

*Sarah Bailey*  
(aka Sarah Riley, uxor Sarah Harris)

POLICE NUMBER 484 <sup>1</sup>	LITERACY neither read nor write
TRIAL DATE 26 October 1840	AGE ON EMBARKATION 15
TRIAL PLACE Lancaster (Liverpool) Quarter Sessions	AGE ON ARRIVAL 16
OFFENCE stealing 11 handkerchiefs	HEIGHT 4' 10"
SENTENCE 7 years	COMPLEXION fresh
GAOL REPORT 7 times before, bad, single	HEAD oval
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS 8 or 9 times for theft, two 3 months the rest 1 month and 3 weeks; lived with thieves the last 12 months	HAIR brown
SURGEON'S REPORT very good	VISAGE small
ON THE TOWN no	FOREHEAD medium
MARITAL STATUS single	EYEBROWS brown
CHILDREN 0	EYES hazel
FAMILY	NOSE medium
NATIVE PLACE Warrington, England	MOUTH medium
TRADE ON EMBARKATION	CHIN round
TRADE ON ARRIVAL nurse girl	MARKS J K JR rather faint back of left hand, M S & other marks at left arm, J W on right arm

c1825	Born at Warrington, Lancashire, England. <sup>2</sup>
26 October 1840	Tried at Lancaster Quarter Sessions, Liverpool, Lancashire, England with shipmate Mary Ann McGilligan ( <i>qv</i> ) indicted for larceny in stealing 11 handkerchiefs; sentence 7 years transportation. <sup>3</sup>
5 April 1841	Departed Woolwich, England on the <i>Rajah</i> . <sup>4</sup>
19 July 1841	Arrived at Hobart on the <i>Rajah</i> . <sup>4</sup>
c24 July 1841	Upon arrival at Hobart, assigned to Mr Seal, Elizabeth Street, Hobart. <sup>5</sup>
31 December 1841	Mustered in the service of Mr Seal, Hobart. <sup>6</sup>
19 January 1842	Charged with insolence; in the service of Mr Seal; reprimanded and returned to her service.
16 April 1842	Returned to the Police Office, Hobart for further orders; assigned to DC Mr Simmonds. <sup>7</sup>
1 October 1842	Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on the complaint of her master Mr Simmonds with misconduct in being out after hours at 9 o'clock last night; plea guilty; sentence 6 days in solitary confinement at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart. <sup>8</sup>
20 December 1842	Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on the complaint of Constable Lowen <sup>9</sup> with misconduct in being absent all Sunday night last, 18 December, without leave from the service of Mrs Heath, High Street, Hobart; plea guilty; sentence 4 months hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart. <sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup> TAHO, CON40/1/2 p.86 No.484 [image 84] (Sarah Bailey); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.228 [image 117] (Sarah Bailey); ML, CY 1282 p.145 (Sarah Bailey); ML, CY 1197 p.156 (Sarah Bailey); ML, CY 958 p.442 (Sarah Bailey)

<sup>2</sup> TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.228 [image 117] (Sarah Bailey)

<sup>3</sup> TAHO, CON40/1/2 p.82 No.484 [image 84] (Sarah Bailey)

<sup>4</sup> AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah*

<sup>5</sup> ML, CY 1282 p.145 (Sarah Bailey); ML, CY 1274 p.254 (Sarah Bailey)

<sup>6</sup> AJCP, HO 10/51 p.350 No.484 (Sarah Bailey)

<sup>7</sup> TAHO, AC480/1/1, 16 April 1842 (Sarah Bailey)

<sup>8</sup> TAHO, AC480/1/1, 1 October 1842 (Sarah Bailey)

<sup>9</sup> This could also be *Loren* or *Lorden* – the name is difficult to decipher.

<sup>10</sup> TAHO, AC480/1/1, 20 December 1842 (Sarah Bailey)

This biography supplements our book *Patchwork Prisoners* available from [www.researchtasmania.com.au](http://www.researchtasmania.com.au).

27 March 1843 <sup>11</sup>	Charged at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart on the complaint of Mr Hutchinson with insubordination in attempting to stab Mr James Stewart with a knife on 22 March; plea guilty; sentence 6 months hard labour in the separate working rooms at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart. <sup>12</sup>
4 January 1844	At Launceston. <sup>3</sup>
29 January 1844	Charged with being drunk; in the service of Bowen; sentence 10 days in solitary confinement at Launceston Female Factory. <sup>3</sup>
3 February 1844	Classification as a 2 <sup>nd</sup> class probation pass-holder; gazetted 9 and 23 February. <sup>13</sup>
8 April 1844	Charged with insolence and neglect of duty; in the service of Levy; sentence 1 month hard labour at Launceston Female Factory. <sup>3</sup>
25 June 1844	Application for permission to marry Isaac Harris <sup>14</sup> ( <i>Bussorah Merchant</i> , Ticket of Leave) sent to the Secretary; refused. <sup>15</sup>
12 July 1844	At Launceston. <sup>3</sup>
28 August 1844	Hired in private service as a probation pass-holder to S Levy, Launceston. <sup>16</sup>
31 August 1844	Promoted from a 2 <sup>nd</sup> class to a 3 <sup>rd</sup> class probation pass-holder; gazetted 6 September. <sup>17</sup>
18 September 1844	Charged with absconding from the service of S Levy; original sentence of transportation extended 6 months.
10 October 1844	Hired in private service for 1 month as a probation pass-holder to William Bailey, Launceston. <sup>18</sup>
23 October 1844	Application for permission to marry Isaac Harris ( <i>Bussorah Merchant</i> , Ticket of Leave) sent to the Secretary; refused. <sup>19</sup>
6 November 1844	Charged with absconding from the service of William Bailey; original sentence of transportation extended 6 months. <sup>3</sup>
3 February 1845	Application for permission to marry Isaac Harris ( <i>Bussorah Merchant</i> , Ticket of Leave) sent to the Secretary; detained for further information. <sup>20</sup>
10 March 1845	Application for permission to marry Isaac Harris ( <i>Bussorah Merchant</i> , Ticket of Leave) sent to the Secretary; approved. <sup>21</sup> Notice given of approval for permission to marry Isaac Harris; Sarah a prisoner in Launceston Female Factory; Isaac a ticket-of-leave holder, resident of Launceston. <sup>22</sup>
4 September 1845 c1845	Ticket of Leave granted; gazetted 9 September. <sup>23</sup> <b>Married</b> Isaac Harris.
25 February 1846	Husband Isaac Harris approved for a Conditional Pardon; gazetted 9 March. <sup>14,24</sup>

<sup>11</sup> On the same day, Mary Grant (*Atwick*) was charged with insubordination in violently assaulting Mr Hutchinson with a knife on 22 March; Catherine Fleming (*qv*) and Margaret Kelly (*Mexborough*) were charged with insubordination in violently assaulting Ann Martin the turnkey and resisting her lawfully constituted authority; and Louisa Freeth (*Royal Admiral*) and Ann Worell (*Garland Grove*) were charged with gross misconduct in attempting to rescue a prisoner from custody (TAHO, AC480/1/1, 27 March 1843).

<sup>12</sup> TAHO, AC480/1/1, 27 March 1843 (Sarah Bailey)

<sup>13</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 9 February 1844 p.204 (Sarah Bailey); *Hobart Town Gazette*, 23 February 1844 p.246 (Sarah Bailey)

<sup>14</sup> Isaac Harris was transported for life on the *Bussorah Merchant* in 1829; tried for stealing in a dwelling house at Middlesex; errand boy, aged 16, native place Portsmouth, Jew, single, illiterate, 4' 8"; Ticket of Leave 29 December 1843; Conditional Pardon 25 February 1846; at Campbell Town January 1843, at Launceston November 1844 (TAHO, CON 31/1/19 p.343 No.1028 [image 179] (Isaac Harris); TAHO, CON18/1/1 p.128 [image 68] (Isaac Harris)); MM33/1/2 No.1028 (Isaac Harris); TAHO, CON37/1/5 No.1611 [image 220] (Isaac Harris)). Isaac received his Ticket of Leave for meritorious conduct in coming to the rescue of the storeman on the Ross road party (see *Examiner*, 3 April 1844 p.6 (Isaac Harris)).

<sup>15</sup> TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.368 (Isaac Harris & Sarah Bailley)

<sup>16</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 30 August 1844 p.1049 (Sarah Bailey)

<sup>17</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 6 September 1844 p.1072 (Sarah Bailey)

<sup>18</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 29 October 1844 p.1381 (Sarah Bailey)

<sup>19</sup> TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.369 (Isaac Harris & Sarah Bailey)

<sup>20</sup> TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.370 (Isaac Harris & Sarah Bailley)

<sup>21</sup> TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.371 (Isaac Harris & Sarah Bailley)

<sup>22</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 11 March 1845 p.331; 18 March 1845 p.360; 25 March 1845 p.414 (Isaac Harris & Sarah Bailley)

<sup>23</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 9 September 1845 p.1123 (Sarah Bailey)

<sup>24</sup> *Colonial Times*, 13 March 1846 p.4 (Isaac Harris)

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- 2 April 1846 **Daughter** Frances Harris born at Launceston; mother Sarah Bailey; informant father Isaac Harris, dealer, illiterate.<sup>25</sup>
- 2 June 1846 Charged with being absent from her authorised residence all night; sentence 3 months hard labour at Launceston Female Factory.<sup>3</sup>
- 28 July 1847 **Son** David Harris born at Launceston; mother Sarah Riley; informant father Isaac Harris, dealer, resident of Brisbane Street, Launceston.<sup>26</sup>
- 26 October 1848 Free by servitude.<sup>3</sup>
- 31 October 1848 Certificate of Freedom issued; gazetted 7 November.<sup>27</sup>
- 11 August 1849 **Son** Henry Isaac Harris born at Hobart; father Isaac Harris; mother Sarah Riley; informant friend John Todd, resident of Campbell Street, Hobart.<sup>28</sup>
- September 1849 Husband Isaac Harris in custody charged with assaulting Charles Davidson in Murray Street, Hobart.<sup>29</sup>
- Newspaper report:  
*Mr. Charles Davidson, of the coal mines, Tasman's Peninsula, was last week knocked down in Patrick-street, Murray-street, and robbed of £3 in money, and £20 in cheques. Three men, of the name of Isaac Harris, free, and William Williams, and William Hill, passholders, are in custody, charged with the offence.*<sup>29</sup>
- 22 October 1849 Husband Isaac Harris tried at the Supreme Court, Hobart indicted for feloniously assaulting Charles Davidson in Murray Street, Hobart putting him in bodily fear and stealing from his person 10 shillings and other monies (£1); sentence transportation for life, 3 years hard labour at Norfolk Island.
- Description: aged 34, labourer, Jew, illiterate, native place Hampshire, mother Julia at Whitechapel, London; brothers and sisters John, Moses, David, Betsey, Fanny and Catherine all at London; married, wife Sarah living in Bathurst Street, Hobart; two sons Isaac and David, one daughter Fanny, living with his wife.<sup>30</sup>
- Statement of Isaac Harris:  
*Highway robbery of Charles Davidson, I stopped him in Murray St and took £1.10.0.*<sup>30</sup>
- Newspaper report:  
*Isaac Harris was indicted for assaulting Charles Davidson, and robbing him of a one-pound note and ten shillings' worth of silver, in Patrick-street, on the 13<sup>th</sup> September last. The prisoner pleaded not guilty. It appeared that the prosecutor, who was on the above date an office constable at the Coal Mines, was on leave in town; and that he was attacked and robbed by the prisoner in the middle of the day. The prisoner was convicted, and sentenced to transportation for the term of his natural life.*<sup>31</sup>
- 14 November 1849 Husband Isaac Harris at Port Arthur; 12 months deducted from probation and not to be sent to Norfolk Island but removed to Cascades Probation Station, Tasman Peninsula and conduct to be reported in 12 months for meritorious conduct when the Constable was rushed en route to Port Arthur.<sup>32</sup>
- 3 December 1849 Husband Isaac Harris at Cascades Probation Station, Tasman Peninsula.<sup>32</sup>
- 6 December 1849 Son Henry Isaac Harris died accidentally from being suffocated in bed, his face in a pillow, in a cottage in a lane out of Campbell Street behind Bye's Hotel, Hobart; aged 4 months, labourer's child; informants Mary Todd<sup>33</sup> and coroner.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> TAHO, RGD33/1/23 1846/1281 Launceston (Frances Harris)

<sup>26</sup> TAHO, RGD33/1/23 1847/1768 Launceston (David Harris)

<sup>27</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 7 November 1848 p.1105 (Sarah Bailey)

<sup>28</sup> TAHO, RGD33/1/3 1849/1977 Hobart (Henry Isaac Harris)

<sup>29</sup> *Examiner*, 26 September 1849 p.6 (Isaac Harris)

<sup>30</sup> TAHO, CON37/1/5 p.1611 [image 220] (Isaac Harris); TAHO, CON16/1/5 pp.64–65 (Isaac Harris)

<sup>31</sup> *Hobart Town Courier*, 31 October 1849 p.4 (Isaac Harris)

<sup>32</sup> TAHO, CON37/1/5 No.1611 [image 220] (Isaac Harris)

<sup>33</sup> A Mary Hogan had a child James Alfred Todd to John Todd on 14 February 1849 in Hobart (TAHO, RGD33/1/3 1849/1558 Hobart).

<sup>34</sup> TAHO, RGD35/1/2 1849/2729 Hobart (Isaac Harris); TAHO, RGD35/1/2 1850/2849 (Isaac Henry Harris); TAHO, SC195/1/26 No.2202 (Henry Isaac Harris)

10 December 1849

Inquest held before coroner Algernon Burdett Jones Esquire at Bye's Hotel, Campbell Street, Hobart.<sup>35</sup>

Statement of witness Sarah Harris:

*The Information on oath of Sarah Harris who saith I am the wife of Isaac Harris (a convict) and I reside in a lane out of Campbell Street I have this day seen the body of a child lying dead. It is that of my infant son Isaac Henry Harris. He was four months old yesterday. On the night of Wednesday last the deceased was in his usual state of health, he was very healthy. I put him to bed on that night about eight o'clock in a bed with my two other children, the bed was the bed which the Jury saw today it is about four feet wide. The ages of the two other children I put to bed with deceased are five and two years respectively. I put the eldest a girl next to the wall, and the second a boy next to her, and then the deceased next to the second. Between nine and ten o'clock that night I went to bed myself in the same bed. I lay down on the outer side of the bed next the deceased, the deceased was quite well then and took his natural food. About half after four o'clock on the following morning I awoke, I found the second child playing with the deceased, who appeared to be quite well, I went to sleep and did not wake again till half after six o'clock on the same morning. I put my hand to the deceased to take him up & put him to my breast, and I found him lying on his belly with his face on the pillow, his right hand was under his face to the best of my recollection and his legs were doubled up under him. I took him up and found he was dead. I ran out into the lane with the deceased in my arms calling out for a Doctor. The Landlady of this house looked out & sent a man to me, and that man went for a Doctor. The gentleman now present William Jones Huxtable came in about a quarter of an hour from the time when I found my child dead. When I found the deceased lying as I have described his face was buried in the pillow and I observed marks on his face which seemed to have been made by the crevices of the pillow, his brother was lying next him & was asleep, he was not lying on him but was at the side of him, his sister was lying up against the wall & was asleep also. Mrs Todd a person who lives with me slept in the same room with the children & myself on Wednesday night last, she slept in a bed on the floor with her three children. The bed I slept in with my children was on a bedstead. I get my living by taking in lodges & doing a little washing [needle work crossed out and initialled AB]]. I was present when the gentleman now present William Jones Huxtable and the Jury now sitting saw the deceased's body today. My husband has been under sentence of Imprisonment during the last three months, I have not wanted food for my children since he has been apprehended. I was sober when I went to bed on Wednesday night last. I perceived no struggling on the part of deceased.*<sup>35</sup>

Statement of witness Mary Todd:

*Mary Todd: The Information on oath of Mary Todd who saith I am the wife of John Todd a sailor and I live in a cottage at the back of Byes Hotel with a woman named Sarah Harris. I have this day seen the body of Isaac Henry Harris lying dead in that cottage. I slept in the same room with Sarah Harris on Wednesday night last. I slept with my children on the floor and she slept on the bedstead with her children of whom the deceased was one. Nothing occurred during the night. About half after six o'clock on Thursday morning, Mrs Harris woke me by screaming and jumped out of bed with the deceased in her arms. She said "For God's sake let some one fetch a Doctor so see the deceased." The deceased was then warm & I could not tell whether he was dead or not. Mrs Harris said "he was lying with his mouth on the pillow". I looked at the pillow. The pillow was all wet and there was a hollow in it. The wet seemed as if it had been caused by a child slobbering on it. The pillow was not disturbed till the gentleman now present William Jones Huxtable came. There was another person in the cottage on Wednesday night last, a fisherman but he slept in one of the back rooms. Mrs Harris was sober when she went to bed on Wednesday night last. There had been no drinking in the house. I have known Mrs Harris for ten years. She is a very kind mother to her children. She has always treated the deceased kindly.*<sup>35</sup>

Statement of witness Dr William Jones Huxtable:

*The Information on oath of William Jones Huxtable who saith I am a legally qualified Medical Practitioner & reside in Elizabeth Street. I have this day seen the body of a male child about four months old lying dead in a cottage at the rear of Byes Hotel in Campbell Street. I*

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<sup>35</sup> TAHO, SC195/1/26 No.2202 (Henry Isaac Harris)

saw it in the presence of Sarah Harris and the Jury now sitting. I was sent for on Thursday morning last a little before seven o'clock to the cottage where the deceased now lies. On my arrival there I found the deceased dead, he was lying in his mother's arms. She seemed to be very much distressed. The deceased had not then been dead more than half an hour. His limbs were just beginning to stiffen. I observed a mark on the left side of his face including the nostrils & part of the mouth which seemed as if caused by his having lain with his face on a soft substance such as a pillow. A pillow is as shown to me by his mother which had a hollow in it which seemed to have been made by a child's face. The pillow was on the bed and had evidently not been moved. It was in the position pointed out by deceased's mother in my presence to the Jury this day. I asked the deceased's mother how he had been lying. She said he had been lying at her back with his face in the hollow in the pillow & with his knees bent up under him. I did not ask her any more questions & she did not say anything more to me. I performed a Post Mortem examination of the body on Friday last by desire of the Coroner. I found the heart the lungs & the liver completely congested with venous blood evidently caused by want of atmospheric air to convert it into arterial blood, I found all the other viscera healthy. I found no marks of violence whatever on the body. I did not examine the head because I found enough to account for death in the heart & lungs, and because the deceased mother was very much distressed. The body was not at all emaciated but was in a very healthy state. The deceased had evidently been well taken care of. His mother was perfectly sober when I saw her on Thursday morning last, and had not the appearance of a woman who had been drinking the night before. I am of opinion that the deceased came to his death by suffocation from want of atmospheric air in consequence of his mouth & nostrils being covered. When once a child so young as deceased had got its head done in a hollow like that pointed out to me in the pillow it would require but very little force to keep it down. The mere circumstance of another child lying close to it on one side and its mother on the other would be sufficient to do so. There could not have been much pressure in the case of deceased as his face was not at all flattened.<sup>35</sup>

- 28 January 1851 Husband Isaac Harris a probation pass-holder.<sup>32</sup>
- 11 February 1851 Husband Isaac Harris hired as a probation pass-holder to Joseph Wray, Murray Street, Hobart from the Prisoners' Barracks, Hobart.<sup>32</sup>
- 17 July 1851 Husband Isaac Harris hired as a probation pass-holder to William Cole, Kelly Street, Battery Point from the Prisoners' Barracks, Hobart.<sup>32</sup>
- 20 October 1851 Husband Isaac Harris charged with misconduct in being out after hours from the service of William Cole, Hobart and disturbing the public peace; sentence 2 months hard labour at Prisoners' Barracks, Hobart, and recommended to be hired in the interior north of Hobart, approved.<sup>32</sup>
- 24 October 1851 Husband Isaac Harris at *Dunrobin*.<sup>32</sup>
- 5 November 1851 Husband Isaac Harris at *Dunrobin*.<sup>32</sup>
- 6 December 1851 Husband Isaac Harris charged at *Dunrobin* with misconduct in threatening and asking a watchman to fight; sentence 1 month hard labour.<sup>32</sup>
- 31 December 1851 Husband Isaac Harris hired as a probation pass-holder to George Ritchie, Perth from the Prisoners' Barracks, Hobart.<sup>32</sup>
- cMarch 1852 Husband Isaac Harris absconded from Perth; gazetted 9 March 1858.<sup>36</sup>
- c1853 Formed a common-law relationship with Robert Bertram<sup>37</sup> (*Duchess of Northumberland*).<sup>43</sup>
- 23 February 1853 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart with Robert Bertram (*Duchess of Northumberland*, Conditional Pardon), Mathew Beach (Ticket of Leave) and Peter Hutchinson (Ticket of Leave) by District Constable Simpson with having, on 19 February, burglariously

<sup>36</sup> TAHO, CON37/1/5 No.1611 [image 220] (Isaac Harris); *Hobart Town Gazette*, 9 March 1858 p.240 (Isaac Harris)

<sup>37</sup> Robert Bertram was transported for 15 years on the *Duchess of Northumberland* in 1843; tried at Northumberland Quarter Sessions on 20 October 1841 for stealing in a dwelling house; single, coal miner, aged 25, 5' 4¾", native place Benwell; Ticket of Leave 26 February 1850, Conditional Pardon 13 July 1852; tried again at Hobart Supreme Court on 8 March 1853 for burglary; sentence 10 years transportation; Ticket of Leave 26 August 1856; absconded 1858 (TAHO, CON33/1/36 No.8645 [image 25] (Robert Bertram); TAHO, CON37/1/7 No.2380 [image 284] (Robert Bertram)).

- and feloniously broken into the premises of Mr David Dunkley and stolen therefrom valuable property; remanded till 26 February; Sarah free.<sup>38</sup>
- 7 March 1853 Prisoner awaiting trial in the Gaol, Hobart.
- 8 March 1853 Tried at the Supreme Court, Hobart indicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> count with burglary in the dwelling of Mr David Dunkley and stealing 2 coats, value £5, his property, and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> count with feloniously receiving well knowing etc; verdict not guilty; Sarah free by servitude, ship to colony *Rajah*.  
Robert Bertram (*Duchess of Northumberland*, Conditional Pardon) tried for the same offence; verdict guilty on the 2<sup>nd</sup> count only; sentence 10 years transportation, 3 years at Cascades Probation Station.<sup>39</sup>
- 9 March 1853 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart by Constable William Simpson with burglary in the dwelling house of Henry Hopkins; remanded till 11 March at Hobart Gaol; Sarah aged 30, free by servitude, read and write well.<sup>40</sup>
- 11 March 1853 Brought up at the Police Court, Hobart charged by Henry Hopkins with burglary in his dwelling house on 15 February at New Town and stealing therefrom 1 pair of men's cloth boots, value 5 shillings, the property of Henry Hopkins; fully committed for trial; Sarah aged 26, free by servitude, ship to colony *Rajah*, read and write well.<sup>41</sup>
- 4 April 1853 Tried at the Quarter Sessions, Hobart indicted for feloniously receiving 1 pair of boots, value 5 shillings, the property of Henry Hopkins; Mr Knight appeared for the prisoner; verdict not guilty.<sup>42</sup>  
Newspaper report:  
*Sarah Riley was charged with feloniously receiving one pair of boots the property of Henry Hopkins, Esq., well knowing them to be stolen.*  
*The prisoner was the woman who cohabited with Bertram, the leader of a gang of burglars who were all convicted last sessions; she was tried with her companions but was acquitted, and was apprehended by D.C. Simpson upon leaving the Court and charged with the present offence.*  
*Mr. Knight appeared for the prisoner, who pleaded not guilty.*  
*Mr. Hopkins deposed that the boots produced were his property; he recognised them as articles which had grown old in his service, and which he had had "welted" several times. The cobbler who had "welted" the boots recognised the labour of his hands, and D.C. Simpson proved going to Bertram's house at 4 or 5 in the morning to apprehend him and his companions for numerous burglaries, when he found prisoner in bed with Bertram, and upon telling her to get up and go along with him, she put her foot in it by putting on the boots of Mr. Hopkins. Upon cross-examination Mr. Simpson confessed prisoner had another pair of boots by her at the time, and also that he (Simpson) had not one tittle of evidence to substantiate his former charge, but that he had reserved the "second barrel" for her.*  
*The Chairman said such conduct was very improper – the woman ought to have been charged with the whole at once.*  
*Mr. Knight, for the prisoner, asked the jury whether it was probable, if the prisoner had known that the boots were stolen, she would have coolly put them on before the very police who had come to apprehend her, more especially when she had another pair at her bedside.*  
*His Honor having summed up, the jury acquitted the prisoner.*  
*The Chairman hoped the imminent danger in which the woman had placed herself by the bad company she had kept would be a lesson.*<sup>43</sup>
- 26 June 1856 Daughter Frances Harris and son David Harris admitted to the Queen's Orphan Schools, New Town; Frances aged 11; David aged 8; father Isaac Harris, prisoner; mother not named.<sup>44</sup>

<sup>38</sup> *Hobart Town Courier*, 23 February 1853 p.3 (Sarah Riley)

<sup>39</sup> TAHO, SC41/1/6 No.2 Hobart (Robert Bertram & Sarah Riley)

<sup>40</sup> TAHO, LC247/1/22 p.239 (Sarah Riley)

<sup>41</sup> TAHO, LC247/1/22 p.242 (Sarah Riley)

<sup>42</sup> TAHO, LC218/1/2 p.153 No.2 (Sarah Riley); *Colonial Times*, 7 April 1853 p.3 (Sarah Riley)

<sup>43</sup> *Hobart Town Courier*, 4 April 1853 p.2 (Sarah Riley)

<sup>44</sup> TAHO, SWD28/1/1 p.35 (David Harris); TAHO, SWD28/1/1 p.45 (Frances Harris)

- 25 July 1859 Daughter Frances Harris discharged from the Queen's Orphan School, New Town; apprenticed to Mr Henry Rice, New Town; Protestant.<sup>45</sup>
- 26 July 1861 Son David Harris discharged from the Queen's Orphan School, New Town; apprenticed to Denis Riley, Franklin, Huon; Roman Catholic.<sup>46</sup>
- 18 July 1864 Son David Harris absconded from his apprenticeship with Dennis Riley, Fleuter's Point, Franklin; aged 17, 5'0", fresh complexion, light hair, a fine set of teeth, dressed in an old jumper, moleskin trousers and plaid cap.<sup>46</sup>
- 26 July 1865 Son David Harris completed his apprenticeship.<sup>46</sup>

## Notes

- Sarah may have given birth to a son Valentine Harris, father John Harris, at Hobart on 25 September 1853, mother's name Sarah Riley (which Sarah is known as in other documents).<sup>47</sup>
- If so, then Sarah is likely to be the Sarah Harris who died of mortification in the womb at Hobart on 30 October 1853, aged 26, bricklayer's wife; informant John Harris, husband, resident of Church Street, Hobart.<sup>48</sup> Valentine Harris has not been traced and there is no marriage for a Sarah Riley and John Harris.
- Sarah may be the Sarah Harris charged at the Police Court, Hobart:
  - on 30 April 1853 with being drunk in a public street in Hobart Town on 12 April; plea guilty; fined 5 shillings; aged 38, free by servitude, read only.
  - on 15 June 1853 with being drunk and with disturbing the public peace in a public place within Hobart Town on 16 June; plea guilty; fined 5 shillings for each offence; aged 29, free by servitude, read and write imperfectly.
  - on 10 October 1853 with being drunk in a public street in Hobart Town on 8 October; plea guilty; fined 5 shillings; aged 29, free by servitude; cannot read or write.<sup>49</sup>
- Sarah's husband may be the Isaac Harris who was a passenger on the brig *Peri* which departed Sydney on 5 November 1847 for Launceston.<sup>50</sup>
- Sarah's husband may be the Isaac Harris who married Charlotte Freme in Victoria in 1861.<sup>51</sup> They had at least two children in Victoria, both died as infants.
- Sarah's son may be the David Harris who married Margaret Christina Imrie in the house of Mrs Smith, Carrick; David adult, labourer, bachelor; Margaret adult, spinster; witnesses W Massey, Jane Massey and Helen Smith.<sup>52</sup> This David Harris is also possibly the son of shipmate Amelia Laing (*qv*).

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<sup>45</sup> TAHO, SWD28/1/1 p.45 (Frances Harris)

<sup>46</sup> Purtscher, *Apprentices and Absconders from Queen's Orphanage Hobart Town 1860-1863* (David Harris); TAHO, SWD28/1/1 p.35 (David Harris)

<sup>47</sup> TAHO, RGD33/1/5 1853/199 Hobart (Valentine Harris)

<sup>48</sup> TAHO, RGD35/1/4 1853/582 Hobart (Sarah Harris)

<sup>49</sup> TAHO, LC247/1/22 pp.312, 430, 623 (Sarah Harris)

<sup>50</sup> *Sydney Morning Herald*, 6 November 1847 p.2 (Isaac Harris)

<sup>51</sup> VIC Marriage Certificate 1861/20 (Isaac Harris & Charlotte Freme)

<sup>52</sup> TAHO, NS373/1/3 No.4151 (Davis Harris & Margaret Christina Imrie); TAHO, RGD37/1/34 1875/520 Longford (David Harris & Margaret Christina Imrie)