

Margaret Clarke

(proper name Margaret Liquorice; uxor Margaret Open)

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| POLICE NUMBER 436 ¹ | LITERACY read and write imperfectly |
| TRIAL DATE 19 October 1840 | AGE ON EMBARKATION 32 |
| TRIAL PLACE Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey), London | AGE ON ARRIVAL 32 |
| OFFENCE stealing £20 from the person | HEIGHT 4' 11" |
| SENTENCE 10 years | COMPLEXION pale |
| GAOL REPORT poor, married | HEAD oval |
| PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS none | HAIR dark brown |
| SURGEON'S REPORT quiet | VISAGE long, thin |
| ON THE TOWN no | FOREHEAD flat |
| MARITAL STATUS married | EYEBROWS brown |
| CHILDREN 2 | EYES hazel |
| FAMILY | NOSE long |
| NATIVE PLACE Taunton, Somersetshire, England | MOUTH medium |
| TRADE ON EMBARKATION | CHIN round |
| TRADE ON ARRIVAL plain cook, house servant | MARKS none |

c1809

Born at Taunton, Somersetshire, England.²

19 October 1840

Tried at the Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey), London, England indicted for larceny from the person in stealing on 25 September 1840 1 bag value 4 pence, 6 sovereigns, 17 half-sovereigns, 6 halfpence and an order for the payment of £6 from Thomas Rodwell; found guilty; sentence 10 years transportation; aged 32.³

Statement of witness Thomas Rodwell:

I am a carrier, living at Bierton, in Buckinghamshire. About eleven o'clock on the night of the 24th of September, I met the prisoner, I cannot say where; as I was drunk – after some conversation I got into a cab with her, and drove to Charing Cross – I got out and went down Craven-court – I had about 20l. in money when I fell in with her, in sovereigns, half-sovereigns, and a cheque – I afterwards went to Snow-hill with her – when I got there I missed my purse, my money, and cheque, which had been in my left-hand breeches pocket – when I got out I laid hold of her and accused her of robbing me – the policeman came up and I gave her in charge – he afterwards produced the cheque to me – it was the one I had safe in the purse when I went into her company – this is it – I had it from Mr. Strickland, of Newgate Market.³

Statement of witness Charles Phillips, City Police Constable No.20:

At a quarter to three o'clock on the morning of the 25th of September, I was at the bottom of Snow-hill – I saw the prosecutor and the prisoner struggling together – I asked what was the matter – he said in her presence that he had been robbed of 20l., and gave her in charge – on going up Snow-hill I took from her hand this cheque for 6l. 3s. 1d., and one half-sovereign – I shook her petticoat and heard some gold chink – I took her pocket from her, and found five sovereigns and fifteen half-sovereigns in it.³

Statement of witness Susannah Drover:

I am the wife of a policeman. I searched the prisoner at the station-house, and found one sovereign and one half-sovereign in her mouth, and a half-sovereign in her hand.³

Statement of defendant Margaret Clark:

I did not knowingly have in my possession the property – I had been drinking with him from nine o'clock in the evening, and was quite intoxicated – what he gave me I put into my pocket, considering it was silver.³

¹ TAHO, CON40/1/2 p.203 No.436 [image 201] (Margaret Clarke); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.188 [image 96] (Margaret Clark); ML, CY 1282 p. 146 (Margaret Clarke proper name Lickerish); ML, CY 1197 p.151 (Margaret Clark); ML, CY 958 p.441 (Margaret Clarke)

² TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.188 [image 96] (Margaret Clark)

³ *Old Bailey Proceedings Online*, t18401019-2424 (Margaret Clark)

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

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| 5 April 1841 | Departed Woolwich, England on the <i>Rajah</i> . ⁴ |
| 19 July 1841 | Arrived at Hobart on the <i>Rajah</i> . ⁴ |
| c24 July 1841 | Upon arrival at Hobart, sent to Launceston for assignment. ⁵ |
| 31 December 1841 | Mustered at Launceston Female Factory. ⁶ |
| 23 February 1842 | Charged at the Police Court, Launceston by her master Mr Kennedy with suspicion of felony; remanded to Launceston Female Factory for further examination. ⁷ |
| 25 February 1842 | Brought up at the Police Court, Launceston charged as before; plea not guilty; verdict not guilty; discharged. ⁸ |
| 19 March 1842 | At Campbell Town. ⁹ |
| 1 June 1843 | Application for permission to marry William Open ¹⁰ (<i>Bardaster</i>) sent to the Muster Master. ¹¹ |
| 11 October 1843 | Application for permission to marry William Open sent to the Secretary; approved if clergyman is satisfied. ¹¹ |
| 25 October 1843 | Notice given of approval for permission to marry William Open; Margaret in assigned service at Campbell Town; William in the Police. ¹² |
| 7 November 1843 ¹³ | Husband-to-be William Open recommended by the Lieutenant Governor for good conduct in having captured 5 convicts who were illegally at large with firearms in their possession. ¹⁴ |
| 9 November 1843 | Charged at the Police Court, Campbell Town with being on the township without a pass; in the service of H Harrison; plea guilty; verdict guilty; returned to her service having had permission. ¹⁵ |
| 22 January 1844 | Charged at the Police Court, Campbell Town with being out after hours on Saturday night last; in the service of H Harrison; plea guilty; verdict guilty; sentence 6 ¹⁶ day in solitary confinement and returned to her service. ¹⁷ |
| 26 June 1844 | Classified as a 3 rd class probation pass-holder; gazetted 28 June. ¹⁸ |
| 30 October 1844 | Married William Open at St Luke's Anglican Church, Campbell Town; Margaret aged 38, convict, illiterate; William aged 35, wool sorter, a ticket-of-leave holder, bachelor; witnesses William Barnes and Stephen Nash (illiterate). ¹⁹ |
| 19 June 1845 | At Campbell Town. ⁹ |
| 15 July 1845 | Ticket of Leave granted. ⁹ |
| July 1845 | Resident with her husband William Open in the Campbell Town district; a ticket-of-leave holder. ²⁰ |
| November 1845 | Resident with her husband William Open in the Campbell Town district; a ticket-of-leave holder to January 1846, then a conditional-pardon holder. ²¹ |

⁴ AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah*

⁵ ML, CY 1282 p.141 (Margaret Clarke); ML, CY 1274 p.255 (Margaret Clarke proper name Lickerish)

⁶ AJCP, HO 10/51 p.354 No.436 (Margaret Clarke)

⁷ TAHO, LC346/1/7 (Margaret Clarke); TAHO, CON78/1/1 p.385 (Margaret Clarke)

⁸ TAHO, LC346/1/7 (Margaret Clark); TAHO, CON78/1/1 p.385 (Margaret Clarke)

⁹ TAHO, CON40/1/2 p.203 No.436 [image 201] (Margaret Clarke)

¹⁰ William Open was transported for life on the *Bardaster* in 1835, tried at Wiltshire Assizes on 13 July 1833 for robbery (stealing a pocket book); married/widower; Ticket of Leave 8 May/March 1844; Conditional Pardon 16 December 1845 (TAHO, CON31/1/33 p.120 No.188 [image 121] (William Open the Younger)).

¹¹ TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.139 (Marg^t Clark & Wm Open)

¹² *Hobart Town Gazette*, 27 October 1843 p.1167; 10 November 1843 p.1236 (William Open & Margaret Clarke)

¹³ The year is difficult to decipher and so may not be 1843 but 1842.

¹⁴ TAHO, CON31/1/33 p.120 No.188 [image 121] (William Open the Younger)

¹⁵ TAHO, LC83/1/6 p.331 (Margaret Clark)

¹⁶ Number of days 5 on Campbell Town Lower Court record (TAHO, LC83/1/7 p.23).

¹⁷ TAHO, LC83/1/7 p.23 (Marg^t Clark)

¹⁸ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 28 June 1844 p.721 (Margaret Clarke)

¹⁹ TAHO, RGD37/1/4 1844/1489B Campbell Town (Margaret Clark & William Open)

²⁰ TAHO, POL47/1/2 (Margaret Clark)

²¹ TAHO, POL47/1/3 (Margaret Clark)

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- 16 December 1845 Husband William Open approved for a Conditional Pardon.¹⁴
- 6 January 1846 At Campbell Town.⁹
- 13 February 1846 Recommended to the Queen for a Conditional Pardon available within the limits of the Australian Colonies and New Zealand; gazetted 17 February.²²
- 23²³ January 1847 Conditional Pardon approved on condition she shall not return to or be found within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland; not having committed any offences since she was recommended to the Queen's mercy which would disentitle her to the indulgence.²⁴
- 19 October 1850 Free by servitude.
- 29 October 1850 Certificate of Freedom issued.⁹
- 27 April 1853 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart by Constable William Perry with being drunk on a public road within the distance of 5 miles of Hobart Town on 26 April; plea guilty; fined 5 shillings; aged 44, free, can read and write well.²⁵
- 23 July 1856 **Died** of dropsy at Hobart; aged 53, farmer's wife; informant friend Elizabeth Clark, resident of Collins Street, Hobart.²⁶
- 14 September 1874 Husband William Open died of paralysis at Goulburn Street, Hobart; aged 53, wool sorter; informant Alex James Clark, undertaker.²⁷
- 16 September 1874 Husband William Open buried in the Anglican section of Queenborough Cemetery, Sandy Bay.²⁷
- Death notice
TASMANIAN PRIMITIVE LODGE, A. & I.O.O.F.
The Brethren of this Lodge are requested to meet at the Odd Fellows Hall THIS DAY, at 2 o'clock sharp, to follow the remains of late Brother William Open. Members of other Lodges of this Order are also invited to attend.
By order,
*A. HODGINS, Secretary.*²⁸

²² *Hobart Town Gazette*, 17 February 1846 p.164 (Margaret Clarke)

²³ Date given as 7 January 1847 on conduct record.

²⁴ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 26 January 1847 p.137 (Margaret Clarke)

²⁵ TAHO, LC247/1/22 p.342 (Margaret Open)

²⁶ TAHO, RGD35/1/5 1856/897 Hobart (Margaret Open)

²⁷ TAHO, RGD35/1/8 1874/2235 Hobart (William Open); TAHO, AB317/1/1 p.30 (William Open); *Mercury*, 16 September 1874 (William Open)

²⁸ *Mercury*, 16 September 1874 (William Open)