

# Betsey Heald

(proper name Mary Hale or Elizabeth Hale; ux<sup>or</sup> Betsey Shelson)

POLICE NUMBER 404 <sup>1</sup>	LITERACY neither read nor write
TRIAL DATE 28 August 1840	AGE ON EMBARKATION 14
TRIAL PLACE Lancaster (Preston) Sessions of the Peace	AGE ON ARRIVAL 17
OFFENCE stealing sovereigns from the person	HEIGHT 4' 11"
SENTENCE 10 years	COMPLEXION fresh
GAOL REPORT convicted before, bad, single	HEAD oval
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS once 1 month for stealing money	HAIR brown
SURGEON'S REPORT very quiet	VISAGE full
ON THE TOWN no	FOREHEAD medium
MARITAL STATUS single	EYEBROWS brown
CHILDREN 0	EYES hazel
FAMILY	NOSE small
NATIVE PLACE Preston, England	MOUTH small
TRADE ON EMBARKATION worked in factory	CHIN round
TRADE ON ARRIVAL housemaid, nursemaid	MARKS none

c1825 **Born** at Preston, Lancashire, England.<sup>2</sup>

28 August 1840 Tried at Lancaster Sessions of the Peace, Preston, Lancashire, England indicted for larceny from the person in stealing money – 14/9½ in copper and silver – from the person of Martha Huntington; sentence 10 years transportation; aged 14.<sup>3</sup>

Newspaper report:

*A JUVENILE STREET ROBBER. – On Monday last, at the Town Hall, Betsy Heald, aged thirteen, was charged with stealing fifteen shillings from the person of Martha Huntington, in Percy-street. The complainant, who was only nine years of age, stated that she had been sent to a pawnbroker, in Pole-street, to pawn some articles, for which she received fifteen shillings; when the prisoner, who was waiting near the spot, seeing that she had money in her hand, knocked her down, took the money from her, and ran away. Another witness proved that the prisoner was seen very soon after the robber, with money just answering the description of that stolen. When the prisoner was ordered to be committed, Mr. Barrister stated that she had been already convicted for obtaining money from children as they came out of pawn-brokers' shops.<sup>4</sup>*

5 April 1841 Departed Woolwich, England on the *Rajah*.<sup>5</sup>

19 July 1841 Arrived at Hobart on the *Rajah*.<sup>5</sup>

c24 July 1841 Upon arrival at Hobart, sent to Launceston for assignment.<sup>6</sup>

29 November 1841 Charged with insolence and misconduct in striking the child of her mistress Mrs Edgall; sentence 1 month imprisonment and hard labour at Launceston Female Factory.<sup>7</sup>

7 December 1841 At Launceston.<sup>7</sup>

31 December 1841 Mustered at Launceston Female Factory.<sup>8</sup>

24 February 1842 Charged with disorderly conduct in the service of Mills; sentence 6 months hard labour in the Crime Class at Launceston Female Factory.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> TAHO, CON40/1/6 p.49 No.404 [image 51] (Betsey Heald); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.209 [image 108] (Betsey Heald); ML, CY 1282 p.149 (Betsey Heald); ML, CY 1197 p.154 (Betsy Heald alias Hall); ML, CY 958 p.442 (Betsy Heald)

<sup>2</sup> TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.209 [image 108] (Betsey Heald)

<sup>3</sup> *Blackburn Standard*, 2 September 1840 Issue 294 Article 1 (Betsy Heald alias Hall)

<sup>4</sup> *Preston Chronicle*, 22 August 1840 Issue 1450 Article 21 (Betsy Heald)

<sup>5</sup> AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah*

<sup>6</sup> ML, CY 1282 p.141 (Betsey Heald); ML, CY 1274 p.258 (Betsey Heald proper name Hale)

<sup>7</sup> TAHO, CON40/1/6 p.49 No.404 [image 51] (Betsey Heald)

<sup>8</sup> AJCP, HO 10/51 p.370 No.404 (Betsey Heald)

This biography supplements our book *Patchwork Prisoners* available from [www.researchtasmania.com.au](http://www.researchtasmania.com.au).

	Charged at Launceston Female Factory with gross disrespectful conduct in the presence of the Superintendent of Convicts; her existing sentence of hard labour in the Crime Class at Launceston Female Factory extended 3 months. <sup>7</sup>
30 June 1843	Application for permission to marry Daniel Shelson <sup>9</sup> (free) sent to the Muster Master. <sup>10</sup>
19 July 1843	Application for permission to marry Daniel Shelson sent to the Secretary; approved. <sup>10</sup>
25 July 1843	Notice given of approval for permission to marry Daniel Shelson; Betsy in assigned service in the Morven district; Daniel free. <sup>11</sup>
14 August 1843	<b>Married</b> Daniel Shelson at St Andrew's Anglican Church, Evandale; Betsy aged 19, assigned servant, illiterate; Daniel aged 32, free; witnesses GG Rodger and Thirza Benison. <sup>12</sup>
November 1843	Absconded from the residence of her husband Daniel Skelton, resident of Brighton. <sup>13</sup>
20 November 1843	Charged at the Police Court, Hobart by Constable Daley with misconduct in representing herself to be free; returned to the Crown, her husband Daniel Shelton having left her. <sup>14</sup>
28 June 1844 <sup>15</sup>	<b>Daughter</b> Ann Heald born at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart; mother Elizabeth Heald, female convict; father not named; informant Edward Hawson (clerk). <sup>16</sup>
30 June 1844	Daughter Ann Heald baptised at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart by Robert Wilson, Chaplain; mother Elizabeth Hales (or Shelson); ship to colony <i>Rajah</i> . <sup>17</sup>
30 November 1844	Ticket of Leave granted; gazetted 3 December. <sup>18</sup>
28 August 1850	Free by servitude. <sup>7</sup>

### Notes

- Betsy may be the Elizabeth Speed who departed Launceston with William Speed as steerage passengers on the schooner *Sea Witch* on 13 September 1852 bound for Melbourne; Elizabeth free by servitude, ship to colony *Rajah*; William free, ship to colony *Shamrock*.<sup>19</sup>
- Betsy's husband may be the Daniel Shelson who died of hepatitis at Launceston on 29 August 1879; aged 72, labourer; informant Richards & Son, undertakers, Launceston.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> This is NOT Daniel Shelton who was transported for 7 years on the *Arab* in 1834, tried at Sussex Assizes on 27 July 1833 for housebreaking; single; Ticket of Leave 22 March 1839; Free by Servitude then again tried at Hobart Supreme Court as Daniel Chilton on 2 September 1844, transported for life for stealing 3 £5 notes, to be sent to Port Arthur for 4 years (TAHO, CON31/1/40 p.76 No.1875 [image 78] (Daniel Shelton)).

<sup>10</sup> TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.189 (Eliz<sup>h</sup> Heald & Dan<sup>l</sup> Shelton)

<sup>11</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 28 July 1843 p.881; 4 August 1843 p.906; 11 August 1843 p.931 (Daniel Skelton & Betsy Heald)

<sup>12</sup> TAHO, RGD37/1/3 1843/683 Launceston (Betsy Heald & Daniel Shilson)

<sup>13</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 17 November 1843 p.1259 (Betsy Heald)

<sup>14</sup> TAHO, AC480/1/1, 20 November 1843 (Eliz<sup>h</sup> Hill)

<sup>15</sup> Date given as 24 June 1844 on baptism register (QVMAG, Baptisms solemnized in the Female House of Correction, Hobart Town, VDL (Ann Hales)).

<sup>16</sup> TAHO, RGD 33/1/2 1844/331 Hobart (female Heald, mother Elizabeth Heald)

<sup>17</sup> QVMAG, Baptisms solemnized in the Female House of Correction, Hobart Town, VDL (Ann Hales)

<sup>18</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 3 December 1844 p.1478 (Betsy Heald)

<sup>19</sup> TAHO, POL220/1/2 pp.142-143 (Elizabeth Speed & William Speed)

<sup>20</sup> TAHO, RGD35/1/48 1879/635 Launceston (Daniel Shelton)