



The Tolpuddle Martyrs

History near to Dorchester

In 1834 five men were sent to the court at Shire Hall in Dorchester. They were found guilty of being part of an illegal group called a union

Why did this happen?

George Loveless and some fellow farmworkers wanted to ask for more pay because they were very very poor and didn't have enough money to buy food. He thought together they would have a better chance of getting fair pay to buy food for their families.



They were very very poor. These are the things they had to pay for each week.

- Rent 1s 2d
- Bread 9s
- Tea 2d
- Potatoes 1s
- Sugar 3d halfpenny
- Soap 3d
- Thread 2d halfpenny
- Candles 3d
- Salt 5d
- Coal and wood 9d
- Butter 4d halfpenny
- Cheese 3d

All those things cost 13s (shillings) and 9d (pennies)

Their pay was only 9 or 10 shillings!

They didn't have enough!

They were very hungry.

James Frampton didn't
like the group and thought
they were trouble!

He got them arrested and
sent to prison.



They were
found guilty in
the court and
sent to
Australia



Australia is the
other side of
the world!



Thomas Wakley
was in parliament.
He thought what
happened was
wrong, so he got
people together to
say so and try to
get the Tolpuddle
Martyrs free.



The Tolpuddle Martyrs were free!

They came back to England in 1836.

They were heroes and after that workers were allowed to help each other in unions to be treated fairly at work.

