

Ann Headspeth

(*uxor Ann Forster*)

POLICE NUMBER 411 ¹	LITERACY read only
TRIAL DATE 14 October 1840	AGE ON EMBARKATION 15
TRIAL PLACE York (Kingston Upon Hull) Quarter Sessions	AGE ON ARRIVAL 17
OFFENCE stealing a pair of boots and 1½	HEIGHT 4' 10½" or 4' 10¼"
SENTENCE 7 years	COMPLEXION pale
GAOL REPORT convicted before, very bad, single	HEAD oval
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS none	HAIR light brown
SURGEON'S REPORT thoughtless but quiet	VISAGE oval
ON THE TOWN no	FOREHEAD broad
MARITAL STATUS single	EYEBROWS brown
CHILDREN 0	EYES brown
FAMILY	NOSE medium
NATIVE PLACE Market Weedon, England	MOUTH medium, lips thick
TRADE ON EMBARKATION	CHIN round
TRADE ON ARRIVAL housemaid, kitchen maid	MARKS deeply pockpitted

c1815 **Born** at Market Weighton, East Riding, Yorkshire, England.²

3 January 1840 Tried at York Quarter Sessions, Kingston Upon Hull, Yorkshire, England charged with housebreaking; sentence 4 months' imprisonment.³

 Newspaper report:
 *ANN HEADSPITH was charged with breaking into the house of William Williams, and stealing therefrom a quantity of knives, ear-rings, and copper money, the property of the said William Williams. The jury found her guilty, but recommended her to mercy on account of her youth. The governor of the gaol spoke highly of her conduct while under his inspection, and the Recorder sentenced her to be imprisoned for four months.*³

14 October 1840 Tried at York Quarter Sessions, Kingston Upon Hull, Yorkshire, England indicted for stealing a pair of boots; 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 at Hobart, sent to Launceston for assignment.⁶

18 November 1841 Charged with being absent without leave yesterday from the service of Burns; sentence 14 days in solitary confinement at Launceston Female Factory.⁴

9 December 1841 At Launceston.⁴

31 December 1841 Mustered at Launceston Female Factory.⁷

24 January 1842 Charged with misconduct in being absent without leave from the service of Edward and using obscene language; sentence 14 days in solitary confinement at Launceston Female Factory.⁴

 Charged at Launceston Female Factory with misconduct; sentence 14 days in solitary confinement at Launceston Female Factory.⁴

14 September 1842 Charged with being absent without leave from the service of Ransome; sentence 2 months hard labour in the Crime Class at Launceston Female Factory.⁴

¹ TAHO, CON40/1/6 p.52 No.411 [image 54] (Ann Headspeth); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.212 [image 109] (Ann Headspeth); ML, CY 1282 p.149 (Ann Headspeth); ML, CY 1197 p.157 (Ann Headspeth); ML, CY 958 p.443 (Ann Headspeth)

² TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.212 [image 109] (Ann Headspeth)

³ *Hull Packet*, 3 January 1840 Issue 2872 (Ann Headspeth)

⁴ TAHO, CON40/1/6 p.52 No.411 [image 54] (Ann Headspeth)

⁵ AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah*

⁶ ML, CY 1282 p.141 (Ann Headspeth); ML, CY 1274 p.258 (Ann Headspeth)

⁷ AJCP, HO 10/51 p.370 No.411 (Ann Headspeth)

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

- 13 November 1842 Charged at Launceston Female Factory, offence unknown; sentence 14 days in solitary confinement at Launceston Female Factory.⁴
- 22 December 1842 Charged with being absent without leave from the service of Morris, being drunk and disorderly, and with ill-using her master's child; sentence 12 months in the Crime Class at Launceston Female Factory.⁴
- 17 February 1843 Charged at Launceston Female Factory with misconduct in tearing a Government blanket; in the Crime Class; sentence 14 days in solitary confinement at Launceston Female Factory.⁴
- 27 March 1843 Charged at Launceston Female Factory with insubordination; sentence 12 months imprisonment and hard labour, 3 months of which to be passed in solitary confinement, and recommended to be carried into effect in Launceston Gaol.⁴
- 24 July 1843 Charged at Launceston Gaol with insubordination; existing sentence of transportation extended 2 years and to be removed to Longford Gaol under her present sentence of imprisonment and hard labour.⁴
- 19 December 1843 Charged at Longford Gaol with misconduct; admonished.⁴
- 28 May 1844 Charged at Launceston Female Factory with insubordination; existing term of transportation extended 12 months and recommended to be removed to Cascades Female Factory, Hobart, approved and to be kept separate.⁴
- 12 July 1844 At Launceston.⁴
- 12 October 1844 At Launceston.⁴
- 15 February 1845 Classified as a 2nd class probation pass-holder; gazetted 18 February.⁸
- 21 February 1845 Classified as a 3rd class probation pass-holder; gazetted 25 February.⁹
- 7 April 1845 Charged at Brickfields Hiring Depot, Hobart with misconduct in smoking in her bed; sentence 1 month hard labour recommended to be passed in the separate working cells at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.⁴
- 11 August 1845 Hired in private service for 12 months as a probation pass-holder to Mary Flegg, Liverpool Street, Hobart.¹⁰
- 12 August 1845 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart by Constable Bird with being out after hours from the service of Mr Flegg, Liverpool Street, Hobart, using obscene language and being drunk last night; plea guilty; sentence 6 months hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.¹¹
- 30 March 1846 Charged at Brickfields Hiring Depot, Hobart with disobedience of orders; sentence 1 month hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart, separate apartments recommended.⁴
- 14 September 1846 Application for permission to marry George Foster¹² (*Aurora*) sent to the Secretary; approved.¹³
Notice given for approval for permission to marry George Forster; Ann in private service at New Town; Henry at ticket-of-leave holder, resident of Hobart.¹⁴

⁸ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 18 February 1845 p.204 (Ann Hudspeth)

⁹ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 25 February 1845 p.234 (Ann Hudspeth)

¹⁰ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 2 September 1845 p.1075 (Ann Hadspeth)

¹¹ TAHO, AC480/1/1, 12 August 1845 (Ann Hudspeth)

¹² There were 2 convicts named George Foster transported on the *Aurora* in 1835. This George is likely to be the George Foster tried at Chester Pleas of Crown Mott on 28 March 1834 for breaking into a counting office, transported for 14 years; single, aged 21, native place Chester, labourer, read and write, Protestant; father John, surveyor and labourer, at Chester; 3 half-brothers, 1 at Manchester, 2 at Chester; Ticket of Leave 28 July 1846; at Oatlands in 1846 (TAHO, CON31/1/14 p.125 No.732 [image 129] (George Foster), TAHO, CON18/1/4 p.53 No.732 [image 29] (George Foster); TAHO, CON14/1/51 p.4 No.732 [image 12] (George Foster)). The other George Foster was tried at Surrey Quarter Sessions on 20 October 1834 for stealing 17 cwt coal dust, transported for 7 years; aged 29, married, silversmith, reaper, thrasher, native place Swalwell, literate, Protestant, wife Mary at Lambeth, father Edward, mother Fanny, 5 brothers, 1 sister; Ticket of Leave 14 May 1840; Certificate of Freedom 1841 (TAHO, CON31/1/14 p.128 No.740 [image 132] (George Foster), TAHO, CON18/1/4 p.52 No.740 [image 29] (Geo^e Forster); TAHO, CON14/1/51 p.28 [image 59] (George Foster)).

¹³ TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.64 (Ann Headspeth & George Foster)

¹⁴ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 29 September 1846 p.1125 (George Forster & Ann Headspeth)

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

- 9 November 1846 **Married** George Forster at St George's Anglican Church, Battery Point; Ann aged 22, spinster; George aged 27, labourer; witnesses Thomas Harper and Martha Field.¹⁵
- 16 October 1847 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart with using indecent language yesterday in a public place; plea guilty; sentence 8 days in solitary confinement at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.¹⁶
- 3 November 1847 Ticket of Leave granted; gazetted 9 November.¹⁷
- 13 November 1847 Charged with using indecent language; sentence 3 months hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.⁴
- 26 November 1847 At Launceston.⁴
- 15 May 1848 Charged with disturbing the public peace; fined 5 shillings.⁴
- 4 August 1849 Petition for remission of sentence.⁴
- 21 August 1849 Extended sentences remitted vide petition (due to be free by servitude 14 October 1850).
- 31 August 1849 Certificate of Freedom issued.⁴
- 1851 Admitted to Darlinghurst Gaol, Sydney, NSW; ship to colony *Rajah* 1840, born 1825, 5', slender build, fresh complexion, brown hair, dark eyes, read and write.¹⁸
Admitted to Darlinghurst Gaol, Sydney, NSW; ship to colony *Regent* 1841, born 1826, 5'1", stout build, fresh complexion, brown hair, dark eyes, read and write.¹⁹
Admitted to Darlinghurst Gaol, Sydney, NSW; ship to colony *Equestrian* 1848, born 1821, 5'0", spare build, fresh complexion, brown hair, grey eyes, read and write.²⁰
- 24 January 1851 Charged with stealing a case bottle of gin from her master; committed for trial.²¹

Newspaper reports:

*Ann Foster late a cook in the employ of Mr. George Hill, was also committed to take her trial for stealing a case bottle of gin, the property of her master. She was found by Mr. Hill, on Thursday evening, to be in a state of intoxication; inquiry was made, the result of which was the disclosure of an unmistakeable case of larceny. She was ordered to pick up her traps and be off about her business; Mrs Foster, however, became obstreperous, and refused to leave so good a service: the result of which was that it became necessary to give her into the custody of the police in order to effect her removal from the premises.*²¹

ANTICIPATING THE "PIC NIC!" – *The residence of Mr. George Hill, situate on the Surry Hills, presented a scene of jollification on Thursday evening, which, notwithstanding his well known hospitality, startled him not a little. It appeared that Mrs. Hill had given instructions to the housemaid, Margaret Davidson, to whom she entrusted the keys of the cellar, to furnish a little wine to any of the servants that may be taken ill during her absence. This liberality has, in the present instance, been much abused; during the absence of Mr. and Mrs. Hill at South Head, the cook, Ann Foster, complained to Miss Davidson that she was suddenly taken ill, and begged for a little wine; the latter took the keys of the cellar, whither she was accompanied by Foster, and while delivering her a bottle of wine, she concealed one of gin and one of port wine. Part of Davidson's conduct on the occasion is rather inexplicable, that is, that she participated in some hot gin and water with the prisoner on the same evening. Mr. Hill, on his return, finding the cook in a state of inebriety, examined his cellar, and missed a bottle of gin from a case, part of which was found in the prisoner's room; he then ordered her to leave the house, this she declined, adding abuse to the theft. Mr Hill, therefore, had to give*

¹⁵ TAHO, RGD37/1/5 1846/58 Hobart (Ann Headspeth & George Forster)

¹⁶ TAHO, LC251/1/1 (Ann Headspeth now Forster)

¹⁷ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 9 November 1847 p.1100 (Ann Headspeth)

¹⁸ NSW State Archives, *Gaol Description and Entrance Books, 1818–1930*, 2523 4/6304 858, p.75 No.1445 (Ann Foster), accessed online at ancestry.com

¹⁹ NSW State Archives, *Gaol Description and Entrance Books, 1818–1930*, 2523 4/6304 858, p.33 No.646 (Ann Foster), accessed online at ancestry.com

²⁰ NSW State Archives, *Gaol Description and Entrance Books, 1818–1930*, 2523 4/6304 858, p.6 No.103 (Ann Forster), accessed online at ancestry.com

²¹ *Sydney Morning Herald*, Saturday 25 January 1851 p.5 (Ann Foster)

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

her in charge of a constable; and the case of pilfering being fully proved, she was committed for trial. – *People's Advocate*.²²

HIGH LIFE BELOW STAIRS. – Ann Foster, a young lady of medium quality beef-tallow complexion, was yesterday handed into the wrong box by B 38 on a charge of stealing a quantity of wine and gin, the property of Mr. George Hill. Prisoner, when apprehended, said the housemaid had given her the drinkables.

Mr. Nichols conducted the prosecution.

Margaret Davidson, a housemaid – and a d____sh handsome one, too – in the service of Mr. Hill, deposed that the prisoner, who was cook in the establishment, was in the constant habit of complaining of illness, and urging the absolute necessity of taking at least one glass of wine every day. One day last week, witness, who kept the keys, gave the prisoner a bottle of wine out of the cellar, into which the prisoner accompanied her, and abstracted a case bottle of gin, and on a subsequent occasion another bottle of wine. On begging her not to do so, she said “oh! you great fool! they'll never miss it; why, you look as though you had killed a man.”

Mr. Thurlow – What! killed a mare?

Mr. Nichols – No, Sir, – a man. You killed the Mayor; and the witness found a mare's nest.

Witness – I never did such a thing before. Master and mistress were out at the time. Prisoner was such a bad one, witness was afraid she would do something worse and get her into a scrape, and she one day took a fancy to three jugs of milk, and because witness would not give them to her she was constantly domineering over her. Witness then told her mistress about it. Prisoner put the gin in her box.

By the prisoner – I did not give a glass of gin to the laundry-maid – no, I did not – no, I never did – I never did – I did not – no, Ann, I did not – I never did – no, I never done such a thing. I had a little gin punch one night, but don't know where it came from. Had a little wine on another occasion, but don't know whether it was port or sherry. The gin was hot, with.

Mr. Hill deposed that in case of illness it was usual for the housemaid to give wine to his servants. Had a little gin in his cellar. Missed one bottle out of a case yesterday afternoon. From information given by the housemaid, spoke to the cook who appeared to have been drinking, and the housemaid then told him the same statement she had repeated there to-day. If the prisoner had gone quietly out of his house last evening he should not have given her in charge.

Prisoner was committed for trial.²³

8 February 1851

Tried at the Quarter Sessions, Sydney, NSW indicted for stealing a bottle of gin and a bottle of wine, the property of George Hill; sentence 3 months hard labour at Darlinghurst Gaol, Sydney.²⁴

Newspaper report:

Ann Foster charged with stealing one bottle of gin, and one bottle of wine, from the premises of Mr George Hill.

The Crown Prosecutor in opening the case dwelt at some length upon the necessity of employers occasionally coming forward to make examples of pilfering domestics, otherwise robberies by servants would be even more frequent than they are at present. The generality of persons were, he regretted too apathetic in abuses of this kind and are content to forego the institution of criminal proceedings; discharging the defaulter from their establishments, and allowing them to be flung upon the community, some other member of which must almost as a matter of course subsequently come in for a share of loss.

Mr. Hill deposed that after the prisoner had been in his service for the period of 14 days, he found her intoxicated in the kitchen and ordered her out of the house. She refused to go unless paid a months wages; this he declined to do, and constables were sent for, to take her into custody. The evidence of two females also in the service of prosecutor went to show that the prisoner had not only drank freely herself, but at intervals had liberally supplied them with wine gin, &c. Prisoner cross-examined all the witnesses at length, denying their statements

²² *Goulburn Herald and County of Argyle Advertiser*, Saturday 1 February 1851 p.2 (Ann Foster)

²³ *Bell's Life in Sydney and Sporting Reviewer*, Saturday 25 January 1851 p.3 (Ann Foster)

²⁴ *Empire*, Monday 10 February 1851 p.3 (Ann Foster); *Sydney Morning Herald*, Monday 10 February 1851 p.2 (Ann Foster)

*and endeavouring to throw discredit upon them generally. Verdict, guilty; sentence, to be imprisoned in Sydney gaol and kept to hard labor for 3 months.*²⁵

- 1852 Admitted to Darlinghurst Gaol, Sydney, NSW; ship to colony *Rajah* 1839, born 1824, 5', stout build, fresh complexion, brown hair, grey eyes, read and write.²⁶
- 1853 Admitted to Darlinghurst Gaol, Sydney, NSW; ship to colony *Rajah* 1840, born 1824, 5'1", stout build, sallow complexion, brown hair, brown eyes, read and write.²⁷
- 1854 Admitted to Darlinghurst Gaol, Sydney, NSW; ship to colony *Layton* 1839, born 1825, 5'1", stout build, sallow complexion, brown hair, hazel eyes, read and write.²⁸
- 10 December 1854 Charged at Central Police Court, Sydney, NSW with being an idle and disorderly person; sentence 1 month imprisonment at Darlinghurst Gaol, Sydney.²⁹
- December 1854 Admitted to Darlinghurst Gaol, Sydney, NSW; ship to colony *Regia* 1839, born 1824, 5'¼", stout build, fresh complexion, brown hair, brown eyes, read and write.³⁰
- 1855 Admitted to Darlinghurst Gaol, Sydney, NSW; ship to colony *Ranger* 1839, born 1824, 5'1", stout build, fresh complexion, brown hair, brown eyes, cannot read and write.³¹
Admitted to Darlinghurst Gaol, Sydney, NSW; ship to colony *Rajah* 1838, born Hull, Roman Catholic, aged 34, 5'0", stout build, fresh complexion, brown hair, brown eyes, read and write.³²
- 21 June 1855 Charged at Central Police Court, Sydney, NSW with using obscene language; fined 20 shillings, or in default 7 days imprisonment.³³
- 16 July 1855 Charged at Central Police Court, Sydney, NSW with being idle and disorderly; sentence 7 days imprisonment at Darlinghurst Gaol, Sydney.³⁴
- 18 December 1855 Charged at Central Police Court, Sydney, NSW with stealing from the person; sentence 3 months hard labour at Darlinghurst Gaol, Sydney.³⁵

Newspaper report:

Margaret Williams, Ann Forster, and Margaret Constantine were charged with stealing from the person. Sergeant Langan deposed that he apprehended the prisoners on information that they had, in a house in Edward's-alley, robbed a soldier of his watch, they all denied the charge; afterwards the prisoner Constantine said that the woman (Mary Ann Williamson) who informed of them, drank part of the liquor purchased with the money for which the watch was pledged at Smith's. Patrick Smith deposed that the prisoner Foster and another woman, on Saturday morning, pledged the watch (produced) with him for 2s. 6d. Mary Ann Williamson deposed that on the Friday night she saw prisoner Williams take a watch from the pocket of a soldier's coat; it passed into Foster's hands, and then to Constantine, who went away with it; the soldier was very drunk; on Sunday morning the prisoners assaulted her, and she gave information of the robbery. Richard Bustead, corporal of the XIth, deposed the watch before the Court, belonged to him, and he valued it 30s.; he lost it on Friday, but as he was very much intoxicated, he could not tell either where or when, or under what circumstance he lost possession; had no knowledge or recollection of either of the prisoners. This closed the prosecution. The prisoners chose to be summarily tried by the Bench. They were found guilty

²⁵ *Empire*, Monday 10 February 1851 p.3 (Ann Foster)

²⁶ NSW State Archives, *Gaol Description and Entrance Books, 1818-1930*, 2523 4/6304 858, p.94 No.1869 (Ann Foster), accessed online at ancestry.com

²⁷ NSW State Archives, *Gaol Description and Entrance Books, 1818-1930*, 2523 4/6305 858, p.63 No.1262 (Ann Forster), accessed online at ancestry.com

²⁸ NSW State Archives, *Gaol Description and Entrance Books, 1818-1930*, 2523 4/6305 858, p.109 No.2148 (Ann Foster), accessed online at ancestry.com

²⁹ *Sydney Morning Herald*, Monday 11 December 1854 p.5 (Ann Foster)

³⁰ NSW State Archives, *Gaol Description and Entrance Books, 1818-1930*, 2523 4/6305 858, p.144 No.2859 (Ann Foster), accessed online at ancestry.com

³¹ NSW State Archives, *Gaol Description and Entrance Books, 1818-1930*, 2523 4/6304 859, p.79 No.1567 (Ann Foster), accessed online at ancestry.com

³² NSW State Archives, *Gaol Description and Entrance Books, 1818-1930*, 2523 4/6306 859, p.132 No.2642 (Ann Foster), accessed online at ancestry.com

³³ *Sydney Morning Herald*, Friday 22 June 1855 p.8 (Ann Foster)

³⁴ *Sydney Morning Herald*, Tuesday 17 July 1855 p.2 (Ann Foster)

³⁵ *Sydney Morning Herald*, Wednesday 19 December 1855 p.4 (Ann Foster)

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

of the larceny, and sentenced to be imprisoned and kept to hard labour for three calendar months.³⁵

1856

Admitted to Darlinghurst Gaol, Sydney, NSW; ship to colony *Rajah* 1839, born Ireland, Roman Catholic, aged 35, 5'0", stout build, fresh complexion, brown hair, brown eyes, read and write.³⁶

Admitted to Darlinghurst Gaol, Sydney, NSW; ship to colony *Rajah* 1839, born Yorkshire, Roman Catholic, aged 35, 5'0", slight build, fresh complexion, brown hair, blue eyes, read and write.³⁷

7 May 1856

Charged at Central Police Court, Sydney, NSW with being idle and disorderly; sentence 14 days hard labour at Darlinghurst Gaol, Sydney.³⁸

12 July 1856

Charged at Central Police Court, Sydney, NSW with stealing an receiving a quantity of provisions, wearing apparel, etc, from the ketch *Numba*, lying at Bethel Wharf; committed for trial at the next Quarter Sessions.³⁹

Newspaper reports:

James Gray, Emma Douglass, Ann Foster, William Hodgins otherwise Lanky, and James Booth, were charged with stealing and receiving a quantity of provisions, wearing apparel, &c., from the ketch Numba, lying at Bethel Wharf. Sergeant O'Keeffe, of the detective force, said he received information on Friday of a boat having been stolen from the schooner Numba, together with a quantity of salt beef and mutton, a bag of sugar, some tea, coffee, and several articles of wearing apparel; in consequence of information he received, he apprehended the prisoner Gray; he then went to the habitation of Ann Foster, and took her into custody; he searched the house and found two pieces of salt meat, some sugar in a pillow-case, and a canister of coffee; he then went to Emma Douglass's house, where he found eight pieces of salt meat, a tin of coffee, and some sugar in a sugar-bag; he apprehended her; Douglass said she had bought the goods of Lanky; he afterwards found the boat about 500 yards away from the schooner, and delivered it to the captain. Between six and seven o'clock that morning, he met Booth in George-street, wearing the oil-cloth coat and sou-wester produced; after a little prevarication, Booth said he bought them of Lanky and two other men; witness then took him into custody. Detective constable Baskett deposed that he apprehended the prisoner William Hodgins on the charge of receiving stolen property; the prisoner said he had bought some meat, tea, coffee, and sugar of Gray, for 15s., and that he had brought them up for him in a wheelbarrow from the wharf. David Murray, seaman of the ketch Numba, deposed that on Thursday last he missed from the vessel a large can of coffee, a bag of sugar, and 3 or 4 lbs. of tea; the next morning he missed about half cwt. of salt-beef and mutton from the harness cask on deck, and some clothing from the fore-castle; there was also a boat and one oar missing from the vessel; the sou'-wester and a pair of trousers produced were his; the bags containing sugar were like what he missed, and so were the pieces of meat; but he could not swear to them. George Start, mate of the Numba, identified four pieces of the meat as having been taken out of the harness cask; he had cut them himself about a month ago. Henry Stone deposed that he was a hair-dresser residing in Cumberland-street; about four o'clock on Friday morning, Gray called him up, and asked him to go and fetch some things from the wharf, as he had changed his mind, and did not intend to go to the diggings; between eight and nine o'clock, they met Lanky with some of the property in his possession; Lanky asked, who would buy the oilskin and sou'-wester; Booth happened to be passing with his wheel-barrow, and he bought them; witness, Gray, and Lanky then went to a public-house, and had a nobbler together; Gray then hired Lanky to go to the wharf and bring away some goods; witness accompanied him there, and back to a lane off Sussex-street; Gray told him not to come up the lane, and that aroused his suspicions; he awaited their return, and they went together to Griffith's, where Gray and Lanky retired to a private room; Serjeant O'Keeffe passed, and he called him in and informed him of what had happened. Mr. Cory watched the case for Gray and Douglass; Mr.

³⁶ NSW State Archives, *Gaol Description and Entrance Books, 1818-1930, 2523 4/6306 859, p.51 No.1004 (Ann Foster)*, accessed online at ancestry.com

³⁷ NSW State Archives, *Gaol Description and Entrance Books, 1818-1930, 2523 4/6306 859, p.75 No.1464 (Ann Foster)*, accessed online at ancestry.com

³⁸ *Empire*, Thursday 8 May 1856 p.4 (Ann Foster); *Sydney Morning Herald*, Thursday 8 May 1856 p.5 (Ann Foster)

³⁹ *Empire*, Monday 14 July 1856 p.5 (Ann Foster); *Sydney Morning Herald*, Monday 14 July 1856 p.5 (Ann Foster)

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

Shuttleworth, for the other prisoners. Booth was discharged; the rest were committed for trial at the next Quarter Sessions.⁴⁰

James Gray was charged with stealing from the Bethel Wharf one boat belonging to the ketch Numba, and from the vessel sundry pieces of salt meat, a bag of sugar, a canister of coffee, a quantity of tea, and several articles of wearing apparel: the boat and the provisions belonging to the owners, and the apparel to David Murray, a seaman of the ketch; and William Hodgkin, Emma Douglass and Ann Foster, were charged with having with a guilty knowledge received portions of such property. Mr. Cory and Mr. Shuttleworth appeared for the prisoners. The male prisoners were apprehended by Detective O'Keeffe, on the information of Henry Stone, that they had removed such property from the wharf; the police obtained information that some of the property was at the respective residences of the females, who at once gave it up, and said that they purchased of Hodgkin (or Lankey). The boat was found at another wharf, in Darling Harbour, soon after the apprehension of the prisoners. Committed for trial at the Quarter Sessions. Bail was allowed the women, but refused to the men.⁴¹

29 July 1856

Tried at the Quarter Sessions, Sydney, NSW indicted for stealing and receiving coffee, sugar, meat and wearing apparel, the property of David Murray; acquitted and discharged.⁴²

Newspaper report:

James Gray, Emma Douglass, Ann Foster, and William Hodgkinson, were indicted for stealing coffee, sugar, meat and wearing apparel, the property of David Murray. A second count charged them with receiving the same, knowing them to be stolen. The two male prisoners were found guilty on the first count. Grey was sentenced to be imprisoned in Sydney gaol, with hard labour for twelve months. Hodgkinson for the same period, with hard labour in Parramatta Gaol. The two female prisoners were acquitted and discharged. Mr. Shuttleworth appeared for the female prisoners.⁴²

4 December 1856

Charged at Central Police Court, Sydney, NSW with being an idle and disorderly character; sentence 3 months hard labour at Darlinghurst Gaol, Sydney.⁴³

December 1856

Admitted to Darlinghurst Gaol, Sydney, NSW; ship to colony *Rajah* 1839, born Hull, Roman Catholic, aged 36, 5'0", slight build, fresh complexion, brown hair, blue eyes, read and write.⁴⁴

1858

Admitted to Darlinghurst Gaol, Sydney, NSW; free-by-servitude, ship to colony *Rajah* 1839, born Hull, Roman Catholic, aged 33, 5'1", black hair, brown eyes, read and write.⁴⁵

Admitted to Darlinghurst Gaol, Sydney, NSW; ship to colony *Rajah* 1839, born Hull, Roman Catholic, aged 32, 5'1", stout build, fresh complexion, dark hair, blue eyes, read and write.⁴⁶

25 June 1859

Brought up at Water Police Court, Sydney, NSW for protection; sent to the Infirmary.⁴⁷

Newspaper report:

Ann Foster, a servant out of place, and having no home, was brought up for protection. Being in bad health, she was sent to the Infirmary.⁴⁷

Ann Foster, aged 34 years, was brought up for protection. She was found by a constable, at 12 o'clock on Friday night, sitting on the ground in the middle of Margaret-street. Her sad

⁴⁰ *Empire*, Monday 14 July 1856 p.5 (Ann Foster)

⁴¹ *Sydney Morning Herald*, Monday 14 July 1856 p.5 (Ann Foster)

⁴² *Empire*, Thursday 31 July 1856 p.2 (Ann Foster); *Sydney Morning Herald*, Wednesday 30 July 1856 p.4 (Ann Foster)

⁴³ *Empire*, Friday 5 December 1856 p.5 (Ann Foster)

⁴⁴ NSW State Archives, *Gaol Description and Entrance Books, 1818-1930*, 2523 4/6306 859, p.125 No.2465 (Ann Foster), accessed online at ancestry.com

⁴⁵ NSW State Archives, *Gaol Description and Entrance Books, 1818-1930*, 2523 4/6307 859, p.118 No.2346 (Ann Foster), accessed online at ancestry.com

⁴⁶ NSW State Archives, *Gaol Description and Entrance Books, 1818-1930*, 2523 4/6307 859, p.57 No.1131 (Ann Foster), accessed online at ancestry.com

⁴⁷ *Sydney Morning Herald*, Monday 27 June 1859 p.2 (Ann Foster)

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

Ann Headspeth

*tale was, that she had no home, and had been refused lodgings at several places. She was discharged and sent to the Infirmary.*⁴⁸

- 9 July 1859 **Died** of typhoid fever at the Infirmary, Sydney, NSW; aged 34, widow; born England, parents unknown; informant H Houston, resident surgeon, Infirmary.⁴⁹
- 12 July 1859 Buried at the Roman Catholic Cemetery, Sydney, NSW.⁴⁹

Notes

- Ann's husband may be George Foster who died of senilis and stomach cancer at New Town Pauper Establishment, Hobart on 17 January 1890; aged 73, born England, locksmith; informant George Richardson, Superintendent, New Town Pauper Establishment.⁵⁰

⁴⁸ *Empire*, Monday 27 June 1859 p.5 (Ann Foster)

⁴⁹ NSW Death Certificate 1859/755 (Ann Foster)

⁵⁰ TAHO, RGD35/1/12 1890/1037 Hobart (George Foster)