

*Georgiana Gatehouse**

(uxor Georgiana Grubb, Harriett Grubb)

POLICE NUMBER 256 ¹	LITERACY read and write well
TRIAL DATE 22 February 1841	AGE ON EMBARKATION 27
TRIAL PLACE Middlesex (Hicks Hall) Sessions of the Peace	AGE ON ARRIVAL 29
OFFENCE stealing a gown piece	HEIGHT 4' 11"
SENTENCE 7 years	COMPLEXION fresh
GAOL REPORT twice convicted before, poor, single 1 child	HEAD oval
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS again 2 months for stealing a gown piece, 12 months for uttering base coin	HAIR brown
SURGEON'S REPORT very industrious and good	VISAGE oval
ON THE TOWN no	FOREHEAD medium
MARITAL STATUS single	EYEBROWS brown
CHILDREN 1	EYES hazel
FAMILY	NOSE turned up
NATIVE PLACE Newgate Street, London, England	MOUTH rather wide
TRADE ON EMBARKATION	CHIN round
TRADE ON ARRIVAL housemaid, nursemaid, needlewoman	MARKS FPM on left arm

c1813 **Born** at Newgate Street, London, Middlesex, England.²

19 October 1840 Tried at the Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey), London, England indicted for larceny in stealing 49 yards of calico value 14 shillings, the property of Edward Boyle; found guilty; sentence 3 months imprisonment; aged 28.³

22 February 1841 Tried at Hicks Hall Sessions of the Peace, Clerkenwell, London, Middlesex, England indicted for larceny in stealing a gown piece; sentence 7 years transportation.⁴

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

19 July 1841 Arrived at Hobart on the *Rajah*.⁵

c24 July 1841 Upon arrival, sent to Launceston for assignment; assigned to Thomas Walker Esquire, *Rhodes*.⁶

31 December 1841 Mustered in the service of Thomas Archer Esquire, *Woolmers*.⁷

21 June 1843 Application for permission to marry William Grubb⁸ (free) sent to the Muster Master.⁹

5 July 1843 Application for permission to marry William Grubb sent to the Secretary; approved.⁹

14 July 1843 Notice given of approval for permission to marry William Grubb; Georgiana in assigned service at Longford; William free.¹⁰

3 August 1843 **Married** William Grubb at Christ Anglican Church, Longford; Georgiana aged 31, assigned servant, widow; William aged 40, free, bachelor, illiterate; witnesses Benjamin Seth¹¹ (illiterate) and J Dowsett (clerk).¹²

¹ TAHO, CON40/1/4 p.265 No.256 [image 192] (Georgiana Gatehouse); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.204 [image 105] (Georgiana Gatehouse); ML, CY 1282 p.148 (Georgiana Gatehouse); ML, CY 1197 p.153 (Georgiana Gatehouse); ML, CY 958 p.443 (Georgiana Gatehouse)

² TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.204 [image 105] (Georgiana Gatehouse)

³ *Old Bailey Proceedings Online*, t18401019-2605 (Harriet Georgiana Gatehouse)

⁴ TAHO, CON40/1/4 p.265 No.256 [image 192] (Georgiana Gatehouse)

⁵ AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah*

⁶ ML, CY 1282 p.141 (Georgiana Gatehouse); ML, CY 1274 p.257 (Georgiana Gatehouse)

⁷ AJCP, HO 10/51 p.366 No.256 (Georgiana Gatehouse)

⁸ William Grubb was transported for life on the *Marmion* in 1827, tried at Hertford on 25 July 1827 for burglary; single, farm labourer and ploughman, aged 25, native place near Hereford; Ticket of Leave 6 July 1836, Conditional Pardon 30 July 1840, Free Pardon recommended 6 September 1843 (TAHO, CON31/1/15 p.176 No.527 [image 136] (William Grubb), TAHO, CON18/1/15 p.102 [image 55] (Wm Grubb); TAHO, MM33/1/1 No.527 (William Grubb)).

⁹ TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.69 (Georgiana Gatehouse & Wm Grubb)

¹⁰ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 14 July 1843 p.824; 21 July 1843 p.854 (William Grubb & Georgiana Gatehouse)

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

6 September 1843	Husband William Grubb recommended for a free pardon; ship to colony <i>Marmion</i> . ¹³
7 October 1844	In the Norfolk Plains district. ⁴
21 December 1844	Ticket of Leave granted; gazetted 24 December. ¹⁴
31 December 1844	Husband William Grubb granted a Free Pardon. ¹⁵
8 May 1845	In the Norfolk Plains district. ⁴
1 July 1845	Recommended for a Conditional Pardon for the Australian Colonies. ⁴
12 June 1846	Conditional Pardon approved. ⁴
29 June 1846	Notice given of approval for a Conditional Pardon being granted on condition of her remaining in the island of Van Diemen's Land or some one of Her Majesty's Australian Colonies, she not having committed any offences since she was recommended to the Queen's mercy which would disentitle her to the indulgence; gazetted 30 June. ¹⁶
22 February 1848	Free by servitude. ⁴
18 August 1848	Certificate of Freedom issued. ⁴
9 October 1850	Husband William Grubb awarded 2 nd prize ¹⁷ in the good conduct and length of service prize for servants at the Midland Agricultural Show held at Longford for 22½ years in the employ of Thomas Archer Esquire, ¹⁸ <i>Woolmers</i> . ¹⁹
5 November 1850	Stabbed by Henry Hart ²⁰ at <i>Fairfield</i> . ²⁵ Newspaper report: <i>Murderous Assault. – On Tuesday evening last, a groom in the service of Mr. Joseph Archer, at "Fairfields," in the district of Longford, went to the premises of Grub (Mr. Archer's overseer), at which place he saw Mrs. Grub and Benjamin Seth (a bricklayer employed on the estate of the late Thomas Archer, Esq., of Woolmers, in conversation. From some unaccountable cause, Grub²¹ seized the bayonet which he found in the room, and with which he severely wounded the female; he immediately made a rush at Seth, and run the above instrument into his body, which penetrated below the lower rib to the depth of 6¼ inches; he directly caught hold of a gun, which was taken from him by a party who, attracted by the screams of the female, had entered the room. Upon this, the groom took a pistol from his pocket, which had been previously loaded with slugs, and discharged the contents, the whole of which lodged in the lower part of his stomach. It is stated that there are not the slightest hopes of Seth's recovery, in consequence of inflammation having taken place; the groom has so far recovered that he will, in the course of a day or two, be forwarded to St. John's hospital; the female, although severely wounded, is pronounced out of danger. – Communicated.</i> ²²
13 January 1851	Complainant at the Supreme Court, Launceston in the trial of Henry Hart for attempted murder. ²³

¹¹ In 1845, Benjamin Seth (*Enchantress*) applied for indulgence due to his exertions in subduing a fire at Mr Archer's at *Brickendon* (*Colonial Times*, 13 March 1846 (Benjamin Seth)).

¹² TAHO, RGD37/1/3 1843/605 Launceston (Georgiana Gatehouse & William Grubb)

¹³ *Colonial Times*, 19 September 1843 p.4 (William Grubb)

¹⁴ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 24 December 1844 p.1542 (Georgiana Gatehouse)

¹⁵ *Colonial Times*, 7 January 1845 p.2 (William Grubb)

¹⁶ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 30 June 1846 p.640 (Georgiana Gatehouse)

¹⁷ Note that all the other prizes awarded at the show were for stock (eg cattle, sheep, horses) or dairy produce!

¹⁸ Thomas Archer Esquire died in this month, October 1850.

¹⁹ *Launceston Examiner*, 12 October 1850 p.4 (William Grubb)

²⁰ Henry Hart was transported for 7 years on the *Agincourt* in 1844; tried at Newington Sessions on 18 March 1844 for stealing a pair of braces; second conviction, previously transported (served 3 years 7 months on the *Leviathan* hulk at Portsmouth); married, labourer and servant, 5'5¼", aged 30, initially sent to Norfolk Island; Ticket of Leave 24 July 1849; charged at Longford Police Court on 28 December 1850 with stabbing with intent to murder, fully committed for trial; tried at Launceston Supreme Court on 13 January 1851 for attempting to murder Harriett Georgina Grubb, 2nd count stabbing and wounding with intent to do some grievous bodily harm; found guilty on 2nd count; executed by hanging at Launceston on 13 February 1851 – one month before becoming free by servitude (TAHO, CON33/1/83 No.19271 [image 109] (Henry Hart alias Thompson)).

²¹ This name seems to have been misreported in the newspaper and should be Hart.

²² *Cornwall Chronicle* 9 November 1850 p.786 (Mrs. Grub)

²³ *Examiner*, 15 January 1851 p.4 (Harriett Georgianna Grubb)

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Newspaper reports:

Henry Hart stood capitally indicted for maliciously stabbing in the back, left breast, and left arm, Harriett Georgianna, the wife of William Grubb, with intent to kill and murder her the said Harriett Georgianna Grubb; a second count charged the prisoner with stabbing with intent to do some grievous bodily harm.

Mr. Macdowell appeared for the prisoner.

The case occupied six hours, and terminated in the prisoner being convicted on the second count. He was then sentenced to death.²³

Henry Hart was capitally indicted for stabbing with intent to kill Harriett Georgina Grubb on the 5th November last. A second count charged the prisoner with stabbing the said Georgina Harriett Grubb with intent to do her some grievous bodily harm.

The prisoner pleaded not guilty, and was defended by Mr. Macdowell.

Harriett Georgina Grubb sworn, saith. – I lived at Mr. Archer's place, Fairfield, in November last; know the prisoner at the bar; I had known him fourteen months in November last; the prisoner was absent on that day; he returned about half-past 4, p.m.; I was standing at the kitchen door when I saw him; my husband called him and asked him to have some tea; there were then in the kitchen Benjamin Set, my husband, and myself; the prisoner refused to have some tea upon my asking him a second time if he would have tea; after tea my husband and Seth left; the prisoner and me then had some words; no quarrel at that time took place between us; the prisoner left the kitchen some time afterwards, and again returned to the kitchen; I was still alone; a quarrel then took place between us; I began it; I asked him to put some wood on the fire; he refused; then I began to abuse him; there was a knife on the table, and he said he would no more mind sticking it into me than looking at me; my husband was then in the garden, whom I, threatened to tell; I went out and returned shortly after followed by Seth, who took up a song-book and sat down near the table; I heard a kind of scuffle as I was putting a pot on the fire, but did not look round; all at once Seth came bump against me, and knocked me in the fire; before I could recover myself, Seth was up, and both were rushing towards my master's room; I said, "what the devil are you doing? are you fighting?" they were wrestling near the door, but Seth shortly rushed out of the door; Hart then came up to me, and as he approached I fell down; I then felt something run into my back; I shut my eyes; I did not see any thing in his hand; I said, "O Lord! Have mercy on me! What the devil are you doing?" before I could get up, I felt it run into my arm; I saw Hart in the kitchen, but was so frightened I could not see what he had in his hand; whatever it was that entered my hand, I felt it knock against my wrist; after receiving the last wound, I got up and made five or six attempts to get out; I got to the door and fell out; Hart was standing from a yard to two yards from the door with a pistol in his hand; when I got outside, Seth was lying down a good way from the door.

Cross-examined by Mr. Macdowell. – I did not see the pistol before I was stabbed; I said to the magistrate that how Seth or Hart became possessed of the pistol, I did not know; just before I was stricken, Seth and Hart were in the kitchen, and I saw Seth leave the kitchen; I had not heard Seth and Hart quarrelling on that evening; recollect hearing Seth say he he had not long to live; he has often said so, and does now; I heard Seth say so within a day or two of that night.

Benjamin Seth²⁴. – I am a servant of Mr. Archer, and have been 18 years in his service; I went to Fairfield on the 31st October; I remember Tuesday, the 5th November; I had my tea in the kitchen on the evening of that day with Grubb and his wife; I saw the prisoner going into the kitchen door as I was going out after tea; I next came into kitchen about 6 o'clock; Hart and Mrs. Grubb were there; they were quarrelling; I sat down by the corner of kitchen table, and was about commencing to read when I felt something touch the leg of the chair – I immediately afterwards felt a bayonet enter my side; when I turned round I saw Hart draw out it out of my side; it was a bayonet like that produced; I got out of the kitchen door as quick as I could; I heard Hart say to the woman now I'll settle you; a man named Nicholls then came up; I showed the wound to Dr. Kilgour; I did not see a pistol in Hart's hands; I know the pistol produced; it was in my possession up to that day; on the Saturday previously I loaded

²⁴ Benjamin Seth was transported for life on the *Enchantress* in 1833; tried at Middlesex Gaol Delivery on 5 January 1832 for housebreaking and larceny; married, 5 children, wife Betty at native place Middlesex; Ticket of Leave 2 September 1841; Conditional Pardon 25 February 1846 (TAHO, CON31/1/40 p.9 No.1675 [image 11] (Benjamin Seth)).

the pistol in Hart's presence; the last time I saw it it was on that night when I put it under my pillow.

By Mr Macdowell – Hart was with me when I loaded the gun and pistol; I had not sent for him; I never told Mrs. Grubb that "I had not long to live;" I know a man named Carter and a man named White; I recollect going to Fairfield from Carter's place; I had not a word with those men about the gun and pistol; Carter never saw a carving knife in my hand; I never had a word with Carter, and never held a carving knife in my hand, and said I would run him through; I had no controversy with Mrs. Grub on the evening this occurred; I never saw this bayonet before; I never had a struggle with the prisoner before I was stabbed.

William Grubb. – I was living at Fairfield on the 5th November last; I remember the evening of that day; I recollect tea time: I took tea in the kitchen; The prisoner came in while we were at tea; after tea I went to the garden; My wife came to me whilst I was there, and shortly went back again; I heard a noise at the house about a quarter of an hour afterwards; I then run up to the house and saw Seth a distance from the kitchen door; he was on his hands and knees, rising and falling and crying out; when I came up to the kitchen door I saw my wife on her knees; she was crying out she was stuck; the prisoner was standing close by with something in his hand twisting about, but I was so agitated I did not know what it was; I went in the kitchen then came out again, when the prisoner said, I can't see you imposed upon any longer; I went away for a man and shortly returned; Hart was then standing on the green; I sent a man for constables and shortly after found Hart lying on the ground; he said to me you need not have sent for constables as I have settled myself; his shirt was on fire up the front; the pistol was about a rod from him; the pistol produced looks very much like the one; I saw a wound in Hart's side; I picked up a bayonet that was lying on the kitchen table; it was a bayonet like that produced; two bayonets were in my bed-room: Hart had a bayonet in his bed-room; I looked the next day to see if Hart's bayonet was where he kept it, but it was gone; I gave the bayonet and pistol to Mr. Hortle.

By Mr. Macdowell. – I know Seth; he had been about a week at Fairfield; I never heard Seth say he had not long to live; I had never heard any quarrel; the prisoner and my wife were not acquainted before I was married.

Joseph Rushwood. – I recollect 5th November; was living at Fairfield; heard a woman screaming at Fairfield on the evening of that day; saw Seth standing at the corner of my hut with his trowsers down, exposing the wound; I saw Mrs Grubb coming towards my hut with her husband; I saw prisoner laying opposite the kitchen 3 or 4 minutes after; before I heard the woman scream I heard the report of a gun; when I saw Hart, I went up to him, his breast was on fire, when I assisted him; he said Saith had been the ruin of him; Hart said Seth would take a pistol to shoot him, but he had stopped his shooting; he did not say who wounded him.

By Mr. Macdowell. – It was two or three minutes before I saw Mrs. Grubb; I heard the report; I first went to my own hut where Seth was standing, then to the kitchen when I saw the prisoner; it would not have been practicable for Grubb to have gone with his wife to the shepherd's hut before I returned and saw the prisoner in his usual health.

Grubb re-called – I did not hear any report of firearms on that evening; I saw the prisoner go and take a piece from where it was hanging; I caught hold of it; he tried to get it, but let go his hold and fell down; it was a single gun; a man came in and took the gun and went to the door and fired it off; I saw Seth at this time a distance from the kitchen door, near the men's hut; he was then rising and falling.

John Marshall sworn. – I was in Mr. Archer's service on the 5th November last; on the evening of that day I saw Seth coming towards the shepherd's hut from the kitchen; I went with him to the hut; then I heard a call and went towards the kitchen; then Mrs. Grubb came out of the kitchen door; when she came outside she fell; I next saw the prisoner at the bar coming out; he went a little distance and turned round towards where Mrs. Grubb was laying, and then Grubb came up from the garden; he had a bayonet in his hand; Grubb then lifted up his wife and took her inside the house; I then went towards the shepherd's hut, and returned to the kitchen immediately and assisted Grubb to take back his wife; I did not see prisoner when I returned from Mrs. Grubb; I heard the report of a firearm before I took down Mrs. Grubb; when I went back at that time, I saw Grubb with a gun in his hand, which I took from him and fired off; I did not hear other reports of firearms; I saw Hart again that night in the shepherd's hut; I saw Hart with a pistol in his hand before I took Mrs. Grubb to the

shepherd's hut; I am not certain that it was before I fired off the gun; I saw Hart put the pistol towards his ear, but he took it away again.

James Hortle, sworn. – Am C. D. Constable at Longford; went to Fairfield on the 5th November; I saw the prisoner and thought he was dying; I got the pistol and bayonet from Grubb; I have heard the prisoner say he shot himself; he always led me to believe it was Seth's fault.

John Stuart Kilgour, Esq., sworn. – I was sent for to Fairfield on the evening of 5th Nov.; got there about nine clock; I saw Mrs. Grubb on that night, and examined her; she was lying in bed, and she shewed me a wound on the left side of the back bone, evidently inflicted by a sharp pointed instrument; the wound was triangular; a bayonet such as this would make a wound; I did not probe the wound; the wound was horizontal; I cannot tell its depth; there was a flesh wound on the left arm; and a skin wound on the left breast; the result of the shock upon her caused inflammation of the brain; she was in danger of her life. I also examined a man named Benjamin Seth; he shewed me a wound on the right side, sloping downwards and across the belly; the wound might have been inflicted by a person standing behind him and stabbing at him as he sat on a chair; I examined the prisoner himself, and found that he had received a shot wound on the left side under the ribs; from the blackened and burnt appearance the skin presented, should think that the instrument from which the shot had been fired was close to the spot; his life I despaired of; there were nine openings observable on the surface of the wound; the wound on Seth was larger than that on Mrs Grubb.

This closed the case for the prosecution.

Mr. McDowell, for the prisoner, addressed the jury, and in an ingenious manner pointed out the discrepancies in the evidence, and urged that the evidence was so incomplete the jury must acquit the prisoner.

His Honor summed up in a concise and elaborate address, carefully showing every feature of the case, whether favourable or otherwise to the prisoner.

The jury after an hour's consultation returned into Court with a verdict of Guilty upon the second count of the indictment.

His honor passed sentence of death upon the prisoner, who was immediately removed.²⁵

13 February 1851

Henry Hart executed by hanging at Launceston.²⁶

Newspaper report:

Execution. – ... Henry Hart, for stabbing, with intent to commit a bodily injury upon Harriett Georgina Grubb, on the 5th November last, were put to death by the public executioner on Thursday morning last ... but Hart, although apparently alive to his situation, was as cool and collected as a man could possibly be when about to engage on the most common-place undertaking. On his arrival at the scaffold he commenced in a loud and firm voice; – “Good morning my lads,” and walked to the place whence he was to make his exit with a firm tread where the rope was adjusted, he then said, – “I am a guilty man, and have done all that has been said to my charge, but I was driven to the course I adopted by Seth and the woman, who were the sole cause of all my troubles and misfortunes. I trust in the Almighty God that I leave this world for a better.” Some of the crowd called out, “who,” who;” he replied in a loud and firm tone, – “Benjamin Seth, at Mr. Archers, Norfolk Plains. The caps were then tied over their faces, when all three seemed engaged in earnest supplications; they each shook hands with one another after their faces were tied, saying audibly – “Good bye old man.” ...²⁷

19 February 1851

Departed Launceston for Melbourne with husband William Grubb as passengers on the steamer *Shamrock*; Georgiana free by servitude, ship to colony *Rajah*; William holding a Conditional Pardon, ship to colony *Marion*^{28,29}

²⁵ *Cornwall Chronicle*, 15 January 1851 p.28 (Harriett Georgina Grubb)

²⁶ TAHO, CON33/1/83 No.19271 [image 109] (Henry Hart alias Thompson)

²⁷ *Cornwall Chronicle*, 15 February 1851 p.99 (Henry Hart)

²⁸ William was actually transported on the *Marmion*.

²⁹ TAHO, POL220/1/1 p.330 (William Grubb and Harriett Grubb)

Notes

- Georgiana's husband may be the William Grubb who died on 31 October 1874 in the Deloraine district; aged 75, labourer; informant DK Harley, undertaker, Deloraine.³⁰
- Georgiana may be the Harriet Grubb who died at New Town Charitable Institution, Hobart on 17 August 1884; aged 79.³¹ She was buried in pauper section A No.436 at Cornelian Bay Cemetery, Hobart on 19 August 1884; last address New Town Charitable Institution; aged 79.³²

³⁰ TAHO, RGD35/1/43 1874/141 Deloraine (William Grubb)

³¹ TAHO, RGD35/1/53 1884/1851 Hobart (Harriet Pately or Grubb)

³² SRCT, *SRCT Record Search* No.4913 (Harriet Grubb)

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