

Sarah Esp

(proper name Julia Esp; uxor Sarah Kerr)

POLICE NUMBER 94 ¹	LITERACY neither read nor write
TRIAL DATE 14 ² October 1839	AGE ON EMBARKATION 29
TRIAL PLACE Shropshire (Salop) Quarter Sessions	AGE ON ARRIVAL 30
OFFENCE stealing an apron	HEIGHT 5' 2 ³ / ₄ "
SENTENCE 7 years	COMPLEXION pale
GAOL REPORT once imprisoned and once convicted before	HEAD oval
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS once for stealing ducks ³	HAIR dark brown
SURGEON'S REPORT quiet	VISAGE long
ON THE TOWN no	FOREHEAD high
MARITAL STATUS single	EYEBROWS brown
CHILDREN 0	EYES hazel
FAMILY father William Espe, officer in army	NOSE medium
NATIVE PLACE Church Stretton, Shropshire, England	MOUTH wide
TRADE ON EMBARKATION labourer	CHIN medium
TRADE ON ARRIVAL farm servant, wash, iron, milk, cheese, brew, bake	MARKS scar on left side of neck

c1811	Born at Church Stretton, Shropshire, England; father William Espe, army officer. ⁴
17 April 1812	Baptised at Church Stretton, Shropshire, England; father William Espe; mother Mary. ⁵
14 October 1839	Tried at Salop Quarter Sessions, Shropshire, England indicted for larceny in stealing an apron; sentence 7 years transportation. ⁶
5 April 1841	Departed Woolwich, England on the <i>Rajah</i> . ⁷
19 July 1841	Arrived at Hobart on the <i>Rajah</i> . ⁷
c24 July 1841	Upon arrival at Hobart, sent to Launceston for assignment; assigned to Major Gray, Avoca. ⁸
31 December 1841	Mustered in the service of Humphrey Gray Esquire, Launceston. ⁹
2 August 1842	Returned to the Crown from the service of Humphrey Gray, Campbell Town. ¹⁰
1 October 1842	Daughter Amelia Esp, illegitimate, born at Launceston Female Factory; mother Sarah Esp, prisoner; informant Robert Pearson, Superintendent, Launceston Female Factory. ¹¹
11 April 1843	At Launceston. ⁶
14 September 1843	Ticket of Leave granted; gazetted 15 September. ¹²
18 September 1843	Pass issued to travel to the Police Office, Campbell Town. ¹³
September 1843	Resident in the Campbell Town district with A Smith. ¹⁴

¹ TAHO, CON40/1/4 p.122 No.94 [image 101] (Sarah Esp); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.197 [image 102] (Sarah Esp); ML, CY 1282 p. 147 (Sarah Esp proper name Julia); ML, CY 1197 p.156 (Sarah Esp); ML, CY 958 p.443 (Sarah Esp)

² Trial date given as 15 October 1839 on Embarkation List (ML, CY 1197 p.156 (Sarah Esp)), but 14 October 1839 on Assignment List (ML, CY 958 p.443 (Sarah Esp)).

³ It may not have been ducks she stole, as this word is difficult to interpret.

⁴ VIC Death Certificate 1895/3167 (Sarah Kerr); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.197 [image 102] (Sarah Esp)

⁵ *Family Search*, IGI Batch No.P01727-1, Source Film No.0162093 (Sarah Espe)

⁶ TAHO, CON40/1/4 p.122 No.94 [image 101] (Sarah Esp)

⁷ AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah*

⁸ ML, CY 1282 p.141 (Sarah Esp); ML, CY 1274 p.256 (Sarah Esp)

⁹ AJCP, HO 10/51 p.360 No.94 (Sarah Esp)

¹⁰ TAHO, LC83/1/6 p.132 (Sarah EASP)

¹¹ TAHO, RGD33/1/23 1842/1168 Launceston (female Esp); TAHO, SWD28/1/1 p.25 (Amelia Esp)

¹² *Hobart Town Gazette*, 15 September 1843 p.1042 (Sarah Esp)

¹³ TAHO, CON82/1/1 pp.360-361 (Sarah Esp)

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

October 1843	Resident in the Campbell Town district with H Shean. ¹⁴
November 1843	Resident in the Campbell Town district with W Valentine, till March 1844. ¹⁴
1 February 1844	Application for permission to marry William Kerr ¹⁵ (<i>Layton</i>) sent to the Muster Master. ¹⁶
8 March 1844	Application for permission to marry William Kerr sent to the Secretary; approved. ¹⁶
13 March 1844	Notice given of approval for permission to marry William Kerr; Sarah in assigned service at Campbell Town, William a ticket-of-leave holder. ¹⁷
1 April 1844	Married William Kerr at St Luke's Church of England, Campbell Town; Sarah aged 33, illiterate, spinster; William aged 30, bachelor, labourer; witnesses James O'Meara and Henry Duncan. ¹⁸
April 1844	Resident in the Campbell Town district with husband W Kerr, till October 1844. ¹⁴
November 1844	Resident in the Campbell Town district with RC Foster, till January 1845. ¹⁴
February 1845	Resident in the Campbell Town district with husband W Kerr, till July 1845. ¹⁴
22 March 1845	Daughter Amelia Esp admitted to the Queen's Orphan Schools; aged 2, Roman Catholic, mother Sarah Esp. ¹⁹
2 May 1845	Son William Henry Kerr born at Campbell Town; father William Curr, labourer; informant mother Sarah Esp, illiterate, resident of Campbell Town. ²⁰
13 July 1845	Son William Henry Kerr baptised at St Luke's Church of England, Campbell Town; parents residents of Campbell Town. ²¹
November 1845	Resident in the Campbell Town district with husband W Kerr, till October 1846 when free. ²²
October 1846	Husband William Kerr approved for a Conditional Pardon. ²³
15 October 1846	Certificate of Freedom issued. ⁶
c1847	Moved with her family from Tasmania to Victoria.
1847	Daughter Esther Kerr born at Collingwood, VIC; father William Kerr; mother Sarah Kerr. ²⁴
1851	Daughter Sarah Kerr born at Collingwood, VIC; father William Kerr; mother Sarah Kerr. ²⁵
10 February 1858	Daughter Amelia Esp discharged from the Queen's Orphan Schools, apprenticed to James Thornton, Hobart. ¹⁹
1 September 1860	Daughter Amelia Esp admitted to the Asylum for the Insane, New Norfolk as a lunatic for mania by Justices Order; ²⁶ chargeable to Imperial funds. Description: aged 17, single, bodily condition good; no property. ²⁷
26 June 1861	Daughter Amelia Esp discharged from the Asylum for the Insane, New Norfolk; recovered. ²⁸

¹⁴ TAHO, POL47/1/2 (Sarah Esp)

¹⁵ William Kerr was transported for life on the *Layton* in 1835, tried at Dumfries Court of Justiciary on 10 April 1835 for sheep stealing; single, farm labourer, aged 23, native place Dumfries; Ticket of Leave 24 November 1843; Conditional Pardon October 1846, at Campbell Town in 1843 (TAHO, CON31/1/26 p.133 No.503 [image 137] (William Kerr), TAHO, CON18/1/13 p.189 [image 99] (William Kerr)).

¹⁶ TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.98 (Sarah Esp & Wm Kerr)

¹⁷ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 15 March 1844 p.311; 22 March 1844 p.325; 29 March 1844 p.349 (William Kerr & Sarah Esp)

¹⁸ TAHO, RGD37/1/4 1844/1484 Campbell Town (Sarah Esp & William Kerr)

¹⁹ Purtscher, *Children in Queen's Orphanage Hobart Town 1828-1863* (Amelia Esp); TAHO, SWD28/1/1 p.25 (Amelia Esp)

²⁰ TAHO, RGD33/1/26 1845/662 Campbell Town (male Curr)

²¹ TAHO, RGD32/1/3 1845/2729 Campbell Town (William Henry Kerr)

²² TAHO, POL47/1/3 (Sarah Esp)

²³ TAHO, CON31/1/26 p.133 No.503 [image 137] (William Kerr)

²⁴ VIC Birth Record 1847/15546, CofE St James, Melbourne Fiche 287 (Esther Kerr)

²⁵ VIC Birth Record 1851/26981 CofE St Peters, Melbourne Fiche 395 (Sarah Kerr)

²⁶ Order signed by William Tarleton and William Crosby Esquires; medical certificate dated 17 August by R Bright Jnr.

²⁷ TAHO, HSD247/1/1 No.274 (Amelia Hesp)

²⁸ TAHO, HSD247/1/1 No.274 (Amelia Hesp)

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- 13 June 1864 Daughter Amelia Esp re-admitted to the Asylum for the Insane, New Norfolk; chargeable to convict funds; aged 21, native.²⁹
- 31 December 1864 Daughter Amelia Esp discharged from the Asylum for the Insane, New Norfolk.²⁹
- 27 September 1866 Daughter Amelia Esp married William Smith in the house of the bridegroom at Argyle Street, Hobart; Amelia aged 23, spinster; William aged 37, labourer, single; witnesses Robert Maxwell and Mary Teresia Egan.³⁰
- 1872 Son William Henry Kerr married Emily Grace Searle in Victoria; William born Tasmania; Emily born South Yarra, VIC.³¹
- 1873 Grandson Walter Kerr born at Oakleigh, VIC; father William Henry Kerr, mother Emily Grace Searle.³²
- 1874 Granddaughter Isabella Lothian Black born at Tyabb, VIC; father Thomas Lothian Black, mother Esther Kerr.³³
- Daughter Esther Kerr married Thomas Lothian Black in Victoria; Esther born Melbourne, VIC; Thomas born Scotland.³⁴
- 1876 Grandsons Arthur Kerr and William Kerr, twins, born at Dandenong, VIC; father William Henry Kerr, mother Emily Grace Searle.³⁵
- Grandson Arthur Kerr died in Victoria; aged 2 months.³⁶
- Grandson William Kerr died in Victoria; aged 7 months.³⁷
- Grandson Anderson Lothian Black born at Tyabb, VIC; father Thomas Lothian Black, mother Esther Lothian Kerr.³⁸
- 1878 Grandson Albert Kerr born at Dandenong, VIC; father William Henry Kerr, mother Emily Grace Searle.³⁹
- Grandson Thomas Black born at Tyabb, VIC; father Thomas Lothian Black, mother Esther Lothian Kerr.⁴⁰
- 1881 Granddaughters Emily Kerr and Grace Kerr, twins, born at Oakleigh, VIC; father William Henry Kerr, mother Emily Grace Searle.⁴¹
- Daughter-in-law Emily Grace Kerr died at Oakleigh, VIC; aged 31, father Abraham Searles, mother Eliza Bowden.⁴²
- Granddaughter Christina Black born at Tyabb, VIC; father Thomas Lothian Black, mother Esther Lothian Kerr.⁴³
- Granddaughter Christina Black died at Tyabb, VIC; aged 4 months.⁴⁴
- 1882 Granddaughter Grace Kerr died at Prahran, VIC; aged 6 months.⁴⁵
- Grandsons Alexander Lothian Black and John Lothian Black, twins, born at Tyabb, VIC; father Thomas Lothian Black, mother Esther Kerr.⁴⁶
- 1885 Son William Henry Kerr married Lily Amelia Ford in Victoria; William born Tasmania; Lily born Victoria.⁴⁷

²⁹ TAHO, HSD254/1/1 (Amelia Hesp)

³⁰ TAHO, RGD37/1/25 1866/193 Hobart (Amelia Esp & William Smith)

³¹ VIC Marriage Record 1872/4560 (William Henry Kerr & Emily Grace Searle)

³² VIC Birth Record 1873/18890 (Walter Kerr)

³³ VIC Birth Record 1874/5935R (Isabella Lothian Black)

³⁴ VIC Marriage Record 1873/2723 (Thomas Lottian Black & Esther Kerr)

³⁵ VIC Birth Record 1876/4341 & 4342 (Arthur & William Kerr)

³⁶ VIC Death Record 1876/2796 (Arthur Kerr)

³⁷ VIC Death Record 1876/9864 (William Kerr)

³⁸ VIC Birth Record 1876/19842 (Anderson Lothian Black)

³⁹ VIC Birth Record 1878/22074 (Albert Kerr)

⁴⁰ VIC Birth Record 1878/26145 (Thomas Black)

⁴¹ VIC Birth Record 1881/25173 & 25174 (Emily & Grace Kerr)

⁴² VIC Death Record 1881/8393 (Emily Grace Kerr)

⁴³ VIC Birth Record 1881/13019 (Christina Black)

⁴⁴ VIC Death Record 1881/9087 (Christina Black)

⁴⁵ VIC Death Record 1882/2981 (Grace Kerr)

⁴⁶ VIC Birth Record 1882/19848R & 19849R (Alexander Lothian Black & Thomas Lothian Black)

- Grandson John Lothian Black died in Victoria; aged 3.⁴⁸
- 1887 Granddaughter Victoria Kerr born at Dandenong, VIC; father William Henry Kerr, mother Lily Amelia Ford.⁴⁹
- 8 February 1895 **Died** of apoplexy (2nd attack) and partial paralysis at 314 Malvern Road, Prahran, VIC; aged 75, housewife, born Shropshire, England, resident of Victoria about 52 years, married at Campbell Town, TAS, aged 26, to William Kerr; children⁵⁰ William Henry Kerr, aged 49, Esther aged 46 and Sarah aged 43; father William Espe, officer in army; informant son William H Kerr, resident of Serviceton.⁵¹
- 10 February 1895 Buried at St Kilda Cemetery, VIC.⁵¹

Notes

- Sarah's husband may be the William Kerr who died in Victoria in 1867; aged 58, born Scotland, parents unknown.⁵²
- Alternatively, Sarah's husband may be the William Blane Kerr who died in Victoria in 1871; aged 67, born Ayrshire, Scotland, father Peter Kerr, mother Marion.⁵³

⁴⁷ VIC Marriage Record 1885/1871 (William Henry Kerr & Lillie Amelia Ford)

⁴⁸ VIC Death Record 1885/7142 (John Lothian Black)

⁴⁹ VIC Birth Record 1887/18868 (Victoria Kerr)

⁵⁰ Note there is no mention of Sarah's illegitimate daughter Amelia.

⁵¹ VIC Death Certificate 1895/3167 (Sarah Kerr)

⁵² VIC Death Record 1867/6154 (William Kerr)

⁵³ VIC Death Record 1871/5633 (William Blane Kerr)