

*Christina McLeod**
(*uxor Christina Blackett*)

POLICE NUMBER 228 ¹	LITERACY read only
TRIAL DATE 21 July 1840	AGE ON EMBARKATION 21
TRIAL PLACE Edinburgh Court of Justiciary	AGE ON ARRIVAL 21
OFFENCE robbery—stealing money from Robinson	HEIGHT 5' 2¼"
SENTENCE 14 years	COMPLEXION ruddy
GAOL REPORT indifferent and imprisoned before, single	HEAD oval
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS once 60 days for being disorderly	HAIR dark brown
SURGEON'S REPORT quiet	VISAGE full
ON THE TOWN 2 years	FOREHEAD medium
MARITAL STATUS single	EYEBROWS light brown
CHILDREN 0	EYES dark brown
FAMILY	NOSE small, straight
NATIVE PLACE Naise, ² Ireland	MOUTH medium
TRADE ON EMBARKATION	CHIN round
TRADE ON ARRIVAL housemaid, needlewoman	MARKS scar from a burn on left shoulder

c1820	Born at Naas, County Kildare, Ireland. ³
21 July 1840	Tried at the Court of Justiciary, Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland with shipmate Janet (or Jess) Paterson (<i>qv</i>) and Johan Paterson indicted for assault and robbery at a house in North Foulis Close, High Street, Edinburgh on Tuesday, 16 June 1840 in assaulting Duncan Robertson, mason, Loanhead, Lasswade parish and stealing from him a pocket book, 14 £1 notes, 5 shillings, and some papers; verdict guilty; sentence ⁴ 14 years transportation; resident of Edinburgh. ⁵
5 April 1841	Departed Woolwich, England on the <i>Rajah</i> . ⁶
19 July 1841	Arrived at Hobart on the <i>Rajah</i> . ⁶
c24 July 1841	Upon arrival at Hobart, sent to Launceston for assignment. ⁷
31 December 1841	Mustered in the service of Captain Pulham, Launceston. ⁸
21 July 1843	At Launceston. ⁹
7 August 1843	Absconded from the service of Mr GL Taylor, Launceston. ¹⁰
9 October 1843	Charged with absconding from the service of Taylor; sentence 3 months hard labour at Launceston Female Factory. ⁹
21 February 1844	Application for permission to marry Joseph Blackett ¹¹ (free) sent to the Muster Master. ¹²

¹ TAHO, CON40/1/6 p.300 No.228 [image 232] (Christina McLeod); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.225 [image 116] (Chris^a McLeod); ML, CY 1282 p.151 (Christina McLeod); ML, CY 1197 p.157 (Christina McLeod); ML, CY 958 p.444 (Christina McLeod)

² This is probably Naas, County Kildare.

³ TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.225 [image 116] (Chris^a McLeod)

⁴ Janet was found guilty and sentenced to 14 years' transportation; resident of Edinburgh. Johan's guilt was not proven, sentence assolizied simpliciter (to free, or to be absolved of guilt) and dismissed; maiden name Terrace, resident of North Foulis Close, Edinburgh.

⁵ NAS, JC26/1840/453 (Christina McLeod); NAS, AD14/40/478 (Christina McLeod)

⁶ AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah*

⁷ ML, CY 1282 p.142 (Christina McLeod); ML, CY 1274 p.259 (Christina McLeod)

⁸ AJCP, HO 10/51 p.378 No.228 (Christina McLeod)

⁹ TAHO, CON40/1/6 p.300 No.228 [image 232] (Christina McLeod)

¹⁰ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 18 August 1843 p.951 (Christiana McLeod)

¹¹ A Joseph Blackett was transported for 14 years on the *Woodford* in 1828, tried at Middlesex on 13 September 1827 for stealing from the person; single, native place Hackney, dairyman, 5' 9", aged 22; Certificate of Freedom 1841; at Launceston in 1837, at Norfolk Plains in 1838 (TAHO, CON31/1/1 p.277 No.1092 [image 375] (Joseph Blackett), TAHO, CON32/1/1 p.287 No. 1092 [image 291] (Joseph

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

- 8 March 1844 Application for permission to marry Joseph Blackett sent to the Secretary; approved.¹²
- 13 March 1844 Notice given of approval for permission to marry Joseph Blackett; Christina in assigned service at Launceston; Joseph free.¹³
- 10 April 1844 **Married** Joseph Blackett at St John's Anglican Church, Launceston; Christina aged 23, prisoner, single; Joseph aged 30, free, widower;¹⁴ witnesses John Bryant, illiterate, and William Jones (clerk).¹⁵
- 1 October 1844 Husband Joseph Blackett charged at the Police Court, Launceston with illegally pawning a truck and three mantel-shelves, the property of Mr S Young; remanded.¹⁶
- 21 February 1845 Ticket of Leave granted; gazetted 25 February.¹⁷
- 5 January 1847 Witness at the Police Court, Longford with husband Joseph Blackett in a case against Horace Rowcroft Esquire, JP charged with assaulting and kicking his servant Agnes Miller¹⁸ on 25 December 1846; in the service of Horace Rowcroft Esquire as laundry woman^{19,20}
- 11 January 1847 Charged with being drunk; reprimanded.⁹
- 11 May 1847 At George Town.⁹
- 3 November 1847 Conditional Pardon recommended; gazetted 9 November.²¹
- 12 January 1848 Charged with misconduct; admonished.⁹
- August 1848 At Avoca, resident in the Campbell Town district.²²
- 9 September 1848 Charged with being drunk; fined 5 shillings.⁹
- October 1848 Resident with J Sullivan in the Campbell Town district.²²
- November 1848 At Launceston, resident in the Campbell Town district.²²
- 30 January 1849 Conditional Pardon approved.⁹
- August 1849 Husband Joseph Blackett gave evidence in an assault case; in the employ of Mr Bonner, butcher, Patterson Street, Launceston.²³
- c1850 Moved with her husband from Tasmania to Melbourne, VIC.²⁴
- 2 January 1852 **Died** of internal injury in a lodging house at Melbourne, VIC; aged 30, wife of Joseph Blackett; inquest held.²⁴
- 3 January 1852 Buried at St Mark's Church of England Cemetery, Melbourne, VIC.²⁵
- 5 January 1852 Inquest into death held at Melbourne, VIC before JWS Wilmot, coroner. Verdict: died from the effects of external violence on her right side whereby so much internal injury was occasioned that after lingering for some weeks, she expired, but by what means said injury was caused no evidence thereof appeareth.²⁶

Blackett); TAHO, CON18/1/21 No.1092 [image 136] (Joseph Blackett)). He applied for permission to marry Frances Todd, free, on 18 April 1839, sent to Secretary 1 May 1839 (TAHO, CON52/1/1 p.19 (Josh Blackett & Frances Todd)).

¹² TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.271 (Christin McLeod & Jos^h Blackett)

¹³ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 15 March 1844 p.311; 22 March 1844 p.325; 29 March 1844 p.349 (Joseph Blackett & Christie McLeod)

¹⁴ A Joseph Blackett married Frances Todd at Evandale School House on 6 August 1839, Joseph aged 29, holding a Ticket of Leave, per *Woodford*; Frances aged 31, free by servitude, illiterate; witnesses John Gamble, Elizabeth Kimble and John Hobden (TAHO, RGD37/1/1 1839/210 Launceston (Joseph Blackett & Frances Todd)). Frances was buried on 6 August 1840, aged 32, resident of Strathmore (TAHO, RGD34/1/2 1840/671 Evandale (Frances Blackett)).

¹⁵ TAHO, RGD37/1/3 1844/922 Launceston (Christiana McLeod & Joseph Blackett)

¹⁶ *Cornwall Chronicle*, 9 October 1844 p.4 (Joseph Blackett)

¹⁷ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 25 February 1845 p.234 (Christiana McLeod)

¹⁸ Agnes Miller was transported on the *Garland Grove* in 1841 as Agnes McGregor.

¹⁹ *Examiner*, 17 February 1847 p.6 (Mrs. Blacket)

²⁰ *Cornwall Chronicle*, 9 January 1847 pp.25-25 (Christiana Blackett & Joseph Blackett)

²¹ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 9 November 1847 p.1100 (Christiana McLeod)

²² TAHO, PO 47/1/4 (Christiana McLeod ux Blackett)

²³ *Cornwall Chronicle*, 15 August 1849 p.792 (Joseph Blackett)

²⁴ VIC Burial Certificate 1852/21173 (Christina Blackett); PROV, VPRS 24/P Unit 12 1852/1 (Christina Blackett)

²⁵ VIC Burial Certificate 1852/21173 (Christina Blackett)

²⁶ PROV, VPRS 24/P Unit 12 1852/1 (Christina Blackett)

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

Statement of witness Maria Harding, lodging house keeper, Melbourne, VIC:

The deceased Christina Blackett was a lodger in my house. She was about a month a lodger in my house. When she came to my house she seemed in good health but complained of a pain in her side which she said was caused by a kick from a man known by the name of Dan Cox alias Leary. The pain increased and her breathing became more difficult until a medical man was sent for who after being in attendance about four days, the deceased expired. Deceased was in the habit of drinking hard.²⁶

Statement of witness Joseph Blackett, shoemaker, Melbourne, VIC:

The deceased was my wife. On Tuesday afternoon last the 30th of December ult. I returned home from Mount Alexander and found my wife very ill. She complained of a pain in her right side with a short cough which she told me was occasioned by a kick given to her by one Cox alias Leary a bushman living on the Niminera²⁷ with Mr Elmes a settler. Said kick had been given to her by the above named Cox about three weeks since and she had been suffering pain from that time. I immediately went for a Doctor Qualtrough who after examining the patient told me that she would not live. The said Doctor Qualtrough continued his attendance up to the time of her death which took place on Thursday morning last the 1st of January inst. when I reported the case to the Police and requested the said Doctor to open the body which he did. One named Thom a bullock driver now on his road to Mount Alexander told me[?] that he was in the house at the time when he saw the said Cox kick the deceased. The deceased was a strong healthy woman and I never heard her complain of pain or sickness in any form.²⁶

Statement of witness Alexander Qualtrough Esquire, surgeon, Melbourne, VIC:

On Tuesday last the 30th of December ult. I was called upon professionally to the deceased by the husband. I found her suffering from severe pain in her right side with very laborious breathing. She got worse daily and expired on the following Friday morning. The usual remedies were applied. I have since performed a post mortem examination and found a perfectly healthy state of the abdominal organs. Within the cavity of the chest I found adhesion between the pleura and ribs in the right side and found in the intercorlat[?] spaces patches containing purulent matter. The muscles were also of a dark livid colour and there was a quantity of effused blood in the cellular tissue showing to my mind that there had been violent contusion of three or four weeks standing. I examined the external surface but could see no mark corresponding with the inward mischief. She did not tell me that she had received any injury but said that she had a severe cold. The right lung was considerably inflamed and from its appearance I should say produced by external injury. I should decidedly say that death in this instance has resulted from inflammation of the lungs and its investing membrane the result of external violence.²⁶

²⁷ This place name may not be Niminera, it is difficult to decipher.