

Sarah Maggs

(uxor Sarah Culnan)

POLICE NUMBER 343 ¹	LITERACY read only
TRIAL DATE 14 October 1840	AGE ON EMBARKATION 21
TRIAL PLACE Somerset (Bath) Quarter Sessions	AGE ON ARRIVAL 22
OFFENCE stealing a watch from the person	HEIGHT 5' 2"
SENTENCE 10 years	COMPLEXION fair
GAOL REPORT convicted before, bad, single	HEAD oval
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS once before acquitted for stealing £418, again 4 months for stealing money, twice discharged for being disorderly	HAIR brown
SURGEON'S REPORT quiet	VISAGE oval
ON THE TOWN no	FOREHEAD medium
MARITAL STATUS single	EYEBROWS light brown, thin
CHILDREN 0	EYES blue
FAMILY	NOSE medium
NATIVE PLACE Bath, England	MOUTH rather wide
TRADE ON EMBARKATION labourer	CHIN round
TRADE ON ARRIVAL plain cook, housemaid	MARKS deeply pockpitted, W N R W on right arm

c1819 **Born** at Bath, Somerset, England.²

29 September 1838 Charged at the Quarter Sessions, Bath, Somerset, England with stealing a purse value 2 pence, a sovereign, and 3 half crowns belonging to Aaron Martin; sentence 4 months imprisonment at Shepton Mallet Gaol, Somerset, UK.³

Mary Parfit (*Tasmania*) charged with the same offence, same sentence.³

14 October 1840 Tried at the Quarter Sessions, Bath, Somerset, England indicted for larceny in stealing a watch from the person; sentence 10 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

16 August 1841 Charged with disobedience of orders in refusing to go to church and misconduct in making away with a shawl and refusing to tell how she had disposed of it; in the service of Atkinson; sentence 14 days in solitary confinement at Launceston Female Factory, then returned to her service.⁴

16 September 1841 At Launceston.⁴

31 December 1841 Mustered at Launceston Female Factory.⁷

11 April 1844 Classified as a 3rd class probation pass-holder; gazetted 12 April.⁸

11 May 1844 Application for permission to marry John Culnan⁹ (free) sent to the Muster Master.¹⁰

7 May 1844 Application for permission to marry John Culnan sent to the Secretary; approved.¹⁰

¹ TAHO, CON40/1/8 p.39 No.343 [image 41] (Sarah Maggs); TAHO, CON 19/1/1 p.235 [image 121] (Sarah Maggs); ML, CY 1282 p.151 (Sarah Maggs); ML, CY 1197 p.156 (Sarah Maggs); ML, CY 958 p.443 (Sarah Maggs)

² TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.235 [image 121] (Sarah Maggs)

³ personal communication, Sharon Finn, 31 March 2007 – Sharon believes Sarah Maggs and Mary Parfit may have been cousins.

⁴ TAHO, CON40/1/8 p.39 No.343 [image 41] (Sarah Maggs)

⁵ AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah*

⁶ ML, CY 1282 p.142 (Sarah Maggs); ML, CY 1274 p.260 (Sarah Maggs)

⁷ AJCP, HO 10/51 p.381 No.343 (Sarah Maggs)

⁸ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 12 April 1844 p.425 (Sarah Maggs)

⁹ This may be John Calnan transported for 7 years on the *Frances Charlotte* in 1837, tried at Middlesex Quarter Session on 19 September 1836 for larceny; single, labourer, aged 17, native place Cork; Ticket of Leave 20 May 1842; Certificate of Freedom 1843; at Launceston in 1843 (TAHO, CON31/1/7 p.414 No.2182 [image 419] (John Calnan), TAHO, CON18/1/8 p.16 [image 13] (Jn^o Calnan)).

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

15 May 1844	Notice given of approval for permission to marry John Culnan; Sarah in private service at Launceston; John free. ¹¹
19 May 1844	Banns read at Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Launceston for marriage to John Culnan. ¹²
26 May 1844	Banns read at Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Launceston for marriage to John Culnan. ¹²
2 June 1844	Banns read at Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Launceston for marriage to John Culnan. ¹²
3 June 1844	Married John Culnan at Trinity Anglican Church, Launceston; Sarah aged 24, servant, spinster, resident of Launceston, illiterate; John aged 25, mariner, bachelor, resident of Launceston; witnesses William Edwards and Anthony Brain (clerk). ¹³
November 1844	At Launceston. ⁴
30 November 1844	Ticket of Leave granted; gazetted 3 December. ¹⁴
18 March 1845	Charged at the Police Court, Launceston upon complaint of Mary Bowen with a common assault; plea not guilty; verdict not guilty; discharged. ¹⁵
9 December 1845	Recommended to the Queen for a Conditional Pardon available within the limits of the Australian Colonies and New Zealand; gazetted 9 December. ¹⁶
23 November 1846 ¹⁷	Conditional Pardon approved on condition she shall not return to or be found within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland; has not committed any offences since she was recommended to the Queen's mercy which would disentitle her to the indulgence. ¹⁸
14 October 1850	Free by servitude. ⁴

Notes

- Sarah may be the mother of Mary Ann Calnan who married Thomas Clisby at St Thomas' Anglican Church, Avoca on 19 March 1866; Mary Ann aged 21, house servant, spinster, illiterate; Thomas aged 52, shepherd, bachelor, illiterate; witnesses Nicolas Stanley and Mary Ann Rosier.¹⁹

¹⁰ TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.289 (Sarah Meggs & John Calnan)

¹¹ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 17 May 1844 p.552; 24 May 1844 p.572; 31 May 1844 p.593 (John Calnan & Sarah Meggs)

¹² TAHO, NS1735/1/4 p.10 (John Calnan & Sarah Meggs)

¹³ TAHO, RGD37/1/3 1844/963 Launceston (John Culnan & Sarah Meggs); TAHO, NS1735/1/4 p.10 (John Calnan & Sarah Meggs)

¹⁴ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 3 December 1844 p.1479 (Sarah Maggs)

¹⁵ TAHO, LC346/1/14 (Sarah Meggs now Calnan)

¹⁶ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 9 December 1845 p.1500 (Sarah Maggs)

¹⁷ Date given as 6 October 1846 on conduct record.

¹⁸ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 24 November 1846 p.1352 (Sarah Maggs)

¹⁹ TAHO, RGD37/1/25 1866/73 Fingal (Mary Ann Calnan & Thomas Clisby)