

Mary Lyon
(*uxor Mary Reeves*)

POLICE NUMBER 223 ¹	LITERACY read only
TRIAL DATE 17 August 1840	AGE ON EMBARKATION 25 ²
TRIAL PLACE Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey), London	AGE ON ARRIVAL 26
OFFENCE robbing my master	HEIGHT 5' 3¾"
SENTENCE 7 years	COMPLEXION fair
GAOL REPORT connexions poor, single	HEAD round
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS none	HAIR light brown
SURGEON'S REPORT quiet	VISAGE flat, large
ON THE TOWN no	FOREHEAD broad
MARITAL STATUS widow ³	EYEBROWS light brown
CHILDREN 1	EYES hazel, small
FAMILY my husband has been dead 4 years, George Hardy the father of my child	NOSE rather large
NATIVE PLACE Cork, Ireland	MOUTH medium
TRADE ON EMBARKATION	CHIN low
TRADE ON ARRIVAL house servant, wash	MARKS very stout, large mole on left shoulder

c1815 **Born** in County Cork, Ireland.⁴

17 August 1840 Tried at the Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey), London, England indicted for larceny in stealing on 3 August 1840 4 rings value £1, 1 brooch value £2, the goods of her master Thomas Genna; 2 handkerchiefs value 5 shillings, the goods of James Ludlam; and 3 handkerchiefs value £1 and 24 yards of silk and cotton cloth value £1, the goods of her master Jeffery Ludlam; plea guilty; sentence 7 years transportation; aged 35.⁵

5 April 1841 Departed Woolwich, England on the *Rajah*.⁶

19 July 1841 Arrived at Hobart on the *Rajah*.⁶

c24 July 1841 Upon arrival at Hobart, sent to Launceston for assignment.⁷

14 October 1841 Charged with disobedience of orders in the service of Keach; sentence 6 months hard labour at Launceston Female Factory.⁸

31 December 1841 Mustered at Launceston Female Factory.⁹

29 April 1842 Charged with repeated insolence and being absent without leave from the service of Hudson; sentence 6 days in solitary confinement at Launceston Female Factory.⁸

6 September 1842 At Launceston.⁸

22 September 1842 Charged at the Police Court, Launceston upon complaint of her mistress with felony; in the service of Mrs DR Parramore; remanded to Launceston Female Factory for evidence of her mistress.¹⁰

 Newspaper report:
 *Mary Lyons, an assigned servant, charged with stealing a gold ring, the property of her master, was remanded.*¹¹

¹ TAHO, CON40/1/6 p.298 No.223 [image 230] (Mary Lyon); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.223 [image 115] (Mary Lyons); ML, CY 1282 p.150 (Mary Lyon); ML, CY 1197 p.150 (Mary Lyons); ML, CY 958 p.440 (Mary Lyon)

² Age given as 35 years at her trial (*Old Bailey Proceedings Online*, t18400817-2077 (Mary Lyon)).

³ Marital status given as married on Embarkation List, single on gaol report (ML, CY 1197 p.150 (Mary Lyons)).

⁴ TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.223 [image 115] (Mary Lyons)

⁵ *Old Bailey Proceedings Online*, t18400817-2077 (Mary Lyon)

⁶ AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah*

⁷ ML, CY 1282 p.142 (Mary Lyon); ML, CY 1274 p.259 (Mary Lyon)

⁸ TAHO, CON40/1/6 p.298 No.223 [image 230] (Mary Lyon)

⁹ AJCP, HO 10/51 p.378 No.223 (Mary Lyon)

¹⁰ TAHO, LC346/1/12 (Mary Lyons)

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

- 23 September 1842 Brought up at the Police Court, Launceston charged with being absent without leave from her service and strongly suspected of felony; in the service of DR Parramore; sentence 6 months hard labour at Launceston Female Factory.¹²
Newspaper report:
*Mary Lyons, an assigned servant, sentenced to six months' hard labour for absenting herself without leave from her employment.*¹³
- 14 October 1842 At Launceston.⁸
- 27 April 1843 Charged at Launceston Female Factory upon complaint of Superintendent Robert Pearson with felony; discharged.¹⁴
Newspaper report:
*Mary Lyons, a prisoner of the crown, charged with stealing one diamond ring of the value of £10, the property of Mr. D. R. Parramore, discharged.*¹⁵
- 6 October 1843 Charged at Launceston Female Factory upon complaint of Lewis Gough with larceny under £5; plea guilty; verdict guilty; sentence 14 days hard labour at Launceston Female Factory, and the justices direct specially that she shall be kept in solitary confinement 10 days of that term from 6 to 15 October inclusive.¹⁶
- 2 January 1844 Ordered to serve further probation from this date previous to being classified.⁸
- 22 July 1844 At Launceston.⁸
- 8 August 1844 Classified as a 1st class probation pass-holder; gazetted 9 August.¹⁷
- 26 September 1844 Hired in private service for 1 month as a probation pass-holder to Robert Taylor, *Inverney*¹⁸ House.¹⁹
- 12 November 1844 At Launceston.⁸
- 6 December 1844 Charged with refusing to work; in the service of Taylor; sentence 6 days in solitary confinement.⁸
- 4 January 1845 Application for permission to marry James Reeves²⁰ (*York*) sent to the Secretary; approved.²¹
- 7 January 1845 Notice given of approval for permission to marry James Reeves; Mary, prisoner at Launceston Female Factory; James a ticket-of-leave holder, resident of Launceston.²²
- cJanuary 1845 **Married** James Reeves in Hobart; Mary aged 39; James aged 36.^{37,43}
- 26 August 1845 Husband James Reeves recommended for a Conditional Pardon for the Australian Colonies.²³
- 1 November 1845 Ticket of Leave granted; gazetted 4 November.²⁴
- c1846 **Daughter** Amelia Reeves born in Tasmania.^{37,43}
- 4 August 1846 Husband James Reeves approved for a Conditional Pardon.²³
- 17 August 1847 Free by servitude; Certificate of Freedom available for collection.²⁵
- 10 September 1847 Certificate of Freedom issued.⁸

¹¹ *Examiner*, 24 September 1842 p.2 (Mary Lyons)

¹² TAHO, CON78/1/2 p.370 (Mary Lyons)

¹³ *Examiner*, 1 October 1842 p.5 (Mary Lyons)

¹⁴ TAHO, LC 46/1/12 (Mary Lyons)

¹⁵ *Examiner*, 3 May 1843 p.5 (Mary Lyons)

¹⁶ TAHO, LC346/1/8 (Mary Lyons); TAHO, CON78/1/2 p.370 (Mary Lyons)

¹⁷ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 9 August 1844 p.946 (Mary Lyon)

¹⁸ This is probably a misspelling of Invermay.

¹⁹ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 22 October 1844 p.1352 (Mary Lyons)

²⁰ James Reeves was transported for life on the *York* in 1832, tried at Cambridge on 10 March 1832 for housebreaking; single, brickmaker, aged 22; Ticket of Leave 20 May 1842; Conditional Pardon approved 4 August 1846; at Launceston in 1845 (TAHO, CON31/1/37 p.93 No.832 [image 107] (James Reeves), TAHO, CON18/1/21 [image 290] (James Reeves)).

²¹ TAHO, CON 52/1/2 p.173 (Mary Lyon & Ja^s Reeves)

²² *Hobart Town Gazette*, 7 January 1845 p.21; 14 January 1845 p.51; 21 January 1845 p.84 (Mary Lyon & James Reeves)

²³ TAHO, CON31/1/37 p.93 No.832 [image 107] (James Reeves)

²⁴ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 4 November 1845 p.1386 (Mary Lyon)

²⁵ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 3 August 1847 p.793 (Mary Lyon)

- c1848 **Son** John Reeves born.^{37,43}
- 14 January 1848 Departed Launceston for Melbourne, VIC with husband James Reeves and 2 children as passengers on the steam ship *Shamrock*; Mary free by servitude, ship to colony *Rajah*; James holding a Conditional Pardon, ship to colony *York*.²⁶
- c1850 **Son** Thomas Reeves born in VIC.^{37,43}
- 1852 **Daughter** Ellen Reeves born at Richmond, VIC; father James Reeves; mother Mary Reeves.²⁷
- 6 April 1871 Daughter Amelia Reeves married James Borrowman in Victoria; James born Dalkeith.²⁸
- Marriage notice:
*BORROWMAN – REEVES – ON the 6th inst., by Rev. H. Darling, James Borrowman, son of the late George Borrowman, merchant, Hawick, to Emelia Minnie Reeves, daughter of James Reeves, Richmond. Home papers please copy.*²⁹
- 3 May 1873 Grandson George Douglas James Borrowman born at Richmond, VIC; father James Borrowman; mother Emelia Minnie Reeves.³⁰
- 30 November 1874 Granddaughter Gertrude Mary Borrowman born at Hawke Street, West Melbourne, VIC; father James Borrowman; mother Amelia Minnie Reeves.³¹
- 20 March 1877 Daughter Ellen Reeves married Nathaniel Bitton at 11 Oxford Street, Collingwood, VIC (Independents service); Ellen aged 25, spinster, resident of Richmond, born Richmond, VIC; father James Reeves, brickmaker; mother Mary Lyons; Nathaniel aged 40, dealer, resident of Melbourne, widower (May 1870), 5 children, born London, England; father Isaac Bitton, dealer; mother Elizabeth Jacobs; witnesses John Smoleton³² MD and Sophia Lovely.³³
- 1877 Grandson Edward Bitton born at Melbourne, VIC; father Edward Bitton, mother Ellen Reeves.³⁴
- 1878 Grandson Edward Bitton died at Melbourne, VIC; aged 13 months; father Edward Bitton, mother Ellen Reeves.³⁵
- 1880 Grandson Benjamin David Bitton born at Melbourne, VIC; father Edward Bitton, mother Ellen Reeves.³⁶
- 6 December 1880 **Died** of rheumatism, debility and atrophy at 2 Commercial Lane, Melbourne, VIC; aged 75; born County Cork, Ireland, parents unknown, not known how long in Tasmania, 36 years in Victoria, married, 4 children: Amelia aged 35; John dead; Thomas aged 31; Ellen aged 29; informant William J Kerr, assistant undertaker.³⁷
- Death notice:
*REEVES. – ON the 6th December, at the residence of her son-in-law, Mr. Edward Bitton, No. 2 Commercial-lane, off Bourke-street east, Mrs. Mary Reeves, aged 75 years.*³⁸
- 8 December 1880 Buried at the New Cemetery, Melbourne, VIC.³⁷
- 1882 Grandson Jacob Bitton born at Melbourne, VIC; father Edward Bitton, mother Ellen Dommecarrie.³⁹

²⁶ TAHO, POL220/1/1 p.3 (James Reeves & Mary Lyons)

²⁷ VIC Birth Record 1852/27328 CofE St Peters Melbourne Fiche 400 (Ellen Reeves)

²⁸ VIC Marriage Record 1871/1918 (James Borrowman & Emilia Minnie Reeves)

²⁹ *Argus*, 17 April 1871 p.4 (James Borrowman & Emelia Minnie Reeves)

³⁰ VIC Birth Record 1873/12053 (George Douglas James Borrowman); *Argus*, 20 May 1873 p.4 (Mrs. James Borrowman)

³¹ VIC Birth Record 1875/4133 (Gertrude Mary Borrowman); *Illustrated Australian News*, 30 December 1874 p.222 (Mrs. James Borrowman)

³² This name may not be Smoleton, it is difficult to decipher.

³³ VIC Marriage Certificate 1877/926 (Ellen Reeves & Nathaniel Bitton)

³⁴ VIC Birth Record 1877/23627 (Edward Bitton)

³⁵ VIC Death Record 1878/11954 (Edward Bitton)

³⁶ VIC Birth Record 1880/3742 (Benjamin David Bitton)

³⁷ VIC Death Certificate 1880/10728 (Mary Reeves)

³⁸ *Illustrated Australian News*, 31 December 1880 p.255 (Mrs. Mary Reeves)

³⁹ VIC Birth Record 1882/17567 (Jacob Bitton)

- June 1883 Son-in-law James Borrowman an accountant at the Union Bank, Melbourne, VIC.⁴⁰
- 1884 Granddaughter Leah Bitton born at Melbourne, VIC; father Edward Bitton, mother Ellen Reeves.⁴¹
- 1887 Granddaughter Irene Bitton born at Carlton, VIC; father Edward Bitton, mother Ellen Reeves.⁴²
- 14 October 1889 Husband James Reeves died of morbus cordis and debility at 71 Tucker Street, North Carlton, VIC; aged 80, born Cambridge, England, 42 years in Victoria; father John Reeves, gentleman; mother Amelia; married, 4 children: Amelia aged 43; John dead; Thomas aged 40; Ellen aged 38; informant granddaughter Hetty Bitton, resident of 71 Tucker Street, North Carlton, VIC.⁴³
- Husband James Reeves buried at the General Cemetery, Melbourne, VIC.⁴³

Notes

- Mary's son John is probably the John Reeves who died at Richmond, VIC in 1849; aged 1.⁴⁴
- Mary's husband James Reeves may be the married man harboured by Susannah Roberts, holding a Ticket of Leave, in February 1845 for which she was charged at the Police Court, Hobart on 20 February 1845 and sentenced to 3 months at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.⁴⁵

⁴⁰ *Argus*, 12 June 1883 p.9 (James Borrowman)

⁴¹ VIC Birth Record 1884/10886 (Leah Bitton)

⁴² VIC Birth Record 1887/1634 (Irene Bitton)

⁴³ VIC Death Certificate 1889/15671 (James Reeves)

⁴⁴ VIC Death Record 1849/44408 RC St Francis Melbourne Fiche 590 (John Reeves); VIC Death Record 1849/603 RC St Francis Melbourne Fiche 984 (John Reeves)

⁴⁵ *Hobart Town Courier*, 25 February 1845 p.4 (James Reeves)