

Mary Ann Davis (*uxor Mary Ann Wright*)

POLICE NUMBER 300 ¹	LITERACY neither read nor write
TRIAL DATE 7 December 1840	AGE ON EMBARKATION 16
TRIAL PLACE Middlesex (Hicks Hall) Sessions of the Peace	AGE ON ARRIVAL 17
OFFENCE stealing 2 gowns and a bonnet	HEIGHT 5' 3½"
SENTENCE 7 years, extended 12 months	COMPLEXION pale
GAOL REPORT 1 month House of Correction before, poor, single	HEAD oval
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS 1 month in the House of Correction	HAIR light brown
SURGEON'S REPORT good	VISAGE oval
ON THE TOWN 6 months	FOREHEAD medium
MARITAL STATUS single	EYEBROWS brown
CHILDREN 0	EYES hazel
FAMILY	NOSE medium
NATIVE PLACE Shipley, Sussex, England	MOUTH medium
TRADE ON EMBARKATION	CHIN round
TRADE ON ARRIVAL housemaid, nursemaid	MARKS JSJ and JH on left arm

c1824 **Born** at Shipley, Sussex, England.²

7 December 1840 Tried at Hicks Hall Sessions of the Peace, Clerkenwell, London, Middlesex, England indicted for larceny; sentence 7 years transportation.³

5 April 1841 Departed Woolwich, England on the *Rajah*.⁴

19 July 1841 Arrived at Hobart on the *Rajah*.⁴

c24 July 1841 Upon arrival at Hobart, assigned to Dr Brock, New Town Road, Hobart.⁵

8 December 1841 Charged with disobedience of orders and disorderly conduct; in the service of Brock; sentence 6 days in solitary confinement at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart, then returned to her service.³

31 December 1841 Mustered at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.⁶

26 January 1842 Charged with misconduct in having in her possession some eggs for which she could not satisfactorily account; in the service of Barrett; sentence 6 months hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.³

15⁷ October 1842 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on the complaint of Constable Linley with misconduct in being absent without leave yesterday from the service of Mr Young, Campbell Street, Hobart; plea guilty; sentence 6 days in solitary confinement at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart, then returned to her service.⁸

11 February 1843 Absconded from the service of Mrs Morrison, Harrington Street, Hobart; gazetted 15 February.⁹

1 March 1843 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on the complaint of Constable Flint with absconding on 11 February from the service of Mrs John Morrison, New Town and remaining illegally at large until apprehended yesterday morning; plea guilty;

¹ TAHO, CON40/1/4 p.35 No.300 [image 39] (Mary Ann Davis); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.193 [image 100] (Mary Ann Davis); ML, CY 1282 p.146 (Mary Ann Davis); ML, CY 1197 p.152 (Mary Ann Davis); ML, CY 958 p.443 (Mary Ann Davis)

² TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.193 [image 100] (Mary Ann Davis)

³ TAHO, CON40/1/4 p.35 No.300 [image 39] (Mary Ann Davis)

⁴ AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah*

⁵ ML, CY 1282 p.146 (Mary Ann Davis); ML, CY 1274 p.255 (Mary Ann Davis)

⁶ AJCP, HO 10/51 p.358 No.300 (Mary Ann Davis)

⁷ Conduct record has date as 14 October 1842.

⁸ TAHO, AC480/1/1, 15 October 1842 (Mary Ann Davis)

⁹ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 17 February 1843 p.154 (Mary Ann Davis)

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- existing sentence of transportation extended 12 months and recommended that she be detained 6 months on probation at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.¹⁰
- 2 October 1843 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart by Constable Anderson with absconding from the service of Mrs Solomon on Tuesday 26 September and remaining illegally at large until she surrendered this morning; plea guilty; sentence 6 months hard labour at the wash tub at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.¹¹
- 4 March 1844 Application for permission to marry Thomas Bakewell (free) sent to the Muster Master.¹²
- 16 March 1844 Application for permission to marry Thomas Bakewell sent to the Secretary; to apply again when her present punishment sentence is up.¹²
- 30 April 1844 Classified as a 1st class probation pass-holder; gazetted 3 May.¹³
- 25 May 1844 Charged at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart with misconduct; sentence 1 month in solitary confinement at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.³
- 30 May 1844 Hired in private service as a probation pass-holder to Charles Bradbury, *Kensington*.¹⁴
- 14 September 1844 Hired in private service for 1 month as a probation pass-holder to Vincent Betts, Warwick Street, Hobart.¹⁵
- 26 September 1844 Promoted from a 1st class to a 3rd class probation pass-holder; gazetted 1 October.¹⁶
- 6 January 1845 Hired in private service for 12 months as a probation pass-holder to RH Macmichael, New Norfolk.¹⁷
- 23 February 1844 Absconded from the service of Mr RH Macmichael, New Norfolk.¹⁸
- 24 February 1845 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart by Constable Cochrane with being drunk and out after hours last night; in the service of Mr Macmichael, New Norfolk; plea guilty; sentence 3 months hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.¹⁹
- 26 April 1845 Charged at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart with misconduct; reprimanded.³
- 6 May 1845 Hired in private service for 12 months as a probation pass-holder to Margaret Harris, Liverpool Street, Hobart.²⁰
- 11 July 1845 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart by Constable Sproul with being absent all night without leave from the service of Mr Harris; plea guilty; sentence 4 months hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.²¹
- 15 December 1845 Hired in private service for 3 months as a probation pass-holder to Charles H Huxtable, Morven district.²²
- 27 December 1845 Charged with absconding from the service of Huxtable; sentence 3 months hard labour at Launceston Female Factory.³
- 14 May 1846 Charged with absconding from the service of Stoddart; existing sentence of transportation extended 6 months and detained on probation for 4 months at Launceston Female Factory.³
- 29 December 1846 At Launceston.³
- 1846 At the Hiring Depot, Launceston.²³

¹⁰ TAHO, AC480/1/1, 1 March 1843 (Mary Ann Davis)

¹¹ TAHO, AC480/1/1, 2 October 1843 (Mary Ann Davis)

¹² TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.271 (Mary Davis & Thos Bakewell)

¹³ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 3 May 1844 p.503 (Mary A Davis)

¹⁴ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 31 May 1844 p.597 (Mary Ann Davis)

¹⁵ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 8 October 1844 p.1266 (Mary Ann Davis)

¹⁶ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 1 October 1844 p.1208 (Mary Ann Davis)

¹⁷ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 28 January 1845 p.111 (Mary Ann Davis)

¹⁸ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 4 March 1845 p.281 (Mary Ann Davis)

¹⁹ TAHO, AC480/1/1, 24 February 1845 (Mary Ann Davis)

²⁰ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 1 July 1845 p.769 (Mary Ann Davis)

²¹ TAHO, AC480/1/1, 11 July 1845 (Mary Ann Davis)

²² *Hobart Town Gazette*, 10 February 1846 p.140 (Mary Ann Davis)

²³ AJCP, HO 10/39 (Mary Ann Davis)

15 January 1847	Application for permission to marry Edward Wright ²⁴ (<i>William Jardine</i>) sent to the Secretary; approved. ²⁵ Notice given of approval for permission to marry Edward Wright; Mary Ann in private service at Launceston; Edward in private service at Launceston. ²⁶
9 February 1847	At Launceston. ³
11 February 1847	Married Edward Wright at York Street Congregational Chapel, Launceston; Mary Ann aged 21, spinster, illiterate; Edward aged 26, tailor, bachelor; witnesses George Dyson and Alice McIntosh. ²⁷
5 August 1847	Ticket of Leave granted; gazetted 10 July. ²⁸
18 August 1847	At Launceston. ³
26 October 1847	Husband Edward Wright returned to Government, to the Prisoners' Barracks, Launceston, not being under proper control. ³¹
24 November 1847	Husband Edward Wright charged at the Police Court, Hobart with absconding from the Prisoners' Barracks, Launceston; sentence 1 month in solitary confinement. ³¹
1 February 1848	Husband Edward Wright charged at the Police Court, Hobart by Mather with absconding; sentence 6 months imprisonment and hard labour. ³¹
26 July 1848	Husband Edward Wright, in the Oatlands Party, charged with being drunk; reprimanded. ³¹
8 August 1848	Petition for remission of sentence; not recommended. ²⁹
10 August 1848	Petition to be restored to freedom refused. ³
27 December 1848	Petition for remission of sentence. ³
27 January 1849	Petition for remission of 6 months extension received in May 1846 approved.
11 May 1849	Certificate of Freedom issued. ³⁰
15 May 1849	Husband Edward Wright charged at Launceston by Edwards with being drunk; sentence 48 hours' solitary confinement. ³¹
22 August 1849	Husband Edward Wright charged at Launceston by Breton with misconduct in having a married female pass-holder locked up on his master's premises; sentence 2 months imprisonment and hard labour, treadwheel recommended. ³¹
1 October 1849	Husband Edward Wright charged at Perth with misconduct in privately working; existing sentence of imprisonment and hard labour extended 14 days. ³¹
7 January 1850	Husband Edward Wright charged at the Prisoners' Barracks, Launceston with not being under proper control; returned to Government and recommended to be removed to the other side of the Island. ³¹
18 June 1850	Husband Edward Wright charged at Hobart by Rosman with being absent without leave; sentence 2 months imprisonment and hard labour. ³¹
4 March 1851	Husband Edward Wright granted a Ticket of Leave. ³¹
13 May 1851	Husband Edward Wright issued a Certificate of Freedom. ³¹

Notes

- Mary Ann's husband may be the Edward Wright who was the occupier of a house at 35 Patrick Street, Hobart in 1858; owner William Eltham, annual value £12.³²

²⁴ Edward Wright was transported for 7 years on the *William Jardine* in 1844, tried at Lancaster (Liverpool) Borough Quarter Sessions for stealing wearing apparel; single, aged 24, native place Liverpool, tailor; Ticket of Leave 4 March 1851; Certificate of Freedom 13 May 1851 (TAHO, CON33/1/62 No.14924 [image 262] (Edward Wright)).

²⁵ TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.396 (Edw^d Wright & Mary A Davis)

²⁶ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 19 January 1847 p.111 (Edward Wright & Mary Ann Davis)

²⁷ TAHO, RGD37/1/6 1847/1310 Launceston (Mary Ann Davis & Edward Wright)

²⁸ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 10 August 1847 p.811 (Mary Ann Davis)

²⁹ TAHO, CON47/1/1 (Mary Ann Davis)

³⁰ Mary Ann was due to be free by servitude on 7 June 1849, so her sentence was remitted 1 month.

³¹ TAHO, CON33/1/62 No.14924 [image 262] (Edward Wright)

³² Cowley, *Alphabetical Listings by Owner and Occupier of the 1858 Valuation Roll for the City of Hobart Town* p.L1-82 (Edward Wright)

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- Mary Ann's husband may be the Edward Wright who was occupier of a house and shop in Argyle Street, Hobart in 1861; owner C Colvin and HB Tonkin; annual value £13.³³
- Mary Ann's husband may be the Edwin Wright who was occupier of a dwelling house at 47 Patrick Street, Hobart in 1870; owner John Elliott of Warwick Street, Hobart; annual value £16.³⁴
- Mary Ann's husband may be the Edward Wright who was occupier of a house and shop at 193 Elizabeth Street, Hobart; owner trustees of the James' estate; annual value £16.³⁵
- Mary Ann's husband may be the Edward Wright, resident of Patrick Street, Hobart, from whom 1 red and blue flowered satin dress and 2 print dresses were stolen on 27 January 1863 while he was in the *Sir John Franklin* public house in Murray Street, Hobart. Mary Ann's husband was a tailor. These dresses were later reported as not having been stolen.³⁶
- Mary Ann's husband may be the Edward Wright who was resident at 48 Patrick Street, Hobart in 1867.³⁷
- Mary Ann may be the Mary Ann Wright who was charged with the following offences:
 - Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on 29 June 1857 with larceny; sentence 6 months imprisonment.³⁸

Newspaper report:

Larceny. – Mary Ann Wright was charged by D.C. Morley with having stolen on or about the 26th of March last, two dresses of the value of ten shillings and thirteen shillings and sixpence in money the property of Joseph Maxall. The prisoner elected to be tried by the magistrates and pleaded not guilty.

*The evidence in this case was exceedingly voluminous and exceedingly uninteresting. The bench found the prisoner guilty, and sentenced her to six months imprisonment.*³⁸

- Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on 20 September 1858 with stealing 1 silver watch and 2 sovereigns, the property of Edwin Ross; Mr Lees appeared for the prisoner; remanded till the 22nd instant.³⁹
- On 22 September 1858 brought up at the Police Court, Hobart from 20 September charged with stealing from the person; sentence 6 months imprisonment with hard labour at Cascades House of Correction, Hobart.⁴⁰

Newspaper reports:

Stealing from the Person. – Mary Ann Wright, a middle-aged female, was charged with stealing on the 8th instant, a silver watch of the value of £2, two sovereigns, and some silver amounting to 10s. 9d., the properties and monies of Abraham Ross.

By the evidence of the prosecutor, a shipsmith, it was shown that he was at the house of Edward Wright, the husband of the prisoner, on the night of the 8th instant; he went to bed shortly before 10 o'clock, and occupied a room that was entered by a trap door; his watch was in his fob, and the money in his trowsers' pocket; he placed his trowsers on a chair, which he put on the trap door, so that no one could come into the room without waking him; there was no other means of entering the room except the trap door: during the night the prisoner came into the room and witness asked her what she wanted? She said some onions for her husband's breakfast; witness observed that she was a long time, when she said she was picking out the bad onions to fry; when witness got up in the morning he found his watch and money missing, and fetched two constables, who took the prisoner into custody, but let her go again: the prisoner then told witness that she had his watch and money both, but he should have neither the one nor the other; witness then left the house, and had not seen the prisoner form that time to this.

In cross-examination the witness said he was a stranger in the colony, having only recently arrived from England; he was quite sober when he went to bed; he had been lodging at prisoner's house for a fortnight, and had paid her £3 or £4 more than was due.

³³ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 19 December 1861 p.1949 (Edward Wright)

³⁴ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 6 December 1870 p.1402 (Edwin Wright)

³⁵ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 7 December 1880 p.1241 (Edward Wright)

³⁶ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 30 January 1863 p.18 (Edward Wright); *Hobart Town Gazette*, 20 March 1863 p.46 (Edward Wright)

³⁷ Macphail, *MacPhail's National Directory of Tasmania for 1867–1868* p.32 (Edward Wright)

³⁸ *Mercury*, 1 July 1857 p.3 (Mary Ann Wright)

³⁹ *Hobart Town Courier*, 20 September 1858 p.3 (Mary Ann Wright)

⁴⁰ *Mercury*, 23 September 1858 p.3 (Mary Ann Wright)

*The prisoner was sentenced to six months' imprisonment with hard labor.*⁴⁰

*Stealing a Watch and Money. – Mary Ann Wright was charged with stealing, on the 8th instant, one silver watch and a purse containing £2 10s. 9d. the property of Abraham Ross. Mr. Lees appeared for the prisoner, who was adjudged to be guilty, and sentenced to six months' imprisonment with hard labour.*⁴¹

- Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on 10 November 1859 with wilful destruction of property; sentence 8 shillings and costs, in default 14 days imprisonment.⁴²

Newspaper report:

*Wilful destruction of Property. – Mary Ann Wright pleaded guilty to an information made against her by Mr. Britton, publican, Collins-street, charging her with having wilfully broken four panes of glass in his window yesterday, and was ordered to pay 8s. and costs, and in default to be imprisoned for 14 days.*⁴²

- Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on 16 May 1861 with using obscene language; fined £5, in default 3 months' imprisonment; an incorrigible offender.⁴³
- Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on 27 December 1862 with robbery; remanded.⁴⁴

Newspaper report:

*ROBBERY. – Mary Ann Wright was charged with having on 26th instant, stolen from the person of one Chas. Thompson, a leather bag, and gold ring, and was remanded to Wednesday 31st.*⁴⁴

- Brought up at the Police Court, Hobart on 10 January 1863 charged with stealing money; committed for trial.⁴⁵

Newspaper report:

STEALING MONEY. – Mary Ann Wright was brought up on remand, charged with stealing thirteen sovereigns the moneys of Charles Thomson.

Mr Graves again appeared for the prisoner, and the following additional evidence was taken:–

Mr. Sarjeant, pawnbroker, deposed that he had seen the prisoner before, and produced a ring which had been pledged with him on the 26th ultimo, by a woman, to whom he gave the duplicate now produced. The woman gave the name of Mary Howard, and was rather taller than the prisoner. The ring had been pawned before, or one very like it.

William Williams, landlord of the Tasmanian Inn, Campbell-street. proved that he saw the prosecutor on Christmas Day at his house, where he had some drink. A young woman came in with him; the prisoner was that woman, and they went away together. The prosecutor paid for the drink, but witness did not see where he took his money from.

Cross-examined: There were other women in the house. Thomson seemed to have been enjoying himself, but I did not see him drink with any other woman besides the prisoner.

Detective Morley deposed to the apprehension of the prisoner in a public house in Liverpool-street. She said that the prisoner had accused her of robbing him, but she had not done so; it was the other woman who was with him. Witness saw the pawnbroker's duplicate at the watch-house, and asked the prisoner to give it to him, and she did so, saying that it was her wedding ring which she pawned herself. There were 4s. and some coppers found upon the prisoner.

Cross-examined: I know a woman named Howard and that the prisoner lived with her six or seven weeks. She is a little taller than the prisoner. The ring now produced fits the prisoner. I cannot say whether she had the ring on when I took her into custody. If she had the female searcher would have handed it to me.

The prosecutor was recalled, and in reply to his Worship said that he had a ring similar to that produced, which he kept in the bag.

The evidence being exhausted,

⁴¹ *Hobart Town Courier*, 22 September 1858 p.3 (Mary Ann Wright)

⁴² *Mercury*, 12 November 1859 p.3 (Mary Ann Wright)

⁴³ *Mercury*, 17 May 1861 p.2 (Mary Ann Wright)

⁴⁴ *Mercury*, 29 December 1862 p.2 (Mary Ann Wright)

⁴⁵ *Mercury*, 12 January 1863 (Mary Ann Wright)

Mr. Graves addressed the Bench for the defence and reviewed the evidence at some length. In reference to pledging the ring, the learned counsel asked why, if the prisoner had taken the sovereigns should she have required 5s.? Besides, if she had stolen the ring, the mere act of pledging it would have been the means of advertising the robbery. He contended that the probabilities of the case were all in favour of the prisoner's innocence.

His Worship decided upon sending the case to a jury, when.

Mr. Graves applied for bail.

His Worship said he did not think he should be justified in admitting the prisoner to bail, and she was accordingly committed for trial.⁴⁵

- o Tried at the Supreme Court, Hobart on 27 January 1863 indicted for larceny.⁴⁶
- o Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on 18 March 1865 with disturbing the peace; fined 20 shillings, in default imprisonment.⁴⁷
- o Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on 1 June 1865 with disturbing the peace; fined £3, in default 3 months imprisonment at Cascades House of Correction, Hobart; a frequent offender.⁴⁸
- o Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on 12 April 1867 with being a common disturber of the peace; to find sureties for 6 months.⁴⁹

Newspaper report:

COMMON DISTURBER. – *Propsting v. Wright*. Mary Ann Wright was charged by the Superintendent of Police as a common disturber of the peace.

Constable McCormack proved that defendant lived in Patrick-street near Elizabeth-street. She had frequently been to the office for disturbing the peace, and he particularly stated that on one occasion, the night of the 5th inst. about 12 o'clock, she made a great noise and shouted out that there were three constables who wanted to rob her house; that they had got her husband locked up, and they wanted to get her away too.

Cross-examined: I went to you at the window where you were leaning half out, and told you if you did not desist from making a noise, I should take you to the watchhouse.

Sergeant Rollins gave corroborative evidence.

Mr. Propsting deposed that he lived near defendant's house; on the 5th inst., at five in the afternoon, she was quarrelling with her husband in Patrick-street, in her own dwelling, in the yard, and in the street. Her husband was apprehended; after that defendant sat at the window, and by her shouts and screams alarmed the neighbourhood for four hours. She was a pest to the town. He handed in a document showing that she had been convicted of disturbing the peace eighteen times, extending over a few years.

Cross-examined: You are always shouting at me whenever I pass. I heard you mention my name, but I sent for the constables.

The Bench ordered defendant to enter into recognizances for six months, her husband in £20 and two sureties in £10 each.⁴⁹

- o Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on 17 October 1868 with disturbing the peace; fined £3, in default 3 months' imprisonment.⁵⁰

Newspaper report:

DISTURBING THE PEACE. – *Mary Ann Wright* was charged with disturbing the peace.

She pleaded guilty, but said her husband had broken his pledge, and brutally assaulted her on the face and arms, facts which she offered to demonstrate to the Bench.

Constable Young said the woman was screaming out murder in her house, and continued doing so for an hour.

She was fined £3, or three months' in default, as she was addicted to "screaming."⁵⁰

- o Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on 13 November 1868 with disturbing the peace; fined £3, in default 3 months' imprisonment.⁵¹

⁴⁶ *Mercury*, 24 January 1863 p.2 (Mary Ann Wright)

⁴⁷ *Mercury*, 20 March 1865 p.2 (Mary Ann Wright)

⁴⁸ *Mercury*, 2 June 1865 p.2 (Mary Ann Wright)

⁴⁹ *Mercury*, 13 April 1867 p.2 (Mary Ann Wright)

⁵⁰ *Mercury*, 19 October 1868 p.2 (Mary Ann Wright)

⁵¹ *Mercury*, 14 November 1868 p.2 (Mary Ann Wright)

Newspaper report:

Disturbing the Peace. – ...

Mary Ann Wright, a middle aged woman, pleaded not guilty to a similar charge preferred by Constable McCormac.

The charge was proved by Constables McCormack and Jackson. The scene of the disturbance was in a yard attached to the defendant's dwelling house in Patrick-street.

*The magistrate said the defendant had been convicted so often that he could not reckon the number of times. She must pay a fine of £3, or be imprisoned for three months.*⁵¹

- Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on 9 January 1869 with disturbing the peace; fined £5 6 pence, in default 6 months imprisonment.⁵²

Newspaper report:

PEACE DISTURBING. – *Mary Ann Wright, charged by constable Walker with disturbing the peace in Patrick-street, between the hours of 12 and 1 this morning, pleaded not guilty.*

Walker said she had been making a disturbance from 9 o'clock in her own premises, and no one in the neighbourhood could sleep. He saw the neighbours at the windows. Witness produced the city bye-law.

*The Stipendiary Magistrate sentenced the defendant to pay a penalty of £5 0s. 6d. or six months' imprisonment in default.*⁵²

- Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on 30 January 1871 with disturbing the peace; fined 10 shillings, in default 14 days imprisonment.⁵³

Newspaper report:

PEACE DISTURBING. – *Mary Ann Wright, residing in Patrick-street, was fined 10s., or 14 days' hard labor for disturbing the peace in a yard on Saturday evening.*⁵³

⁵² *Mercury*, 11 January 1869 p.2 (Mary Ann Wright)

⁵³ *Mercury*, 31 January 1871 p.3 (Mary Ann Wright)