

Elizabeth Archer

(uxor Elizabeth Read)

POLICE NUMBER 138 ¹	LITERACY read and write
TRIAL DATE 1 July 1840	AGE ON EMBARKATION 20
TRIAL PLACE York (Bradford West Riding) Quarter Sessions	AGE ON ARRIVAL 21
OFFENCE stealing money from the person	HEIGHT 5' 1½"
SENTENCE 10 years	COMPLEXION ruddy
GAOL REPORT imprisoned 6 times, very bad, single	HEAD oval
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS 6 times imprisoned, 4 times for being disorderly, 3 times for 3 months, once for 4 days, once acquitted for stealing from the person	HAIR rather dark brown
SURGEON'S REPORT good	VISAGE round
ON THE TOWN no	FOREHEAD flat
MARITAL STATUS single	EYEBROWS dark brown
CHILDREN 0	EYES hazel
FAMILY	NOSE short & small
NATIVE PLACE Duesbury, Yorkshire, England	MOUTH small
TRADE ON EMBARKATION labourer	CHIN medium
TRADE ON ARRIVAL house servant; housemaid, can wash	MARKS long scar on left arm, freckled

c1820 **Born** at Duesbury,² Yorkshire, England.³

27 April 1838 Charged at the Court House, Bradford, Yorkshire, England with drunkenness and disorderly conduct; sentence 3 months imprisonment.⁴

Newspaper report:

BRADFORD COURT-HOUSE.

Friday. – AN INCORRIGIBLE. – Elizabeth Archer a native of Gloucester, but latterly of this town, and who had been discharged from the House of Correction, Wakefield, on Thursday morning last, having undergone a term of three months' imprisonment, was brought up this day charged by the constables with drunkenness and disorderly conduct on the previous night in Tyrrell-street, at about half past ten o'clock. She was convicted thereof and sentenced to another three months incarceration.

Joel Overend, wool comber, Bowling-lane, was charged by the constables with resisting them in the exercise of their duty, when taking into custody the before named Elizabeth Archer, on Thursday night. He was convicted in the penalty, with costs, of five pounds, and in default of payment was also committed for three months.⁴

1 August 1838 Charged at the Court House, Bradford, Yorkshire, England with Letitia Garside and Ann Dickenson with being lewd and disorderly; sentence 3 months imprisonment.⁵

Newspaper reports:

BRADFORD COURT-HOUSE.

DISORDERLIES. – Elizabeth Archer, Letitia Garside, and Ann Dickenson, were brought up charged with being lewd and disorderly. They were all convicted, and Archer, who had previously been committed several different times, was sentenced to three months, and each of the others to one month. – Sarah Holliday, who had only been a few days discharged from Wakefield, after enduring three months' imprisonment, and Mary Boocock, who had been twice committed within the last nine months, were charged with lewd and disorderly conduct

¹ TAHO, CON40/1/2 p.16 No.138 [image 18] (Elizabeth Archer); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.176 [image 91] (Elizabeth Archer); ML, CY 1197 p.157 (Elizabeth Archer); ML, CY 958 p.443 (Elizabeth Archer); ML, CY 1282 p.144 (Elizabeth Archer)

² Native place given as Bradford on appropriation list (ML, CY 1282 p.144 (Elizabeth Archer)).

³ TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.176 [image 91] (Elizabeth Archer)

⁴ *Bradford Observer*, 3 May 1838 Issue 222 p.3 Article 8 (Elizabeth Archer)

⁵ *Bradford Observer*, 2 August 1838 Issue 235 Article 9 (Elizabeth Archer); *Northern Star*, 4 August 1838 Issue 38 Article 10 (Elizabeth Archer)

This biography supplements our book *Patchwork Prisoners* available from www.researchtasmania.com.au.

in the street on Thursday night last. Boocock was committed for two months, and Holliday for one, on promising not to come into Bradford again.⁶

A BATCH OF PROSTITUTES. – The police it seems are weeding this tribe very much. Last Wednesday and Thursday, Elizabeth Archer was committed to Wakefield for three months, Letitia Garside for one month, Ann Dickenson, of Louth, for one month, Sarah Haliday one month, and Miss Mary Ann Boocock, an irreclaimable, for two months. There are now (Wednesday) three others of the same description in the lock-up, who will no doubt be committed.⁷

1 July 1840 Tried at the West-Riding Quarter Sessions, Bradford, Yorkshire, England with shipmate Ann Wright (*qv*) indicted for larceny in stealing a purse and money, the property of Joseph Muff; sentence 10 years transportation.⁸

Newspaper report:

WEST-RIDING QUARTER SESSIONS.
BRADFORD.

Elizabeth Archer (20), and Ann Wright (22), pleaded guilty to an indictment charging them with stealing a purse and money, the property of Joseph Muff. The two prisoners had been long on the *pavé*, and were too well known for their plea of guilty to avail them. The chairman read over a long list of previous imprisonments, and said it was perfectly clear that imprisonment would do them no good. The court had therefore determined to send them out of the country; the sentence of the court was that they be each transported beyond the sea for the term of Ten Years. Archer immediately clapped her hands and shouted out “and may you, you old grey-haired ____ sit there till I come back.” The other, grinning at Mr. James, inspector of police at Leeds, who had stated several particulars in reference to her, expressed herself in language too gross for publication. They were immediately removed, shouting and clapping their hands in a most revolting manner.⁹

5 April 1841 Departed Woolwich, England on the *Rajah*.¹⁰

19 July 1841 Arrived at Hobart on the *Rajah*.¹⁰

c24 July 1841 Upon arrival at Hobart, assigned to Dr Brock, Hobart.¹¹

4 December 1841 Charged with disobedience of orders; in the service of Dr Brock, Hobart; reprimanded and returned to her service.¹²

13 December 1841 Charged with misconduct and disobedience of orders; in the service of Dr Brock, Hobart; sentence 10 days in solitary confinement at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart, then returned to her service.¹²

31 December 1841¹³ Mustered in the service of T Horne Esquire, Hobart.¹⁴

31 January 1842 Charged with being absent without leave from the service of Dr Brock, Hobart; sentence 10 days in solitary confinement at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart, then brought to the Police Office, Hobart.¹²

16 January 1843 At Oatlands.¹²

12 April 1844 Classified as a 3rd class probation pass-holder.¹²

22 April 1844 Charged at the Police Court, Oatlands with insolence to her mistress Mrs Cahill and refusing to remain in her service; plea guilty; sentence 1 month hard labour at Launceston Female Factory, then returned to Government at her master’s request.¹⁵

⁶ *Bradford Observer*, 2 August 1838 Issue 235 Article 9 (Elizabeth Archer)

⁷ *Northern Star*, 4 August 1838 Issue 38 Article 10 (Elizabeth Archer)

⁸ *Bradford Observer*, 9 July 1840 Issue 335 Article 15 (Elizabeth Archer); *Bradford Observer*, 9 July 1840 Issue 335 Article 14 (Elizabeth Archer); *Leeds Mercury*, 11 July 1840 Issue 5560 Article 16 (Elizabeth Archer); *Northern Star*, 11 July 1840 Issue 139 Article 17 (Elizabeth Archer)

⁹ *Bradford Observer*, 9 July 1840 Issue 335 Article 15 (Elizabeth Archer)

¹⁰ AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah*

¹¹ ML, CY 1282 p.144 (Elizabeth Archer); ML, CY 1274 p.253 (Elizabeth Archer)

¹² TAHO, CON40/1/2 p.16 No.138 [image 18] (Elizabeth Archer)

¹³ This is the date given for the 1841 census, but the entry may apply to a time a few months before or after this date.

¹⁴ AJCP, HO 10/51 p.345 No.138 (Elizabeth Archer)

¹⁵ TAHO, LC390/1/1 p.77 (Elizabeth Archer)

- 11 June 1844 Charged at the Police Court, Hamilton by her master Captain Fenton with misconduct in refusing to do her work; plea guilty; verdict guilty; sentence 2 months hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart; on wages of £9 per annum.¹⁶ Emma Warrington (*Navarino*) charged with same offence; same sentence.¹⁶ Statement of witness Captain Fenton:
*The two women came to my service on Sunday and on Monday morning they told me they could not do their work.*¹⁷
- 4 September 1844 Hired in private service as a probation pass-holder to Charles Williams, New Town.¹⁸
- 5 December 1844 Ticket of Leave granted; gazetted 10 December.¹⁹
- 3 November 1845 Application to marry William John Read²⁰ (*Elphinstone*, Ticket of Leave) sent to Secretary; approved.²¹ Notice given of approval for permission to marry John William Read (*Elphinstone*); Elizabeth a ticket-of-leave holder, resident of Oatlands; John a ticket-of-leave holder, resident of Oatlands.²²
- 1 December 1845 **Married** John William Read at St James Anglican Church, Jericho; Elizabeth aged 24, spinster; John aged 29, waiter, bachelor; witnesses George Frost, Elizabeth Frost (illiterate) and George Alfred Goodall^{23,24}
- 16 July 1847 At Oatlands.¹²
- 10 August 1847 Conditional Pardon recommended; gazetted 17 August.²⁵
- 30 January 1849 Conditional Pardon approved.¹²
- 26 September 1849 At Oatlands.¹²
- 1 July 1850 Free by servitude.¹²
- 20 May 1851 Departed Launceston for Melbourne with husband John William Read as steerage passengers on the steamer *Shamrock*; Elizabeth free by servitude, ship to colony *Rajah*; John free by servitude, ship to colony *Elphinstone*.²⁶

¹⁶ TAHO, LC208/1/4 p.77 (Elizth Archer & Emma Warrington)

¹⁷ TAHO, LC208/1/4 p.77 (Elizth Archer & Emma Warrington)

¹⁸ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 13 September 1844 p.1112 (Elizabeth Archer)

¹⁹ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 10 December 1844 p.1495 (Elizabeth Archer)

²⁰ William John Read was transported for life on the *Elphinstone* in 1837; tried for stealing monies etc at Warwick Quarter Sessions on 19 October 1835; single, gentleman's servant, aged 24, native place Toddington, Bedfordshire; Ticket of Leave 7 October 1845 (TAHO, CON 31/1/36No.1245 [image 133] (William John Read alias William Read); TAHO, CON18/1/7 [image 192] (William John Reed alias William Mead)).

²¹ TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.175 (Jno Williams Read & Elizth Archer)

²² *Hobart Town Gazette*, 4 November 1845 p.1387; 11 November 1845 p.1403; 18 November 1845 p.1431 (John William Read & Elizabeth Archer)

²³ George Alfred Goodall was the husband of shipmate Caroline Burt (*qv*).

²⁴ TAHO, RGD37/1/4 1845/2179C Oatlands (John William Read & Elizabeth Archer)

²⁵ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 17 August 1847 p.824 (Elizabeth Archer)

²⁶ TAHO, POL220/1/1 p.376 (Eliza Archer & John W Read)