

*Catherine McMahon*<sup>1</sup>  
(*uxor Catherine Copley, Catherine May*)

<i>Place Tried</i> Co. Clare	<i>Date Tried</i> 27 February 1849 <sup>a</sup>
<i>Offence</i> stealing a sheep	<i>Sentence</i> 7 years
<i>Prosecutor</i> Co. Clare	<i>Previous Convictions</i> none – stealing potatoes (1m)
<i>Gaol Report</i> quiet	<i>Surgeon's Report</i> quiet
<i>Station of Gang</i> Anson	<i>Class</i> 3 <sup>rd</sup> from 24 January 1850
<i>Other Information</i> tried & convicted with brothers Denis & William McMahon	

<i>Religion</i> Roman Catholic	<i>Literacy</i> neither read nor write
<i>Marital Status</i> single	<i>Trade</i> country servant, farm servant
<i>Age</i> 22 <sup>b</sup>	<i>Native Place</i> Skarriff, <sup>20</sup> Co. Clare
<i>Height</i> 5' ½", 5'	<i>Complexion</i> ruddy, freckled; fair
<i>Head</i> round	<i>Hair</i> red
<i>Visage</i> round	<i>Forehead</i> medium
<i>Eyebrows</i> red	<i>Eyes</i> grey
<i>Nose</i> medium	<i>Mouth</i> medium
<i>Chin</i> medium	<i>Marks</i> none
<i>Family</i> father James McMahon (farmer, dead); <sup>20</sup> mother Margaret (Peggy) Blake; <sup>20</sup> brothers Michael, James, Pat, John, Denis & William	

27 March 1849	Received at Grangegorman Depot, Dublin at 10pm. <sup>2</sup>
13 December 1850	Brothers William & Denis McMahon arrived in VDL, prisoners on the <i>Hyderabad</i> 3. <sup>3</sup>
2 May 1851	Charged at Cascades FF with disobedience of regulations; admonished. <sup>4</sup>
13 May 1851	Charged at Brickfields Hiring Depot with falsely representing she had no shoes; sentence 3m HL, Cascades FF. <sup>5</sup>
9 September 1851	Charged at Cascades FF with talking in chapel; sentence 2d SC. <sup>4</sup>
1 October 1851	Charged at Cascades FF with disorderly conduct at mess table; sentence to be kept in separate apartment when not at labour. <sup>4</sup>
10 October 1851	Contracted as PPH to John Goss, Macquarie St, Hobart, 12m at £7 pa. <sup>6</sup>
5 January 1852	To Brickfields Hiring Depot, Hobart. <sup>5</sup>
6 January 1852	To J Davis, Murray St, Hobart. <sup>5</sup>
3 February 1852	Must serve 3y 6m for Ticket-of-Leave. <sup>5</sup>
23 February 1852	Application for permission to marry John Copley ( <i>Lady Raffles</i> ); referred 23 February to Dr Bedford & man (approved 9 March). <sup>7</sup>
15 March 1852	<b>Married</b> as 27y, spinster, PPH, to John Copley, 38y, widower, PPH, at St David's CE Cathedral, Hobart; witnesses John Goss & Bridget Goss (nee Crotty, <i>qv</i> ). <sup>8</sup>
18 May 1852	To apply in 3 months for Ticket-of-Leave. <sup>5</sup>
17 August 1852	Ticket-of-Leave granted. <sup>5</sup>
19 August 1852 <sup>c</sup>	<b>Son</b> John Copley, blacksmith's child, born at Old Wharf, Hobart; baptised 5 September 1852 at St Joseph's RC Church, Hobart. <sup>9</sup>
10 May 1853	Recommended for Conditional Pardon. <sup>5</sup>
31 July 1853 <sup>d</sup>	<b>Daughter</b> Catherine Copley, blacksmith's child, born at New Wharf, Hobart; baptised 7 August 1853 at St Joseph's RC Church, Hobart; sponsors John Rankin & Bridget Neigh. <sup>10</sup>

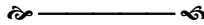
<sup>a</sup> Date given as 28 February 1849 on Irish transportation register.

<sup>b</sup> Age given as 21y on Grangegorman prison register and Irish transportation register.

<sup>c</sup> Date given as 27 July 1852 on baptism record.

<sup>d</sup> Date given as 1 August 1853 on baptism record.

- 11 August 1853 Daughter Catherine Copley, 11d, blacksmith's child, died of croup at New Wharf, Hobart.<sup>11</sup>
- 14 February 1854 Husband John Copley allowed a deduction of 2 years from the period he would have to serve for Ticket-of-Leave for meritorious conduct.<sup>13</sup>
- 4 April 1854 Conditional Pardon approved (issued at Hobart PO 11 April).<sup>12</sup>
- 1 August 1854 Husband John Copley granted Ticket-of-Leave.<sup>13</sup>
- 11 August 1854 **Son** James Copley born; baptised 20 August 1854 at St Joseph's RC Church, Hobart; sponsors Denis McMahon & Ellen Hynes.<sup>14</sup>
- 27 February 1856 Free by servitude.
- 15 August 1856 **Son** William Copley, blacksmith's child, born at Sandy Bay; baptised 7 September 1856 at St Joseph's RC Church, Hobart; sponsors William McMahon & Sarah Hart.<sup>15</sup>
- 16 March 1857 Certificate of Freedom at Hobart for collection.<sup>5</sup>
- c1857 Moved with family to VIC.<sup>16</sup>
- 1860 Son William Copley, 4y, died in VIC.<sup>16</sup>
- 1860 **Daughter** Hannah Copley born at Lamplough, VIC.<sup>17</sup>
- 1876 Husband John Copley, 66y, died in VIC.<sup>18</sup>
- 1882 Son James Copley married Mary McGee in VIC.<sup>19</sup>
- 28 May 1891<sup>e</sup> **Married** as 60y, widow, domestic duties, to Thomas May, 61y, widower, farmer, at RC Church, Stawell, VIC; witnesses M Fitzmaurice & Annie Doyle.<sup>20</sup>
- 28 September 1903 Husband Thomas May, 73y, storekeeper, died of dropsy & senile heart at Patrick St, Stawell, VIC; buried 30 September in RC section, Stawell Cemetery, VIC.<sup>21</sup>



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<sup>e</sup> At the time of this marriage, Catherine had three living children and five dead children.

## References

- <sup>1</sup> AOT, CON 41/24 *Australasia* No.1044 (Catherine McMahon); AOT, CON 19/8 *Australasia* (Catherine McMahon); AOT, CON 15/6 *Australasia* No.125 (Catherine McMahon); NAI, Prisons 1/9/4 No.1703 (Catherine McMahon); NAI, TR9 p.11 (Catherine McMahon)
- <sup>2</sup> NAI, Prisons 1/9/4 No.1703 (Catherine McMahon)
- <sup>3</sup> AOT, CON 14/43 *Hyderabad* 3 Nos. 23652 & 23653 (William & Denis McMahon)
- <sup>4</sup> AOT, CON 138/1 (Catherine McMahon/McMann)
- <sup>5</sup> AOT, CON 41/24 *Australasia* No.1044 (Catherine McMahon)
- <sup>6</sup> AOT, CON 30/1 p.356 (Catherine McMahon)
- <sup>7</sup> AOT, CON 52/5 p.56 (John Copely & Catherine Mahan); AOT, CON 52/3 p.87 (John Copely & Catherine Mahon)
- <sup>8</sup> AOT, RGD 37/11 1852/487 Hobart (John Copely & Catharine McMahon)
- <sup>9</sup> AOT, RGD 33/4 1852/1638 Hobart (John Copely); AOT, NS 1052/8 p.173 (John Copely)
- <sup>10</sup> AOT, RGD 33/4 1853/2531 Hobart (Margaret Copley); AOT, NS 1052/8 p.203 (Catherine Copley)
- <sup>11</sup> AOT, RGD 35/4 1853/317 Hobart (Catherine Copley)
- <sup>12</sup> AOT, CON 56/2 No.406 (Catherine McMahon)
- <sup>13</sup> AOT, CON 33/6 *Lady Raffles* No.1258 (John Copely)
- <sup>14</sup> AOT, NS 1052/8 p.240 (James Copley)
- <sup>15</sup> AOT, RGD 33/6 1856/1675 Hobart (William Copley); AOT, NS 1052/8 p.319 (William Copley)
- <sup>16</sup> VIC Death Record 1860/8845 (William Copley)
- <sup>17</sup> VIC Birth Record 1860/15683 (Hannah Copley)
- <sup>18</sup> VIC Death Record 1876/9926 (John Copley)
- <sup>19</sup> VIC Marriage Record 1882/684 (James Copley & Mary Mcgee)
- <sup>20</sup> VIC Marriage Record 1891/3347 No.35 (Thomas May & Catherine Copely)
- <sup>21</sup> VIC Death Certificate 1903/11501 (Thomas May)