

Elizabeth Clayton *
(*uxor Elizabeth Dowling*)

POLICE NUMBER 432 ¹	LITERACY read and write imperfectly
TRIAL DATE 17 August 1840	AGE ON EMBARKATION 18
TRIAL PLACE Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey), London	AGE ON ARRIVAL 19
OFFENCE larceny in a dwelling house by servant in stealing £37 from my master	HEIGHT 5' 1"
SENTENCE 10 years	COMPLEXION pale
GAOL REPORT connexions poor, single	HEAD oval
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS none	HAIR red
SURGEON'S REPORT quiet	VISAGE oval
ON THE TOWN no	FOREHEAD flat
MARITAL STATUS single	EYEBROWS light brown
CHILDREN 0	EYES
FAMILY	NOSE medium
NATIVE PLACE St Mary, Strand, London, England	MOUTH medium
TRADE ON EMBARKATION	CHIN round
TRADE ON ARRIVAL laundress, needlewoman	MARKS none

c1822 **Born** at St Mary, Strand, London, Middlesex, England.²

9 June 1839 Charged at the Magistrate's Court, London with stealing a pair of shoes from her father; sent to the Refuge for the Destitute, London.³

15 June 1839 Assessed for admittance to the Refuge for the Destitute, London.⁴
Minute book entry:
*Saw Elizth Clayton – lives at Furnivals Inn Court Holborn – her father is a bott's shoemaker – had been living at home – employed at book folding – was guilty of Stealing a set of boots from her father & sold thence had been before a Month in the house of correction for robbing parents – was sent hither with an officer from Mr Bennet the Magistrate. Saw the officer who came with her – She was found to have an eruptive complaint – to be admitted when cured.*⁴

13 July 1839 Admitted to the Refuge for the Destitute, London.⁴
Minute book entry:
*Received Elizth Clayton from Hatton Garden police office as per order being cured.*⁴

9 June 1840 Hired into private service to baker Mr Joseph Salmon, 5 Upper Seymour Street, Euston Square, St Pancras, London from the Refuge for the Destitute, London.⁸

4 July 1840 Discharged from the Refuge for the Destitute, London.⁴
Minute book entry:
*Discharged Eliza Sparks and Eliza Clayton to Service.*⁴

8 July 1840 Absconded from her employer Mr Joseph Salmon having stolen a purse, bag and monies.⁸
Newspaper report:
LARCENY AND EMBEZZLEMENT. Absconded on the 8th instant, from the service of Mr. J. Salmon, baker, No. 5. Upper Seymour-street, Euston-square, ELIZABETH CLAYTON, stealing and taking with her a £10 Bank of England Note, 'Mr. Arnold, 35, Clarendon-square, Somers-town,' and 'J.S. July 7th, 1840,' written across the front; about

¹ TAHO, CON40/1/2 p.202 No.432 [image 200] (Elizabeth Clayton); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.231 [image 119] (Elizabeth Clayton); ML, CY 1282 p.145 (Elizabeth Clayton); ML, CY 1197 p.150 (Elizth Clayton); ML, CY 958 p.440 (Elizabeth Clayton)

² TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.231 [image 119] (Elizabeth Clayton)

³ *Morning Chronicle*, 7 August 1840 Issue 22059 Article 3 (Elizabeth Clayton); personal communication, Megan Webber, 16 January 2013

⁴ personal communication, Megan Webber, 16 January 2013

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Elizabeth Clayton

£44 or £45 in gold, and £2 in silver; the Moneys were in an old canvas Bag, inside the Bag was also a blue net Purse with slides. The said ELIZABETH CLAYTON is 19 years of age, about 5 feet 3 inches high, rather stout, red hair, fair complexion, and freckled face. – Information to be given to Mr. Salmon, as above. – [Bow-street.]⁵

2 August 1840

Arrested at Chichester.⁶

Newspaper report:

ELIZABETH CLAYTON, advertised in the 'Police Gazette' of the 31st ultimo, was apprehended at Chichester, by Mr. Green, superintendent of the Chichester Police, on Sunday the 2nd instant. – [Bow-street.]⁶

17 August 1840

Tried at the Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey), London, England indicted for larceny in a dwelling house by a servant in stealing on 8 July 1840 1 purse value 1 shilling, 1 canvas bag value 1 pence, 36 sovereigns, 10 half-sovereigns, 6 half-crowns, 12 shillings, 10 sixpences, 6 groats and 1 £10 Bank note from the dwelling house of her master Joseph Salmon, St Pancras; plea guilty; sentence 10 years transportation; aged 18.⁷

Newspaper reports:

POLICE INTELLIGENCE. – THURSDAY.

HATTON GARDEN.

Elizabeth Clayton, a well-dressed, pretty-looking girl, between eighteen and nineteen years of age, was brought before Mr. Greenwood, in the custody of Mr. George Green, the superintendent of the Chichester police, charged by Mr. Joseph Salmon, baker, of No. 5, Upper Seymour-street, Euston-square, with having robbed him of a £10 note and forty-four sovereigns, under the following aggravated circumstances: –

Richard Bayliss, messenger to the magistrates of this court, having been sworn, stated, that on the 9th of June, 1839, the prisoner was brought before Mr. Benett, charged with stealing a pair of shoes, when she appeared very contrite, and said that she had been cruelly treated, and deserted by her parents. The plausibility of her tale imposed so much upon Mr. Benett, that he directed him (Bayliss) to make some inquiries about her, on doing which he discovered that there was some truth in her statement. Through the interference of the worthy magistrate and witness, she was received into the Asylum for the Refuge for the Destitute at Hoxton, where she remained for twelve months, and conducted herself in such an exemplary manner, that the Reverend Dr. Vance, the secretary, and the principals of the society were highly delighted with her, and treated her with the greatest kindness. Witness, believing that she was truly penitent, and being aware that the prosecutor, who is his cousin, was in want of a servant, resolved on introducing the prisoner to the situation, prior to which he mentioned the whole of the circumstances to the prosecutor, who had an interview with her, and, under the representations of the Rev. Dr. Vance, and the matron, &c., that she had behaved herself well whilst in the Asylum, she was immediately taken into the service on the 9th of June last, when she shortly afterwards committed the robbery and absconded. Information of the robbery, with a description of the prisoner, were given to witness and the police, and put into the Hue and Cry, and she was apprehended at Chichester on Sunday last.

Mrs. Elizabeth Salmon stated that the prisoner entered her service on the 9th of June last, from the Refuge for the Destitute, with a strong recommendation. On the morning of the 8th of July last, she brought down a bag containing a £10 note and forty-four sovereigns from her bedroom, which she placed in a bureau in the parlour; during her temporary absence from the parlour the property was stolen, and the prisoner absconded, and was nowhere to be found. Witness informed her husband, who gave information to the police.

Bayliss here stated that up to the time of the robbery she behaved herself so well that the utmost confidence was reposed in her.

Mr. George Green, superintendent of police at Chichester, being sworn, stated that, on Sunday morning last, he received information that a young woman had poisoned herself in a field at Chichester. He proceeded to the spot, and found the prisoner in a state of insensibility, with a mug which had contained laudanum, and she was surrounded by a crowd of persons

⁵ *Police Gazette (Hue and Cry)*, 31 July 1840 (Elizabeth Clayton); personal communication, Megan Webber, 28 August 2012

⁶ *Police Gazette (Hue and Cry)*, 5 August 1840 (Elizabeth Clayton); personal communication, Megan Webber, 28 August 2012

⁷ *Old Bailey Proceedings Online*, t18400817-2030 (Elizabeth Clayton)

who were sympathising for her. Witness had her conveyed to the station-house, when a doctor attended and extracted the poison from her stomach. When she was sufficiently restored to her senses witness questioned her and asked her her name, when she replied "Elizabeth Clayton," and having read an advertisement in the Hue and Cry of Elizabeth Clayton having committed a robbery and absconded, he found that her person exactly corresponded with the description given. Witness said, "It appears that you have left your service?" She replied "I have." He cautioned her that she need not answer any questions unless she thought proper, but she made a voluntary confession of the robbery, which he (witness) took down in writing, and was now produced. It stated that whilst she was with Mr. Salmon she accidentally became acquainted with a young man named Holmes, who was in the habit of singing at concerts. He seduced her, and proposed that she should commit the robbery, and he would take her round the country. She watched the opportunity, and during the absence of her mistress from the parlour she stole the bag containing the property from the bureau, when she left the house, and joined Holmes, who was waiting for her at the end of Seymour-street. He took her to Greenwich, and Portsmouth, and other parts of the country. They went to Southampton, to Brighton, and Goodwood races, where Holmes changed the £10 note; they then went to Chichester, where he deserted her.

Mr. Green said that he had made inquiries, and he traced that the prisoner and a young man had been to a brothel at Chichester, where the prisoner had made a previous attempt to poison herself with laudanum, but the man got something to counteract the effects. He also found out where she had purchased the poison, and that she had sold a valuable lace veil and other articles, at a very cheap rate, at a rag-shop at Chichester. The man who was with her answered the description of one of the thieves who usually attend the races. He traced the prisoner to have been living in the first style at inns at Portsmouth and other places.

Bayliss said that she was so great a liar that there was no believing her. He had questioned her that morning, and she said that there was no man with her.

Mr Greenwood: Had she any property about her when she was apprehended? – Mr. Green: Not a farthing. She paid threepence for the laudanum at a shop at Chichester.

The prisoner stood at the bar sideways, as if to conceal her countenance, and looked steadfastly and dejectedly at the floor.

Mr. Greenwood asked her whether she wished to say any thing in her defence? – She replied "Nothing."

Bayliss said that the whole of the apparel she wore was perfectly new. She had some old things of her own, and he supposed that the finery might be taken off and her old ones put on.

Mr. Greenwood asked whether there was any doubt as to their being the produce of the robbery?

Bayliss said there was not. She left in her own old clothes, and had no money but that stolen when she left.

Mrs. Salmon said that the veil and all the clothes upon her were valuable.

Mr. Greenwood said that they might be taken off and her old ones substituted. He asked whether any inquiries had been made to trace Holmes, who the prisoner said induced her to commit the robbery.

Bayliss replied that every inquiry had been made; he had been to Canterbury, Ramsgate, Margate, and other places, but could not trace such a person.

The prisoner was fully committed for trial.⁸

5 April 1841	Departed Woolwich, England on the <i>Rajah</i> . ⁹
19 July 1841	Arrived at Hobart on the <i>Rajah</i> . ⁹
c24 July 1841	Upon arrival at Hobart, assigned to Mr Fletcher, New Town. ¹⁰
29 November 1841	Charged with being out after hours from the service of Boot; reprimanded and returned to her service. ¹¹
9 December 1841	Charged with being out after hours from the service of Boot; reprimanded and returned to her service. ¹¹

⁸ *Morning Chronicle*, 7 August 1840 Issue 22059 Article 3 (Elizabeth Clayton)

⁹ AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah*

¹⁰ ML, CY 1282 p.145 (Elizabeth Clayton); ML, CY 1274 p.254 (Elizabeth Clayton)

¹¹ TAHO, CON40/1/2 p.202 No.432 [image 200] (Elizabeth Clayton)

- 31 December 1841 Mustered at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.¹²
- 18 January 1842 Charged with disorderly conduct; in the service of Johnson; to be assigned in the interior and never again in the town.¹¹
- 31 March 1842 Charged on the complaint of her master Josiah Spode Esquire with misconduct in repeatedly absenting herself without leave and disobedience of orders in going to the Race Course yesterday; sentence 12 months hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart, and recommended that 3 months of that time be passed in the separate working cells.¹³
- 23¹⁴ August 1842 Charged at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart on the complaint of Mr Hutchinson with insubordination¹⁵ in assisting in a riotous proceeding which occurred among the females in the Crime Class in the House of Correction on the evening of 23 August; remanded until 26 August.¹⁶
- Ann McKenna (*Mexborough*), Catherine Jane Downey (*Mexborough*), Jane Charlton¹⁷ (*Mexborough*), Mary Smith (*Mexborough*), Caroline Justin (*Navarino*), Bridget Toomey (*Hindostan*), Elizabeth Reid (*Nautilus*), Janet McLean (*Nautilus*), Mary Cunningham (*Mary Ann III*), Elizabeth Thomas (*Gilbert Henderson*), Mary Roberts (*Gilbert Henderson*), Mary Rafter (*Mexborough*), Martha Hodgson (*Navarino*), Sarah Griffiths (*Navarino*), Mary Matthews (*Mary Ann III*) and Fanny Jarvis (*Westmoreland*) charged with the same offence; remanded.¹⁶
- Charge notes:
Charged by the Superintendent Mr Hutchinson with insubordination in assisting in a riot or tumultuouy proceeding which occurred among the Females in the Crime Class of the House of Correction on the Evening of Tuesday the 23rd Instant.
Plea – All guilty of being in the ring except Clayton and Justin who plead not guilty.
Mr Hutchinson being resworn and his evidence as taken on Thursday the 25th inst being read over to the thirteen women now present. States that that evidence is correct as regards these women.
*Remanded.*¹⁸
- 26 August 1842 Brought up at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart charged as before; remanded until 31 August.¹⁶
- 31 August 1842 Brought up Cascades Female Factory, Hobart charged as before; remanded until 7 September.¹⁶
- 7 September 1842 Brought up Cascades Female Factory, Hobart charged as before; remanded until 14 September.¹⁶
- 14 September 1842 Brought up Cascades Female Factory, Hobart charged as before; remanded until 17 September.¹⁶
- 17 September 1842 Brought up Cascades Female Factory, Hobart charged as before; plea guilty; present sentence to hard labour extended 6 months, out of which to be placed in solitary confinement 21 days with an interval of 1 month between each 7 days, at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.¹⁶
- 11 April 1844 Classified as a 3rd class probation pass-holder; gazetted 12 April.¹⁹

¹² AJCP, HO 10/51 p.354 No.432 (Elizabeth Clayton)

¹³ TAHO, AC480/1/1, 31 March 1842 (Elizabeth Clayton)

¹⁴ Date given as 7 August on conduct record.

¹⁵ Mentioned in the *Report of the Inquiry into Female Prison Discipline 1841–1843* (TAHO, CSO22/1/50 No.208 pp.401–405 (Elizabeth Clayton)).

¹⁶ TAHO, AC480/1/1, 17 September 1842 (Ann McKenna, Cath^e J Downey, Jane Charlton, Mary Smith, Caroline Justin, Elizabeth Clayton, Bridget Toomey, Elizabeth Reid, Janet McLean, Mary Cunningham, Elizabeth Thomas, Mary Roberts, Mary Rafter, Martha Hodgson, Sarah Griffiths, Mary Matthews, Fanny Jarvis)

¹⁷ Jane was transported as Jane Reed alias Charlton.

¹⁸ TAHO, CSO22/1/50 No.208 pp.401–405 (Elizabeth Clayton)

¹⁹ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 12 April 1844 p.424 (Elizabeth Clayton)

Elizabeth Clayton

6 May 1844	Charged at the Police Court, Hobart by her master Thomas Horne Esquire with misconduct in being absent 3 days and nights without leave; plea guilty; sentence 10 days in solitary confinement at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart. ²⁰
16 June 1844	Paid 5 shillings into the savings bank account held by the Government on behalf of convicts. ²¹
2 September 1844	Application for permission to marry Thomas Dowling ²² (free by servitude); sent to the Secretary; approved. ²³
4 September 1844	Notice given of approval for permission to marry Thomas Dowling; Elizabeth in private service at New Norfolk; Thomas free. ²⁴
29 August 1844	At New Norfolk. ¹¹
9 October 1844	Married Thomas Dowling at St Matthew's Anglican Church, New Norfolk; Elizabeth aged 23, spinster, ship <i>Rajah</i> , illiterate; Thomas aged 28, watchmaker, bachelor; witnesses Edward Hudson and William Corney. ²⁵
1 November 1845	Ticket of Leave granted; gazetted 4 November. ²⁶
December 1845	Resident in the Campbell Town district, then Launceston; ticket-of-leave holder. ²⁷
23 June 1846	Charged with living in a state of fornication with John Spicer; sentence 6 months hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.
16 November 1846	The remainder of the punishment sentence passed in June 1846 remitted by the Governor. ¹¹
17 August 1850	Free by servitude. ¹¹
24 April 1851	Certificate of Freedom issued. ¹¹

Notes

- Elizabeth may be the Elizabeth Speed who departed Launceston on 13 September 1852 bound for Melbourne with William Speed as steerage passengers on the schooner *Sea Witch*; Elizabeth free by servitude, ship to colony *Rajah*; William free, ship to colony *Shamrock*.²⁸
- Elizabeth may be the Elizabeth Williams who departed Launceston on 18 January 1851 with Thomas Williams bound for Adelaide as steerage passengers on the *Peri*; Elizabeth holding a Conditional Pardon, ship to colony *Rajah*; Thomas free, ship to colony *Elizabeth*.²⁹
- Elizabeth's husband Thomas may be the Thomas Dowling who died of phthisis pulmonalis at Argyle Street, Hobart on 20 April 1868; aged 53, born England, licensed victualler; informant A Clark, undertaker. He was buried on 23 April 1868.³⁰

²⁰ TAHO, AC480/1/1, 6 May 1844 (Elizabeth Clayton)

²¹ TAHO, CON73/1/1 p.58 (Elizabeth Clayton)

²² There were two convicts named Thomas Dowling transported to Tasmania – Thomas Dowling transported for 10 years on the *Gilmore* in 1838 and Thomas Dowling transported for 7 years on the *Lord William Bentinck* in 1838. Neither of these appears to be Elizabeth's husband.

²³ TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.39 (Elizabeth Clayton & Thos Dowling)

²⁴ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 6 September 1844 p.1081; 13 September 1844 p.1111; 19 September 1844 p.1142 (Elizabeth Clayton & Thomas Dowling)

²⁵ TAHO, RGD37/1/4 1844/1300 Hobart (Elizabeth Clayton & Thomas Dowling); TAHO, NS489/1/3 No.109 (Thomas Dowling & Elizabeth Clayton)

²⁶ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 4 November 1845 p.1386 (Elizabeth Clayton)

²⁷ TAHO, POL47/1/3 (Elizabeth Clayton)

²⁸ TAHO, POL220/1/2 pp.142–143 (Elizabeth Speed & William Speed)

²⁹ TAHO, POL220/1/1 p.318 (Elizabeth Williams)

³⁰ TAHO, RGD35/1/7 1868/7272 Hobart (Thomas Dowling); *Mercury*, 22 April 1868 (Thomas Dowling)

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