

*Sarah Beckwith*  
(*uxor Sarah Tongue, Sarah Smith*)

POLICE NUMBER 477 <sup>1</sup>	LITERACY neither read nor write
TRIAL DATE 1 March 1841	AGE ON EMBARKATION 17
TRIAL PLACE Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey), London	AGE ON ARRIVAL 18
OFFENCE stealing 5/1 from the person	HEIGHT 5' ¼"
SENTENCE 10 years	COMPLEXION fresh
GAOL REPORT poor, single	HEAD oval
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS none	HAIR auburn
SURGEON'S REPORT good	VISAGE full
ON THE TOWN 12 months	FOREHEAD medium
MARITAL STATUS single	EYEBROWS brown
CHILDREN 0	EYES hazel
FAMILY father James Beckwith, labourer, and mother Elizabeth Winter	NOSE medium
NATIVE PLACE Canterbury, England	MOUTH medium
TRADE ON EMBARKATION	CHIN round
TRADE ON ARRIVAL nursemaid, house servant	MARKS SB and JM on right arm

c1823

**Born** at Canterbury, Kent, England; father James Beckwith; mother Elizabeth Winter.<sup>2</sup>

1 March 1841

Tried at the Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey), London, Middlesex, England indicted for larceny in stealing on 3 March 1 crown from the person of William Kimbrell, a servant out of place; found guilty; sentence 10 years transportation; aged 17.<sup>3</sup>

Statement of witness William Kimbrell:

*I am a servant out of place. I met the prisoner on the evening of the 3rd of March, and asked if she could show me the way to a private lodging-house – she said she could, and was going to show me – as she went along she asked me to give her a glass of gin – I said I had no money – she said, “Yes, you can stand a glass” – I said I had a few halfpence, and gave her a glass – I afterwards went down to Burford’s, the pawnbroker, and pawned my watch for 8s., having no money – I got a crown-piece, a half-crown, and a sixpence – I was counting it in my hand – she asked me to stand some ale – I said, “This is every farthing I have got to pay my lodging and all” – she caught the crown-piece out of my hand, patted me on the back, and said, “Never mind, you shall come and sleep with me to-night” – I called out, “Give it me” – she would not, but walked away – I followed her to a house, and she went up stairs – I went up after her – it was a dark place – I said, “Give me my money” – she struck a light, and said, “Come, you shall sleep with me, stand a drop of ale” – I gave her a quart of ale, and she would not give it me then – then a woman came up to the room, and said, “Oh, here is my husband coming, if he sees you in the room there will be a terrible row” – the prisoner went down, and I after her – she went to the Running Horse public-house – I said, “Give me my money” – she would not answer me – I gave her another quart of ale there – there was four of them there – they went to another public-house, and had some gin – I followed them, to see if they spent my crown-piece there, but they did not – they brought me a glass of gin to the door – I again asked her for my crown-piece – she walked back to the Running Horse – she saw a man coming, and said, “Oh, my G – , here is my old man!” – Me came and drove her home, and said he would knock my eye out – I followed them to the house, heard them bolt the door, and then I ran off for a policeman.*

*Cross-examined by Mr. Payne. Q. Did you know her before? A. No – I did not know her name till she was before the Magistrate – a policeman went by while I was at the public-house*

<sup>1</sup> TAHO, CON40/1/2 p.84 No.308 [image 82] (Sarah Beckwith); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.182 [image 94] (Sarah Beckwith); ML, CY 1282 p.144 (Sarah Beckwith); ML, CY 1197 p.153 (Sarah Beckwith); ML, CY 958 p.441 (Sarah Beckwith)

<sup>2</sup> VIC Marriage Certificate 1886/5043 (John Smith & Sarah Tongue); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.182 [image 94] (Sarah Beckwith)

<sup>3</sup> *Old Bailey Proceedings Online*, t18410301-971 (Sarah Beckwith)

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door, but I did not give her in charge then – I did not go to any bed-room except at the first place – I stood by the door perhaps twenty minutes – she said, “Come and sit down” – then the woman came and said her husband was coming.<sup>3</sup>

Statement of witness William Lyons:

I am a policeman. I was on duty in Old Brentford, and took the prisoner for stealing the crown – she said she had never had it at all, and about half an hour afterwards she said he gave it to her.

Cross-examined. Q. Had not you seen them talking together? A. Yes, at the door of the Running Horse public-house – she did not appear the worse for liquor, nor did he.<sup>3</sup>

- 5 April 1841 Departed Woolwich, England on the *Rajah*.<sup>4</sup>
- 19 July 1841 Arrived at Hobart on the *Rajah*.<sup>4</sup>
- c24 July 1841 Upon arrival at Hobart, assigned to Mr JF Kerr, Hamilton.<sup>5</sup>
- 12 November 1841 Returned to Government at the Police Office, Hamilton from the service of Mr JF Kerr; assigned to D McKeone.<sup>6</sup>
- 31 December 1841<sup>7</sup> Mustered in the service of Mr Prentice, Hobart.<sup>8</sup>
- 18 January 1842 Charged at the Police Court, Hamilton with drunkenness on 17 January and being found drinking in Mr Mowart’s public house; in the service of D McKeone; plea guilty; sentence 4 days in solitary confinement at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart, and returned to Government.<sup>9</sup>
- John Foulds<sup>10</sup> (*Bussorah Merchant*) and Jane Lapsley<sup>11</sup> (*Nautilus*) charged with the same offence, same sentence.<sup>9</sup>
- 18 April 1842 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on the complaint of her master with disobedience of orders and insolence yesterday; in the service of Mr Prentice, Murray Street, Hobart; plea guilty; sentence 10 days in solitary confinement, then returned to her service.<sup>12</sup>
- 16 August 1842 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on the complaint of her mistress with misconduct in being out after hours and insolence; the service of Mr Prentice, Collins Street, Hobart; plea guilty; sentence 3 months hard labour at the wash tub at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.<sup>13</sup>
- 7 April 1843 Application for permission to marry Henry Tongue<sup>14</sup> (free) sent to the Muster Master.<sup>15</sup>
- 21 April 1843 Application for permission to marry Henry Tongue sent to the Secretary; woman must first show sobriety and steadiness.<sup>15</sup>
- 14 November 1843 Application for permission to marry Henry Tongue (free) sent to Muster Master and the Secretary; approved.<sup>16</sup>
- 30 November 1843 Notice given of approval for permission to marry Henry Tongue; Sarah in assigned service, resident of Hobart; Henry free.<sup>17</sup>

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

<sup>5</sup> ML, CY 1282 p.144 (Sarah Beckwith); ML, CY 1274 p.253 (Sarah Beckwith)

<sup>6</sup> TAHO, LC208/1/3 p.226 (Sarah Beckwith)

<sup>7</sup> This is the date given for the 1841 census, but the entry may pertain to her service some months either side of this date.

<sup>8</sup> AJCP, HO 10/51 p.349 No.477 (Sarah Beckwith)

<sup>9</sup> TAHO, LC208/1/3 p.255 (John Foulds, Sarah Beckwith & Jane Lapsley)

<sup>10</sup> John, a ticket-of-leave holder, was also charged with escaping from the constables and resisting them; plea not guilty; sentence 7 days and nights in solitary confinement and Ticket of Leave suspended.

<sup>11</sup> Jane was in the service of WH Brown; plea guilty; sentence 2 days in solitary confinement and returned to her service.

<sup>12</sup> TAHO, AC480/1/1, 18 April 1842 (Sarah Beckwith)

<sup>13</sup> TAHO, AC480/1/1, 16 August 1842 (Sarah Beckwith)

<sup>14</sup> This is possibly Henry Tong who was transported for 7 years on the *Recovery* in 1837, tried at Lancaster Quarter Sessions on 10 April 1837 for stealing a caddy and silver spoon; single, labourer, aged 19, native place Manchester; Conditional Pardon 2 January 1843; Certificate of Freedom 1844 (TAHO, CON31/1/44 p.37 No.1063 [image 39] (Henry Tong); TAHO, CON18/1/22 [image 136] (Henry Tong).

<sup>15</sup> TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.197 (Sarah Beckwith & Hy Tongue)

<sup>16</sup> TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.198 (Sarah Beckwith & Hy Tongue)

<sup>17</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 1 December 1843 p.1327; 8 December 1843 p.1350; 15 December 1843 p.1364 (Henry Tongue & Sarah Beckwith)

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- 18 December 1843 **Married** Henry Tongue at St David's Anglican Church, Hobart; Sarah aged 20, convict, spinster, illiterate; Henry aged 23, brick maker, bachelor, illiterate; witnesses William Howard (illiterate) and James Sly (clerk).<sup>18</sup>
- 1 November 1844 Ticket of Leave granted; gazetted 5 November.<sup>19</sup>
- 10 February 1846 Conditional Pardon recommended.<sup>20</sup>
- 8 December 1846 Conditional Pardon approved on condition that she shall not return to or be found within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland; not having committed any offences since she was recommended to the Queen's mercy which would disentitle her to the indulgence.<sup>21</sup>
- c1850 Moved with her family from Tasmania to Victoria or South Australia.<sup>25</sup>
- c1852 **Daughter** Elizabeth Tongue born at Prahran, Melbourne, VIC; father Henry Tongue; mother Sarah Tongue.<sup>22</sup>
- 9 November 1856 Daughter Elizabeth Tongue died of croup at Ballarat, VIC, aged 4½; informant father Henry Tongue, brick maker, resident of Ballarat.<sup>22</sup>
- 12 November 1856 Daughter Elizabeth Tongue buried at the Old Cemetery, Ballarat.<sup>22,23</sup>
- 1882 Husband Henry Tongue died.<sup>24</sup>
- 17 July 1886 **Married** John Smith at Moor Street, Fitzroy, VIC; Anglican ceremony; Sarah aged 56, born Thornton, England, housekeeper, widow, resident of Northcote; father James Beckwith, labourer; mother Elizabeth Winter; John aged 55, born Kent, England, labourer, bachelor, resident of Northcote; father George Smith, farmer; mother Elizabeth Pearce; witnesses Elizabeth Baker and Lydia Kinsman.<sup>24</sup>
- 26 May 1897 **Died** of aortic disease of the heart at Lawry Street, Northcote, VIC; illness duration 7 days; aged 67, housewife, born Kent, England; 2 years in South Australia, 45 years in Victoria; father James Beckwith, labourer; mother Elizabeth Winter; informant husband John Smith, resident of Northcote; no children; first marriage not listed.<sup>25</sup>
- 27 May 1897 Buried in Section K (Methodist), Melbourne General Cemetery, VIC.<sup>25,26</sup>  
Headstone reads:
- SMITH  
*In loving remembrance of my beloved wife*  
Sarah SMITH  
*died 26 May 1897, age 67 years*  
*also her husband*  
John SMITH  
*died 9 Apr 1905, aged 73 years*  
*also the beloved wife of the above*  
Susan SMITH  
*died 24 Feb 1913, age 76 years*<sup>26</sup>
- 1899 Husband John Smith married Susan Griffith in Victoria; John born England; Susan born England.<sup>27</sup>
- 1905 Husband John Smith died at Northcote, VIC; aged 72; father George Smith; mother Elizabeth Pearce.<sup>28</sup>

<sup>18</sup> TAHO, RGD37/1/3 1843 Hobart/570 (Sarah Beckwith & Henry Tongue)

<sup>19</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 5 November 1844 p.1405 (Sarah Beckwith)

<sup>20</sup> TAHO, CON40/1/2 p.84 No.308 [image 82] (Sarah Beckwith)

<sup>21</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 15 December 1846 p.1418 (Sarah Beckwith)

<sup>22</sup> VIC Death Certificate 1856/5081 (Elizabeth Tongue)

<sup>23</sup> GSV & BDGS, *Ballarat Cemeteries and Crematorium Indexed transcripts of memorials in the Old & New Cemeteries and burial & cremation registers* (Elizabeth Tongue)

<sup>24</sup> VIC Marriage Certificate 1886/5043 (John Smith & Sarah Tongue)

<sup>25</sup> VIC Death Certificate 1897/6463 (Sarah Smith)

<sup>26</sup> GSV & AIGS, *Melbourne General Cemetery Memorial Transcriptions* (Sarah Smith)

<sup>27</sup> VIC Marriage Record 1899/5625 (John Smith & Susan Griffith)

<sup>28</sup> VIC Death Record 1905/6579 (John Smith)