

*Eliza Brown*  
(proper name *Elizabeth McNaughton*)

POLICE NUMBER 483 <sup>1</sup>	LITERACY read only
TRIAL DATE 26 October 1840	AGE ON EMBARKATION 19
TRIAL PLACE Lancaster (Liverpool) Quarter Sessions	AGE ON ARRIVAL 21
OFFENCE stealing money from the person	HEIGHT 5' 4"
SENTENCE 15 years	COMPLEXION fresh
GAOL REPORT former course of life very bad, single	HEAD round
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS once 2 days for drunkenness	HAIR dark brown
SURGEON'S REPORT quiet	VISAGE full
ON THE TOWN 3 weeks	FOREHEAD high
MARITAL STATUS single	EYEBROWS dark brown
CHILDREN 0	EYES brown, sunken
FAMILY	NOSE small
NATIVE PLACE Coalrain, Northern Ireland	MOUTH wide
TRADE ON EMBARKATION	CHIN round
TRADE ON ARRIVAL farm servant, milk, butter	MARKS scar on left thumb, freckled

c1821                    **Born** at Coleraine, County Londonderry, Northern Ireland.<sup>2</sup>

26 October 1840      Tried at Lancaster Quarter Sessions, Liverpool, Lancashire, England indicted for larceny in stealing money from the person; sentence 15 years transportation.<sup>1</sup>

5 April 1841         Departed Woolwich, England on the *Rajah*.<sup>3</sup>

19 July 1841         Arrived at Hobart on the *Rajah*.<sup>3</sup>

c24 July 1841        Upon arrival at Hobart, sent to Cascades Female Factory for assignment; assigned to Mr J Lusson, Bagdad.<sup>4</sup>

6 October 1841      Charged with disobedience of orders; in the service of Blyth; sentence 6 days in solitary confinement at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart, then returned to her service.<sup>5</sup>

1 November 1841    Charged with misconduct in drinking in a public house; in the service of Fisher; reprimanded and returned to her service.<sup>5</sup>

31 December 1841   At Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.<sup>6</sup>

25 January 1842     Charged with being absent without leave 4 days and nights from the service of Fisher; sentence 2 months hard labour in the separate working rooms at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.<sup>5</sup>

7 May 1842          Charged at the Police Office, Hobart on the complaint of Constable Goodwin with misconduct in being out after hours at ½ past 9 o'clock last night from the service of Mr Meikle, Murray Street, Hobart; plea guilty; sentence 3 months hard labour at the wash tub at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.<sup>7</sup>

10 September 1842   Charged<sup>8</sup> at the Police Office, Hobart on the complaint of DC J Watkins; under sentence; discharged.<sup>9</sup>

Ellen Beckwith (*Arab II*) charged with the same offence.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> TAHO, CON40/1/2 p.86 No.483 [image 84] (Eliza Brown); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.228 [image 117] (Eliza Brown); ML, CY 1282 p.145 (Eliza Brown proper name Eliz<sup>th</sup> McNaughton); ML, CY 1197 p.155 (Eliza Brown); ML, CY 958 p.442 (Eliza Brown)

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

<sup>3</sup> AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah*

<sup>4</sup> ML, CY 1282 p.143 (Eliza Brown); ML, CY 1274 p.254 (Eliza Brown proper name Eliz<sup>th</sup> McNaughton)

<sup>5</sup> TAHO, CON40/1/2 p.86 No.483 [image 84] (Eliza Brown)

<sup>6</sup> AJCP, HO 10/51 p.350 No.483 (Eliza Brown)

<sup>7</sup> TAHO, AC480/1/1, 7 May 1842 (Eliza Brown)

<sup>8</sup> The charge is indecipherable.

<sup>9</sup> TAHO, AC480/1/1, 10 September 1842 (Eliza Brown & Ellen Beckwith)

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

- 26 July 1843 Application for permission to marry Edward Brown (free) sent to the Muster Master.<sup>10</sup>
- 3 August 1843 Application for permission to marry Edward Brown sent to the Secretary; approved.<sup>10</sup>
- 9 August 1843 Notice given of approval for permission to marry Edward Brown; Eliza in assigned service at Richmond; Edward free.<sup>11</sup>
- c1843 **Married** Edward Brown.<sup>12</sup>
- 20 February 1845 **Daughter** Jane Brown born at Muddy Plains; father Edward Brown, labourer; mother Eliza Brown.<sup>13</sup>
- 21 February 1845 Ticket of Leave granted; gazetted 25 February.<sup>14</sup>
- 23 March 1845 Daughter Jane Brown baptised in the parish of Clarence Plains.<sup>13</sup>
- c1846 **Daughter** Ann Brown born in the Clarence district.<sup>15</sup>
- 31 January 1848 Daughter Ann Brown died of dysentery in the Clarence district; aged 15 months, resident of South Arm; informant Michael Blackburn, District Constable, Rokeby.<sup>15</sup>
- 2 February 1848 Daughter Ann Brown buried in the Anglican Cemetery, Clarence Plains.<sup>16</sup>
- 17 October 1848 **Son** Edward Brown born in the Clarence district; mother Eliza Brown; informant father Edward Brown, farmer, resident of South Arm.<sup>17</sup>
- 5 September 1849 Husband Edward Brown hired probation pass-holder Charles Avery (*Anson*) for 3 months at £9 per annum; resident of South Arm.<sup>18</sup>
- 6 November 1849 Husband Edward Brown hired probation pass-holder Flora McDonald (*Asia V*<sup>19</sup>) for 1 month at £7 per annum; resident of South Arm.<sup>18</sup>
- 22 February 1850 Husband Edward Brown hired probation pass-holder Margaret Waters (*Stately*) for 1 month at £7 per annum; resident of South Arm.<sup>18</sup>
- 27 February 1850 Husband Edward Brown hired probation pass-holder James Panting (*Lady Nugent*) for 6 months at £12 per annum; resident of South Arm.<sup>18</sup>
- 6 February 1851 **Son** (unnamed) Brown born in the Clarence district; father Edward Brown, farmer; mother Eliza Brown; informant Thomas Murray, Constable, Muddy Plains, illiterate.<sup>20</sup>
- 8 April 1851 Husband Edward Brown hired probation pass-holder Elizabeth Young (*Cadet*) for 12 months at £8 per annum; resident of South Arm.<sup>18</sup>
- 24 August 1852 **Son** (unnamed) Brown born in the Clarence district; father Edward Brown, farmer; mother Eliza Brown; informant William Stanfield, District Constable, Rokeby.<sup>21</sup>
- 25 September 1852 Ticket of Leave revoked; gazetted 28 September.<sup>22</sup>
- 1 March 1853 Husband Edward Brown hired probation pass-holder John Walsh (*Lord Dalhousie*) for 12 months at £12 per annum; resident of South Arm.<sup>18</sup>
- 14 March 1853 Husband Edward Brown hired probation pass-holder Margaret Dalziel (*Aurora II*) for 12 months at £10 per annum; resident of South Arm.<sup>18</sup>
- 10 September 1853 Husband Edward Brown hired probation pass-holder Janet Grindley (*Sir Robert Seppings*) for 1 month at £9 per annum; resident of South Arm.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>10</sup> TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.20 (Eliza Brown & Edw<sup>d</sup> Brown)

<sup>11</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 11 August 1843 p.931; 18 August 1843 p.954; 25 August 1843 p.981 (Edward Brown & Eliza Brown)

<sup>12</sup> Marriage not found on NS373/1/12.

<sup>13</sup> TAHO, RGD32/1/3 1845/2756 Clarence (Jane Brown)

<sup>14</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 25 February 1845 p.234 (Eliza Brown)

<sup>15</sup> TAHO, RGD35/1/18 1848/12 Clarence (Ann Brown); TFHS, *Cemeteries of Southern Tasmania Vol VII* p.8 (Ann Brown)

<sup>16</sup> TFHS, *Cemeteries of Southern Tasmania Vol VII* p.8 (Ann Brown)

<sup>17</sup> TAHO, RGD33/1/26 1848/1041 Clarence (Edward Brown)

<sup>18</sup> TAHO, CON30/1/2 Folio 187 (Edward Brown)

<sup>19</sup> Ship given as *John Calvin* on record, but the only Flora McDonald/Macdonald was transported on the *Asia V* in 1847.

<sup>20</sup> TAHO, RGD33/1/29 1851/150 Clarence (male Brown)

<sup>21</sup> TAHO, RGD33/1/30 1852/148 Clarence (male Brown)

<sup>22</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 28 September 1852 pp.785-786 (Eliza Brown)

- c1854 **Son** (unnamed) Brown born in the Clarence district.<sup>25</sup>
- 2 April 1855 Daughter Jane Brown burnt when taking a pot from the fire in her father's house and her pinafore accidentally caught fire.<sup>23</sup>
- 4 April 1855 Daughter Jane Brown died from burns at her father's house, South Arm; aged 10, father Edward Brown, farmer; informant CDC William Stanfield.<sup>24</sup>
- 6 April 1855 Inquest held into death of daughter Jane Brown at the house of her father Edward Brown, South Arm before Algernon Burdett Jones Esquire, coroner.  
Verdict: did accidentally, casually and by misfortune come to her death and not otherwise.<sup>25</sup>

Statement of witness William Green:

*To Wit the Information on oath of William Green – who saith I am a farmer and live at South Arm in the Island of Van Diemen's Land. I have this day at the same time as the Jury now sitting the Coroner and the Witnesses now present Louisa Green, Edward Brown and Doctor William Farman seen the body of Jane Brown lying dead in her father's hut at South Arm in the said Island. I was at work with my wife and little girl in a field about five hundred yards hence on Monday last when I heard children screaming in the direction of deceased's fathers hut. I ran towards the spot, and about three hundred yards from where I was at work I saw the deceased coming towards me with her clothes all burning. I ran up to her and pulled off what remained of them. I then saw a fire near Browns barn. I ran to it & found the straw at the end of the barn on fire. I put it out. It was close to where deceased had been running. I saw fire dropping from her as she ran. I know no more of what happened afterwards. I sent a man for deceased's father. I had seen deceased in the bush with her father about an hour before I saw her on fire, she was then quite well. I saw no one near deceased when she was on fire except her little brothers. None of them had fire in their hands.*<sup>23</sup>

Statement of witness Edward Brown:

*The Information on oath of Edward Brown who saith I am a farmer and live at South Arm. I have this day at the same time as the Jury Coroner and Witnesses William Green, Louisa Green and Doctor William Farman seen the body of my eldest child Jane Brown lying dead in my hut. On Monday last about eleven o'clock I went out to get a cow home and left deceased and the other children at home. There was no one else there. Before I went I told deceased to get the dinner ready. She was then quite well. The other children were very young, the eldest being only six years old. My wife had gone out about half an hour before I left. I had been gone about half an hour, when a man came to me and told me that my daughter had been nearly burnt to death. I went home. I found her lying in Green's hut, and seeing how much she had been burnt, I took the horse and went immediately for Doctor Farman who is the nearest medical man. I had to go to Claremont House for him and that is at the least five and twenty miles from this. Doctor Farnham came with me immediately. Deceased was ten years old.*<sup>23</sup>

Statement of witness Louisa Green:

*The Information on oath of Louisa Green who saith I am the wife of James Green a farmer and live at South Arm. I have this day at the same time as the Jury and Coroner and Witnesses James Green, Edward Brown and Dr William Farman seen the body of Jane Brown lying dead in her fathers hut at South Arm. On Monday last the second instant I was at work with my husband in a field about five hundred yards from Edward Brown's hut and I heard screams of children in the direction of Browns hut. My husband ran towards it and I followed. About three hundred yards from it I saw deceased running towards us with her clothes all ablaze. My husband tore what remained of her clothes off her and I placed a blanket which was hanging on a fence near over her head which was also on fire. I then took her into my own place because it was the nearest, and my husband went to put out the sedges and straw which had caught fire where deceased had been running. I laid deceased on my bed. In less than five minutes her father and mother came and carried her home. She lay in my place about two hours. I put sweet oil and lime to her burns. She was burnt all over the body but especially about the private parts. When I first went to her she said "Save me Mrs. Green don't let me*

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<sup>23</sup> TAHO, SC195/1/36 No.3510 (Jane Brown)

<sup>24</sup> TAHO, RGD35/1/24 1855/104 Clarence (Jane Brown)

<sup>25</sup> TAHO, SC195/1/36 No.3510 (Jane Brown). Baptism not found on NS373/1/12 or NS334/1/4.

die." I asked her how she had got on fire. She said "I was making a stew for my fathers dinner and I went to remove the pot from the fire and my pinafore caught light. I went to the wash tub to put it out but I had not strength." When I first saw her her brothers were with her, there were three of them the eldest of whom was about six years old. They were all screaming. There was an infant a brother of deceaseds near too but he was farther away from her. I have lived near Edward Brown & his wife for two years. They were always very kind to deceased.<sup>23</sup>

Statement of witness Dr William Farman:

The Information on oath of Doctor William Farman who saith I am a legally qualified Medical Practitioner and reside at Claremont House at Clarence Plains in the Island of Van Diems Land. I have this day n the presence of the Jury now sitting the Coroner, and the Witnesses James Green, Louisa Green and Edward Brown now present seen the body of Jane Brown lying dead in her fathers House at South Arm in the said Island.

On Monday last I was called by Edward Brown now present to see the deceased whom I found lying in her fathers hut severely burnt from her neck to her feet, her private parts in a severe state of injury. I remained with her until eight o clock the following evening when death released her from her sufferings by exhaustion and mortification, the effects of the burning which no human aid could have prevented. Both Brown and his wife seemed much distressed at the deceaseds death.<sup>23</sup>

7 April 1855

Daughter Jane Brown buried at Clarence Plains Anglican Cemetery.<sup>26</sup>

8 April 1855

**Died** by drowning, along with 5 others, when the boat they were in capsized in Frederick Henry Bay on return from daughter Jane Brown's funeral; aged 35,<sup>27</sup> husband Edward Brown, farmer; informant CDC William Stanfield.<sup>28</sup>

Newspaper report of accident:

We regret exceedingly to state that a melancholy and fatal accident occurred near Clarence Plains on Sunday, by the upsetting of a boat in Ralph's Bay, which caused the loss of six lives. On Saturday, Mr and Mrs Brown, of South Arm, proceeded to Clarence Plains in a boat, accompanied by twelve friends, to bury their little girl, who was burned to death on the previous Monday. The wind was too high to permit of their return the same evening, and on Sunday morning they unfortunately made the attempt when, in tacking the boat, it capsized, and every person was precipitated into the water. The following are the names of the persons who were drowned – Mrs Brown, Mr and Mrs Snead, who sank clasped in each other's arms, a daughter of Edward Mush [sic], Edward Sandwell, and George Karn [sic] in attempting to save Mush's daughter. A person named Wilson, and his wife, and five others were saved. Great praise is due to Stephen Knight, a fisherman, for his exertions on the occasion. Had it not been for his successful interposition every soul would have been lost. A report on the melancholy affair having been duly forwarded to the Chief Police Magistrate a communication was transmitted to Mr A B Jones, the coroner, requesting him to proceed to Rokeby to hold an inquest on the bodies.<sup>29</sup>

9 April 1855

Inquest held into deaths at the Rokeby Watchhouse before Algernon Burdett Jones Esquire, coroner.

Verdict: accidentally drowned.<sup>30</sup>

Statement of witness James Williams:

To Wit. The information on oath of James Williams who saith I am a boatman and reside at South Arm. I have this day at the same time as the Coroner and Jury now sitting and the witnesses Stephen Knight, Wililam Free and Doctor William Farman seen the bodies of William Buckley Sneade, Mary Ann Sneade formerly Mather, Susan Musk, Eliza Brown and George Rain lying dead at the Watchhouse at Rokeby. Yesterday morning about eleven o'clock, I started with an open boat of about five tons schooner rigged to go hence to South Arm. There were in the boat besides myself fourteen human being viz – the five persons whose bodies I have seen and identified, and Edward Musk, Edward Brown, William Hall, Henry Wilson, Ann Wilson, Christopher Calvert, John Cole, Patrick Quinlan and Edward Sandwell. I was

<sup>26</sup> TFHS, *Cemeteries of Southern Tasmania Vol VII* p.8 (Jane Brown); NS373/1/12 p.16 No.233 (Jane Brown)

<sup>27</sup> Age given as 31 on burial record.

<sup>28</sup> TAHO, RGD35/1/24 1855/108 Clarence (Eliza Brown)

<sup>29</sup> *Hobarton Mercury*, 11 April 1855 p.2 (Mrs Brown)

<sup>30</sup> TAHO, SC195/1/36 No.3511 (William Buckley Sneade, Mary Ann Sneade, Susan Musk, Eliza Brown, George Rain)

managing the boat. I had sailed across Ralph Bay as far as the shore opposite this when I found it blowing so hard that I returned to this side where there was no wind. I saw a puff coming over the land I took the sails down as quickly as I could, but had no time to get the mainsail and jib down when the puff struck the boat. She heeled over to starboard which caused the ballast to shift, the people in her then all rushed over in confusion to that side and the boat filled and went down. I tried to save all those I could by standing on the edges of the boat and holding them but they broke from me and pulled me along with them. The water was about ten feet deep where the boat went down. I was up to my middle when I was standing on the gunwale of the boat as she lay at the bottom. In about a quarter of an hour Stephen Knight came with a whaleboat and saved six persons whom he took ashore while I kept two more with me. Knight then came back and took me and the other two off, but those whose bodies I have seen today never rose any more. They might all have been saved had they not got confused and pushed one another about. Edward Sandwell was also drowned. I had told him to let go the jib sheet but he failed to do so and went down with the boat. His body has not been found yet. Sandwell was in liquor, Edward Brown, Christopher Calvert, Edward Musk and George Rain were all in liquor also but not so as not to know what they were about. They had nothing to do with the management of the boat. They were not quarrelling. There were four bottles of some kind of liquor in the boat, I do not know what it was. They were not touched, I was perfectly sober.<sup>30</sup>

Statement of witness Stephen Knight:

The information on oath of Stephen Knight who saith I am a fisherman and reside at Ralphs Bay near Rokeby. I have this day at the same time as the Coroner and Jury now sitting and the witnesses James Williams and Doctor William Fearman seen the bodies of William Buckley Sneade, Mary Ann Sneade formerly Mather, Susan Musk, Eliza Brown, and George Rain lying dead at the Watch House at Rokeby. Yesterday morning about eleven o'clock I saw a schooner rigged boat sailing in Ralphs Bay near my house. She was making into smooth water. All at once I saw a squall strike her, and she went down about half a mile from the shore. I ran and got my boat which was then high and dry, and went to the assistance of the persons who had been in the schooner. I picked up six whom I brought ashore I then returned and got three more amongst whom was the last witness James Williams. I brought them ashore. Williams was perfectly sober. He was holding up one arm when I went to him. He told me to go ashore with the six first, and then come back for the other two and himself. My boat was a four oared whaleboat I had only myself to pull it. It was blowing very had from the west west south. The water was much calmer where the schooner went down than where she had come from on the opposite shore.<sup>30</sup>

Statement of witness Dr William Farman:

The information on oath of William Farman who saith I am a legally qualified medical practitioner and reside at Claremont House at Clarence Plains. I have this day at the same time as the Coroner and Jury now sitting and the witnesses now present James Williams, Stephen Knight and William Free seen the bodies of William Buckley Sneade, Mary Ann Sneade, Susan Musk, Eliza Brown and George Rain lying dead at the Watch House at Rokeby. From the appearances of these bodies I am of opinion that all these persons came to their death by drowning. I can arrive at no other conclusion. There are no marks of violence about any of them. I saw them yesterday afternoon on the beach in a car. They had none been dead then above an hour.<sup>30</sup>

- 10 April 1855 Buried at Clarence Plains Anglican Cemetery.<sup>31</sup>
- 21 September 1855 Husband Edward Brown married Mary Ann Thompson at St Mark's Chapel, Kangaroo Point; Edward aged 41, farmer; Mary Ann aged 28, spinster, illiterate, ship to colony *John William Dare*; witnesses Joseph Blatherwick (illiterate) and Sarah Blatherwick (illiterate).<sup>32</sup>
- 26 October 1855 Free by servitude.<sup>5</sup>
- 29 January 1856 Husband Edward Brown hired probation pass-holder David Wyer (*Gilmore*) for £15 per annum.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>31</sup> TFHS, *Cemeteries of Southern Tasmania Vol VII* p.8 (Eliza Brown); NS373/1/12 p.16 No.233 (Eliza Brown)

<sup>32</sup> TAHO, RGD37/1/14 1855/87 Clarence (Edward Brown & Mary Ann Thompson)

*Eliza Brown*

- 26 February 1856      Husband Edward Brown hired probation pass-holder John McGrath (*Maitland*) for £20 per annum.<sup>18</sup>
- 20 October 1857      Mary Ann Brown died of diarrhoea in the Ralphs' Bay district; aged 35,<sup>33</sup> wife, resident of South Arm; informant Henry Wilson, Constable, South Arm.<sup>34</sup>
- 25 October 1857      Mary Ann Brown buried at Clarence Plains Anglican Cemetery.<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> Age given as 32 on burial record.

<sup>34</sup> TAHO, RGD35/1/26 1857/676 Ralphs Bay (Mary Ann Brown); TFHS, *Cemeteries of Southern Tasmania Vol VII* p.8 (Mary Ann Brown)

<sup>35</sup> TFHS, *Cemeteries of Southern Tasmania Vol VII* p.8 (Mary Ann Brown)

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