

# Mary Brown

(proper name Mary Burgen; aka Annabella Brown)

POLICE NUMBER 473 <sup>1</sup>	LITERACY read and write imperfectly
TRIAL DATE 19 October 1840	AGE ON EMBARKATION 40
TRIAL PLACE Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey), London	AGE ON ARRIVAL 41
OFFENCE larceny in stealing a gown	HEIGHT 5' ¾"
SENTENCE 7 years	COMPLEXION fair
GAOL REPORT convicted before, poor, widow	HEAD oval
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS once 2 months for stealing a tablecloth	HAIR light brown
SURGEON'S REPORT indolent but orderly	VISAGE oval
ON THE TOWN no	FOREHEAD medium
MARITAL STATUS married	EYEBROWS very light brown
CHILDREN 2, 2 on board – Elizabeth Jane, 10 years; Michael, 7 or 8 years <sup>2</sup>	EYES hazel
FAMILY	NOSE medium
NATIVE PLACE Dublin, Ireland	MOUTH medium
TRADE ON EMBARKATION	CHIN medium
TRADE ON ARRIVAL house servant, cook, laundry maid	MARKS pockpitted

c1800 **Born** at Dublin, Ireland.<sup>3</sup>

19 October 1840 Tried at the Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey), London, England indicted for larceny in stealing on 3 October 1840 1 gown value 5 shillings from John Austin; pleaded guilty; sentence 7 years transportation; aged 40.<sup>4</sup>

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

19 July 1841 Arrived at Hobart on the *Rajah*.<sup>5</sup>

c24 July 1841 Upon arrival at Hobart, assigned to Mr Carter, New Town.<sup>6</sup>

30 July 1841 Charged with being drunk; in the service of Carter; sentence 6 days in solitary confinement at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.<sup>7</sup>

5 August 1841 Daughter Elizabeth Brown and son Michael Brown admitted to the Queen's Orphan Schools; Elizabeth aged 10, Roman Catholic; Michael aged 7, Roman Catholic; mother Annabella Brown.<sup>8</sup>

28 December 1841 Charged with being drunk and out after hours; in the service of Hendon; sentence 1 month in the Crime Class at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.<sup>7</sup>

13 April 1842 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on the complaint of Constable Hadfield with misconduct in absenting herself 2 days and nights without leave from the service of Mrs John Kirk, Brisbane Street, Hobart; plea guilty; sentence 4 months hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.<sup>9</sup>

8 November 1842 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on the complaint of DC Easdale with being drunk in New Town last night; in the service of Mrs Sprinks; sentence 6 days in solitary confinement at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup> TAHO, CON40/1/2 p.82 No.473 [image 80] (Mary Brown); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.180 [image 93] (Mary Brown); ML, CY 1282 p.144 (Mary Brown); ML, CY 1197 p.151 (Mary Brown); ML, CY 958 p.441 (Mary Brown)

<sup>2</sup> ML, CY 1282 pp.139 & 144 (Mary Brown); ML, CY 1274 p.253 (Mary Brown)

<sup>3</sup> TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.180 [image 93] (Mary Brown)

<sup>4</sup> *Old Bailey Proceedings Online*, t18401019-2541 (Mary Brown)

<sup>5</sup> AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah*

<sup>6</sup> ML, CY 1828 p.144 (Mary Brown); ML, CY 1274 p.253 (Mary Brown)

<sup>7</sup> TAHO, CON40/1/2 p.82 No.473 [image 80] (Mary Brown)

<sup>8</sup> Purtscher, *Children in Queen's Orphanage Hobart Town 1828-1863* (Michael & Elizabeth Brown); TAHO, SWD28/1/1 p.13 (Michael Brown); TAHO, SWD28/1/1 p.16 (Elizabeth Brown)

<sup>9</sup> TAHO, AC480/1/1, 13 April 1842 (Mary Brown)

<sup>10</sup> TAHO, AC480/1/1, 8 November 1842 (Mary Brown)

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

Mary Brown

- 7 February 1843 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on the complaint of Constable Connell with being drunk last night; in the service of Mr Hall, New Town; reprimanded.<sup>11</sup>
- 30 March 1843 Absconded from the service of Mr Hall, New Town; gazetted 5 April.<sup>12</sup>
- 1 April 1843 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on the complaint of Constable Flint with misconduct in being absent 2 days and nights without leave from the service of Mr Hall, New Town; plea guilty; sentence 3 months hard labour at the wash tub at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.<sup>13</sup>
- 18 July 1843 Admitted to the hospital at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.<sup>15</sup>
- 20 July 1843 **Died** of cholera in the hospital at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart; aged 45.<sup>14</sup>
- 21 July 1843 Inquest into death held at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart before William Thomas Napier Champ Esquire, coroner.  
Verdict: died by the visitation of God in a natural way, to wit, cholera.<sup>15</sup>

Statement of witness shipmate Margaret Shaw (*qv*):

*Information on Oath of Margaret Shaw saith, I am nurse at the Hospital of this establishment. I knew the deceased, she went by the name of Mary Brown. She was a prisoner of the crown and came to this colony by the Rajah about two years ago. I came in the same ship to the colony, she complained of illness then. She was admitted into hospital on Tuesday last. She complained of pain in her bowels. She had been at the wash tub for three months before she was admitted into hospital she remained in hospital until she died yesterday morning, of colic or complaint in the bowels. She had been constantly sent to the factory for drunkenness. She told me that she had been of drunken habits before she came to the Colony. She never attributed her complaint to bad food nor did she assign any cause for it to me. Many of the women complain of pain in the stomach latterly, it is attributed to the dampness of the yards in the house of correction the yards have been damp latterly owing to the heavy rains. I have no reason to suppose that the death of the deceased arose from other than natural causes. I never heard any of the women complain of the food or diet. The deceased was forty five years of age. There are six patients in the hospital at this moment, none of those patients have the bowel complaint. There are about six hundred prisoners in the factory at this moment.*<sup>15</sup>

Statement of witness Superintendent John Hutchinson:

*The Information on oath of John Hutchinson saith, I am Superintendent of this factory. I knew the deceased Mary Brown. I have known her two or three years. She came into the factory about three months ago under sentence to the wash tub. Her sentence expired about ten days ago. She was not at the wash tub for ten days before her death. She was in the assignable class. About ten days before her death in consequence of her age & infirmity I spoke to her about invaliding her. She then said she was as well as ever she was & that she did not wish to be invalided. She was admitted into hospital on Tuesday. Yesterday morning about nine o'clock the nurse sent for me & I went immediately to the hospital where I saw the deceased, who died five or six minutes after I got up stairs. I had no communication with her she was too far gone. I sent off for Dr. Dermer immediately I saw the deceased. I do not recollect when he came.*<sup>15</sup>

Statement of witness Dr William Dermer:

*The Information on oath of William Dermer saith, I am Surgeon in charge of this factory. I knew the deceased Mary Brown. She has been a patient of mine several times since her arrival in the colony. She was once in the hospital for three or four months. She was admitted into hospital on Tuesday last. I did not see her on Tuesday but on Wednesday I saw her. She was then attacked by severe vomiting and purging. I prescribed for her and she was relieved, but the next morning she was again seized with vomiting and died about nine or ten o'clock in the morning. Her complaint was cholera I have not doubt of that, her constitution was weak and she was unable to bear up against the attack. These attacks are generally very sudden. I have no reason to attribute the illness of the deceased to other than natural causes. The deceased*

<sup>11</sup> TAHO, AC480/1/1, 7 February 1843 (Mary Brown)

<sup>12</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 7 April 1843 p.365 (Mary Brown)

<sup>13</sup> TAHO, AC480/1/1, 1 April 1843 (Mary Brown)

<sup>14</sup> AJCP, HO 10/51 p.349 No.473 (Mary Brown)

<sup>15</sup> TAHO, SC195/1/11 No.916 (Mary Brown)

Mary Brown

*made no complaint to me of any kind. I have not heard of any complaints by any of the women in the factory of their food or water. I know from my own knowledge that the rations issued are of the best kind. I only saw the deceased once between her admission on Tuesday and her death, that was on Wednesday as I before stated it was in the afternoon between four & five o'clock. I visit the hospital here once every day. When I saw the deceased on Wednesday I did not attribute any immediate danger. I was sent for on Thursday morning and came out immediately. I was here about eleven o'clock but the deceased was dead when I arrived. The deceased was as I understand from herself of very dissipated habits.*<sup>15</sup>

- 19 October 1847 Free by servitude; Certificate of Freedom available for collection.<sup>16</sup>
- 16 November 1847 Son Michael Brown discharged from the Queen's Orphan Schools; apprenticed to Mr J Lightfoot.<sup>17</sup>
- 22 April 1848 Daughter Elizabeth Brown discharged from the Queen's Orphan Schools; sent on the *Emma* to her brother at Sydney.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 12 October 1847 p.1021 (Mary Brown)

<sup>17</sup> Purtscher, *Children in Queen's Orphanage Hobart Town 1828-1863*; TAHO, SWD28/1/1 p.13 (Michael Brown)

<sup>18</sup> Purtscher, *Children in Queen's Orphanage Hobart Town 1828-1863*; TAHO, SWD28/1/1 p.16 (Elizabeth Brown)