

# Elizabeth Howarth

(uxor Elizabeth Knight)

POLICE NUMBER 409 <sup>1</sup>	LITERACY neither read nor write
TRIAL DATE 26 October 1840	AGE ON EMBARKATION 26
TRIAL PLACE Stafford (Newcastle Under Lyme) Michaelmas Quarter Sessions	AGE ON ARRIVAL 27
OFFENCE stealing a watch etc and money	HEIGHT 5' 2"
SENTENCE 7 years	COMPLEXION florid
GAOL REPORT twice convicted before & 4 times in prison, connexions very bad, widow	HEAD oval
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS twice for felony discharged, once 1 month for striking a woman	HAIR auburn
SURGEON'S REPORT quiet	VISAGE full
ON THE TOWN no	FOREHEAD medium
MARITAL STATUS widow	EYEBROWS brown
CHILDREN 2	EYES hazel
FAMILY husband dead 5 years	NOSE medium
NATIVE PLACE Dudley, England	MOUTH medium
TRADE ON EMBARKATION	CHIN round
TRADE ON ARRIVAL house servant, laundry maid	MARKS 2 moles on face

c1814	<b>Born</b> at Dudley, Staffordshire, England. <sup>2</sup>
26 October 1840	Tried at Stafford Michaelmas Quarter Sessions, Newcastle Under Lyme, Staffordshire, England indicted for larceny in stealing a watch and money; sentence 7 years transportation. <sup>3</sup>
5 April 1841	Departed Woolwich, England on the <i>Rajah</i> . <sup>4</sup>
5 May 1841	Put on the <i>Rajah</i> sick list suffering from dysuria; <sup>5</sup> aged 26. <sup>6</sup>
18 May 1841	Put off the <i>Rajah</i> sick list. <sup>6</sup>
19 July 1841	Arrived at Hobart on the <i>Rajah</i> . <sup>4</sup>
c24 July 1841	Upon arrival at Hobart, assigned to Dr Desailly, Davey Street, Hobart. <sup>7</sup>
13 October 1841	Charged with being drunk in the service of Desailly; reprimanded and returned to her service. <sup>3</sup>
26 November 1841	Charged with being absent without leave from the service of Bennison; sentence 1 month in the separate working cells at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart. <sup>3</sup>
31 December 1841	Mustered at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart. <sup>8</sup>
5 February 1842	Absconded from the service of Mr TC Smith, Liverpool Street, Hobart. <sup>9</sup>
9 February 1842	Charged with absconding from the service of Smith; existing sentence of transportation extended 6 months and recommended that she be kept to hard labour at the wash tub for that period at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart. <sup>3</sup>
6 October 1842	Charged at the Police Court, Hobart with misconduct in being absent 2 days and nights without leave from the service of Captain Haig; plea guilty; sentence 6 months

<sup>1</sup> TAHO, CON40/1/6 p.51 No.409 [image 53] (Elizabeth Howarth); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.211 [image 109] (Elizabeth Howarth); ML, CY 1282 p.149 (Elizabeth Howarth); ML, CY 1197 p.156 (Elizabeth Howarth); ML, CY 958 p.443 (Elizabeth Howarth)

<sup>2</sup> TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.211 [image 109] (Elizabeth Howarth)

<sup>3</sup> TAHO, CON40/1/6 p.51 No.409 [image 53] (Elizabeth Howarth)

<sup>4</sup> AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah*

<sup>5</sup> Dysuria is painful urination.

<sup>6</sup> AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah* (Elizabeth Howarth)

<sup>7</sup> ML, CY 1274 p.258 (Elizabeth Howarth)

<sup>8</sup> AJCP, HO 10/51 p.370 No.409 (Elizabeth Howarth)

<sup>9</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 11 February 1842 p.139 (Elizabeth Howarth)

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	hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart, the first month <sup>10</sup> to be passed in the separate working rooms. <sup>11</sup>
1 June 1843	Absconded from the service of Mr Williams, Colville Street, Hobart. <sup>12</sup>
27 June 1843	Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on the complaint of Constable Anderson with absconding from her service on 31 May and remaining illegally at large until apprehended last Friday 23 June; in the service of Mr Williams, New Town; plea guilty; existing sentence of transportation extended 12 months and recommended that she be placed 6 months on probation at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart. <sup>13</sup>
19 January 1844	Absconded from the service of Mrs Patterson, Liverpool Street, Hobart; aged 29. <sup>14</sup>
22 January 1844	Charged at the Police Court, Hobart by Constable Walton with misconduct in being absent without leave from the service of Mr Patterson, Liverpool Street, Hobart; plea guilty; sentence 1 month hard labour at the wash tub at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart. <sup>15</sup>
22 February 1844	Classified as a 2 <sup>nd</sup> class probation pass-holder; gazetted 23 February. <sup>16</sup>
16 July 1844	Returned to the Crown from the service of Mr Cahill, Oatlands, her period of contract having expired. <sup>17</sup>
7 August 1844	Hired in private service as a probation pass-holder to Peter Pegus, Oatlands. <sup>18</sup>
16 August 1844	Charged at the Police Court, Oatlands with being drunk and attempting to escape at night from the house of her master Mr Pegus; plea guilty; sentence 48 hours in solitary confinement. <sup>19</sup>
31 August 1844	Promoted from a 2 <sup>nd</sup> class to a 3 <sup>rd</sup> class probation pass-holder; gazetted 6 September. <sup>20</sup>
15 November 1844	Hired in private service for 2 months as a probation pass-holder to Peter Pegus, Oatlands. <sup>21</sup>
31 December 1844	At Oatlands. <sup>3</sup>
14 January 1845	Charged at the Police Court, Oatlands with disobedience of orders and being absent without leave from the service of Mr Pegus; plea guilty; severely admonished at her master's request. <sup>22</sup>
25 January 1845	Ticket of Leave granted; gazetted 28 January. <sup>23</sup>
17 February 1845	Application for permission to marry William Cort ( <i>Lord Lyndoch</i> ); denied, the man having received a sentence to hard labour on the roads. <sup>24</sup>
1 May 1845	Charged with being out after hours; sentence 1 month hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart, and Ticket of Leave suspended. <sup>3</sup>
19 June 1845	Charged with being out after hours and drunk; sentence 2 months hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart, and Ticket of Leave suspended. <sup>3</sup>
13 October 1845	Charged with being out after hours; sentence 2 months hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart. <sup>3</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Conduct record has 2 months to be passed in the separate working rooms.

<sup>11</sup> TAHO, AC480/1/1, 6 October 1842 (Eliz<sup>th</sup> Howarth)

<sup>12</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 9 June 1843 p.658 (Elizabeth Howarth)

<sup>13</sup> TAHO, AC480/1/1, 27 June 1843 (Eliz<sup>th</sup> Howarth)

<sup>14</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 26 January 1844 p.118 (Elizabeth Howarth)

<sup>15</sup> TAHO, AC480/1/1, 22 January 1844 (Eliz<sup>th</sup> Howarth)

<sup>16</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 23 February 1844 p.248 (Elizabeth Howarth)

<sup>17</sup> TAHO, LC390/1/1 p.125 (Elizabeth Howarth)

<sup>18</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 16 August 1844 p.973 (Elizabeth Howarth)

<sup>19</sup> TAHO, LC390/1/1 p.141 (Eliz<sup>th</sup> Howarth)

<sup>20</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 6 September 1844 p.1073 (Elizabeth Howarth)

<sup>21</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 3 December 1844 p.1472 (Elizabeth Howarth)

<sup>22</sup> TAHO, LC390/1/1 p.250 (Elizabeth Howarth)

<sup>23</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 28 January 1845 p.106 (Elizabeth Howarth)

<sup>24</sup> TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.295 (Eliz<sup>th</sup> Howarth & Wm Cort)

Newspaper report:

*Elizabeth Howarth, a frequent visitor, was charge by Constable Jones with disturbing the peace of the public in general, and of himself in particular. It appeared that, in times gone by, the defendant and the complainant were more than passing acquaintances, and, through jealousy, or some such nonsense, Elizabeth had got Jones sent to the roads: he now returned the compliment, and the lady was sent to the Factory for two months.*<sup>25</sup>

- 23 February 1846 Charged with felony; fully committed for trial; discharged.<sup>3</sup>
- 16 March 1846 Application for permission to marry Daniel Knight<sup>26</sup> (*Duncan*, Ticket of Leave) sent to the Secretary; approved.<sup>27</sup>
- 18 March 1846 Notice given of approval for permission to marry Daniel Knight; Elizabeth a ticket-of-leave holder, resident of Hobart; Daniel a ticket-of-leave holder, resident of Hobart.<sup>28</sup>
- 27 April 1846 **Married** Daniel Knight at St George's Anglican Church, Battery Point; Elizabeth aged 29, spinster; Daniel aged 25, basket maker; witnesses George Thomas and Mary Ann Franklin.<sup>29</sup>
- 16 July 1846 Charged with being out after hours; sentence 14 days hard labour.<sup>3</sup>
- 23 February 1847 Husband Daniel Knight approved for a Conditional Pardon on condition that he shall not return to or be found within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland; gazetted.<sup>30</sup>
- 2 March 1847 Charged with disturbing the peace; sentence 1 month hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.<sup>3</sup>
- 9 April 1847 Charged with misconduct; sentence 7 days in solitary confinement.<sup>3</sup>
- 17 May 1847 Charged with misconduct; sentence 1 month hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.<sup>3</sup>
- 29 June 1847 Husband Daniel Knight issued a Certificate of Freedom.<sup>30</sup>
- 5 July 1847 Charged with being drunk and escaping from custody at the watch house; sentence 3 months hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.<sup>3</sup>
- July 1847 Paid 1/6 into savings bank account held by the Government on behalf of convicts whilst at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.<sup>31</sup>
- 21 October 1847 Charged with misconduct; sentence 3 months hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.<sup>3</sup>
- 31 December 1847 At Brickfields Hiring Depot, Hobart.<sup>3</sup>
- 8 February 1848 Application for remission of sentence.<sup>3</sup>
- 6 March 1848 Unexpired portion of the sentence of extension remitted vide petition (due to expire 26 April 1848).<sup>3</sup>
- 8 April 1848 Certificate of Freedom granted; gazetted 11 April.<sup>32</sup>
- 13 May 1852 Husband Daniel Knight departed Launceston for Melbourne as a steerage passenger on the steamer *City of Melbourne*; Daniel free by servitude, ship to colony *Duncan*.<sup>33</sup>
- 16 January 1865 Husband Daniel Knight died of phthisis and diarrhoea at Cardigan Street, North Melbourne, VIC; aged 41, clerk, born Leicester, England; father Daniel, pawnbroker; mother Mary; 7 years in Tasmania, 16 years in Victoria; no issue; informant wife Elizabeth Knight, illiterate, resident of Cardigan Street, North Melbourne, VIC.<sup>34</sup>

<sup>25</sup> *Colonial Times*, 21 October 1845 p.4 (Elizabeth Howarth)

<sup>26</sup> Daniel Knight was transported for 7 years on the *Duncan* in 1840, tried at Leicester Borough Quarter Sessions on 29 June 1840 for stealing 2 pieces of cloth; single, basket maker, aged 22, native place Leicester Town; Ticket of Leave 24 October 1844, Conditional Pardon 23 February 1847, Certificate of Freedom 29 June 1847 (TAHO, CON33/1/8 No.1838 [image 139] (Daniel Knight)).

<sup>27</sup> TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.99 (Elizabeth Howarth & Daniel Knight)

<sup>28</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 31 March 1846 p.294; 7 April 1846 p.313 (Daniel Knight & Elizabeth Howarth)

<sup>29</sup> TAHO, RGD37/1/4 1846/2332 (Elizabeth Howarth & Daniel Knight)

<sup>30</sup> TAHO, CON33/1/8 image 139 No.1838 (Daniel Knight); *Colonial Times*, 2 March 1847 p.2 (Daniel Knight)

<sup>31</sup> TAHO, CON73/1/1 p.384 (Elizabeth Howarth)

<sup>32</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 11 April 1848 p.370 (Elizabeth Howarth)

<sup>33</sup> TAHO, POL220/1/2 p.31 (Daniel Knight)

<sup>34</sup> VIC Death Certificate 1865/1602 (Daniel Knight)

18 January 1865

Husband Daniel Knight buried at Melbourne Cemetery, VIC.<sup>34</sup>

Funeral notice:

*THE Friends of the late Mr. DANIEL KNIGHT are respectfully invited to follow his remains to the place of interment, Melbourne General Cemetery. The funeral will leave his late residence, Cardigan-street (near the Essex Hotel), North Melbourne, THIS DAY (Wednesday), at 3 o'clock p.m.*

*HENRY ALLISON, undertaker, Victoria-street west, Melbourne.*<sup>35</sup>

## Notes

- Elizabeth's husband may be the Daniel Knight who departed Melbourne for Launceston in February 1856 as a passenger on the *Clarence I*; aged 32.<sup>36</sup>
- Elizabeth may be the Elizabeth Knight who died in 1900 at the Asylum for the Insane, Sunbury suffering from senile dementia, having been transferred from Yarra Bend Asylum on 19 July 1886; aged 71. No family is mentioned in the inquest held before Henry Clarkson; verdict – died from softening of the brain due to apoplexy.<sup>37</sup> This may be the Elizabeth Knight sent to the Lunatic Asylum on 19 October 1885 and listed in Helen Harris' database of prostitutes in Melbourne 1880–1881.<sup>38</sup>

Statement of witness John Aloysius O'Brien:

*This Deponent John Aloysius O'Brien on his oath saith, I am the Medical Superintendent residing at the Lunatic Asylum Sunbury.*

*The deceased Elizabeth Knight was admitted into this Asylum on the transfer warrant now produced from the Asylum at Yarra Bend on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 1886. She was then stated to be suffering from Senile Dementia, in fair bodily health and according to our records would be 86 years of age at death. When the patient came under my care in 1888 I found her suffering from Senile Dementia, in fair health, very deaf and blind in the left eye. Subsequently to that period she has been subject to attacks of bronchitis for which she has been treated at various times.*

*In January 1895 owing to a fall she suffered from a fracture of the right thigh bone from which she made a good recovery; she has had an attack of Asthma and likewise presented evidence of kidney disease. On the 26<sup>th</sup> of last month she was brought under notice as she had become quite helpless. Diarrhoea to a slight extent ensued the following day and some time after she was transferred to the Female Hospital and where since she has been confined to bed. No marked change occurred in her condition, there being no improvement in her helplessness until the 23<sup>rd</sup> Instant when she had an attack of apoplexy; she did not recover from this state to any marked degree but gradually sank and died as I was informed between 5.45 and 6:17 am on the 25<sup>th</sup> Instant. Her bodily condition was remained remarkably good all the time I have known her.*<sup>37</sup>

Statement of witness Dr Charles Richard Player:

*This Deponent Charles Richard Player on his oath saith, I am a legally qualified medical practitioner residing at Sunbury.*

*I have made a post-mortem examination of the body of Elizabeth Knight late of the Sunbury Hospital for Insane.*

*Externally:- The body was in a remarkable good state of preservation for one of deceased's evident great age. There were no bedsores or marks of violence on the body. On the backs of the forearms & hands were old purpuric[?] paletes[?].*

*Internally:- The bones of the skull were thicker than is usual the membranes of the hair were adherent & there was large excess of serous fluid in the cavities of the brain & skull & in the right hemisphere of the brain was an old clot of blood, due to the rupture of a small blood vessel & round this clot a large patch of brain emblance[?] had undergone softening. There had been old pleurisy on the right side of the chest & the bronchial tubes leading to each lung were not healthy. There was alteromatrus[?] disease of the valves of the heart. The kidneys were diseased, & the liver appeared somewhat more friable than is normal. The stomach was*

<sup>35</sup> *Argus*, 18 January 1865 p.8 (Mr. Daniel Knight)

<sup>36</sup> PROV, 'Online Indexes: Index to Outward Passengers to Interstate, UK, NZ and Foreign Ports 1852–1923', February 1856 p.2 (Daniel Knight)

<sup>37</sup> PROV, VPRS 24 1900/634 (Elizabeth Knight); PROV, VPRS 8236/P1 Unit 1 (Elizabeth Knight)

<sup>38</sup> Harris, 'Police and prostitution in Melbourne in 1880' No.4644 (Elizabeth Knight)

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*practically empty of food & contained a quantity of dark stringy fluid, looking like blood that had undergone change. There was chyle (& also faeces) in the intestines.*

*The cause of Death was softening of the brain due to apoplexy.<sup>37</sup>*

**Statement of witness Rosetta Willis:**

*This Deponent Rosetta Willis on her oath saith, I am a Hospital nurse residing at Asylum for Insane Sunbury.*

*The deceased Elizabeth Knight came under my charge on 7<sup>th</sup> of the present month and year. She was then in the female Hospital attached to this Asylum. She was in bed and apparently in a helpless condition. She was attended by the Medical Superintendent. The medicine prescribed by the Superintendent was given. There was no change in deceased's state of health till the 23<sup>rd</sup> inst., on which date she became much worse. She sank rapidly and died as I was informed between 5.45 and 6.17 AM on 25<sup>th</sup>. I saw deceased last alive at midnight on 24<sup>th</sup>. She was then so far as I could see unconscious and on the point of death. During her illness she could only take her food fairly well. She was not visited by any friends but was frequently seen by her clergyman. There were no marks nor sores on deceased's body.<sup>37</sup>*