosecutor was talking to two women in Cowl Street, between one and two o'clock on Monday the defendant passed her and made use of very ill and abusive language towards her. - She was then bound over to keep the peace in a surety of £5.

## ~ 1878

In 1878, John Marshman was charged with deserting his family and sentenced to six weeks' hard labor.

From the newspaper, Western Gazette - Friday 29 March 1878:

Shepton Mallet.

Petty Sessions.

DESERTION. -- John Marshman, labourer, was charged with deserting his wife and family, thereby rendering them chargeable to the common fund of the Union.

Mr. F. G. Bradbury appeared on behalf of the Guardians. Mr. Hawkins, relieving officer, proved the desertion and the chargeability, the amount of the latter being £6 6s.

Defendant pleaded that his going away was in consequence of the drunken habits of his wife. The Bench, deeming it a bad case, committed prisoner for six weeks' hard labour.

## ~ August 1879

John Marshman was ordered to pay 1 shilling and 6 pence each week for the maintenance of an illegitimate child. The mother of the child was Hannah Targett a domestic servant.

From the newspaper, Shepton Mallet Journal, Friday 15 August 1879:

Petty Sessions, - Friday. - Before E. B. Napier, Esq., Chairman, J. W. W. Tyndale, Esq, and Capt Sherston.

*John Marshman*, labourer, of Lower Lane, Shepton Mallet, was summoned by Hannah Targett, domestic servant, of Evercreech, to show cause why he should not contribute towards the maintenance of her illegitimate child, of which he was the putative father. Defendant, who was a married man, did not appear.

Complainant, not knowing defendant had a wife, had lodged with him in Bristol, and they had lived together at the house of his mother at Shepton Mallet, and also at Dunkerton. Defendant's wife fetched him away from the latter place and then complainant first knew that he was married.

Jane Heath, mother of defendant, stated that while the complainant was out of a situation she slept at her house, at Quarr, for three or four months, at intervals. Her son also occupied the some room on the ground floor, while witness, her own children and defendant's three children slept in an upstairs room.

Ordered to pay 1s 6d a week.

## **~ September 1879**

Elizabeth Marshman and her children were in the Union Workhouse in Shepton Mallet, Somerset. They ended up in the workhouse because Elizabeth's husband, John Marshman, deserted the family.

While in the Union Workhouse, Elizabeth's infant daughter, Emily Louisa Marshman, became very ill and died at the age of 3 months in the Workhouse in September 1879. There was an inquest taken on the incident.

From the newspaper, Shepton Mallet Journal, Friday 12 September 1879:

**DEATH OF A CHILD AT THE WORKHOUSE.** - An inquest was held at the Board room, Union Workhouse, on Tuesday evening last, before Dr. Wybrants, coroner, on the body of Emily Louisa Marshman, the infant daughter of Elizabeth and John Marshman, of Shepton Mallet.

- Elizabeth Marshman, a young woman, an inmate of the house, whose husband, a labourer, was said to have deserted her, stated that she was the mother of the deceased, who was 3 months old; she had also two other children. Her husband was the father of the deceased but she did not know where he was.

The child was healthy up to Friday last, but on the afternoon of that day it became unwell, and vomited. It got better during the remainder of the day, and at night she had no rest with it. About four o'clock Saturday morning, the deceased had a fit, which continued for about twenty minutes. As the child appeared to get the better of the fit witness did not get up till half-past five. An hour afterwards she found a quantity of blood in the napkin, which had passed from the bowels of deceased.

The child continue to vomit, and witness went to the nurse, who saw the blood. The nurse gave the deceased some castor oil, about half a tea-spoonful, but it was thrown up again. At dinner time, Saturday, the nurse gave the child another dose of castor oil, and after dinner a powder. That was all vomited.

Saturday night the nurse gave the deceased another half tea-spoonful of castor oil, and the doctor came about half-past nine o'clock. The child was restless all night. On Sunday morning the nurse gave her some more castor oil; nothing, however, passed through the child. The nurse saw the deceased several times, and on Sunday mid-day came to witness to remove her to the infirmary. The nurse then used the usual appliances to relieve the child; and by the doctor's orders a powder was given, but it was vomited. At six o'clock the nurse came for witness to see the child which she did. She died at half-past seven Sunday evening.

## **~ April 1881**

John and Elizabeth Marshman were living at 40 Cats Ash Pike Lane in Shepton Mallet, Somerset. John was listed as a General Laborer.

From the 1881 census of Shepton Mallet:

*Name / Relationship / Marital status / Age & Sex / Profession / Where Born*

40 Cats Ash (Pike Lane)

John Marshman / Head / Mar / 25 M / General Laborer / Somerset S. Mallet

Elizabeth D<sup>o</sup> / Wife / Mar / 26 F / Laundress / D<sup>o</sup> D<sup>o</sup>

[John?] D<sup>o</sup> / Son / ----- / 7 M / Scholar / D<sup>o</sup> D<sup>o</sup>

Willie D<sup>o</sup> / D<sup>o</sup> / ----- / 6 M / D<sup>o</sup> / D<sup>o</sup> D<sup>o</sup>

Charles D<sup>o</sup> / Lodger / Widower / 76 M / General Laborer / D<sup>o</sup> Croscombe

Albert D<sup>o</sup> / Lodger / ----- / 15 M / ----- / D<sup>o</sup> S. Mallet

### ~ **August 1881**

John Marshman and Mark Reakes were fined at the Shepton Mallet Petty Sessions for being drunk and fighting in the streets of Shepton Mallet, Somerset on 20 August 1881.

John Marshman didn't appeared at the court but he was fined 5 shillings plus 8 shillings for cost.

From the newspaper, Shepton Mallet Journal, Friday 02 September 1881:

SHEPTON MALLET PETTY SESSIONS.

FRIDAY.

Before Col. Napier (chairman), Captain Sherston, J. M. Spencer, Esq., and G. B. Napier, Esq.

DRUNK AND FIGHTING.

Mark Reakes and John Marshman, both of Shepton Mallet were charged with being drunk and disorderly, and fighting in Garston Street and Leg Square, on the 20th of August.

Reakes appeared, but the other defendant absented himself.

P. C. Hayes stated that on Saturday the 20th ult., he was on duty in Garston Street, and heard a row near the Kings Arms. He found the defendants in the street, drunk, making use of bad language, and fighting with each other. Both defendants were in their shirt sleeves. Witness separated them, one proceeding up Garston Street and the other into the town. He told them that if they caused any further disturbance they would be most likely locked up.

When in Lower Lane about half-past eight the same evening, he heard a great disturbance in Leg Square, and proceeding there found the two defendants fighting. There was a large crowd around them, numbering upwards of 200 persons. Reakes

then had his hat, coat, waistcoat, and shirt off. Marshman was covered with blood. Witness got them both home, and informed them he should summons them.

Reakes, in defence, said he went into a house where Marshman was, and he knocked him (Reakes) down. They got out into the street, and Marshman knocked him down again.

Capt. Sherston: And then you knocked Marshman down afterwards.

Reakes: Yes sir, I did (laughter).

A previous conviction was proved against Reakes, and he was fined 5s, and 7s costs; Marshman was also fined a similar sum, the costs in his case being 8s.

### **~ 1884**

In the Petty Sessions for May 1884, John Marshman was fined 5 shillings for failing to bring his children regularly to the school.

From the newspaper, Western Gazette, Friday 30 May 1884:

PETTY SESSIONS.

FRIDAY. - Before Col. E. B. Napier (chairman), Mr. J. W. W. Tyndale, Mr. J. D. Sherston, and Mr. J. M. Spencer.

SCHOOL CASES. - The following persons were summoned by order of the School Attendance Committee of the Shepton Mallet Board of Guardians for not sending their respective children regularly to school: -

(among others)

..... John Marshman, Shepton Mallet, fined 5s;....

### **~ 1889**

At a Petty Sessions in Shepton Mallet, John Marshman was summoned to contribute to his son's education but he was found to be ill and out of work.

From the newspaper, Shepton Mallet Journal, Friday 6 December 1889:

Shepton Mallet Petty Sessions.

Friday.

Excused for the Present.

John Marshman, of Shepton Mallet, was summoned by Mr. Bisgood, Deputy Chief Constable, to contribute towards the support of his son in an Industrial school.

It has been ascertained, however, that the man was ill and out of work, and Mr. Bisgood would not proceed with the case for the present.

### **~ March 1891**

John Marshman died, from serious injuries from an accident at the age of 36, on 9 March 1891 in the hospital in Shepton Mallet, Somerset and was buried 14 March 1891 in the churchyard of St. Peter and St. Paul in Shepton Mallet.

From the newspaper, Wells Journal, Thursday 12 March 1891:  
SHEPTON MALLET.

A SERIOUS ACCIDENT happened on Saturday to a man named John Marshman, in the employ of Mr. John Stacey, coal merchant, of Field. He was returning from Pilton with an empty wagon, but not having reached home at a late hour, search was made, and he was found lying by the roadside with his head shockingly cut. He was able to explain that he fell off the shafts, and the wheel had gone over his head. He was taken to the Hospital and detained.

From the newspaper, Shepton Mallet Journal, Friday 13 March 1891:  
FATAL ACCIDENT.

A shocking accident occurred on Saturday night last, to a man named John Marshman, of Town Lane, a carter in the employ of Mr. John Stacey, coal merchant. He left Shepton Mallet about a quarter past two o'clock with a wagon and two horses to deliver a load of coal to Mr. Sims, of Pilton. He was coming through Platterwell Lane, leading from Pilton to Beard Hill, between 5 and 6 o'clock, when he fell from the wagon in getting out to go to the leading horse, and the wheels passed over his head.

The horses went on by themselves to Beard Hill, where a Mrs. Lintern found them, and brought them into Shepton, arriving soon after half-past six. It was thought that they might have run away, and that Marshman would follow, but as there was no sign of him in an hour or so, Mr. Harry Stacey went in search. He found him in the lane about midway between Beard Hill and Pilton. Just before Mr. Stacey arrived, Mr. Gilbert Lintern, farmer, and Mr. Chudleigh, gardener to Mr. Cary, had come upon him, and were rendering him assistance.

He was quite conscious, and able to explain how he had met with the accident, but his head was fearfully cut about. Mr. Hoskins, a neighbouring farmer, kindly lent a conveyance in which the injured man was brought to the Shepton Mallet Hospital, where Dr. Fry attended to his injuries. He died however on Monday morning, the cause of death being injury to the spine. The inquest will be held at the Hospital to-day at 11. Deceased who was 36 years of age leaves a widow and young children.

From the newspaper, Wells Journal, Thursday 19 March 1891:  
SHEPTON MALLET.



INQUESTS. - On Friday morning Mr. W. Muller, coroner, held two inquests on men who had died on Monday. The first was at the Hospital, on the body of John Marshman, 35, carter, in the employ of Mr. John Stacey, coal merchant. On Saturday he delivered a load of coal in Pilton, and returning with the wagon and two horses through Clatterwell-lane fell in reaching to strike the leading horse, and the wheel passed over his head.

Evidence was given that the deceased was sober just before the accident, and of finding him helpless by the roadside. Mr. Fry, surgeon at the Hospital proved that deceased was admitted suffering from scalp wounds and injuries to the spine. The cause of death was in his opinion, apoplexy of the spinal cord. - The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."....

From the parish register of the church:

Burials 1891 - Page 237 No. 1893

*Name. / Abode. / When buried. / Age. / By whom the Ceremony was performed.*

John Marshman / Town Lane / March 14<sup>th</sup> / 34 yrs. / A. B. C. Brechey Curate.

### ~ April 1891

In 1891, Elizabeth Marshman, a widow, was living at 34 Town Lane in Shepton Mallet, Somerset. Elizabeth was listed as a Silk Winder.

From the 1891 census of Shepton Mallet:

*Name / Relation / Marital Status / Age & Sex / Profession / Employed / Where Born /*

34 Town Lane            3 - Number of rooms occupied if less than five

Elizabeth Marshman / Head / Wid / 35 F / Silk Winder / X / Somst S. Mallet /

John Do / Son / S / 17 M / Do / X / Do /

James Do / Son / S / 6 M / Scholar / --- / Do

## Children of John and Elizabeth (Door) Marshman

17. **JOHN MARSHMAN** was born ca. 1874 in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

18. **WILLIAM MARSHMAN** was born ca. 1875 in Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

19. **EMILY LOUISA MARSHMAN** was born in 1879.

Emily died at the age of 3 months in the Union House and was buried 11 September 1879 in the churchyard of St. Peter and St. Paul in Shepton Mallet (see under the parents for the newspaper details of her death in the Workhouse).

From the parish register of the church:

Burials 1879 - Page 150, No. 1197.

*Name. / Abode. / When buried. / Age. / By whom the Ceremony was performed.*

Emily Louisa Marshman / Union House / 11<sup>th</sup>. September / months 3 / J. Rogers Offg. Minister

**20. EDWARD JAMES MARSHMAN** was born 27 January 1885 in Shepton Mallet, Somerset and was baptized 27 February 1885 at St. Peter and St. Paul church in Shepton Mallet.

From the parish register of the church:

Baptisms 1885 - Page 116 No. 922

*When Baptized. / Child's Name. / Parent's Name. / Surname. / Abode. / Profession. / By whom the Ceremony was performed.*

1885 Feb 27<sup>th</sup>. b. Jan 27<sup>th</sup>. / Edward James / John & Elizabeth / Marshman / Garston Street / Labourer / R. J. Jeffreys Curate

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