

Eliza Clarke

(proper name *Eliza Sanfern*, uxor *Eliza Holmes*)

POLICE NUMBER 439 ¹	LITERACY read only
TRIAL DATE 1 March 1841	AGE ON EMBARKATION 22
TRIAL PLACE Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey), London	AGE ON ARRIVAL 22
OFFENCE sheep stealing	HEIGHT 4' 11¾"
SENTENCE 7 years	COMPLEXION fair
GAOL REPORT convicted before, married	HEAD oval
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS once 3 months for stealing a brooch, once 1 month for being disorderly	HAIR brown
SURGEON'S REPORT indifferent	VISAGE full
ON THE TOWN 3 years	FOREHEAD round
MARITAL STATUS single ²	EYEBROWS dark brown
CHILDREN 0	EYES hazel
FAMILY	NOSE rather long
NATIVE PLACE Victoria, Spain	MOUTH medium
TRADE ON EMBARKATION	CHIN round
TRADE ON ARRIVAL housemaid	MARKS cast in right eye, slightly pockpitted, PMCJH and 5 dots on right arm, CBT and 43 on left arm

c1819 **Born** at Victoria, Cordoba Province, Spain.³

20 August 1838 Tried at the Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey), London, England indicted for larceny in stealing on 11 July 1838 1 brooch value 17 shillings 6 pence, 2 sheets value 5 shillings and 2 blankets value 6 shillings, the goods of William Magness; found guilty; sentence 3 months imprisonment; aged 23.⁴

Statement of witness William Magness:

I live in Manor-street, Chelsea. The prisoner came to lodge at my mother's a few weeks ago – I missed the articles – only the brooch is here – it is mine – (looking at it.)⁴

Statement of witness William Arpin:

I am shopman to Mr. Harding, of York-street, a pawnbroker. I have the brooch, which was pawned on the 11th of July, by the prisoner.⁴

Statement of defendant Eliza Clark:

This chap was living with my sister, at Manor-street, Chelsea – I know nothing about the brooch.⁴

1 March 1841 Tried at the Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey), London, England indicted for stealing on 20 February 1841 1 sheet value 3 shillings, the goods of John Russell, and previous conviction of felony; found guilty; sentence 7 years transportation; aged 22.⁵

Statement of witness John Russell:

I keep a house in the Almonry at Westminster. The prisoner and a soldier came to the house about eleven o'clock in the evening, on the 20th of February, and staid about a quarter of an hour – they were shown into a bed-room – in five or six minutes after they were gone, I missed the sheet – I went in pursuit of the prisoner, and found her that night – this is the sheet.

Prisoner. Q. Did you see me with it as I came out? A. No.⁵

¹ TAHO, CON40/1/2 p.204 No.439 [image 202] (Eliza Clarke); TAHO, CON 19/1/1 p.187 [image 97] (Eliza Clarke); ML, CY 1282 p. 146 (Eliza Clarke proper name Eliza Sandfern); ML, CY 1197 p.153 (Eliza Clarke); ML, CY 958 p.441 (Eliza Clarke)

² Marital status given as married on Embarkation List (ML, CY 1197 p.153 (Eliza Clarke)).

³ TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.187 [image 97] (Eliza Clarke)

⁴ *Old Bailey Proceedings Online*, t18380820-1813 (Eliza Clark)

⁵ *Old Bailey Proceedings Online*, t18410301-931 (Eliza Clarke)

This biography supplements our book *Patchwork Prisoners* available from www.researchtasmania.com.au.

Statement of witness William Arpin:

I am a pawnbroker, and live in Westminster. The prisoner pawned this sheet with me that evening, before eleven o'clock.

*Prisoner. It is false.*⁵

Statement of witness William Clifton, Police Constable R 50:

*I produce a certificate of the prisoner's conviction, which. I got at Mr. Clark's office – (read) – I was a witness on the trial – the prisoner is the person.*⁵

- 5 April 1841 Departed Woolwich, England on the *Rajah*.⁶
- 19 July 1841 Arrived at Hobart on the *Rajah*.⁶
- c24 July 1841 Upon arrival at Hobart, detained on board for assignment; assigned to Mrs Reed, Murray Street, Hobart.⁷
- 10 September 1841 Charged with misconduct in being found with a soldier in an improper situation in the paddock at 8 o'clock in the evening; in the service of Reid; sentence 1 month's hard labour in the separate working cells at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.⁸
- 17 December 1841 Charged with disobedience of orders; in the service of Douglass; sentence 4 months at the wash tub at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.⁸
- 31 December 1841 At Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.⁹
- 10 May 1842 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on the complaint of her mistress with neglect of duty; in the service of Mrs Holmes, Elizabeth Street, Hobart; sentence 3 months hard labour at the wash tub at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.¹⁰
- 10 November 1842 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on the complaint of Constable Walton with misconduct in being absent without leave yesterday from the service of Mr McLoughlin;¹¹ plea guilty; sentence 1 month at the wash tub on probation at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.¹²
- 10¹³ January 1843 Charged at Brickfields Hiring Depot, Hobart on the complaint of Mr Brooks with misconduct in depriving her fellow prisoner of a ration of bread; discharged.¹⁴
- Ann Goode¹⁵ (*Emma Eugenia*) charged with the same offence; sentence 6 months hard labour at the wash tub at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.¹⁴
- Statement of witness Mary Pollard (*Hope*):
- I am one of the women belonging to the Brickfield Barracks, and the prisoner is one also. Last night I lost a portion of a ration of bread, I had taken a small piece of it, the piece I lost was similar to the piece now produced but it had not the mouse hole in it. I put the bread in my pocket last night, this morning it was gone. I accused Good of having taken it. She denied having done so. I complained to Mr Brooks, I believe the bread now produced is the same I lost.*¹⁴
- Statement of witness Mr George Brooks:
- Mary Pollard complained to me this morning that she had lost of part of a ration of bread and on searching the prisoners blankets, this piece of bread fell out.*¹⁴
- 10 January 1843 Charged at Brickfields Hiring Depot, Hobart on the complaint of Mr Brooks with misconduct in having her hands in her fellow prisoner's pocket for an improper purpose; sentence 48 hours in solitary confinement at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.¹⁶

⁶ AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah*

⁷ ML, CY 1282 p.140 (Eliza Clarke alias Sanfern); ML, CY 1274 p.255 (Eliza Clarke proper name Eliza Sandfern)

⁸ TAHO, CON40/1/2 p.204 No.439 [image 202] (Eliza Clarke)

⁹ AJCP, HO 10/51 p.354 No.439 (Eliza Clarke)

¹⁰ TAHO, AC480/1/1, 10 May 1842 (Eliza Clarke)

¹¹ Name also given as McLaughlin.

¹² TAHO, AC480/1/1, 10 November 1842 (Eliza Clarke)

¹³ Conduct record has date as 9 January 1843.

¹⁴ TAHO, AC480/1/1, 10 January 1843 (Eliza Clarke & Ann Goodge or Good)

¹⁵ The sum of seven pence found on Goode was paid over to the Crown.

¹⁶ TAHO, AC480/1/1, 10 January 1843 (Eliza Clarke)

- 3 October 1843 Charged at the Police Office, Hobart with misconduct in being absent all night without leave from the service of Mr Bailey, Lansdowne Crescent, Hobart; plea guilty; sentence 2 months hard labour at the wash tub at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.¹⁷
- 22 February 1844 Classified as a 2nd class probation pass-holder; gazetted 23 February.¹⁸
- 31 August 1844 Promoted from a 2nd class to a 3rd class probation pass-holder; gazetted 6 September.¹⁹
- 20 November 1844 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart by her master Mr Hickson,²⁰ New Town with being absent without leave yesterday; plea guilty; sentence 10 days in solitary confinement at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.²¹
- 27 January 1845 Hired in private service for 1 month as a probation pass-holder to William Smith, New Town Road, Hobart.²²
- 18 April 1845 Ticket of Leave granted; gazetted 22 April.²³
- 21 July 1845 Charged with misconduct in being out after hours; sentence 1 month hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.⁸
- 16 March 1846 Charged with larceny under £5; sentence 3 months hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.⁸
- 27 October 1846 Charged with misconduct; sentence 2 months hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.⁸
- 2 July 1847 Notice given of approval for permission to marry Samuel Holmes, gazetted 6 July; Eliza a ticket-of-leave holder, resident of Hobart; Samuel a ticket-of-leave holder, resident of Hobart.²⁴
- 3 July 1847 Application for permission to marry Samuel Holmes²⁵ (*Layton*, Ticket of Leave) sent to the Secretary; approved.²⁶
- 19 July 1847 **Married** Samuel Holmes at Bethesda Anglican Church, St George's district, Hobart; Eliza aged 28, spinster; Samuel aged 29, blacksmith; witnesses William Tasker and Mary Tasker.²⁷
- 1 March 1848 Free by servitude; Certificate of Freedom issued.⁸
- 2 July 1849 Husband Samuel Holmes issued a Certificate of Freedom.²⁸
- 22 October 1850 **Died** of diseased lungs at Murray Street, Hobart; aged 31, blacksmith's wife; informant husband Samuel Holmes, resident of Murray Street, Hobart.²⁹
- 24 October 1850 Buried at Holy Trinity Anglican Cemetery, Hobart.³⁰
- 17 November 1877 Husband Samuel Holmes died of morbus cordis and broncho pneumonia at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, Melbourne, VIC; aged 59, born Nottingham, England, parents unknown; gardener.³¹

¹⁷ TAHO, A 480/1/1, 3 October 1843 (Eliza Clarke)

¹⁸ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 23 February 1844 p.248 (Eliza Clarke)

¹⁹ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 6 September 1844 p.1072 (Eliza Clarke)

²⁰ This may have been a Mr Heekscher – the entry is difficult to decipher.

²¹ TAHO, AC480/1/1, 20 November 1844 (Eliza Clarke)

²² *Hobart Town Gazette*, 25 February 1845 p.230 (Eliza Clark)

²³ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 22 April 1845 p.516 (Eliza Clark)

²⁴ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 6 July 1847 p.647 (Samuel Holmes & Eliza Clarke)

²⁵ Samuel Holmes was transported for 14 years on the *Layton* in 1835, tried at Nottinghamshire Quarter Sessions on 29 June 1835 for stealing 2 lbs bacon; single; Ticket of Leave 20 May 1843, Certificate of Freedom 2 July 1849 (TAHO, CON31/1/21 p.356 No.2012 [image 140] (Samuel Holmes)).

²⁶ TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.381 (Sam^l Holmes & Eliza Clarke)

²⁷ TAHO, RGD37/1/6 1847/700 Hobart (Eliza Clarke & Samuel Homes)

²⁸ TAHO, CON31/1/21 p.356 No.2012 [image 140] (Samuel Holmes)

²⁹ TAHO, RGD35/1/3 1850/332 Hobart (Eliza Holmnes)

³⁰ TAHO, NS349/1/29 p.150 (Eliza Holmes)

³¹ VIC Death Certificate 1877/11713 (Samuel Holmes)