

## LUCK SHEWRING

26 Jun. 1803 - 17 Jul. 1871

Luck was, of course, a mis-spelling of Luke. His early life, parents and grandparents were easy to find once I discovered that they all lived in Lacock. Luke's parents were Robert Shewring, baptised 9 Ap. 1765, and Sarah Elms, baptised 15 Jan. 1769. They married in Lacock on 7 Feb. 1790 and had eleven children.

George	bap.	11 Ap.	1791
Mary	..	24 Nov.	1793
Robert	..	9 Oct.	1796
Sarah	..	10 Oct.	1799
William	..	5 Jul.	1801
Luke	..	26 Jun.	1803
Martha	..	30 Jun.	1805
Peter	..	21 Jun.	1807
Joseph	..	21 May	1809
John	..	5 May	1812
Ann	..	30 Ap.	1815

Sarah lived for only two years after the birth of Ann, buried in Lacock on 25 May 1817, age 48.

Robert died and was buried about 1846 at the age of 82.

Luke's grandparents, both paternal and maternal, also spent their lives in Lacock.

Peter Shewring, baptised 14 Feb. 1747, and Sarah Weeks, birth date unknown, married on 28 May 1768, and became the parents of eight children.

Robert	bap.	9 Ap.	1769			
Mary	..	28 Jul.	1771	bur.	25 Dec.	1771
John	..	6 Dec.	1772	bur.	date unknown	
Mary	..	2 Jul.	1775			
Betty	..	4 Feb.	1776			
Elizabeth	..	23 Nov.	1777			
John	..	16 Jul.	1780			

Peter .. 12 Jan. 1783 bur. 2 Mar. 1783

Sarah died three months after her son and was buried on 22 Jun. 1783.

Luke's maternal grandparents were George Elms and Betty Banks of Lacock. They married on 2 Mar. 1767. I found George, son of George and Betty Banks baptised on 18 Feb. 1767, about two weeks before their marriage. If this is correct, their next child followed on very quickly.

William bap. 25 Dec. 1767

Sarah .. 15 Jan. 1769

John .. 23 Sep. 1770

Betty .. 21 Feb. 1773

Mary .. 25 Dec. 1774

Hannah .. 16 Jun. 1776

Martha .. 5 Sep. 1779

I found no death records for any of this family.

At some time Luke moved to Bath, probably in search of work. He met Ann Rice, who had also come to Bath. She was born in Huntspill, Somerset, baptised there on 7 Sep. 1806. Ann's parents were John Rice, baptised in Mark on 13 Mar. 1774, and Elizabeth Puddy, baptised in Huntspill on 29 Sep. 1776. They had eight children of whom Ann was the third.

Charles bap. ?? bur. 17 Ap. 1803

William .. 19 Jan. 1802

Ann .. 7 Sep. 1806

Mary .. 14 May 1809

Jane .. 2 Aug. 1812

Rachael .. 23 Jul. 1815 bur. 21 Ap. 1816

Charles .. 20 Jul. 1817

Rachel .. 6 Feb. 1820

Luke and Ann lived together in Walcot, Bath, for at least the next nineteen years, evidenced by the baptism records of their six children. There is a pattern of frequent moves from one address to

another, a sure sign of poverty. They married at St. Swithins, Walcot on 28th Sep. 1827, Luke being 25 years old and Ann 22. Luke's name was spelled Shouring on the marriage record. All the children were baptised at St. Swithins, Walcot.

George (Showring)	bap.	24 Jan.	1830	living at 13, Hat & Feather Yard
William	..	22 Jul.	1832	.. 1, Williams Place
Mary Ann	..	2 Nov.	1834	.. 12, Hat & Feather Yard
Sarah	..	29 Ap.	1838	.. 10, .. .. ..
Jane	..	15 Ap.	1842	.. .. .. ..
Emma	..	25 Ap.	1846	.. 2, Chelsea Court

The 1841 Census shows them living in Walcot at 10 Hat and Feather Yard. Another family of five named Wellshire lived the same address.

Luke Shewring	30	Labourer	born Somerset
Ann	..	30	..
George	..	10	Errand boy ..
Mary Ann	..	4	..
William	..	6	..
Sarah	..	2	..
Jane	..	2mths	..

This is the last documented sight of Luke that I could find for the next thirty years.

The 1851 Census shows his family still living in Walcot, at 10 Weymouth Square.

Ann	Shewring	head	marr.	46	Charwoman	born Somerset Bath
George	..	son	un.	23	Servant	..
William	..	..	..	19	Porter	..
Mary Ann	..	dau.	..	17	Servant	..
Sarah	..	..	..	13	Scholar	..

Jane	Shewring	dau.	11		born Somerset Bath
Emma	..	..	7		..
Joseph	Bath	nephew	21	Porter	..

Luke is not listed, and Ann is described as the head of the family, and married, not widowed, so where is he? Is he working elsewhere, joined the army or navy, in prison, or just left because he could no longer cope with the trauma of trying to feed, house and clothe his wife and children? I found no trace of him anywhere, though I did briefly think I had when I found a Luke Shewring in the 1851 Census living in Bristol. He, however, turned out to be an accountant, and since our Luke had been a labourer in the 1841 Census, it didn't seem possible it could be the same man. He was also missing from the 1861 Census, where Ann appears living in Walcot in Moorfield Cottages.

Ann	Showring	Head	Marr.	56	Charwoman	born Somerset	Huntspill
Eliza	..	Dau.	Un.	17	Laundress	..	.. Bath

Eliza has not appeared before this, and I believe it to be written by mistake for Emma. Ann is still saying she is married, but again no sign of Luke.

In the 1871 Census Luke reappears, now an inmate of the Bath Union Workhouse.

Luke	Shewring	Pauper	Marr.	70	born Wilts.	Nash Mill
------	----------	--------	-------	----	-------------	-----------

ANN is also in the 1871 Census living in Walcot at 21, Hat & Feather Yard

Ann	Shewring	Head	Wid.	66	Charwoman	born	Bridgewater
Mary Ann	..	Dau.	Un.	36	..	..	Bath
George	..	G.son		11	Scholar	..	
Jane	..	G.dau		8	..	..	

This is another puzzle. Luke describes himself as married in this census, while Ann declares herself to be a widow. Luke did die in 1871, but not until July, being buried in the Top Burial Ground of the Workhouse on 17 July. The Census was taken on 2 April in that year.

Luke Shewring has been the most elusive person I have researched so far. Where was he for all those years? He should have appeared on the 1851 and 1861 Censuses wherever he was living, but I could not find him. It is also possible that I have been following a false trail, someone else may be able to tell me where I have gone wrong. I would really like to know.

All spellings and data as in official records

Aileen Thompson June 2020