

*Jane Chapman* \*  
(uxor Jane Harrison)

POLICE NUMBER 434 <sup>1</sup>	LITERACY read only
TRIAL DATE 14 September 1840	AGE ON EMBARKATION 27
TRIAL PLACE Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey), London	AGE ON ARRIVAL 27
OFFENCE receiving stolen goods, a watch	HEIGHT 4' 11½" or 4' 11¼"
SENTENCE 7 years	COMPLEXION pale
GAOL REPORT poor, widow	HEAD oval
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS none	HAIR light red
STATEMENT "I have £800 at interest"	VISAGE oval
SURGEON'S REPORT good	FOREHEAD flat
ON THE TOWN no	EYEBROWS light brown
MARITAL STATUS widow	EYES hazel
CHILDREN 0	NOSE medium
FAMILY	MOUTH medium
NATIVE PLACE Bermondsey, England	CHIN round
TRADE ON EMBARKATION	MARKS scar on right arm, slightly pockpitted
TRADE ON ARRIVAL nurse, needlewoman	

c1814 **Born** at Bermondsey, Surrey, England.<sup>2</sup>

14 September 1840 Tried at the Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey), London, England with shipmate Mary Wright (*qv*) indicted for feloniously receiving on 8 July 1840 1 watch value £5, 1 watch ribbon value 3 pence, 1 watch key value 3 shillings, the property of James Hopper, stolen by Mary Wright, well knowing them to have been stolen; found guilty; sentence 7 years' transportation; aged 27.<sup>3</sup>

Statement of witness James Hopper:

*I am a mariner, and belong to the Leeds. On the 8th of July I fell in with the prisoner Wright in the evening – I got into discourse with her, and went home with her to a place which, I believe, is called Pope's-alley – it was a small house, close by the Lebeck's Head public-house – I saw no woman there but Wright, and I slept with her in the room up stairs – before I went to bed I saw my money was safe, one sovereign and 12s. – I took off my trowsers, and my watch was in the fob – I got up about seven o'clock in the morning, and my watch was then gone, and all my money, but 2s. – I accused Wright of it – she denied all knowledge of it – she said I had neither watch nor money when I came in, but I had – I cannot tell whether the door was locked – she prevailed on me to breakfast with her – I took a cup of coffee, but my ship went off that evening, and I was obliged to go – I went to the north, and came back again, before I gave information, which was about a month or five weeks after – I then told the police-officer, and he found my watch – this is it – (looking at out) – my name is on the cap of it – I do not know any thing of Chapman.*

*Wright. You had no money nor watch, except 2s., which you gave me, and you tried to get out without giving me that. Witness. I found I had but 2s. left – I was both to give that, but she got my waistcoat, and would not let me have it till I gave the 2s., which I did – I had my watch and money when I went in.*<sup>3</sup>

Statement of witness Thomas Vesper:

*I am a pawnbroker. I produce the watch which was pawned on the 9th of July in the name of "James Gardner" – I cannot say who by – on the 16th a person produced the duplicate, and said, "Mrs. Chapman says will you lend 5s. more on this watch?" – I did so, and gave her a new duplicate – on the 30th of July a person came and said the same words, and had 5s. more,*

<sup>1</sup> TAHO, CON40/1/2 p.202 No.434 [image 200] (Jane Chapman); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.185 [image 96] (Jane Chapman); ML, CY 1282 p.145 (Jane Chapman); ML, CY 1197 p.151 (Jane Chapman); ML, CY 958 p.440 (Jane Chapman)

<sup>2</sup> TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.185 [image 96] (Jane Chapman)

<sup>3</sup> *Old Bailey Proceedings Online*, t18400914-2356 (Mary Wright & Jane Chapman)

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and a new duplicate for 1l. 10s. in the name of "Mrs. Chapman" – I have known the prisoner Chapman for ten years – it is her I speak of – after that I saw her in August at my shop – I had then received information, and asked her if she had pledged the watch, or sent it to be pledged – she said, "Yes" – I asked if it was her property – she said, "No," it was left her by a person for security for money, and that she believed he was master of a ship – she said she did not recollect his name, and he had authorized her to pledge it if necessary.<sup>3</sup>

Statement of witness Edward George Stone:

I am a policeman. I was spoken to about this – I found the watch at Mr. Vesper's on the 26th of August – I told him it was stolen, and wished him to stop it – I sent a letter for the prosecutor to arrive as soon as possible – I then took him to a house where I thought the party that stole it was – he went, and saw Wright and two other females in the room – he beckoned to me, and told me Wright was the one – I told her I wanted her to go to the station-house with me – she said, "What for?" – I said, "This man gives you in charge" – she said, "I never saw the man in my life in my house" – the prosecutor said, "No, I don't say I have been in this house" – she then said, "I never saw him in my life" – she had moved four or five days before to another house – she was not in the house the prosecutor was robbed in – Wright was then examined, and when we came out she told me where Chapman lived – I went and found her at home – I said I wanted her to go a little way with me – she said, "What about?" – I said I would tell her, and when she came out, she said, "It is about a watch, is it not?" – I said, "It is" – she said, "I have had that five months, I had it from a tall man with a long nose, I showed it to a number of girls in the lane" – I then took her to Mr. Vesper's, and he said, "It is a pity to take her up, she has been a customer of mine for ten years" – when I asked her for the duplicate she took down a Bible and gave me the duplicate.<sup>3</sup>

Statement of defendant Jane Chapman:

I did not say I had had it five months, I only had it three months.<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; assigned to Mr AB Jones Esq., Westbury. <sup>5</sup>
31 December 1841	Mustered in the service of RH Willis Esquire, Avoca. <sup>6</sup>
22 March 1843	Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on the complaint of Constable Doyle with being drunk and out after hours last night from the service of Captain Haig; plea guilty; sentence 10 days in solitary confinement at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart. <sup>7</sup>
11 April 1844	Classified as a 3 <sup>rd</sup> class probation pass-holder; gazetted 12 April. <sup>8</sup>
15 April 1844	Charged at the Police Court, Hobart by her master with being drunk and disorderly in his house yesterday; in the service of Mr Campbell, Melville Street, Hobart; plea guilty; sentence 10 days in solitary confinement at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart. <sup>9</sup>
5 August 1844	Charged at the Police Court, Hobart by Constable Lorel with being in a public house out after hours and representing herself to be free; in the service of Mr Rhodes; plea guilty; sentence 2 months hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart. <sup>10</sup>
18 September 1844	Hired in private service for 6 months as a probation pass-holder to Samuel Rhodes, Hobart. <sup>11</sup>
21 May 1845	Hired in private service for 12 months as a probation pass-holder to Hannah Abrahams, Liverpool Street, Hobart. <sup>12</sup>

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

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

<sup>6</sup> AJCP, HO 10/51 p.354 No.434 (Jane Chapman)

<sup>7</sup> TAHO, AC480/1/1, 22 March 1843 (Jane Chapman)

<sup>8</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 12 April 1844 p.424 (Jane Chapman)

<sup>9</sup> TAHO, AC480/1/1, 15 April 1844 (Jane Chapman)

<sup>10</sup> TAHO, AC480/1/1, 5 August 1844 (Jane Chapman)

<sup>11</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 12 November 1844 p.1422 (Jane Chapman)

<sup>12</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 10 June 1845 p.665 (Jane Chapman)

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- 24 May 1845 Ticket of Leave granted on occasion of the anniversary of Her Majesty's birthday; gazetted.<sup>13</sup>
- 3 November 1845 Charged with misconduct in living in a state of fornication;<sup>14</sup> sentence 2 months hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.<sup>15</sup>
- 14 September 1847 Free by servitude; Certificate of Freedom available for collection.<sup>16</sup>  
Certificate of Freedom issued.<sup>15</sup>
- 17 January 1866 Admitted to the General Hospital, Hobart with chronic dysentery.<sup>17</sup>
- 18 January 1866 **Died** of chronic dysentery at the General Hospital, Hobart; aged 42, free by servitude, ship to colony *Rajah*, Protestant, born Middlesex, servant, French polisher's wife; informant George Creswell, undertaker's apprentice; buried by friends.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 27 May 1845 p.630 (Jane Chapman)

<sup>14</sup> The person Jane was living with may have been Harrison, whom she later married according to her death record. No record of her marriage has been found.

<sup>15</sup> TAHO, CON40/1/2 p.202 No.434 [image 200] (Jane Chapman)

<sup>16</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 7 September 1847 p.894 (Jane Chapman)

<sup>17</sup> Purtscher, *Deaths at General Hospital Hobart January 1864–June 1884* (Jane Chapman ux Harrison)

<sup>18</sup> Purtscher, *Deaths at General Hospital Hobart January 1864–June 1884* (Jane Chapman ux Harrison); TAHO, RGD35/7 1866/6036 Hobart (Jane Harrison)

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