



# Tales of the Unexpected

Female Convicts in  
Van Diemen's Land

## Mental Illness

- Eliza McEWEEN, *Maria I & Elizabeth Henrietta* 1818
- Surgeon's Report: *Troubled by coughing and spitting of blood throughout the voyage. The Surgeon-Superintendent had earlier requested that she be taken-off, as she was not in a fit state of health to undergo the voyage.*  
*28 May 1818: 'Took two pins without heads out of her arm. States her having a great many in different parts of her body. Can give me no account how she came by them. Had 19 pins taken out of her by Doctor Monro and several by the Surgeon of the Prison she came from. Some of them are very superficial others very deep seated.'*  
*From this time until the ship's arrival at Sydney in September, nearly two dozen other pins were removed from various parts of her body, including the arm, thigh, abdomen and breast.*

Why was deemed able to be transported?

- Tried at Perth Court of Justiciary 17 Sep 1817, sentence 7 years.
- Shoebinder, aged 25.
- 9 colonial offences up until Sep 1830 (FS Sep 1824)

## *Hindostan*: Gross Misconduct

- Mary CAVANNAH
- Ann COOLEY
- Mary JOHNSON
- Jane McCARTNEY
- Eliza MEADOWS
- Elizabeth RICKWOOD
- Sarah SEFTON
- Martha VICO

How many to Launceston on arrival? [\(link\)](#)

- 25 September 1839, Government Brig Tamar, *Hindostan* convicts, arrived 12 September 1839
- Charged on way to Launceston with gross misconduct in going into the men's berths
- 14 days SC on B&W
- The practice of sending some female convicts from an arriving ship must have begun prior to the *Gilbert Henderson* in May 1840 (see <http://www.femalefactory.com.au/FFRG/convicts.htm#Arrival>).
- Can't assume that all female convicts arriving between *Harmony* in 1829 and *Hindostan* in 1839 went straight to Cascades FF.

## *East London: Riot*

- Mary BRADY
- Mary CONNELL
- Ellen CRONON
- Mary DOOLEY
- Mary HANNON
- Catherine KEMP
- Eliza MORAN
- Catherine SHAW
- Mary Ann or Margaret SMITH

Who went to New Town Farm and when? [\(link\)](#)

- 26 January 1844, riot at New Town Farm probation station
- See <http://www.femalefactory.com.au/FFRG/stations.htm#NewTownFarm>.
- Before *Anson* ready to be used as a probation station, though Bowdens in VDL.
- “I saw you exciting the other women against the English women.” – Catholic v. Protestant?
- Convicts from the *Blackfriar*, arrived January 1851, were sent to New Town Farm probation station on 7 June 1851 (The *Anson* ceased operation as a probation station in 1850.)
- Some convicts from *Aurora II*, arrived at New Town Farm in August 1851 and from *Anna Maria* in February 1852.
- Operating as a nursery from March 1852 to September 1852. Or earlier?

## Any Reason to Cause a Ruccus

- Ellen WALKER, *Waverley* 1842
- at Brickfields Branch Factory
- Charged on conduct record 8 May 1843 with disorderly conduct.
- Evidence given by Mr Brooks, Supt Branch Factory: *the female refused her rations because there were some carrots amongst the vegetables and incited the other women to do the same*
- Sentence 10 days solitary confinement.

Any excuse for disobedience?

- Ellen Walker tried at Westmeath, Ireland on 5 April 1842 for stealing potatoes, sentence 7 years.
- 2 offences, both at Brickfields, disorderly conduct. 6 months hard labour for 2<sup>nd</sup> offence.

## Got Away

- Elisa DUNLOP, *Blackfriar* 1851
- Absconded 1 May 1852.
- Not heard of again.
- Honor BRIAN, *Blackfriar* 1851
- 30 Oct 1855 absconded to England.
- Caught? Charged with absconding 22 Nov 1855; sentence 6 months hard labour, Cascades FF.
- Last entry on record.

How many got away?

- Elisa DUNLOP: Tried at County Cavan, Ireland for stealing money, sentence 10 years.
  - Nursemaid, single, aged 19, NP County Cavan, Ireland.
  - No colonial offences.
  - At Launceston FF.
- Honor BRIAN: Tried at Wicklow, Ireland 25 Feb 1850 for arson, sentence 15 years.
  - Single, plain laundress, aged 20, NP Wicklow.
  - No PtoM, marriage or children.

# Re-Transported

- Janet McMURRAY, *Emma Eugenia* 1846
- Mary DODD, *Sir Charles Forbes* 1827 & *Platina* 1837
- Mary KENDRICK, *Gilbert Henderson* 1840 & *Mangles* (not found)
- Susan COURTNEY, *Friendship & Duke of Wellington* 1818 & *Grenada* 1825
- Mary NEALE, *Canada & Elizabeth Henrietta* 1817 & *Caroline* 1833
- Bridget WALSH, *Forth to NSW* (not found) & *Maria II* 1849
- Elizabeth CHAMBERS ??? & *Lord Wellington & Princess Charlotte* 1820
- Ann SMALLMAN, *Lord Wellington & Princess Charlotte* 1820 & *Eliza III* 1830
- Ann FIELDGATE, *Speke* 1807 & *Providence II* 1826

How many others went home?

•Janet McMURRAY: Tried Glasgow Court of Justiciary 31 Dec 1842 for stealing money and clothing, sentence 14 years.

•Previously transported for 7 years, served 18 months and was liberated.

•Mary DODD: Tried Salop, England 17 Oct 1825 for stealing wearing apparel, sentence 7 years

•Returned to England c1836 and again transported per *Platina* in 1837, tried at Salop QS 2 Jan 1837 for stealing potatoes, sentence 7 years.

•Mary KENDRICK: Tried at Old Bailey 8 July 1839 for larceny from the person, sentence 10 years.

•Re-transported per *Mangles*.

•Susan COURTNEY: Tried Middlesex GD 16 Apr 1817 for having forged bank notes, sentence 14 years.

•Tried again Middlesex GD 10 Sep 1823, sentence life (to NSW).

•Mary NEALE: Tried Dublin City July 1816 for burglary & robbery; sentence 7 years.

•Tried again Dublin City April 1832 as Mary ARMSTRONG for stealing shawls, sentence 7 years (to NSW).

•Bridget WALSH: Sent to Sydney for 7 years as Bridget MOONEY, home in the *Clyde*.

•Tried again at County Carlow, Ireland October 1848 for stealing 5 turkeys, sentence 7 years.

•Elizabeth CHAMBERS: Transported as Susannah CARTER (not found).

•Tried again at London GD 13 Jan 1819 for larceny, sentence 7 years.

•Ann SMALLMAN: Tried at Middlesex GD 17 Feb 1819 for larceny from the person, sentence 7 years.

## Sent Home

- Mary CLAYTON, *Hindustan* 1839
- Sentence changed from 7 years to 3 years.
- *At the expiry of this woman's sentence she is to be allowed a free passage to England by order of the Secretary of State vide memo of PS 19<sup>th</sup> October 1841.*
- No reason why given.

**Any others sent home or sentence changed?**

- Tried at Lincoln QS 9 March 1839 for stealing handkerchiefs & calico from a shop; sentence 7 years.
- Widow, plain cook & housemaid, aged 35, NP Brigg, Lincolnshire.
- No colonial offences.
- Certificate of Freedom 1842 No.169.

## Family Matters

- Ellen PARTRIDGE, *Brothers & Governor Ready* 1824 & 1827
- Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney: *With reference to a letter from Capt. Montague, dated 14 January 1826, stating in reply to a request made by Major Goulburn to have Ellen Partridge sent to this Colony, that her Master could not then spare her ... a communication has since been received from Mrs Wells of Allanvale in VDLand, by which it appears that she is willing to permit Ellen Partridge, who is now in her service to come to Sydney, for the purpose of joining her Mother ... the Prisoner in question may be forwarded to this place by an early opportunity to join her Mother who is in the service of Mr Ogilvie, a respectable Settler & Magistrate in one of the Upper Districts on Hunters River.*

**Did this sort of thing only occur in the early days of the colony?**

- Sister Mary Partridge transported with her, died on board.
- Ellen tried at Lancaster QS 21 July 1823 for larceny, sentence 7 years.
- house servant, single, aged 17, NP Liverpool.
- No colonial offences.
- Departed Hobart for Sydney 23 August 1827 on the *Governor Ready*, there to be assigned to Mr Ogilvie.

## Meritorious Conduct

- Margaret ARMSTRONG, *Blackfriar* 1851
- Ann BEACHAM, *Emma Eugenia* 1851
- Catherine CLARKE, *Blackfriar* 1851
- Catherine CONNOR, *Blackfriar* 1851
- Elizabeth GIBB, *Anna Maria* 1852
- Mary JONES, *Emma Eugenia* 1851
- Catherine KEELY, *Australasia* 1849
- Catherine McGEARY, *Australasia* 1849
- Mary FLYNN 2<sup>nd</sup>, *Blackfriar* 1851
- ...

Other female convicts? Information on fire?

- 14 February/March 1856 Record of meritorious conduct on the occasion of a fire at the Brickfields.
- No mention of the fire in the newspapers.
- Brickfields operating as a nursery.

## Brickfields

- Mary CURTIS, *Blackfriar* 1851
- 4 months hard labour 7 Nov 1853
- charged at Brickfields 26 Apr 1854 with being absent from the Brickfields without leave and being found on the adjoining premises of the Comptroller General
- sentence 6 months hard labour to be cumulative and commence at the expiration of existing sentence of hard labour

Was she doing her hard labour at Brickfields?

- Tried Louth, Ireland 1 Jan 1850 for larceny from the person, sentence 7 years.
- country servant, single, aged 24, NP County Louth, Ireland.
- 8 colonial offences

## Comptroller General

- Mary DONNOLLY 1st, *Blackfriar* 1851
- Hired to CG's office 9 July 1852 from Brickfields
- Back at Brickfields 23 July 1852

Where was the residence of the Comptroller General?

- Tried at Louth, Ireland 8 April 1850 for larceny, sentence 7 years.
- Single, country servant, aged 22, NP County Louth, Ireland.
- 5 colonial offences.
- Died at New Norfolk Lunatic Asylum 5 July 1857 aged 36.

## Factory Opening

- Mary FARLEY, *Henry* 1825
- Tried at Hobart SC 19 Dec 1827 for larceny, sentenced to 7 years transportation, *to be detained in the present factory until the new factory is ready, she will then be placed in the Crime Class and subjected to hard labour*

Was Cascades FF due to be finished earlier than Dec 1828?

- Charted on 15 November 1827 by her master Alfred Stephen Esq with stealing various articles of wearing apparel value 15/9, his property.
- Tried at Northumberland Assizes 4 Mar 1824 for stealing a sarcenet and 6 veils, sentence 7 years.
- Aged c23.
- 6 other colonial offences.

## Choice of Husband

- Mary Ann HATTON, *Lord Sidmouth* 1823
- In service to Cassidy, charged with *her master's men servants quarrelling about marrying her*
- Sent to Hobart FF for assignment.

Why was she charged?

- 3 times sent to Hobart FF, including above.
- Tried at Lancaster QS on 16 July 1821 with larceny.
- Married David Roach 19 March 1830, Hobart. No children found.

## Bigamy

- Ann CONNOR, *Mary III* 1823
- Charged in Mar 1824 with *marrying John Allen, she having a husband living in England*
- Charge dismissed

Any other cases of bigamy charges?

- 4 colonial charges, including above.
- Tried at Lancaster QS on 3 Feb 1823 for larceny, sentence 7 years.
- Husband Martin Connor at Liverpool, last lived with him, 2 children with him.
- 3 children to John Allen.
- Died at Launceston aged 49, 26 Feb 1844.

## Permissions to Marry

- Mary DOLAN, *Blackfriar* 1851
- No PtoM on conduct record.
- Not on PtoM index.
- Marriage on conduct record.
- Several other examples.

Completeness of PtoMs?

- Tried at Mayo, Ireland 25 Oct 1850 for stealing a quilt, sentence 7 years.
- Single, housemaid, aged 23, NP County Mayo.
- No colonial offences.

## Permissions to Marry Cancelled

- Johanna CONNELL, *Blackfriar* 1851
- PtoM James Legg, free, 30 Dec 1853.
- Approved 10 Jan 1854.
- Revoked 31 Jan 1854.
- 3 other PtoMs<sup>1</sup> before, 2 after – none proceeded.
- 2 PtoMs 2 days apart!
- Other examples

Why revoked?

- No colonial offences.
- Tried at County Cork, Ireland 29 May 1851 for stealing geese, sentence 7 years.
- Widow, aged 38, NP County Cork, Ireland.
- PtoM William King 2 October 1854, William per *Maria Somes*.
- PtoM James Carroll 4 October 1854, James per *Blenheim*.
- PtoM David Barrow 19 July 1853, David per *Blenheim*.

## Permission to Marry Revoked

- Honora CORCORAN, *Blackfriar* 1851
- PtoM Charles Perrin, free, 29 Dec 1852
- PtoM James Smith, free, 8 Oct 1853, approved then cancelled 5 Nov 1853
- Married Charles Perrin 30 Jan 1854

Other instances?

- Tried Limerick County, Ireland 13 April 1850, sentence 7 years for receiving stolen goods.
- Country servant, aged 22, NP County Limerick, Ireland, single.

# Pregnancy

- Barbara ADAMS, *Kinnear* 1848
- Charged at Launceston FF 3 Oct 1850:  
*Representing herself to be pregnant for the purpose of getting away from her service*
- Sentence: 1 month hard labour, Launceston FF
- Delivered of an illegitimate child (Thomas Adams) 27 Nov 1850 at Launceston FF!

Why this charge when 7 months pregnant?

- Tried at Galway County, Ireland 4 Jan 1848 for stealing a gown, sentence 7 years.
- Laundress, aged 30, single, NP Dunamon, Clifton, Galway, Ireland.
- 6 colonial offences, including above – 3 in 1883 for larceny.
- Married 1. Joseph Reese, 2. George Searle.
- 9 children (including Thomas Adams).
- Died at Launceston General Hospital 24 March 1884 aged 55.

## Getting What She Wanted

- Elizabeth SMITH 2nd, *Mermaid* 1828
- In service to Salmon, charged 13 Jun 1831 with *repeated insolence and neglect of duty, gross disobedience of orders and threatening yesterday to split open her mistress' head, and further declaring before the PM this day that she is ready to commit any enormity to procure her a sentence in the female factory in Hobart Town*

Any other examples?

- Sentence 14 days SC on bread & water and 12 months Crime Class, Cascades FF.
- Tried at London GD 25 Oct 1827 for traitorously coining, sentence life (death commuted). Tried with Elizabeth Cole also on board.
- Single, nurserymaid, aged 19, NP London.
- 9 colonial offences.
- Married James Turner at New Norfolk Oct 1833.

## Immoral Conduct

- Ann HANLON, *Platina* 1837
- Charged at Liverpool St Nursery Nov 1838: *this woman is proved to be of a loose & immoral character & should not be assigned to private service for a period of at least 2 years & then not in or near any town or township*

How is this different to being a 'common prostitute'?

- Sent to Cascades FF (magistrate Principal Superintendent).
- Tried at Lancaster (Liverpool) QS on 28 Feb 1837 for stealing wearing apparel, transported for 7 years.
- NP Dublin, Ireland, aged 25, housemaid, single/widow.
- Only 1 other charge – for misconduct when holding at Ticket of Leave – reprimanded.
- Illegitimate daughter Maria Hanlon born at Launceston FF on 3 Dec 1841, died aged 9 months at Launceston FF by visitation of God.
- Married Henry Edwards, 1 more child known.

## Getting Away With It

- Margaret MORGAN, *Elizabeth I* 1818
- 35 colonial offences
- 7 out of 8 charges from 1821 to 1824 sentenced, including transportation to Macquarie Harbour
- From Jan 1825 to 18 out of 27 charges dismissed or ordered to find sureties, only 2 resulted in imprisonment (others fines)
- Prosecutor often did not appear.
- Appears to have run a disorderly house.

Why did she get away with it - bribery?

- Died 1832 at Cascades FF.
- Tried at Antrim, Ireland August 1817 for picking pockets, sentence 7 years.
- Kitchenmaid, aged 17.

## Unwanted Servant

- Mary CARROLL 1<sup>st</sup>, *Blackfriar* 1851
- Rehired many times.
- Only stayed in service for very short periods (eg, a few days).

Shortage of servants – employers prepared to try anyone out?

- Tried at Dublin City, Ireland 3 Dec 1850 for stealing money from a till, sentence 7 years.
- 5 previous convictions.
- Single, housemaid, aged 17, NP County Kilkenny, Ireland.
- 71 locations/employments – 15 Brickfields to Aug 1852, then 17 House of Correction from Sep 1852. (Brickfields closed as a hiring depot in Nov 1852.)
- 11 colonial offences.
- Married 10 Mar 1857 to George Golby.
- This service information not given on conduct records until 1850s.

## Repetitive Masters

- Catherine GLENN, *Canada* & Elizabeth Henrietta 1817
- 17 times charged by one master – J Dunn
- Elizabeth LOMAS, *Westmoreland* 1836
- 10 times charged by one master – Pearson

Why did they keep taking them back?

•Catherine GLENN: Tried at Dublin City, Ireland Oct 1814 for stealing bank notes & street robbery, sentence life.

- Servant, aged 36, NP Dublin, Ireland.

- 12 other colonial offences.

•Elizabeth LOMAS: Tried at Old Bailey 13 Jun 1836 for stealing a shawl, sentence 7 years.

- Single, housemaid, aged 20, NP Newfoundland, Canada.

- 4 other colonial offences.

## Abusive Masters

- Mary Ann LACY, *Brothers* 1824
- 7 Sep 1824, returned to Hobart FF for assignment *her master admitting he struck her* (master Hammond)
- She was charged with insolence to her master and mistress and neglect of duty

Why so few examples of this in the records?

- Tried at Lancaster QS 21 July 1823 for picking pockets, sentence life.
- Cotton spinner, aged 32, NP Manchester.
- 12 other offences.
- On 30 March 1837, married to Hudson, charged with being drunk and out after hours - the prisoner is anxious to be returned to the Crown, her husband she states ill-treats her, she is a woman of bad character, House of Correction (Launceston FF) 6 months and then assigned if approved of by the LG.

## Claim to Fame

- Anestatia EUSTES, *Tasmania* 1844
- Instrumental in making the Eureka Flag.

Other female convicts with claims to fame?

- Book available – *Anastasia: Woman of Eureka*.
- Tried at Bristol City QS 6 Jan 1843 for stealing 5 shawls, sentence 7 years.
- Single/married, dressmaker, aged 19/20, NP City Road, London, England.
- Married Samuel Edward Withers per *Hyderabad*, 3 children, moved to Ballarat.

## FFFDB

- 8 ships from Tardif fully transcribed
- 5 ships completely transcribed
- 2 ships partially transcribed
- 10 ships being transcribed
- 2386 convicts with descendants/researchers listed
- Many convicts from other ships transcribed.

Any one else want to help out? 60 ships to go!

- 8 ships transcribed from Tardif: *Morley* 1820, *Providence II* 1821, *Mary Anne I* 1822, *Lord Sidmouth* 1823, *Mary III* 1823, *Brothers* 1824, *Henry* 1825, *Harmony* 1829
- 5 ships transcribed: *Hindustan* 1839, *Rajah* 1841, *Garland Grove* 1841, *Emma Eugenia* 1846, *Emma Eugenia* 1851
- 2 ships partially transcribed: *Atwick* 1838, *Elizabeth & Henry* 1847
- 10 ships being transcribed: *Arab II* 1836 (Fiona), *Mexborough* 1841 (Lucy & Alison), *Emma Eugenia* 1844 (Colette), *Tasmania* 1844 (Troy), *Waverley* 1847 (Sue), *Kinnear* 1848 (Lyn & Tim), *Australasia* (Trudy), *Blackfriar* 1851 (Trudy), *Aurora II* 1851 (Lois), *Sir Robert Seppings* 1852 (Jane & Stacey)