

Lidia French

(nee Lydia Findley, ux̄or Lidia Selby)

POLICE NUMBER 195 ¹	LITERACY read and write
TRIAL DATE 20 October 1840	AGE ON EMBARKATION 37
TRIAL PLACE Essex Quarter Sessions	AGE ON ARRIVAL 37
OFFENCE stealing a bed curtain	HEIGHT 4' 11¼"
SENTENCE 7 years	COMPLEXION pale
GAOL REPORT convicted before, bad, married	HEAD oval
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS once 6 months for stealing mutton	HAIR brown
SURGEON'S REPORT quiet	VISAGE oval
ON THE TOWN no	FOREHEAD medium
MARITAL STATUS single ²	EYEBROWS brown
CHILDREN 0	EYES hazel
FAMILY husband Thomas	NOSE medium
NATIVE PLACE Pass Green, Coggeshall, Essex, England	MOUTH medium
TRADE ON EMBARKATION	CHIN round
TRADE ON ARRIVAL housemaid, laundry maid	MARKS scar on left side of neck

13 January 1805 **Born** at Pass Green, Great Coggeshall, Essex, England; father Peter Findley, mother Susan.³

24 May 1825 **Married** Thomas French at Great Coggeshall, Essex, England.⁴

27 November 1838 Tried at the Quarter Sessions, Essex, England indicted for larceny in stealing a piece of mutton, the property of Richard B Smith, Coggeshall; found guilty; sentence 6 months hard labour at Ilford House of Correction.⁵

20 October 1840 Tried at Essex Quarter Sessions indicted for larceny in stealing a bed curtain, the property of William Pennock, Great Coggeshall; found guilty; sentence 7 years transportation.⁵

5 April 1841 Departed Woolwich, England on the *Rajah*.⁶

18 April 1841 Put on the *Rajah* sick list suffering from syncope⁷; aged 37.⁸

Observation of doctor:
*She was seized suddenly in her berth with a great difficulty of breathing and seemed to gasp for breath. When I saw her she was on pretended to be entirely unable to answer any question I put to her. She is apparently weak in health and has been an invalid constantly in the Penitentiary as I am informed. I had her removed into the Hospital and desired the Nurse to have a sharp look out upon her as I suspected her violent symptoms while her pulse was quite tranquil. She was given a little wine which soon recovered her.*⁸

19 April 1841 Observation of doctor:
*No particular complaint except of weakness. Says she is subject to frequent attacks similar to yesterday's. Her appetite does not seem impaired.*⁸

25 April 1841 Put off the *Rajah* sick list.⁸

¹ TAHO, CON40/1/4 p.175 No.195 [image 133] (Lidia French); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.199 [image 103] (Lidia French); ML, CY 1282 p.147 (Lydia French); ML, CY 1197 p.154 (Lydia French); ML, CY 958 p.442 (Lydia French)

² Marital status given as married on Embarkation List (ML, CY 1197 p.154 (Lydia French)).

³ *Family Search*, IGI (Lydia Findley); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.199 [image 103] (Lidia French)

⁴ *Family Search*, IGI (Thomas French & Lydia Tansley); *Family Search*, IGI (Thomas French & Lydia Findley); *Essex Standard*, 30 October 1840 Issue 513 Article 2 (Lydia French)

⁵ *Essex Standard*, 30 November 1838 Issue 413 Article 1 (Lydia French)

⁶ AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah*

⁷ Syncope is a loss of consciousness, fainting.

⁸ AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah* (Lydia French)

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

Observation of doctor:

*She remained in Hospital for a few days but was discovered one morning by the Nurse attempting to disturb her stomach by introducing a quill down her throat. I told her I had now found out what was the matter with her. She returned to her berth and never again came before me as an invalid during the voyage.*⁸

- 19 July 1841 Arrived at Hobart on the *Rajah*.⁶
- c24 July 1841 Upon arrival at Hobart, assigned to Mr Perry Esquire, New Town Road, Hobart.⁹
- 31 December 1841 Mustered in the service of Mr J McDonald, Hobart.¹⁰
- 29 June 1842 Application for permission to marry Charles Selby¹¹ (free) sent to the Muster Master.¹²
- 21 July 1842 Application for permission to marry Charles Selby sent to the Secretary; if the clergyman be satisfied with evidence adduced by woman.¹²
- 22 August 1842 **Married** Charles Selby at St David's Anglican Church, Hobart; Lidia aged 29, spinster; Charles aged 27, tailor, bachelor; witnesses J Clewe and James Sly (clerk).¹³
- 21 August 1844 Ticket of Leave granted; gazetted 23 August.¹⁴
- 17 September 1844 Charged with misconduct in being at the theatre after hours; sentence 14 days hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart, and Ticket of Leave suspended.¹⁵
- 18 May 1846 Charged with misconduct; admonished.¹⁵
- 20 October 1847 Free by servitude; Certificate of Freedom available for collection.¹⁶
- 25 October 1847 Certificate of Freedom issued.¹⁵
- 4 June 1853 **Died** of disease of the brain at Hobart; aged 40; informant husband Charles Selby, tailor, resident of Barrack Street, Hobart.¹⁷
- Death notice:
*On the 4th instant, aged 40, Lydia Selby, wife of Mr. Charles Selby, tailor, Barrack-street, Hobart Town.*¹⁸
- 6 June 1853 Buried at St David's Anglican Cemetery, Hobart; aged 40, tailor's wife.¹⁹
- 26 June 1896 Husband Charles Selby died of senility at the Benevolent Asylum, Launceston; aged 81, tailor; informant A Doolan, undertaker, Launceston.²⁰

⁹ ML, CY 1274 p.256 (Lydia French)

¹⁰ AJCP, HO 10/51 p.363 No.195 (Lydia French)

¹¹ Charles Selby was transported for 7 years on the *Layton* in 1835, tried at Chester Assizes on 2 August 1834 for housebreaking; single, labourer and tailor 2 years, aged 21, native place Salford; Ticket of Leave 6 January 1840, Conditional Pardon 18 November 1841, Certificate of Freedom 1842 (TAHO, CON31/1/40 p.151 No.2100 [image 153] (Charles Selby), TAHO, CON18/1/13 p.236 No.2100 image 124] (Charles Selby)).

¹² TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.184 (Lydia French & Charles Selby)

¹³ TAHO, RGD37/1/3 1842/64 Hobart (Lydia French & Charles Selby)

¹⁴ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 23 August 1844 p.1008 (Lydia French)

¹⁵ TAHO, CON40/1/4 p.175 No.195 [image 133] (Lydia French)

¹⁶ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 12 October 1847 p.1021 (Lydia French)

¹⁷ TAHO, RGD35/1/4 1853/62 Hobart (Lydia Selby)

¹⁸ *Examiner*, 9 June 1853 p.5 (Lydia Selby)

¹⁹ TAHO, NS282/1/11 p.140 (Lydia Selby)

²⁰ TAHO, RGD35/1/65 1896/198 Launceston (Charles Selby)