

# Elizabeth Barrett

(*alias Elizabeth Henshaw; uxor Elizabeth Leedham*)

POLICE NUMBER 487 <sup>1</sup>	LITERACY neither read nor write
TRIAL DATE 4 January 1841	AGE ON EMBARKATION 18
TRIAL PLACE Middlesex (Hicks Hall) Quarter Sessions	AGE ON ARRIVAL 18
OFFENCE larceny in stealing meat	HEIGHT 5' 1"
SENTENCE 7 years	COMPLEXION fresh
GAOL REPORT poor, single	HEAD large
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS none	HAIR light brown
SURGEON'S REPORT quiet	VISAGE full
ON THE TOWN 12 months	FOREHEAD high
MARITAL STATUS single	EYEBROWS brown
CHILDREN 0	EYES blue
FAMILY	NOSE medium
NATIVE PLACE Thomas Street, Dublin, Ireland	MOUTH medium
TRADE ON EMBARKATION	CHIN round
TRADE ON ARRIVAL house servant, nurse maid	MARKS slightly freckled

c1823	Born at Thomas Street, Dublin, Ireland. <sup>2</sup>
4 January 1841	Tried at Hicks Hall Quarter Sessions, Clerkenwell, London, Middlesex, England indicted for larceny in stealing meat; 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, sent to Launceston for assignment. <sup>5</sup>
7 September 1841	Charged with misconduct in overstaying her pass yesterday; in the service of East; reprimanded. <sup>3</sup>
15 September 1841	Charged with being absent without leave from the service of East and tipping in a public house yesterday; sentence 10 days in solitary confinement on bread and water at Launceston Female Factory. <sup>3</sup>
21 September 1841	At Launceston. <sup>3</sup>
14 October 1841	Charged at the Police Court, Launceston upon the complaint of William Gilbert with larceny under the value of £5; in the service of CW Rocher; plea not guilty, verdict guilty; existing term of transportation extended 12 months. <sup>6</sup>
31 December 1841	Mustered at Launceston Female Factory. <sup>7</sup>
15 March 1842	Charged with gross misconduct; in the service of Kidd; sentence 12 months hard labour in the Crime Class at Launceston Female Factory. <sup>3</sup>
5 July 1842	Unexpired portion of punishment sentence remitted by the Lieutenant Governor, to be assigned. <sup>3</sup>
11 July 1842	Charged at the Police Court, Longford by CDC Mr Hortle with disobedience of the orders of her mistress Mrs McKinnon; plea guilty; sentence 10 days <sup>8</sup> in solitary confinement at Launceston Female Factory, then returned to Government. <sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup> TAHO, CON40/1/2 p.87 No.487 [image 85] (Elizabeth Barrett); TAHO, CON32/1/5 p.347 [image 176] (Elizabeth Barrett); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.227 [image 117] (Elizabeth Barrett); ML, CY 1282 p.145 (Elizabeth Barrett); ML, CY 1197 p.153 (Elizabeth Barrett); ML, CY 958 p.443 (Elizabeth Barrett)

<sup>2</sup> TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.227 [image 117] (Elizabeth Barrett)

<sup>3</sup> TAHO, CON40/1/2 p.87 No.487 [image 85] (Elizabeth Barrett)

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

<sup>5</sup> ML, CY 1282 p.141 (Elizabeth Barrett); ML, CY 1274 p.254 (Elizabeth Barrett)

<sup>6</sup> TAHO, LC346/1/11 (Elizabeth Barrett)

<sup>7</sup> AJCP, HO 10/51 p.350 No.487 (Elizabeth Barrett)

<sup>8</sup> Sentence given as 4 days in the Longford Lower Court record (TAHO, LC362/1/5).

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

4 August 1842	Charged at the Police Court, Longford with uselessness by her master Dr Paton; returned to Government; sent to Mr Saltmarsh. <sup>10</sup>
3 October 1842	Charged at the Police Court, Longford by her mistress Mrs Saltmarsh with insolence to her; plea guilty; sentence 7 days in solitary confinement. <sup>11</sup>
17 October 1842	Charged at the Police Court, Longford <sup>12</sup> by District Constable Meffett with misconduct in being absent without leave in the middle of the night from the service of Mrs Saltmarsh; plea guilty; sentence 4 days in solitary confinement. <sup>13</sup> Charged at the Police Court, Longford by her mistress Mrs Saltmarsh with larceny under the value of £5; plea not guilty; existing sentence of transportation extended 12 months and recommended to be sent to Cascades <sup>14</sup> Female Factory, Hobart for that time. <sup>15</sup>
24 July 1843	Charged at Launceston Female Factory with insubordination; admonished. <sup>3</sup>
1 November 1843	Absconded from the service of Mr A Mathieson, Launceston. <sup>16</sup>
9 November 1843	Charged with being absent without leave from the service of Mr A Mathieson; sentence 3 months hard labour at Launceston Female Factory. <sup>3</sup>
3 January 1844	Charged at Launceston Female Factory, whilst in the Crime Class, with misconduct in giving a female in the cells bread and meat; sentence 7 days in solitary confinement at Launceston Female Factory. <sup>3</sup>
21 February 1844	Classified as a 1 <sup>st</sup> class probation pass-holder; gazetted 23 February. <sup>17</sup>
7 March 1844	Charged with being absent without leave from the service of Messiter; sentence 10 days in solitary confinement at Launceston Female Factory. <sup>3</sup>
16 April 1844	Promoted from a 1 <sup>st</sup> class to a 2 <sup>nd</sup> class probation pass-holder; gazetted 19 April. <sup>18</sup>
10 July 1844	Charged with misconduct in striking her fellow servant; in the service of TN Grigg; sentence 9 months hard labour at Launceston Female Factory (this was an assault so it could not be tried as misconduct— sentence was changed to 3 months' probation at Launceston Female Factory vide Lieutenant Governor's decision of 16 August 1844).
12 July 1844	At Launceston. <sup>3</sup>
16 July 1844 <sup>19</sup>	Hired in private service as a probation pass-holder to TN Grigg, Circular Head. <sup>20</sup>
18 July 1844	Charged at Launceston Female Factory with insubordination; sentence extended 12 months (reduced to 3 months extension vide Lieutenant Governor's decision of 13 September 1844). <sup>3</sup>
26 July 1844	Absconded from the custody of a constable on the way to Launceston Female Factory; aged 24. <sup>21</sup>
31 August 1844	Promoted from a 1 <sup>st</sup> class to a 3 <sup>rd</sup> class probation pass-holder; gazetted 6 September. <sup>22</sup>
22 January 1845	Hired in private service for 1 month as a probation pass-holder to John Windeatt, Launceston. <sup>23</sup>
6 February 1845	Charged with absconding from the service of John Windeatt; existing sentence of transportation extended 3 months. <sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>9</sup> TAHO, LC362/1/5 (Elizabeth Barrett)

<sup>10</sup> TAHO, LC362/1/5 (Elizabeth Barrett)

<sup>11</sup> TAHO, LC362/1/5 (Elizabeth Barrett)

<sup>12</sup> This was the subsequent charge at the Police Court, Longford to that of shipmate Ruth Jackson (*qv*).

<sup>13</sup> TAHO, LC362/1/5 (Elizabeth Barrett)

<sup>14</sup> It appears that Elizabeth was not sent to Cascades Female Factory, but served her term of imprisonment at Launceston Female Factory.

<sup>15</sup> TAHO, LC362/1/5 (Elizabeth Barrett)

<sup>16</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 10 November 1843 p.1233 (Elizabeth Barrett)

<sup>17</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 23 February 1844 p.246 (Elizabeth Barrett)

<sup>18</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 19 April 1844 p.455 (Elizabeth Barrett)

<sup>19</sup> This engagement probably occurred before this date as she was charged by Grigg on 10 July 1844.

<sup>20</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 19 July 1844 p.845 (Elizabeth Barrett)

<sup>21</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 2 August 1844 p.910 (Elizabeth Barrett)

<sup>22</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 6 September 1844 p.1075 (Elizabeth Barrett)

<sup>23</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 25 February 1845 p.229 (Elizabeth Barrett)

- 1 March 1845 Hired in private service for 1 month as a probation pass-holder to WJ Huxtable, Evandale.<sup>24</sup>
- 8 April 1845 Hired in private service for 1 month as a probation pass-holder to Frederick Midgeley, Launceston.<sup>25</sup>
- 16 July 1845 Charged with being drunk and absent without leave from the service of Frederick Midgeley; sentence 6 months hard labour at Launceston Female Factory.<sup>3</sup>  
Charged with felony; discharged.<sup>3</sup>
- 14 March 1846 Charged with being absent without leave from the service of Frederick Midgeley; sentence 3 months hard labour at Launceston Female Factory.<sup>3</sup>
- 31 July 1846 At Launceston.<sup>3</sup>
- 3 September 1846 Charged with being drunk when returning to the Hiring Depot at Launceston from the service of Wilmore; sentence 3 months hard labour, part of the second month recommended to be kept separate, at Launceston Female Factory.<sup>3</sup>
- 29 December 1846 Charged with being absent without leave from the service of Francis; admonished.<sup>3</sup>
- 15 January 1847 Hired in private service for 1 month as a probation pass-holder to James Purslowe, Launceston.<sup>26</sup>
- 2 March 1847 Charged with being absent without leave from the service of James Purslowe; sentence 7 days in solitary confinement at Launceston Female Factory.<sup>3</sup>
- 9 March 1847 Charged with misconduct in being out after hours from the service of Wood; sentence 2 month' hard labour at Launceston Female Factory.<sup>3</sup>
- 13 May 1847 Charged with being absent without leave from the service of Burns; sentence 7 days in solitary confinement at Launceston Female Factory.<sup>3</sup>
- 25 May 1847 Charged with being absent from the service of Beeston and having a forged pass; sentence 4 months hard labour at Launceston Female Factory.<sup>3</sup>
- 9 July 1847 At Launceston.<sup>3</sup>
- 12 August 1847 Charged at Launceston Female Factory with misconduct; sentence 7 days in solitary confinement at Launceston Female Factory.<sup>3</sup>
- cSeptember 1847 Ticket of Leave granted.<sup>27</sup>
- 16 September 1847 Charged with leaving the district without a pass as a ticket-of-leave holder; reprimanded.<sup>3</sup>
- 22 October 1847 Charged with being drunk and misconduct; sentence 5 months hard labour at Launceston Female Factory.<sup>3</sup>
- 16 November 1847 Charged at Launceston Female Factory with misconduct; sentence 14 days in solitary confinement at Launceston Female Factory.<sup>3</sup>
- 30 March 1848 Charged with absconding from the service of Hughes and when apprehended making her escape from the constables; sentence 6 months hard labour at Launceston Female Factory.<sup>3</sup>
- 24 November 1848 Charged with being out after hours from the service of Casey; sentence 14 days in cells at Launceston Female Factory.<sup>3</sup>
- 17 January 1849 Charged with not proceeding to the Hiring Depot according to the time of her pass from the service of Radford; sentence 14 days in cells at Launceston Female Factory.<sup>3</sup>
- 27 January 1849 Hired in private service for 1 month as a probation pass-holder to Charles Kerslake, Launceston at a rate of £9 per annum.<sup>28</sup>

---

<sup>24</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 1 April 1845 p.442 (Elizabeth Barratt)

<sup>25</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 29 April 1845 p.545 (Elizabeth Barratt)

<sup>26</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 10 February 1846 p.143 (Elizabeth Barrett)

<sup>27</sup> The attainment of her Ticket of Leave was not published in the *Hobart Town Gazette* during August or September 1847.

<sup>28</sup> TAHO, CON30/1/1 p.108 (Elizabeth Barrett)

- 29 January 1849 Charged with being found in Mr Radford's skittle ground; in the service of Charles Kerslake; sentence 3 months' hard labour in the separate apartments at Launceston Female Factory.<sup>3</sup>
- 22 May 1849 Application for permission to marry George Leedham<sup>29</sup> (free); approved, not married.<sup>30</sup>
- 7 July 1849 **Married** George Leedham at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Launceston; Elizabeth aged 22, probation pass-holder, house servant, illiterate; George aged 21, free, blacksmith; witnesses Thomas Banks (illiterate) and Catherine Dobbs (illiterate).<sup>31</sup>
- 23 February 1850 Memorial for mitigation of sentence.<sup>3</sup>
- 26 March 1850 Petition for remission of sentence.<sup>3</sup>
- 27 March 1850 Unexpired portion of extended sentences of transportation remitted vide AC memo and petition; due to be free by servitude 4 July 1850.<sup>3</sup>
- 4 April 1850 Free by servitude.<sup>3</sup>
- 9 April 1850 Certificate of Freedom issued.<sup>3</sup>
- 15 May 1850 **Son** George Leedham born at Launceston; father George Leadham, blacksmith; informant mother Elizabeth Barrett, illiterate, resident of York Street, Launceston.<sup>32</sup>
- cAugust 1850 Moved with family from Tasmania to South Australia.
- 24 October 1850 Husband George Leedham gave public notice against giving credit to Elizabeth.<sup>33</sup>  
Newspaper advertisement:

*Caution*

*THE public are hereby cautioned against giving credit to Elizabeth Henshaw, or any other person, on account of the undersigned, as he will not be answerable for debts contracted without his written authority.*

GEO. LEEDHAM, JUN.

*Macclesfield, 24<sup>th</sup> October, 1850.*<sup>33</sup>

- 29 November 1850 Charged at the Police Court, Adelaide, SA with stealing a silk bonnet, a cap and a pair of shoes from Elizabeth Jones, an elderly woman, in Adelaide on Tuesday 26 November; committed for trial.<sup>34</sup>

Newspaper report:

*Elizabeth Leedham, wife of a blacksmith, living at Mount Barker, was charged with stealing a silk bonnet, a cap, and a pair of shoes from the person of Elizabeth Jones, an elderly woman, in Adelaide, on Tuesday last, the 26<sup>th</sup> instant.*

*The prosecutrix deposed that, on Tuesday last she met the prisoner at the "John O'Groat" public-house, and having some business in the town, requested to have her company. The prisoner agreed, and they went together to several shops, at which witness bought a bonnet, a cap, and a pair of shoes; the prisoner proposed to carry them for her, to which she consented, but shortly afterwards, suspecting something wrong, asked for them back again, when the prisoner knocked her down and made off with the property. This was between 5 and 6 o'clock in the afternoon. She then returned to the "John O'Groat," and told the landlord what had happened. Yesterday, seeing the prisoner in the streets, she called a constable and gave her in charge.*

*By the Court – Could not swear to any of the articles, as they were new, but they could be identified at the shops at which she bought them. Was quite sober at the time.*

*Police-constable Gore, at the instance of the prosecutrix, apprehended the prisoner in Hindley-street on Thursday afternoon. She tried hard to run away from him, and on his*

<sup>29</sup> George Leedham (aged 13) came to Tasmania via Port Phillip from Gloucestershire, England in 1842 with his parents George (36) and Maria (37), brother John (11) and 3 sisters Leah (15), Caroline (9) and Harriet (6). The family moved to South Australia circa 1847 (*South Australian Register*, 28 May 1906 p.7 (John and George Leedham)). They arrived at Port Phillip in December 1841 on the *Agostina* (PROV, 'Online Indexes: Index to Register of Assisted British Immigrants 1839-1870' Book 1 pp.232, 229B (Leedham/Ludham)).

<sup>30</sup> TAHO, CON52/1/3 p.274 (George Leedham & Elizabeth Barratt)

<sup>31</sup> TAHO, RGD37/1/8 1849/569 Launceston (George Leedham & Elizabeth Barret)

<sup>32</sup> TAHO, RGD33/1/23 1850/2743 Launceston (George Leadham)

<sup>33</sup> *South Australian Register*, 25 October 1850 p.2 (Elizabeth Henshaw)

<sup>34</sup> *South Australian Register*, 30 November 1850 p.3 (Elizabeth Leedham)

capturing her asked him what it was for. He told her for a felony. After entering the charge at the station-house, witness accompanied her to Mrs Jones's, who, on seeing her, immediately claimed the bonnet and cap the prisoner wore as her property. She (prisoner) begged of her not to give her in charge and she would restore all she had taken. He then took the prisoner back to the station-house.

Mary Ann Bigwood, wife of a draper in Rundle-street, identified the bonnet and cap as being the same she sold to Mrs Jones on Tuesday afternoon.

By the Court – There was another person with her at the time, but she could not swear it was the prisoner.

Isaac Emery, landlord of the "Joiners' Arms Inn," said that on Tuesday afternoon he saw the prosecutrix and the prisoner in Light-square, there being apparently a scuffle between them. He went up to them with a view of interfering, when the prisoner threatened to break his head if he did not be off. She accused the prosecutrix of having a watch and £2 belonging to her, and endeavoured by force to obtain possession of the watch. There was a parcel of millinery being carried away by the wind: he picked it up and restored it to the prosecutrix, when the prisoner snatched it and tore it to pieces, as also she did a parasol, first having beaten the prosecutrix about the head with it. She then went of, carrying with her a large bundle and some small ones.

By the Court – Did not think Mrs Jones was quite sober; she was moreover much excited. The bundles were claimed both by Mrs Jones and the prisoner. The prisoner was sober.

The prisoner, on being asked what she had to say, burst into tears, and walked up to the Magistrate begging him with the most frantic gesticulations not to separate her from her child, which was only six months old, and was then being weaned by its grandmother at Mount Barker; she said she was quite innocent; that the prosecutrix owed her money; that she had no friends in town, and that she would die if separated from her child.

The Magistrate said he could not possibly doubt, from the evidence that had been given, that she had done that which was not right, and he should commit her for trial on the charge of larceny; but that her child, if necessary, should be brought to her.

The prisoner was conveyed from the Court still sobbing, wringing her hands, and uttering loud cries for her child.<sup>34</sup>

5 December 1850

Committed for trial at the next sitting of the Supreme Court, Adelaide, SA.<sup>35</sup>

Newspaper report:

The Crown Solicitor applied for the cases of Catherine Donaldson committed for larceny, Elizabeth Leedham for robbery with violence, and John Layton for larceny from the person, to be committed for trial at the next sitting of the Supreme Court, as their cases were not within the jurisdiction of the Court.

After some conversation, on its being shown that the Court has power to do so, it was done.

The prisoner Leedham cried bitterly, and asked to be tried at once.<sup>35</sup>

10 February 1851

Tried at the Supreme Court, Adelaide, SA indicted for larceny; found not guilty; discharged.<sup>36</sup>

Newspaper report:

Elizabeth Leedham was indicted for stealing a bonnet, a cap, and a pair of boots from the person of Elizabeth Jones, in a public street of Adelaide, on the 26<sup>th</sup> November.

The Advocate-General stated the facts (they were fully detailed at the time in our police report), which were as follows: – The prosecutrix and the prisoners were shopping together, and the former having made several purchases, the latter (who assisted her to carry them), after accompanying her through back streets and several public-houses, knocked her down, gave her (in the language of the prosecutrix) a good welting with a parasol – (a laugh) – took from her the greater portion of her newly-acquired property, and damaged the rest.

In answer to the learned Judge, the prosecutrix said she was neither drunk nor sober, and that the prisoner was in the same state as herself; that she had purchased a pair of shoes for the prisoner, who fitted them on in the shop, and wore them at the time of the assault.

The Jury were not satisfied with the evidence, and returned a verdict of not guilty.

<sup>35</sup> South Australian Register, 6 December 1850 p.3 (Elizabeth Leedham)

<sup>36</sup> South Australian Register, 11 February 1851 p.3 (Elizabeth Leedham)

*His Honor, in discharging the prisoner, advised her to take warning by that narrow escape. He hoped for the future she would attend to her family, and not go about public-houses, and get into such a dangerous and disgraceful position again.*<sup>36</sup>

- 13 December 1853     **Son** James Leedham born at Macclesfield, SA; father George Leedham; mother Elizabeth Henshaw.<sup>37</sup>
- 7 July 1887             Husband George Leedham died at Adelaide, SA; aged 59, blacksmith.<sup>38</sup>
- 28 July 1887             Probate granted for the estate of husband George Leedham of Macclesfield, SA; value £150.<sup>39</sup>

## Notes

- Elizabeth may be the Elizabeth Leadham who died of disease of aortic valves and hypertrophy of the heart at Bendigo Hospital, VIC on 13 November 1860; aged 32, servant, born Ireland, parents unknown, 3 years in Victoria, widow; buried 15 November 1860 at Back Creek Cemetery, VIC.<sup>40</sup>
- Elizabeth may be the Mrs Leedham and child who departed Adelaide, SA for Melbourne, VIC as steerage passengers on the steamer *Burra Burra* on 25 August 1855.<sup>41</sup>
- Elizabeth may be the Elizabeth Leedham who was charged:
  - on 22 February 1860 at City Court, Melbourne, VIC with drunkenness; fined 5 shillings.<sup>42</sup>
  - on 3 July 1860 at City Court, Melbourne, VIC with drunkenness and using obscene language; fined 5 shillings.<sup>43</sup>
  - on 26 July 1860 at City Court, Melbourne, VIC with being drunk and disorderly; fined 5 shillings.<sup>44</sup>
  - on 2 August 1860 at City Court, Melbourne, VIC with disorderly conduct; cautioned and discharged.<sup>45</sup>
  - on 8 August 1860 at City Court, Melbourne, VIC with being disorderly and using disgusting language; sentence 2 months hard labour; a constant offender.<sup>46</sup>
- Elizabeth's son George may be the William Leedham who married Jane Enright at St Mary's Church, Echunga, SA on 5 May 1872; father George Leedham, aged 22, single.<sup>47</sup> They had at least 10 children in South Australia between 1873 and 1886.
- Elizabeth's son George may be the Mr George Leedham who withdrew from the election for Kingborough, TAS in March 1887.<sup>48</sup>

---

<sup>37</sup> SA Birth Record 1853 Adelaide 4/248 (James Leedham)

<sup>38</sup> SA Death Record Ade 164/325 (George Leedham); *Advertiser*, 18 December 1936 p.33 (George Leedham)

<sup>39</sup> *South Australian Register*, 8 August 1887 p.25 (George Leedham)

<sup>40</sup> VIC Death Certificate 1860/11915 (Elizabeth Leadham)

<sup>41</sup> *South Australian Register*, 27 August 1855 p.2 (Mrs. Leedham and child)

<sup>42</sup> *Argus*, 23 February 1860 p.3 (Elizabeth Leedham)

<sup>43</sup> *Argus*, 3 July 1860 p.8 (Elizabeth Leedham)

<sup>44</sup> *Argus*, 27 July 1860 p.7 (Elizabeth Leedham)

<sup>45</sup> *Argus*, 3 August 1860 p.7 (Elizabeth Leedham)

<sup>46</sup> *Argus*, 9 August 1860 p.7 (Elizabeth Leedham)

<sup>47</sup> SA Marriage Certificate 1872 Mount Barker 91/341 (William Leedham and Jane Enright)

<sup>48</sup> *Examiner*, 5 March 1887 p.3 (Mr. George Leedham)

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