

Isabella Clapperton *

(*alias Hamilton Shaw, Elizabeth Stewart, Elizabeth Carmichael;
uxor Isabella Stewart, Isabella Perry, Isabella Tarr/Farr*)

POLICE NUMBER 443 ¹	LITERACY read only
TRIAL DATE 4 November 1840	AGE ON EMBARKATION 32
TRIAL PLACE Edinburgh Court of Justiciary	AGE ON ARRIVAL 33
OFFENCE theft by habit and previous conviction, stealing a shawl and shirt	HEIGHT 5' 2¼"
SENTENCE 7 years	COMPLEXION pale
GAOL REPORT convicted & imprisoned before, bad	HEAD oval
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS once 60 days for stealing clothes, once 60 days for stealing a shawl, again 60 days for stealing a blind	HAIR brown (nearly black)
SURGEON'S REPORT good	VISAGE oval
ON THE TOWN no	FOREHEAD medium
MARITAL STATUS widow	EYEBROWS brown
CHILDREN 1	EYES
FAMILY husband Andrew Stewart, a tailor ²	NOSE long
NATIVE PLACE Edinburgh, Scotland	MOUTH medium
TRADE ON EMBARKATION sewer	CHIN round
TRADE ON ARRIVAL housemaid, needlewoman	MARKS none

c1808 **Born** at Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland.³

8 August 1833 Prisoner in the Tolbooth, Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland.⁴

Charged at the Police Court, Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland as Isabella Clapperton or Stewart alias Hamilton Shaw with theft in stealing on 20 June a yellow printed gown, a brown silk handkerchief, a red silk handkerchief, a striped lilac gown, and 6/6 in silver money from the house in Shakespeare Square, Edinburgh occupied by Thomas Torrance, the property of Harriet or Henrietta Grant or McKichan, residing with Thomas Torrance, and 2 pairs of trousers, the property of Henry Robertson, residing with Thomas Torrance; found guilty; sentence 60 days imprisonment in the Tolbooth or Bridewell at Edinburgh.⁴

16 January 1836 Charged at the Police Court, Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland as Isabella Stewart with theft in stealing on 13 January a rob-roy tartan shawl and a pair of shoes from the house of Jane Fairgrieve at 267 Canongate, the property of Jane Fairgrieve; sentence 60 days solitary confinement in the Bridewell, Edinburgh; resident of 267 Canongate.⁴

17 April 1838 Charged at the Police Court, Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland with William Shepherd as Hamilton Shaw or Elizabeth Stewart or Carmichael with theft in stealing on 6 April a window blind from the shop of Dugald Carmichael, spirit dealer, at 214 Pleasance, the property of Dugald Carmichael; sentence 60 days imprisonment in the Bridewell at Edinburgh; no fixed place of abode.⁴

4 November 1840 Tried at the Court of Justiciary, Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland indicted for theft, habit and repute and previous conviction in stealing a cotton shawl and a cotton shirt, wrapped in a piece of printed cotton from a broker's shop at West Richmond Street, Edinburgh, victims James Slater of West Richmond Street, Edinburgh and

¹ TAHO, CON40/1/2 p.205 No.443 [image 203] (Isabella Clapperton); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.189 [image 98] (Isabella Clapperton); ML, CY 1282 p.146 (Isabella Clapperton); ML, CY 1197 p.158 (Isabella Clapperton or Stewart); ML, CY 958 p.444 (Isabella Clapperton alias Stewart)

² NAS, AD14/40/350 (Isabella Stewart)

³ TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.189 [image 98] (Isabella Clapperton)

⁴ NAS, JC26/1840/484 (Isabella Stewart)

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Margaret Inglis of Richmond Place, Edinburgh; verdict guilty; sentence 7 years transportation; aged 32, born Edinburgh, widow, maiden name Clapperton, cannot write, resident of Richmond Street, Edinburgh.⁵

Statement of defendant of Isabella Clapperton:

Compeared Isabella Clapperton present in custody who being examined declares I am thirty two years of age and was born in Edinburgh and am widow of Andrew Stewart a Tailor and I live in Richmond Street with a widow Fraser and I have been four times convicted of theft on Friday the 4th. current about eleven Oclock I went to the shop of a Broker in West Richmond street named Slater and sold to his wife a handkerchief and some towels or rather left them with her in security of three pence she advanced to me – She went out for change and on her return gave me the three pence – I did not carry any articles away from that shop – Sometime afterwards I met a woman named Isabella Cowan at South Richmond street and she gave me a cotton shawl and a shirt wrapped in a piece of printed cotton which she asked me to pledge with a Broker for two shillings and I left the articles in Security of that money with Mrs Joel a Broker in North Richmond Street and Mrs Joel asked me if they were my own, and I said they were and I said so because I knew Mrs Joel would not take them if I had said they were the property of another and I gave Mrs Joel my own name – Interrogated declares I did not say the shirt belonged to my husband or that I was sorry to part with it – I gave the money to Cowan and she gave me share of a Gill of spirits for my trouble in McIntoshs public house in Richmond Place and a boy served us – And on our leaving that house we parted and I did not see her again but we had agreed to meet at the end of South Richmond Street on the Saturday evening that I might then repay the two shillings for her to Mrs Joel and get back the articles – I was taken into custody on the Saturday morning and told how I had got the articles and that we had arranged to meet that evening and I told the officers the name of the woman who had given me the articles and they said that they would look after her – Cowan said that she lived at the back of the Castle. I had not seen her for two years till that day – When I last saw her she lived in the Canongate and I know she does not live there now. – I cannot mention any person who knows her – she employed me to pledge the articles because she said she did not know any of the Brokers about the place – and being shown a shawl, a shirt, and about half a yard of dark printed cotton to which a label is attached – Declares they are the same articles – all this I declare to be truth – I cannot write.²

Statement of witness Mary Slater:

Mary Egan, wife of James Slater, a broker in West Richmond Street, near Edinburgh, and residg. there, Declares on Friday, the 4th Current, between 1 and 2 o'clock P.M., the prisoner came to the shop and sold me three old towels and an old silk handkerchief for 3d. I had no change, and went out for change, leaving her in the shop alone, and on my return I found her at the door where I had left her; - about 3 o'clock I missed from the top of a chest of drawers in the shop

a Cotton Shirt }

a Cotton Shawl} wrapped in about half a yard of dark printed Cotton, my husbands property which were there when the prisr came into the shop, and a she was the only person in the shop from the time I saw the articles till I missed them I had no doubt she stole them and I informed the police and about 20 minutes afterwards a police officer brought me the articles. I saw the prisoner next day very drunk in West Richmond Street and I told her I wished to speak to her and she accompd. me to the shop and from that she was taken away by the police officer. I put no questions to her as to the articles, and she did not make any reference to them. I had bought the articles the same day from Mrs. Inglis – at least I had advanced a 1/- for them to Mr. Inglis daughter and I wd. have kept them for 3 or 4 weeks to ascertain if Mr. Inglis wd. redeem them. So far as I saw the prisr. had nothing carrying when she went away. I cannot write.²

Statement of witness Margaret Inglis:

Margaret Gordon or Inglis, widow, residg. in Richmond place near Edinburgh, Declares I sold the articles referred to to Mrs Slater – at least I sent my daughter Margaret with them to Mrs. Slater on Friday, the 4 Current, and Mrs. Slater advanced a 1/ on them. Nis'[?] I got

⁵ NAS, JC26/1840/484 (Isabella Stewart); NAS, AD14/40/350 (Isabella Stewart)

that money I considered the articles still to be mine, because I intended to redeem them on the Saturday Evening or Monday morning.²

Statement of witness James Slater:

James Slater before designed Declares I saw a Woman in the shop at the time my wife says the Theft was committed at which time I was in the street, but was at such a distance that I could not say whether the Prisoner is that woman. On the following day I saw my Wife stop the Prisoner and accuse her of having stolen articles after she had brought her into the shop and the Policeman had come, when she admitted having been in the shop selling articles to my Wife, but denied having stolen any. I cannot identify the articles as having been in the shop.²

Statement of witness Susannah Joel:

Susannah Moses or Joel, wife of Moses Joel, a flesher, reidg. in North Richmond Street, near Edinburgh, Declares on Friday, the 4 Curr., about 3 oclock P.M, the prisr. brought the articles referred to to my shop (I keep a broker's shop) and asked me to buy them. I questioned her, and she said the shawl was her own, and the shirt was her husbands & that necessity compelled her to dispose of them, and she gave the name "Mrs. Stewart, West Richmond Street". I gave her two shillings for the articles. She was not the worse of drink but she had been drinking. A police officer came to my shop within an hour, and saw the articles mentioned in my book, & said they were stolen, & carried them away. No other person saw her in my shop. I cannot write.²

Statement of witness Margaret Inglis:

Margaret Inglis Daughter of and residing with Margat. Gordon or Inglis aforesaid. Declares – some days ago but I do not recollect the day of the week, or how many weeks it may be, I carried the articles now shewn me to Mrs. Slater by desire of my mother and I got a shilling which I gave to my mother who said she was to get the articles back.²

Statement of witness George Porteous:

George Porteous a Day Patrol of the Edinr. Police residing in Greenside St. in or near Edinr. Declares. On Friday the 4th. Mrs. Slater informed me of a shawl, a shirt and a piece of print having been stolen from her shop. I looked through the Brokers shops to see if I could discover them. and found them in the shop of Joel. Mrs Slater also gave me the description of a woman who had stolen the articles. On the following day notice came to the St. Leonard Street Watch house that a Police officer was wanted at Slaters Shop and I went there. Mrs. Slater was there & the Prisoner. Mrs. Slater stated to me that she was the person who had stolen the articles and the Prisoner did not say anything. I am not sure whether she heard what Mrs Slater stated. The Prisoner had got a glass but knew quite well what she was doing. I conducted her to the watch house and on the way she said she knew quite well what she was taken up for. I enquired at her what it was but she would not tell. When we got to the watch house I shewed her the articles which were lying there and Enquired at her if she had sold them at Joels and she admitted having done so. I then asked her how she came by them & she a woman had given them to her to sell, but she said she did not know her name or where she lived and could not give any description of her nor name any person who knew her so as she might be got. I now see the articles and have marked the Label attached to them.²

Statement of witness George Wood:

George Wood a Criminal Officer of the Edinr Police residing in Cowans Close East Cross Causeway Declares. When the Prisoner was brought to the Police office on the 5th. curr I spoke to her about the articles she was charged with stealing. She denied having stolen them, but admitted having been in Slaters Shop and had sold three towels on the previous day. and that she had left the articles at Joels Shop for 2/. She stated that she had got them from a woman named Cowan who resided at the Castlebank and that she was to meet her on the Saturday Evening to get the things relieved from Joel. I enquired at the Castlebank but could not find such a woman as the Prisoner referred to and as I did not believe her story or that she was to meet with any person on the Saturday Evening, I did not take the prisoner or go to the place where she said the meeting was to be. I have known the Prisoner for twelve years and the convictions dated 16th. January 1836, and 17th. April 1838 apply.²

5 April 1841

Departed Woolwich, England on the Rajah.⁶

⁶ AJCP, ADM 101/63 Rajah

Isabella Clapperton

19 July 1841	Arrived at Hobart on the <i>Rajah</i> . ⁶
c24 July 1841	Upon arrival at Hobart, assigned to Mr John Johnson, Liverpool Street, Hobart. ⁷
29 September 1841	Charged with being drunk; in the service of Johnson; reprimanded and returned to her service. ⁸
9 October 1841	Charged with being absent without leave from the service of Johnson; sentence 7 days at the wash tub at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart. ⁸
1 November 1841	Charged with misconduct in drinking in a public house; in the service of Christie; reprimanded and returned to her service. ⁸
24 November 1841	Charged with being out after hours from the service of Chapman; reprimanded and returned to her service. ⁸
31 December 1841	Mustered in the service of Mr Davis, Hobart. ⁹
10 February 1842	Charged with being drunk and absent without leave from the service of Chinton; sentence 14 days in solitary confinement at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart. ⁸
16 ¹⁰ May 1842	Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on the complaint of Constable Hadfield with misconduct in being absent without leave all night from the service of Mr Davis, Elizabeth Street, Hobart; plea guilty; sentence 6 months hard labour, the first 2 months at the wash tub, at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart. ¹¹
19 January 1843	Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on the complaint of Mr White with insolence to him; in the service of Government House; plea guilty; sentence 6 days in solitary confinement at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart, then returned to her service. ¹² Susan Miles (<i>Royal Admiral</i>) charged with the same offence, same sentence. ¹²
12 May 1843	Application for permission to marry William Perry ¹³ (free) sent to the Muster Master. ¹⁴
30 May 1843	Application for permission to marry William Perry sent to the Secretary; not approved, woman not deserving. ¹⁴
3 November 1843	Application for permission to marry William Perry (free) sent to the Muster Master. ¹⁵
30 November 1843	Application for permission to marry William Perry sent to the Secretary; approved. ¹⁵
14 December 1843	Notice given of approval for permission to marry William Perry; Isabella in assigned service at Spring Bay; William free. ¹⁶
11 January 1844	Married William Perry in the dwelling house of TB Lord Esquire, <i>Oakhampton</i> , Spring Bay; Isabella aged 34, widow, illiterate; William aged 42, shoemaker, illiterate; witnesses J Aubin and MC Lord. ¹⁷
21 February 1845	Ticket of Leave granted; gazetted 25 February. ¹⁸
29 July 1847	Charged with drunkenness; sentence 4 days in solitary confinement at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart. ⁸
4 November 1847	Free by servitude. ⁸

⁷ ML, CY 1282 p.146 (Isabella Clapperton); ML, CY 1274 p.255 (Isabella Clapperton)

⁸ TAHO, CON40/1/2 p.205 No.443 [image 203] (Isabella Clapperton)

⁹ AJCP, HO 10/51 p.354 No.443 (Isabella Clapperton)

¹⁰ Date given as 10 May 1842 on conduct record.

¹¹ TAHO, AC480/1/1, 16 May 1842 (Isabella Clapperton)

¹² TAHO, AC480/1/1, 19 January 1843 (Susan Miles & Isabella Clapperton)

¹³ There were several convicts named William Perry transported to Tasmania. Isabella's husband is likely to be the William Perry transported on the *John Barry* in 1834, tried Stafford (Newcastle Under Lyme) Quarter Sessions on 23 July 1833 for stealing 2 copper pans, 7 years' transportation, widower, 1 child, aged 37, shoemaker, native place Newcastle, Ticket of Leave 23 August 1838, Free Certificate 1841, at Spring Bay in 1839 (TAHO, CON31/1/35 p.178 No.1062 [image 180] (William Perry); TAHO, CON18/1/11 p.111 No.1062 [image 65] (William Perry)).

¹⁴ TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.152 (Isabella Claperton & Wm Perry)

¹⁵ TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.154 (Isabella Claperton & Wm Perry)

¹⁶ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 15 December 1843 p.1365; 22 December 1843 p.1374 (William Perry & Isabella Claperton)

¹⁷ TAHO, RGD37/1/4 1844/1523 Great Swanport (Isabella Clapperton & William Perry); TAHO, NS1544/1/2 No.31 (Isabella Clapperton & William Perry)

¹⁸ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 25 February 1845 p.234 (Isabella Clapperton)

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- 1848 Husband William Perry appointed schoolmaster¹⁹ at the parochial school, Fenton Forest; married, wife takes no part; previously a shoemaker; annual income of about £25 from public funds and annual income of about £8 from parents; school house, including residence on private property rent free.²⁰
- 18 February 1859 Admitted to St Mary's Hospital, Hobart; aged 52, free by servitude, ship to colony *Rajah*, resident of Hobart; account paid by His Majesty's Government.²¹
- 28 February 1859 Discharged from St Mary's Hospital, Hobart.²¹
- 27 August 1861 Husband William Perry died of serous apoplexy at Argyle Street, Hobart; aged 70, born England, shoemaker; informant friend Sarrah Harrold, illiterate, resident of Goulburn Street, Hobart.²²
- 7 January 1862 Licence to marry James Elliott Tar at Hobart; Isabella a widow, adult, resident of Hobart, illiterate; James a widower, adult, illiterate, resident of Sandy Bay.²³
- 27 January 1862 **Married** James Elliot Tar²⁴ at the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Collins Street, Hobart; Isabella adult, widow, illiterate; James adult, farmer, widower, illiterate; witnesses WW Lane and Louisa Lane.²⁵
- 17 July 1874 Admitted to New Town Charitable Institution, Hobart from the district of Hobart.²⁶
- 9 August 1874 Discharged from New Town Charitable Institution, Hobart at own request, able to work.²⁶
- 20 November 1878 Admitted to New Town Charitable Institution, Hobart from the district of Hobart.²⁷
- 4 December 1879 Discharged from New Town Charitable Institution, Hobart at own request, fit for light work.²⁷
- 29 October 1881 Husband James Elliot Tar applied for compassionate allowance at the Police Office, Kingston; wife Isabella Clapperton, Perry or Tarr at Invalid Depot, New Town.²⁸
- 2 March 1882 Husband James Elliot Tar died of morbus cordis at the General Hospital, Hobart; aged 65, born England, labourer; informant Secretary, General Hospital, Hobart.²⁹
- 3 March 1882 Husband James Elliot Tar buried in Section A, No.364, Cornelian Bay Cemetery, Hobart; pauper, last address Hobart, 8 others in same location.²⁹
- 20 January 1884 **Died** of senilis at New Town Pauper Establishment, Hobart; aged 79, born England, needlewoman; informant J Withrington, Superintendent, New Town Pauper Establishment.³⁰
- 21 January 1884 Buried in Section A No.417 Cornelian Bay Cemetery, Hobart; aged 79, pauper, last address New Town; 6 others in same location.³¹

¹⁹ William was appointed schoolmaster even though on his marriage certificate he signed his mark x indicating illiteracy.

²⁰ TAHO, NS373/1/244 No.34 (William Perry)

²¹ Purtscher, *St Marys Hospital Hobart Index to Registers 1841-1862* p.6 (Isabella Clapperton)

²² TAHO, RGD35/1/6 1861/2936 Hobart (William Perry)

²³ TAHO, NS499/1/106 No.172 (James Elliott Tar & Isabella Kerry)

²⁴ James was transported for 7 years as James Tarr on the *Moffatt* in 1842; tried Devon Assizes 11 March 1841 for stealing marble; married, 2 children, wife Sarah at Torquay; aged 40, marble stone sawyer; Ticket of Leave 27 April 1847, revoked 17 August 1847; Certificate of Freedom 5 April 1848 (TAHO, CON33/1/32 No.7870 [image 338] (James Tarr). He was sentenced to transportation again, this time for life but commuted to 10 years, when tried at New Norfolk Quarter Sessions on 12 January 1852 for stealing sheep; Ticket of Leave 8 September 1857, revoked 25 March 1858, restored 13 April 1858 (TAHO, CON37/1/7 No.2243 [image 148] (James Tarr).

²⁵ TAHO, RGD37/1/21 1862/186 Hobart (Isabella Perry & James Elliot Tar)

²⁶ *Tasmania Police Gazette*, 14 August 1874 p.133 (Isabella Clapperton)

²⁷ *Tasmanian Police Gazette*, 12 December 1879 No.1064 p.200 (Isabella Clapperton or Perry). Ship erroneously given as *Royal Admiral*.

²⁸ TAHO, POL395/1/1 pp.247-248 (James Tarr)

²⁹ TAHO, RGD35/1/10 1882/86 Hobart (James Tarr); SRCT, *SRCT Record Search* No.3689 (James Tarr)

³⁰ TAHO, RGD35/1/10 1884/1430 Hobart (Isabella Farr or Perry)

³¹ SRCT, *SRCT Record Search* No.4627 (Isabella Perry (Tarr))