

# Margaret Callaghan

(*uxor Margaret Turner; alias Margaret Jones*)

POLICE NUMBER 438<sup>1</sup>  
TRIAL DATE 23 November 1840<sup>2</sup>  
TRIAL PLACE Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey), London  
OFFENCE stealing a coat  
SENTENCE 7 years  
GAOL REPORT 1 month and 2 weeks in the House of Correction,  
poor, single  
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS 1 month for fighting, again 8 months for  
the same  
SURGEON'S REPORT a mess woman and good  
ON THE TOWN no  
MARITAL STATUS single  
CHILDREN 0  
FAMILY  
NATIVE PLACE Grays Inn Lane, Holborn, England  
TRADE ON EMBARKATION  
TRADE ON ARRIVAL house servant, wash, iron

LITERACY read and write imperfectly  
AGE ON EMBARKATION 25  
AGE ON ARRIVAL 26  
HEIGHT 4' 11½"  
COMPLEXION fresh  
HEAD oval  
HAIR dark brown  
VISAGE round  
FOREHEAD medium  
EYEBROWS brown  
EYES hazel  
NOSE thin  
MOUTH medium  
CHIN round  
MARKS T R J R hearts sailor on right  
arm, JL heart & anchor on left arm

c1815

**Born** at Grays Inn Lane, Holborn, London, Middlesex, England.<sup>3</sup>

23 November 1840

Tried at the Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey), London, England indicted for larceny in stealing on 12 November 1840 1 coat value £1 from the person of William Coombes near the Crown and Barley Mow, Gray's Inn Lane, London; found guilty of stealing but not from the person; sentence 7 years transportation; aged 25.<sup>4</sup>

Statement of witness William Combes:

*I was staying at the Britannia public-house, in Barbican, with my brother. On the night of the 12th of November I was at a public-house in Gray's-inn-lane – I did not get drunk there – I had taken more than I ought, but I could walk very well – I left about half-past eleven o'clock – I think some women were in my company – they said my coat was dirty, and offered to brush it – they helped me off with it, and ran away with it – I do not consider I was drunk.*

*Prisoner. Q. Can you swear I was in your company? A. I do not know – the coat now produced is mine.<sup>4</sup>*

Statement of witness Charles Jarvis:

*I am potman at the Crown and Barley Mow, in Gray's Inn-lane. On the 12th of November, the prosecutor was there with the prisoner and some women, he left between eleven and twelve o'clock – he was nearly drunk, but I should think he knew what he was about – the prisoner followed him out.*

*Prisoner. Q. How can you say I was there? A. I swear to you, you had no bonnet or shawl on.<sup>4</sup>*

Statement of witness Charles Cousin, Police Constable G 42:

*I was in Turnmill-street, about one o'clock in the morning of the 13th of November, and saw the prisoner with a bundle, wrapped up in a shawl – I stopped her, and asked what she had there – she said, "Ask my \_\_\_\_, you \_\_\_\_" – I said, "What have you got?" – she said, "Well, I have got a coat, it belongs to my man" – I asked where she had got it, she said, "Never mind, it is all right; give me St., and you shall have it" – I took her into custody, and as I was conveying her to the station-house, she said, "You can keep the coat, let me go, and I will come*

<sup>1</sup> TAHO, CON40/1/2 p.204 No.438 [image 202] (Margaret Callaghan); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.187 [image 97] (Margaret Callaghan); ML, CY 1282 p. 146 (Margaret Callaghan); ML, CY 958 p.441 (Margaret Callaghan); ML, CY 1197 p.152 (Margaret Callaghan)

<sup>2</sup> Date given as 24 July 1840 on conduct record (TAHO, CON40/1/2 p.204 No.438 [image 202] (Margaret Callaghan)).

<sup>3</sup> TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.187 [image 97] (Margaret Callaghan)

<sup>4</sup> *Old Bailey Proceedings Online*, t18401123-82 (Margaret Callaghan)

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

to-morrow morning and pawn it, and you shall have half the money – she afterwards told me she had robbed a b\_\_\_ swell of it, in the neighbourhood of Tash-court, and left him there, and that the b\_\_\_ was drunk.

Prisoner. I told him I had picked it up in Brook-street. Witness. She did not – she said what I have stated – she had a bonnet on when I took her, and her shawl was wrapped round the coat – she had a handkerchief wrapped round her shoulders – Turnmill-street is about three hundred yards from Tash-court and the public-house.<sup>4</sup>

Statement of witness William Combes:

William Coombe re-examined. I do not recollect going to Tash-court – I do not know the name of the place – I was never in that neighbourhood before, except in Gray's Inn-lane.<sup>4</sup>

Statement of defendant Margaret Callaghan:

Prisoner's Defence. I never saw the man, and never drank with him; I picked the coat up in Brook-street, Holborn.<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, detained on board for assignment; assigned to Government House.<sup>6</sup>
- 22 September 1841 Charged with insolence; in the service of Government House; sentence 6 days in solitary confinement at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart, then returned to her service.<sup>7</sup>
- 27 September 1841 Mentioned in Lady Jane Franklin's diary.  
Diary entry:  
*I drove to the Factory to prepare Me. Hutchinson to receive Margaret Callaghan, the Laundress who immediately on hearing of Wilson's<sup>8</sup> return from the Factory, determined that she would do what she could to earn a visit to it also, & is now in the Watchhouse preparatory to being brought into court for her sentence.*<sup>9</sup>
- 4 October 1841 Charged with being drunk; in the service of Government House; sentence 3 months hard labour at the wash tub at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.<sup>7</sup>
- 31 December 1841 Mustered in the service of Government House, Hobart.<sup>10</sup>
- 12 April 1842 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on the complaint of District Constable White with misconduct in absenting herself without leave on Saturday last from the service of Government House and neglect of duty; plea guilty; sentence 3 months hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.<sup>11</sup>
- 22 March 1843 Charged with being drunk and using insolent and obscene language; in the service of Birch; sentence 6 months hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart, then returned to Government.<sup>7</sup>
- 1 April 1844 Application for permission to marry Thomas Turner<sup>12</sup> (*Katherine Stewart Forbes*) sent to the Muster Master.<sup>13</sup>
- 11 April 1844 Classified as a 2<sup>nd</sup> class probation pass-holder; gazetted 12 April.<sup>14</sup>
- 26 April 1844 Application for permission to marry Thomas Turner sent to the Secretary; approved.<sup>13</sup>
- 17 July 1844 Charged with larceny; in the service of Ockerby; discharged.<sup>7</sup>

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

<sup>6</sup> ML, CY 1282 p.140 (Marg<sup>t</sup> Callaghan); ML, CY 1274 p.255 (Margaret Callaghan)

<sup>7</sup> TAHO, CON40/1/2 p.204 No.438 [image 202] (Margaret Callaghan)

<sup>8</sup> This was shipmate Jane Wilson.

<sup>9</sup> SPRI, MS248/92 (Margaret Callaghan)

<sup>10</sup> AJCP, HO 10/51 p.354 No.438 (Margaret Callaghan)

<sup>11</sup> TAHO, AC480/1/1, 12 April 1842 (Marg<sup>t</sup> Callaghan)

<sup>12</sup> Thomas Turner transported on the *Katherine Stewart Forbes* in 1832 for 14 years, tried at Lichfield (Stafford) on 29 December 1831 for money stealing in a dwelling house; single; Conditional Pardon 5 October 1843, Certificate of Freedom 18 March 1848 (TAHO, CON31/1/43 p.73 No.655 [image 75] (Thomas Turner the Younger)).

<sup>13</sup> TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.200 (Margaret Callaghan & Thos Turner)

<sup>14</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 12 April 1844 p.426 (Margaret Callaghan)

- 31 July 1844           Hired in private service as a probation pass-holder to James Wilcox, *Thornton*.<sup>15</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>16</sup>
- 30 November 1844   Charged at the Police Court, Hobart by Constable Finnegan with being drunk yesterday and absent without leave from the service of Mr Bastian; plea guilty; sentence 2 months hard labour at Cascades Female Factory.<sup>17</sup>
- 30 November 1844   Ticket of Leave granted; gazetted 3 December.<sup>18</sup>
- 18 February 1845   **Married** Thomas Turner at St Luke's Anglican Church, Richmond; Margaret aged 24, spinster; Thomas aged 25, carpenter; witnesses Edward Young and Mary Ann Young<sup>19</sup> (illiterate).<sup>20</sup>
- 23 November 1847   Free by servitude.<sup>7</sup>
- 30 November 1847   Certificate of Freedom issued; gazetted 14 December.<sup>21</sup>
- 18 March 1848       Husband Thomas Turner issued a Certificate of Freedom.<sup>22</sup>
- 13 March 1865       Charged at Kyneton, VIC with using obscene language; sentence 3 months imprisonment.  
Description: height 4' 11½", complexion sallow, hair grey, eyes grey, nose large, mouth large, chin round, eyebrows dark, visage large, forehead medium, age in 1865 42 or born 1817, native place London or England, no trade or servant, religion Church of England, read or neither read nor write, weight 8 stone 11 pound, nose broken, male figure on right arm, ... on left arm; per *Rajah* to Hobart Town in 1841 bond, married, 3 previous convictions ....<sup>23</sup>
- 29 March 1865       Received at the hulk *Success* from Melbourne Gaol, VIC.<sup>23</sup>
- 10 May 1865         Discharged by remission from the hulk *Success*; authority for discharge given on 28 April.<sup>23</sup>
- 23 August 1867      Charged at the Police Court, Melbourne, VIC with insulting behaviour; discharged.<sup>24</sup>
- 12 October 1871     Charged at the Police Court, Melbourne, VIC with using threatening language; remanded.<sup>25</sup>
- 24 June 1872        Charged at the Police Court, Footscray, VIC with being an habitual drunkard; sentence 6 months hard labour at Melbourne Gaol, VIC.<sup>23</sup>
- 23 December 1872   Discharged from Melbourne Gaol, VIC, freedom by time.<sup>23</sup>
- 6 January 1873      Charged at the Police Court, Footscray, VIC with insulting behaviour; sentence 3 months hard labour at Melbourne Gaol, VIC.<sup>23</sup>
- 5 April 1873         Discharged from Melbourne Gaol, VIC, freedom by time.<sup>23</sup>
- 4 June 1873         Charged at the Police Court, Footscray, VIC; sentence 3 months imprisonment at Melbourne Gaol, VIC.<sup>23</sup>
- 1 September 1873   Discharged from Melbourne Gaol, VIC, freedom by time.<sup>23</sup>
- 12 November 1873   Charged at the Police Court, Footscray, VIC with being an habitual drunkard; sentence 12 months hard labour at Melbourne Gaol, VIC.  
Description: native place London, servant, born 1817, 5'1", sallow complexion, grey hair, hazel eyes, repeatedly convicted.<sup>23,26</sup>

<sup>15</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 9 August 1844 p.941 (Mary Callaghan)

<sup>16</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 6 September 1844 p.1072 (Margaret Calligan)

<sup>17</sup> TAHO, AC480/1/1, 30 November 1844 (Marg<sup>t</sup> Callagan)

<sup>18</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 3 December 1844 p.1479 (Margaret Callaghan)

<sup>19</sup> Mary Ann Young arrived as a convict on the *Gilbert Henderson* in 1840 as Mary Ann Treasure.

<sup>20</sup> TAHO, RGD37/1/4 1845/1747 Hobart (Margaret Callaghan & Thomas Turner)

<sup>21</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 14 December 1847 p.1224 (Margaret Callaghan)

<sup>22</sup> TAHO, CON31/1/43 p.73 No.655 [image 75] (Thomas Turner the Younger)

<sup>23</sup> PROV, VPRS 516/2 p.592 No.1143 [Fiche 13] (Margaret Jones)

<sup>24</sup> *Argus*, 24 August 1867 p.6 (Margaret Jones)

<sup>25</sup> *Argus*, 14 October 1871 p.25 (Margaret Jones)

<sup>26</sup> *Victoria Police Gazette*, 6 October 1874 p.216a (Margaret Jones, 1143)

2 February 1874	Received at Geelong Gaol from Melbourne Gaol, VIC. <sup>23</sup>
26 September 1874	Discharged from Geelong Gaol, freedom by remission. <sup>23</sup>
16 November 1874	Charged at the Police Court, Melbourne, VIC with vagrancy; sentence 6 months imprisonment at Melbourne Gaol, VIC. <sup>23</sup>
23 April 1875	Discharged from Melbourne Gaol, VIC, freedom by remission. <sup>23</sup>
4 June 1875	Charged at the Police Court, Footscray, VIC with being an habitual drunkard; sentence 6 months imprisonment at Melbourne Gaol, VIC. Description: native place London, servant, born 1817, 5'1", sallow complexion, grey hair, hazel eyes, repeatedly convicted. <sup>23,27</sup>
21 August 1875	Received at Geelong Gaol from Melbourne Gaol, VIC. <sup>23</sup>
23 November 1875	Discharged from Geelong Gaol, VIC, freedom by remission. <sup>23</sup>
1 January 1876	Charged at the Police Court, Melbourne, VIC with being idle and disorderly; sentence 6 months and 14 days imprisonment, cumulative, at Geelong Gaol. Description: native place England, servant, born 1817, 5'1", sallow complexion, grey hair, hazel eyes, repeatedly convicted. <sup>28</sup>
4-10 July 1876	Discharged from Geelong Gaol, VIC. <sup>28</sup>
1 April 1879	Charged at the Court of Petty Sessions, Kyneton, VIC with having no means of support; sentence 6 months imprisonment at Castlemaine Gaol, VIC. Description: 5' 0", stout, sallow complexion, grey hair, grey eyes, born 1819, native place England, servant, religion Church of England, both read and write, arms and legs paralysed; per <i>Rajah</i> 1849 bond. <sup>29</sup>
25 April 1879	Received at Geelong Gaol from Castlemaine Gaol, VIC. <sup>29</sup>
30 September 1879	Discharged from Geelong Gaol, VIC, freedom by time. <sup>29</sup>
29 October 1883	Charged at the Police Court, Footscray, VIC with drunkenness; sentence 14 days imprisonment (90 previous convictions). <sup>30</sup> Newspaper report: <i>At the Footscray Court on Monday ... An old offender named Margaret Jones, against whom no fewer than 90 convictions were recorded, was sentenced to 14 days' imprisonment for drunkenness.</i> <sup>30</sup>
12 June 1885	Charged at the Police Court, Footscray, VIC with vagrancy; sentence 12 months imprisonment at Geelong Gaol, VIC. Description: native place Ireland, servant, born 1835, 4'11½", fresh complexion, grey hair, blue eyes, repeatedly convicted. <sup>31</sup>
4-10 May 1886	Discharged from Geelong Gaol, VIC. <sup>31</sup>
9 October 1886	Charged at the Police Court, Footscray, VIC with using obscene language; sentence 3 months imprisonment at Melbourne Gaol, VIC. Description: native place Ireland, servant, born 1833, 5'0", sallow complexion, grey hair, blue eyes, repeatedly convicted. <sup>32</sup>
4-10 January 1887	Discharged from Melbourne Gaol, VIC. <sup>32</sup>
5 October 1887	Charged at the Police Court, Footscray, VIC with vagrancy; sentence 6 months imprisonment at Geelong Gaol, VIC. Description: native place Ireland, servant, born 1832, 4'11½", fresh complexion, grey hair, blue eyes, repeatedly convicted. <sup>33</sup>

<sup>27</sup> *Victoria Police Gazette*, 7 December 1875 p.292a (Margaret Jones, 1143)

<sup>28</sup> *Victoria Police Gazette*, 12 July 1876 p.187b (Margaret Jones, 1143)

<sup>29</sup> PROV, VPRS 516/7 No.3947 [Fiche 40] (Margaret Jones)

<sup>30</sup> *Argus*, Tuesday 30 October 1883 p.9 (Margaret Jones)

<sup>31</sup> *Victoria Police Gazette*, 12 May 1886 p.154b (Margaret Jones, 1143)

<sup>32</sup> *Victoria Police Gazette*, 12 January 1887 p.16b (Margaret Jones, 1143)

<sup>33</sup> *Victoria Police Gazette*, 21 March 1888 p.96b (Margaret Jones, 1143); *Argus*, 10 October 1887 p.8 (Margaret Jones)

Newspaper report:

*At the Footscray Police Court on Thursday morning Margaret Jones, a little old woman, made her 70<sup>th</sup> appearance before the Bench, and received six months' imprisonment for vagrancy.*<sup>34</sup>

- 13–19 March 1888 Discharged from Geelong Gaol, VIC.<sup>35</sup>
- 12 November 1889 Charged at the Police Court, Footscray, VIC with vagrancy; sentence 6 months imprisonment at Geelong Gaol, VIC.  
Description: native place Ireland, servant, born 1826, 4'10½", sallow complexion, grey hair, blue eyes, repeatedly convicted.<sup>36</sup>
- 24–30 April 1890 Discharged from Geelong Gaol, VIC.<sup>36</sup>
- 29 July 1891 Charged at the Police Court, Footscray, VIC with being idle and disorderly; sentence 12 months imprisonment at Geelong Gaol, VIC.  
Description: native place Ireland, servant, born 1818, 4'10", sallow complexion, grey hair, blue eyes, repeatedly convicted.<sup>37</sup>
- 4–10 August 1892 Discharged from Geelong Gaol, VIC.<sup>37</sup>

### Notes

- Margaret may be the mother of James Turner born at Hobart on 14 January 1850; father Thomas Turner, gardener, mother Margaret Turner; informant friend Hannah Jones,<sup>38</sup> illiterate, resident of Elizabeth Street, Hobart.<sup>39</sup>
- Margaret may be the Margaret Jones charged at the Police Court, Hotham, VIC on 22 July 1880 with larceny of a carpet bag containing wearing apparel, value 30 shillings; sentence 3 months imprisonment with hard labour (37 previous convictions).<sup>40</sup>

Newspaper report:

*At the Hotham Court on Thursday ... Margaret Jones, a woman against whom no less than 37 previous convictions were recorded, was brought up on remand charged with the larceny of a carpet bag containing wearing apparel, valued at 30s., from Eliza Taylor, on the 13<sup>th</sup> April, and was sentenced to three months' imprisonment, with hard labour.*<sup>40</sup>

- Margaret may be the Margaret Jones admitted to Kyneton Hospital on 24 October 1869; married, domestic, born England, resident of Glue Dot, VIC.<sup>41</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> *Argus*, 10 October 1887 p.8 (Margaret Jones)

<sup>35</sup> *Victoria Police Gazette*, 21 March 1888 p.96b (Margaret Jones, 1143)

<sup>36</sup> *Victoria Police Gazette*, 30 April 1890 p.146a (Margt Jones, 1143)

<sup>37</sup> *Victoria Police Gazette*, 10 August 1892 p.214b (Margaret Jones, 1143)

<sup>38</sup> This may be shipmate Hannah Brown *ux* Jones (*qv*).

<sup>39</sup> TAHO, RGD33/1/3 1850/2040 Hobart (James Turner)

<sup>40</sup> *Argus*, 23 July 1880 p.3 (Margaret Jones)

<sup>41</sup> GSV, *Index to Victorian Goldfields Hospitals' Admissions* (Margaret Jones)