

*Ellen Marr*  
(aka Helen Mars; uxor Ellen Bell)

POLICE NUMBER 348 <sup>1</sup>	LITERACY neither read nor write
TRIAL DATE 5 September 1840	AGE ON EMBARKATION 18
TRIAL PLACE Jedburgh Court of Justiciary	AGE ON ARRIVAL 18
OFFENCE stealing apples and former conviction	HEIGHT 5' 5"
SENTENCE 7 years	COMPLEXION fresh
GAOL REPORT twice convicted before, very bad, single	HEAD oval
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS twice imprisoned 3 months and 1 month	HAIR brown
SURGEON'S REPORT quiet	VISAGE full
ON THE TOWN no	FOREHEAD flat
MARITAL STATUS single	EYEBROWS brown
CHILDREN 0	EYES brown
FAMILY	NOSE medium
NATIVE PLACE Carlisle, England	MOUTH medium
TRADE ON EMBARKATION vagrant	CHIN medium
TRADE ON ARRIVAL house servant	MARKS mole on back bone

c1823 **Born** at Carlisle, Cumberland, England.<sup>2</sup>

5 September 1840 Tried at the Court of Justiciary, Jedburgh, Roxburghshire, Scotland indicted for theft, habit and repute in stealing apples and previous conviction; verdict guilty on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> charges; sentence 7 years transportation; alias Mars, resident of Hawick, Roxburghshire, Scotland.<sup>3</sup>

5 April 1841 Departed Woolwich, England on the *Rajah*.<sup>4</sup>

19 July 1841 Arrived at Hobart on the *Rajah*.<sup>4</sup>

c24 July 1841 Upon arrival at Hobart, sent to Launceston for assignment.<sup>5</sup>

31 December 1841 Mustered at Launceston Female Factory.<sup>6</sup>

14 February 1842 Charged with absconding from the service of her master Mr Parramore; existing sentence of transportation extended 12 months, confirmed and to be detained 4 months on probation at Launceston Female Factory before assigned.<sup>7</sup>

6 July 1842 Charged at the Police Court, Launceston by her mistress with larceny under £5 in stealing a quantity of tobacco; in the service of Mrs Jane Titmus; remanded to Launceston Female Factory for further examination, her mistress being unable from illness to attend to prosecute.<sup>8</sup>

9 July 1842 Brought up at the Police Court, Launceston charged upon complaint of her mistress Jane Titmus with misconduct in having a quantity of tobacco in her possession for which she cannot satisfactorily account; plea guilty; verdict guilty; sentence 12 months hard labour at Launceston Female Factory.<sup>9</sup>

22 February 1844 Classified as a 2<sup>nd</sup> class probation pass-holder; gazetted 23 February.<sup>10</sup>

22 July 1844 At Launceston.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> TAHO, CON40/1/8 p.40 No.348 [image 42] (Ellen Marr); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.237 [image 122] (Ellen Marr); ML, CY 1282 p.151 (Ellen Marr); ML, CY 1197 p.158 (Helen Marr); ML, CY 958 p.444 (Helen Marr alias Mars)

<sup>2</sup> TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.237 [image 122] (Ellen Marr)

<sup>3</sup> NAS, JC26/1840/177 (Helen Marr); NAS, AD14/40/255 (Helen Marr)

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

<sup>5</sup> ML, CY 1282 p.142 (Ellen Marr); ML, CY 1274 p.260 (Ellen Marr)

<sup>6</sup> AJCP, HO 10/51 p.382 No.348 (Ellen Marr)

<sup>7</sup> TAHO, CON40/1/8 p.40 No.348 [image 42] (Ellen Marr)

<sup>8</sup> TAHO, LC346/1/7 (Ellen Marr); *Examiner*, 9 July 1842 p.5 (Ellen Marr)

<sup>9</sup> TAHO, LC346/1/12 (Ellen Marr)

<sup>10</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 23 February 1844 p.248 (Ellen Marr)

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

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>11</sup>
6 September 1844	Hired in private service for 6 months as a probation pass-holder to John Kirk, Hobart. <sup>12</sup>
14 September 1844	Charged at the Police Court, Hobart by her master with being drunk last night; in the service of Mr John Kirk; plea guilty; sentence 2 months hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart. <sup>13</sup>
17 September 1844	Ticket of Leave granted; gazetted 19 September. <sup>14</sup>
19 February 1845	Charged with being drunk; fined 5 shillings. <sup>7</sup>
21 February 1845	Charged with being out after hours; sentence 1 month hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart. <sup>7</sup>
3 November 1845	Charged with misconduct in being in a common brothel; sentence 2 months hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart. <sup>7</sup>
11 June 1846	Charged with being out after hours; sentence 3 months hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart. <sup>7</sup>
15 April 1847	Charged with being absent from her place of residence and found on board the <i>Gazelle</i> ; sentence 4 months hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.
1 September 1847	Charged with being drunk and using grossly indecent language; sentence 6 months hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.
5 September 1848	Free by servitude; Certificate of Freedom issued. <sup>7</sup>
29 January 1849	Charged at the Police Court, Hobart with drunkenness; fined 5 shillings. <sup>15</sup>
7 September 1850	Application for permission to marry Thomas Bell ( <i>Royal Sovereign</i> ); Ellen free; no decision. <sup>16</sup>
17 September 1850	Application for permission to marry Thomas Bell <sup>17</sup> ( <i>Royal Sovereign</i> ); Ellen free; approved. <sup>18</sup>
7 October 1850	<b>Married</b> Thomas Bell at St George's Anglican Church, Battery Point; Ellen adult, spinster, illiterate; Thomas adult, butcher, illiterate; witnesses John Smith (illiterate) and Sophia James (illiterate). <sup>19</sup>
13 November 1850	Husband Thomas Bell charged with disturbing the peace; fined 5 shillings. <sup>20</sup>
28 October 1851	Husband Thomas Bell granted a Conditional Pardon available everywhere save the United Kingdom and the Island of Van Diemen's Land. <sup>20</sup>
25 March 1852	<b>Daughter</b> Jemima Rhoda Bell born at Hobart; mother Ellen Mars; informant father Thomas Bell, butcher, resident of Collins Street, Hobart. <sup>21</sup>
cMarch 1852	Daughter Jemima Rhoda Bell baptised at St David's Church of England, Hobart. <sup>21</sup>
16 March 1853	Husband Thomas Bell issued a Certificate of Freedom. <sup>20</sup>
9 November 1855	Charged at the Police Court, Hobart with disturbing the peace; fined 5 shillings. <sup>22</sup>

<sup>11</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 6 September 1844 p.1074 (Ellen Marr)

<sup>12</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 8 October 1844 p.1272 (Ellen Marr)

<sup>13</sup> TAHO, AC480/1/1, 14 September 1844 (Ellen Marr)

<sup>14</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 19 September 1844 p.1143 (Ellen Marr)

<sup>15</sup> *Colonial Times*, 30 January 1849 p.2 (Ellen Marr)

<sup>16</sup> TAHO, CON52/1/4 (Ellen Marrs & Thomas Bell)

<sup>17</sup> Thomas Bell was transported for 7 years on the *Royal Sovereign* in 1837, tried at Stafford Quarter Sessions on 8 April 1835 for stealing 2 silk handkerchiefs; single, 4' 5", aged 16, tailor's boy, native place Birmingham; Ticket of Leave 27 February 1849, Certificate of Freedom 1842; tried at Hobart Quarter Sessions on 7 April 1845 for stealing 9 £1 notes, sentence 7 years' transportation, sent to Port Arthur for 2 years (TAHO, CON31/1/3 p.139/197 No.2761 [image 201] (Thomas Bell); TAHO, CON27/1/7 [image 118] (Thomas Bell); TAHO, CON34/1/7 p.385 No.2761 [image 390] (Thomas Bell)).

<sup>18</sup> TAHO, CON52/1/3 p.30 (Ellen Marrs & Thomas Bell)

<sup>19</sup> TAHO, RGD37/1/9 1850/305 Hobart (Thomas Bell & Ellen Marrs)

<sup>20</sup> TAHO, CON34/1/7 p.385 No.2761 [image 390] (Thomas Bell)

<sup>21</sup> TAHO, RGD33/1/4 1852/1208 Hobart (Jemima Rhoda Bell)

<sup>22</sup> *Mercury*, 12 November 1855 p.3 (Ellen Marr)

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Newspaper report:

... Ellen Marr was likewise charged with the like offence, which she stoutly denied, however the evidence of the constable who apprehended her was too strong against her. From this evidence it appeared she had taken a drop sufficient to excite her, and at eleven o'clock the night before she thought she had not got enough, consequently she left her residence with a black bottle in hand, and went about Campbell-street knocking at the doors of the several public-houses, in order to arouse the inmates, and to get them to replenish the bottle. She did not succeed, and he arrested her at the Seven Stars public-house knocking, and calling aloud. She was not drunk, but she had the smell of drink on her. The bench fined her five shillings.<sup>23</sup>

23 January 1860 Daughter Jemima Rhoda Bell admitted to the Female School, Queen's Orphan Schools, New Town; aged 8 years 9 months, Protestant; mother Ellen Maher or Bell in the Colonial Hospital, Hobart.<sup>24</sup>

11 November 1863 Daughter Jemima Rhoda Bell discharged from the Female School, Queen's Orphan Schools, New Town; apprenticed to Jessie White, Hobart.<sup>24</sup>

2 August 1869 Daughter Jemima Rhoda Bell charged at the Police Court, Hobart with disturbing the peace; fined 5 shillings, or in default 7 days imprisonment.<sup>25</sup>

30 August 1869 Daughter Jemima Rhoda Bell charged at the Police Court, Hobart with being disorderly; sentence 6 weeks hard labour at Cascades House of Correction, Hobart.<sup>26</sup>

Newspaper report:

*DISORDERLY FEMALES.* – Lucy Emmiss, Jemima Bell, Maria Jones, and Jessie McKenna, were charged by Constable McCormack with disorderly conduct at two o'clock on Sunday evening and pleaded not guilty, but the case was proved by two constables.

The Mayor said it was shocking to see such young girls brought up on such a charge, particularly the girl McKenna, who would be sent to the Reformatory if the Bench could do it, but it was not competent to do so. His Worship then sentenced the defendants to six weeks' hard labor, expressing the hope that it would be a caution to them.<sup>26</sup>

14 February 1870 Daughter Jemima Rhoda Bell charged at the Police Court, Hobart with prostitution; sentence 1 month imprisonment at Cascades House of Correction, Hobart. Description: native of Tasmania, aged 18, 5' 0", brown hair<sup>27</sup>.

Newspaper report:

*DISORDERLIES.* – Bridget Quinn and Jemima Bell were charged with being disorderly females, and also with behaving in a riotous and indecent manner in Liverpool-street, on the 13<sup>th</sup> inst.

Bridget Quinn pleaded guilty; Jemima Bell, not guilty.

Constable McCormack deposed to the arrest of the prisoners, and stated that he was led to take them into custody by their behaving very unseemly towards passers-by, and using bad language. Both had been previously convicted, and he had known them for the past twelve or eighteen months as disorderly characters.

Constable Mahoney gave corroborative evidence, after which

The Mayor said such conduct on the part of persons so young as the prisoners was disgraceful and not to be tolerated. If they were again brought before him, he should certainly mete out to them the full rigour of the law, but, would this time let them off with one month's imprisonment with hard labour.<sup>28</sup>

10–16 March 1870 Daughter Jemima Rhoda Bell discharged from Cascades House of Correction, Hobart.<sup>27</sup>

11 October 1870 Daughter Jemima Rhoda Bell charged at the Police Court, Hobart with prostitution; sentence 3 months' imprisonment at Cascades House of Correction, Hobart. Description: native of Tasmania, aged 16, 5' 1", auburn hair.<sup>29</sup>

<sup>23</sup> *Colonial Times*, 10 November 1855 p.2 (Ellen Marr)

<sup>24</sup> Purtscher, *Children in Queen's Orphanage Hobart Town 1828–1863* (Jemima Bell); TAHO, SWD28/1/1 Female School p.48 (Jemima Bell)

<sup>25</sup> *Mercury*, 3 August 1869 p.3 (Jemima Bell)

<sup>26</sup> *Mercury*, 31 August 1869 p.2 (Jemima Bell)

<sup>27</sup> *Tasmania Police Gazette*, 18 March 1870 p.50 (Jemima Bell)

<sup>28</sup> *Mercury*, 15 February 1870 p.2 (Jemima Bell)

<sup>29</sup> *Tasmania Police Gazette*, 13 January 1871 p.8 (Jemima Bell)

- 5–11 January 1871 Daughter Jemima Rhoda Bell discharged from Cascades House of Correction, Hobart.<sup>29</sup>
- 14 February 1871 Daughter Jemima Rhoda Bell charged at the Police Court, Hobart with larceny; sentence 3 months imprisonment at Cascades House of Correction, Hobart. Description: free, born Hobart, no trade, aged 19, 5' 0", no prior convictions, resident of Hobart.<sup>30</sup>
- Newspaper report:  
*LARCENY. – Two young girls, named respectively Jemima Bell and Margaret Acres, alias Holbrook, were charged with stealing, on the 13<sup>th</sup> instant, one silver watch, worth £4, the property of William Jude.*  
*The prisoner Jemima Bell pleaded guilty, and Margaret Acres not guilty.*  
*Detective Vickers applied for the discharge of Acres, as there was no evidence against her.*  
*The Bench ordered the prisoner Bell to be imprisoned for three months, and that Acres be discharged.*<sup>31</sup>
- 3 June 1871 Daughter Jemima Rhoda Bell charged at the Police Court, Hobart with being a disorderly female; found guilty of indecent behaviour in a public street on the previous day; sentence 3 months imprisonment at Cascades House of Correction, Hobart.<sup>32</sup>
- 20 March 1872 Daughter Jemima Rhoda Bell charged at the Police Court, Hobart with using obscene language in a public street on the previous day; fined 10/6, or in default, 14 days imprisonment.<sup>33</sup>
- 28 October 1872 Daughter Jemima Rhoda Bell charged at the Police Court, Hobart by Detective Constable Simpson with larceny in stealing the sum of £2 in silver, 2 pocket knives value 2 shillings, and other articles the property of Joseph Parris, Hobart; remanded till 30 October; native of Tasmania.<sup>34</sup>
- 30 October 1872 Daughter Jemima Rhoda Bell brought up at the Police Court, Hobart charged with larceny; remanded till tomorrow; native of Tasmania.<sup>35</sup>
- 31 October 1872 Daughter Jemima Rhoda Bell brought up at the Police Court, Hobart charged with larceny; plea guilty to a former conviction for larceny on 14 February 1871, not guilty of present charge; sentence 3 months hard labour at Cascades House of Correction, Hobart. Description: born Hobart, no trade, aged 20, 5' 0", abode Hobart.<sup>36</sup>
- Newspaper report:  
*ROBBERY. – Jemima Bell was charged with stealing £2 in silver and some articles from a coloured man named Joseph Parris.*  
*Joseph Parris deposed that on Saturday night last he went with prisoner to "Blind George's." He went into a room with the girl, and while he was sick, she slipped out. When he went into the room he had £2 in silver in his waistcoat and trowsers, but before he left he missed the money, with two pocket-knives and two pocket handkerchiefs. Witness was not drunk, but was sick. Was certain prisoner was the female who went into the room with him.*  
*Detective Simpson deposed that he apprehended the prisoner about a quarter to one o'clock on Sunday morning last, in a house in Barrack-street. When Parris reported the robbery about a quarter to twelve, he was perfectly sober. Told prisoner the charge, and she said she had not taken £2 in silver, she only took 12s. 6d. Searched the room, and found the new pair of boots produced, which prisoner said she had purchased for 11s., out of the money obtained from Parris. Also found the two pocket handkerchiefs, produced, in the room, one of them containing money to the amount of 1s. 5d<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, and the pocket-knife underneath prisoner's hat.*

<sup>30</sup> *Tasmania Police Gazette*, 24 February 1871 p.37 (Jemima Bell); *Tasmania Police Gazette*, 8 November 1872 p.184 (Jemima Bell)

<sup>31</sup> *Mercury*, 15 February 1871 p.2 (Jemima Bell)

<sup>32</sup> *Mercury*, 5 June 1871 p.3 (Jemima Bell)

<sup>33</sup> *Mercury*, 21 March 1872 p.2 (Jemima Bell)

<sup>34</sup> TAHO, LC247/1/34, 28 October 1872 (Jemima Bell)

<sup>35</sup> TAHO, LC247/1/34, 30 October 1872 (Jemima Bell)

<sup>36</sup> TAHO, LC247/1/34, 31 October 1872 (Jemima Bell); *Tasmania Police Gazette*, 8 November 1872 p.184 (Jemima Bell)

*She said she left the other knife on "Blind George's" table. He had ascertained that she had purchased the boots as she stated.*

*Prisoner, in her defence, said she thought it was very hard that she should be brought there on a charge of which she was not guilty. She denied that she had taken the £2 in silver.*

*Prisoner was sentenced to three months' imprisonment.<sup>37</sup>*

- 1-5 February 1873 Daughter Jemima Rhoda Bell discharged from Cascades House of Correction, Hobart.<sup>36</sup>
- 30 June 1873 Daughter Jemima Rhoda Bell charged at the Police Court, Hobart by Constable Burke with being an idle and disorderly person in being a common prostitute wandering the streets in Hobart on 28 June and to behaving in a riotous and indecent manner; plea guilty; sentence 3 months hard labour at Cascades House of Correction, Hobart. Description: native of Tasmania; aged 22, 5' 2", light hair.<sup>38</sup>
- 25-30 September 1873 Daughter Jemima Rhoda Bell discharged from Cascades House of Correction, Hobart.<sup>38</sup>
- 4 August 1874 Daughter Jemima Rhoda Bell married John Ward at St John's Church of England, New Town; Jemima aged 23, servant, spinster, illiterate; John aged 37, labourer, bachelor, illiterate; witnesses John McNamee and Harriet Smith (illiterate).<sup>39</sup>
- 18 September 1875 Grandson John Ward born at Longford; father John Ward, labourer; informant mother Jemima Bell, illiterate, resident of Longford.<sup>40</sup>
- 19 April 1877 Grandson Eric James Ward born at Campbell Town; father John Ward, labourer; informant mother Jemimah Bell, illiterate, resident of Campbell Town.<sup>41</sup>

### Notes

- Ellen may be the Ellen Hamilton (*Rajah*) who was admitted to New Town Charitable Institution, Hobart on 28 June 1882 from Hobart; discharged 19 February 1883 to go hop picking.<sup>42</sup>
- Ellen may be the Nell Bell who died on 5 February 1891 of enterocolitis haemorrhage at the General Hospital, Hobart; aged 70, charwoman, born Scotland; informant Frank H Oldham, Secretary, General Hospital, Hobart.<sup>43</sup> If so, she was buried on 7 February 1891 in pauper section A No.204 at Cornelian Bay Cemetery, Hobart; aged 70, last address Old Wharf, Hobart.<sup>44</sup>
- Ellen's husband may be the Thomas Bell who died on 27 August 1858 of inflammation of the liver at Lower Collins Street, Hobart; aged 40, fisherman, born England; informant RG Gray, resident of Argyle Street, Hobart.<sup>45</sup>
- Ellen's grandson Eric James Ward may be the Eric Ward who died on 5 June 1879 of inanition at Argyle Street, Hobart, aged 2½ years, born Argyle Street, Hobart, labourer's child; informant Richard Clarke, undertaker, Elizabeth Street, Hobart.<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> *Mercury*, 1 November 1872 p.2 (Jemima Bell)

<sup>38</sup> TAHO, LC247/1/34, 30 June 1873 (Jemima Bell)

<sup>39</sup> TAHO, RGD37/1/33 1874/192 Hobart (John Ward & Jemima Rhoda Bell)

<sup>40</sup> TAHO, RGD33/1/53 1875/1012 Longford (John Ward)

<sup>41</sup> TAHO, RGD33/1/55 1877/112 Campbell Town (Eric James Ward)

<sup>42</sup> *Tasmanian Police Gazette*, 23 February 1883 p.32 (Ellen Hamilton)

<sup>43</sup> TAHO, RGD35/1/13 1891/173 Hobart (Nell Bell)

<sup>44</sup> SRCT, *SRCT Record Search* No.8026 (Nell Bell)

<sup>45</sup> TAHO, RGD35/1/5 1858/1081 Hobart (Thomas Bell)

<sup>46</sup> TAHO, RGD35/1/9 1879/1890 Hobart (Eric Ward)