

Mary Harrington

POLICE NUMBER 399 ¹	LITERACY neither read nor write
TRIAL DATE 19 October 1840	AGE ON EMBARKATION 22
TRIAL PLACE Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey), London	AGE ON ARRIVAL 22
OFFENCE larceny, 2 indictments— stealing a handkerchief from a pawnbrokers	HEIGHT 5' 1"
SENTENCE 14 (7 + 7) years	COMPLEXION ruddy
GAOL REPORT poor, single	HEAD oval
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS none	HAIR black
SURGEON'S REPORT quiet	VISAGE oval
ON THE TOWN no	FOREHEAD medium
MARITAL STATUS single	EYEBROWS dark brown
CHILDREN 0	EYES dark
FAMILY	NOSE medium
NATIVE PLACE County Cork, Ireland	MOUTH medium
TRADE ON EMBARKATION	CHIN small, round
TRADE ON ARRIVAL servant of all work	MARKS stout made

c1819

Born in County Cork, Ireland.²

19 October 1840

Tried at the Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey), London, England indicted for larceny in stealing on 5 October 1840 2 pillow cases value 1/6 and 1 handkerchief value 2/6, the goods of George Smellie; first of two indictments; found guilty; sentence 7 years transportation; aged 22.³

Statement of witness William Walter Wilmin:

I manage the business of George Smellie, a pawnbroker, in High-street, Shadwell. About six o'clock, on Monday evening the 5th of October, I observed the prisoner outside the shop – from information I had received before, and from what I had seen, I knew that she had come for the purpose of thieving – I placed myself behind a half-glazed door – when I had done so about five minutes, she came into the shop, and passed along a row of cloaks and gowns – these pillow-cases were suspended aloft by a piece of string, and as she came by, she pulled them down, and put them behind some curtains – she then mixed with the persons pledging – I watched her about half an hour, when she saw the coast clear she stooped down, and picked them up – I came out, put my hand on her, and asked what she had got – she said, "What! nothing" – she had frequently been in to buy and pledge, but on this occasion she wanted nothing – I caught hold of her by the wrist, and threw her backwards, and these things lay at her feet – I snatched them up from between her ankles, and said, "I have got you at last" – I held her till a policeman came – she had not got out of the shop when I took the pillow-cases from her.³

Statement of witness William Paramore:

I am a policeman. I took her into custody.³

Written statement of defendant Mary Harrington:

On the 5th of October I went into the shop to stop the ticket of a bed-gown I had lost; I was coming out; there were a great many people there; while stooping to take some dirt off, which had got on my shoes, I happened to lay my hand on a parcel which was in the passage; the shopman took hold of me, and asked what I was doing; I said that I had nothing; he called a policeman, and gave me in charge; he there said the gown I had on was theirs, which I had bought in Petticoat-lane for 3s. 6d.³

¹ TAHO, CON40/1/6 p.48 No.399 [image 50] (Mary Harrington); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.207 [image 107] (Mary Harrington); ML, CY 1282 p.148 (Mary Harrington); ML, CY 1197 p.151 (Mary Harrington); ML, CY 958 p.441 (Mary Harrington)

² TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.207 [image 107] (Mary Harrington)

³ *Old Bailey Proceedings Online*, t18401019-2514 (Mary Harrington)

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Tried again at the Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey), London, England indicted for larceny in stealing on 1 October 1840 1 gown value 4/6, the goods of George Smellie; second of two indictments; found guilty; sentence 7 years transportation.⁴

Statement of witness William Walter Wilmin:

On the 1st of October the prisoner came to our shop about three o'clock in the afternoon – this gown was hanging up on a row of gowns – she came to the counter with two tickets, for a gown and shawl, and asked me if the ticket of a petticoat was among them – I said not – she left the shop, and returned with a ticket of a petticoat and shawl, and asked if the ticket of a gown was among them – I said, “No, you foolish woman, you brought the ticket of a gown in just now” – she stood about some time, and then went out, and as I passed by, to go to my tea, at four o'clock, I missed the gown – about seven o'clock in the evening I saw her come into the shop again – I planted a boy behind the counter to watch her – I also got over the counter to watch her – she took down another gown, rolled it up, and put it behind a sea-bed – she observed the customers looking at her, and went out of the shop without taking that gown – I hung it up again – this is the gown she took away the first time – I found it pawned at the shop of Mr. Hawes, at Ratcliff.⁴

Statement of witness Charles Scott:

I live with Mr. Hawes, a pawnbroker, in High-street. This gown was pledged by the prisoner on Thursday evening, the 1st of October.⁴

Statement of defendant Mary Harrington:

What the prosecutor states is false.⁴

5 April 1841	Departed Woolwich, England on the <i>Rajah</i> . ⁵
19 July 1841	Arrived at Hobart on the <i>Rajah</i> . ⁵
c24 July 1841	Upon arrival at Hobart, sent to Launceston for assignment. ⁶
31 December 1841	Mustered in the service of Mr J Little, Launceston. ⁷
13 August 1842	Application for permission to marry Joseph Blackett ⁸ (free) sent to the Muster Master. ⁹
7 September 1842	Application for permission to marry Joseph Blackett sent to the Secretary; approved. ⁹
1 October 1842	Charged with gross misconduct in striking her mistress Mrs Palmer; sentence 6 months hard labour in the Crime Class at Launceston Female Factory. ¹⁰
25 April 1843	Died at Launceston. ¹¹
29 April 1843	Buried in the Catholic Cemetery, Launceston. ¹²

⁴ *Old Bailey Proceedings Online*, t18401019-2515 (Mary Harrington)

⁵ AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah*

⁶ ML, CY 1282 p.141 (Mary Harrington); ML, CY 1274 p.257 (Mary Harrington)

⁷ AJCP, HO 10/51 p.370 No.399 (Mary Harrington)

⁸ A Joseph Blackett was transported for 14 years on the *Woodford* in 1828, tried at Middlesex on 13 September 1827 for stealing from the person; single; Certificate of Freedom 1841 (TAHO, CON31/1/1 p.277 No.1092 [image 375] (Joseph Blackett)).

⁹ TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.216 (Mary Harrington & Joseph Blackett)

¹⁰ TAHO, CON40/1/6 p.48 No.399 [image 50] (Mary Harrington)

¹¹ AJCP, HO 10/51 p.370 No.399 (Mary Harrington)

¹² TAHO, CON66/1/1, within the register for CON65/1/1 (Mary Harrington)

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