

Margaret Neillis *
(*uxor Margaret Goodman*)

POLICE NUMBER 83 ¹	LITERACY read only
TRIAL DATE 9 September 1840	AGE ON EMBARKATION 19
TRIAL PLACE Glasgow Court of Justiciary	AGE ON ARRIVAL 20
OFFENCE housebreaking and previous conviction	HEIGHT 5'
SENTENCE 7 years	COMPLEXION fresh
GAOL REPORT convicted and imprisoned before, bad, single	HEAD oval
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS once 2 months for stealing money	HAIR dark brown
SURGEON'S REPORT quiet	VISAGE oval
ON THE TOWN 4 months	FOREHEAD high
MARITAL STATUS single	EYEBROWS light brown
CHILDREN 0	EYES dark brown
FAMILY	NOSE medium
NATIVE PLACE Londonderry, Ireland	MOUTH medium
TRADE ON EMBARKATION piecer in cotton mill	CHIN round
TRADE ON ARRIVAL house servant, needlewoman	MARKS none

c1821 **Born** in County Londonderry, Ireland.²

2 July 1839 Tried at the Sheriff Court, Lanark, Lanarkshire, Scotland indicted for theft; sentence unknown.³

9 September 1840 Tried at the Court of Justiciary, Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland with shipmate Rosie Ford (*qv*), James Rankine and Isabella Munro indicted for the crime of theft by housebreaking and previous conviction of theft in breaking into and entering a house in Piccadilly Street, Anderston, near Glasgow on 11 July 1840 occupied by Alexander McArthur, wine and spirit merchant, and stealing a pair of blankets; verdict guilty; sentence⁴ 7 years transportation; steam loom weaver, resident of King Street, Glasgow.⁵

Statement of defendant Margaret Neillis:

Margaret Neillis who being judicially examined, admonished and interrogated Declares That she is nineteen years of age is a steam loom weaver and resides in King Street of Glasgow. Declares That a little before six o'clock of the morning of Saturday last the Eleventh current, the Declarant left her Lodgings in King Street aforesaid alone, with the intention of going to Finnieston to seek for work. That she proceeded along Clyde Street & Broomielaw towards Finnieston & she was still alone. That she struck up from Broomielaw by a Street, the name of which she does not know to get to Anderston Walk, & when near the foot of said Street, a stranger woman who was at the time carrying a Basket & a Bundle came up to Declarant & requested her to carry the Bundle as she the Woman complained of being tired. That the Woman desired Declarant to carry the Bundle up the Street a piece for her, and the Declarant accordingly went up the Street with it, but a man came forward & apprehended the Declarant and took her & the Bundle to the Police Office. That the Bundle was found to contain two pairs of Blankets & she now sees & identifies them with a label appended docketed signed as relative hereto. That the declarant does not know where the Woman is to be found, and the Declarant had never seen her before & does not know her name. Declares That the

¹ TAHO, CON40/1/8 p.112 No.83 [image 105] (Margaret Neillis); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.239 [image 123] (Margaret Neillis); ML, CY 1282 p.152 (Margaret Neillis); ML, CY 1197 p.158 (Margaret Neillis); ML, CY 958 p.444 (Margaret Neillis)

² TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.239 [image 123] (Margaret Neillis)

³ NAS, JC26/1840/324 (Margaret Neillis)

⁴ James Rankine, Isabella Munro and Rosie Ford also transported for 7 years—Rosie was transported as Rose Ford on the *Rajah*, Isabella was not transported until 1851 on the *Aurora II*, James was transported on the *Layton*. James was a weaver, resident of Fountain Close, Glasgow; Isabella was resident c/o William Shields, carter, Drygate, Glasgow, Rosie was resident c/o Margaret Ford, New Wynd, Glasgow.

⁵ NAS, AD14/40/81 (Margaret Neillis); NAS, JC26/1840/324 (Margaret Neillis)

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

*Declarant was not in any close in the foresaid Street. Declares That the Declarant was never in company with the Prisoners Isabella Munro, Rosie Ford, & James Rankine, and Declarant was not in company with them or any of them on the said Saturday morning, and she denies that she had any concern whatever in breaking into a House in Piccadilly Street of Anderston on said morning or of stealing said Blankets from it. And all this she declares to be truth. And declares that she cannot write.*⁵

Statement of defendant Rose Ford:

*Rosie Ford who being judicially examined, admonished and interrogated Declares That she is Eleven years of age, is not engaged in any occupation, and she resides with her sister Margaret Ford in the New Wynd of Glasgow. Declares That the Declarant does not know the Prisoners Margaret Neillis James Rankine, and Isabella Munro and the Declarant was not in company with them or any of them on the morning of Saturday last the Eleventh current. Declares That the Declarant does not know Piccadilly Street of Anderston near Glasgow and she was not in it that morning, either by herself or in company with the parties above named, and she had no concern whatever in breaking into a House there that morning or of stealing the two pair of Blankets which are now produced and labelled as relative hereto, and she knows nothing about said Blankets Declares That the Declarant was apprehended in her Sisters House about seven o'clock upon said Saturday morning, and taken to the Police Office. That the Declarant had just got out of bed when so apprehended, and she had not left her Sisters House before she was seized. And all this she declares to be truth, and declares that she cannot write.*⁵

Statement of defendant James Rankine:

*That the Declarant had no concern in breaking into a House in Piccadilly Street of Anderston on said morning or of stealing therefrom the two pairs of Blankets now produced and labelled as hereto relative. Declares that the Declarant was not in a Close in any Street in Anderston that morning, nor was in the Old Wynd or in King Street of Glasgow. And all this he declares to be truth.*⁵

Statement of defendant Isabella Munro:

*Isabella Munro who being judicially examined, admonished and interrogated Declares That she is fifteen years of age, is at present out of employment, and she resides with her Brother in Law William Shields Carter Drygate of Glasgow. Declares That a little after five OClock of the morning of Saturday last the Eleventh current the Declarant left Drygate Street to look for work. That she came down High Street along Trougate[?] & Argyle streets & to Warroch Street of Anderston where she applied for work at Buchans Cotton factory, but the man at the Gate said there were no new hands wanted and the Declarant returned from the Factory towards Glasgow. Declares That the Declarant on getting to the next street, observed two men apprehend a Boy & Girl Viz. the Prisoners James Rankine & Margaret Neillis . That said men handed the Prisoners over to some persons who were passing, and one of the two men ran after the Declarant and caught her. That the Declarant does not know what she was apprehended for and she had not been in company with Rankine or Neillis or the Prisoner Rosie Ford that morning, and had no concern whatever in breaking into a House in Piccadilly Street of Anderston, or of stealing therefrom two pairs of Blankets being those now produced & labelled as relative hereto. That the Declarant was not in King Street of Glasgow or in the Old Wynd on said morning & she saw none of the Prisoners till she chanced to see them in Anderston. And all this she declares to be truth. And declares that she cannot write.*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
31 December 1841 Mustered in the service of Mr A Thompson, Launceston.⁸
22 April 1842 At Launceston.⁹

⁶ AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah*

⁷ ML, CY 1282 p.142 (Margaret Neillis); ML, CY 1274 p.261 (Margaret Neillis)

⁸ AJCP, HO 10/51 p.384 No.83 (Margaret Neillis)

⁹ TAHO, CON40/1/8 p.112 No.83 [image 105] (Margaret Neillis)

- 14 May 1842 Application for permission to marry Thomas Goodman¹⁰ (free) sent to the Muster Master.¹¹
- 17 May 1842 At Launceston.
- 1 June 1842 Application for permission to marry Thomas Goodman sent to the Secretary; approved.¹¹
- 6 July 1842 **Married** Thomas Goodman at St John's Anglican Church, Launceston; Margaret aged 20, convict, single, illiterate; Thomas aged 30, ticket-of-leave holder, single; witnesses George Mathie¹² and William Jones (clerk).¹³
- 14 February 1844 Charged at the Police Court, Launceston upon complaint of Joshua Lyons with larceny under the value of £5; plea not guilty; witnesses Joshua Lyons and Henry Mathers; verdict guilty; sentence 6 months hard labour at Launceston Female Factory.¹⁴
- Newspaper report:
*Margaret Neillis, sentenced to six months hard labour, for stealing a dress from Mr. Lyons, value 12s. 6d.*¹⁵
- 23 July 1844 Sentence of 6 months' hard labour remitted by the Lieutenant Governor vide the Comptroller General's memo.⁹
- 21 February 1845 Classified as a 3rd class probation pass-holder; gazetted 28 February.¹⁶
- 7 March 1845 Charged with being out after hours; admonished.⁹
- 24 May 1845 Ticket of Leave granted on occasion of the anniversary of Her Majesty's birthday; gazetted 27 May.¹⁷
- 15 October 1845 Charged with misconduct; admonished.⁹
- 15 December 1845 Charged with using obscene language; fined 5 shillings.⁹
- Charged with disturbing the peace; fined 5 shillings.⁹
- Newspaper report:
*"Margaret Goodman" said his worship, you are not by any means a good-woman; what do you mean by creating a riot in the public streets, and offending against decency by the use of expressions too gross to admit of repetition; besides all this you appear to be an old offender – come now what have you to urge in your defence, Margaret." Oh I don't know what to say to your worship, but as a bad excuse is said to be better than none, I suppose I might as well plead drunkenness. Magistrate. A! that's just the way with all the rest of your tribe, in the first place you go and get beastly drunk, and in the next abuse everything and everybody you may happen to set eyes upon. Well, come you are fined five shillings once more but have a care how you come here again.*¹⁸
- 21 April 1846 Charged with being drunk and absent from her authorised residence; sentence 3 months' hard labour at Launceston Female Factory.⁹

¹⁰ There were 3 convicts named Thomas Goodman who could have been Margaret's husband – one arrived on the *Proteus* in 1831 and two arrived on the *Emperor Alexander* in 1833. Thomas Goodman per *Proteus* was transported for life in 1831, tried at Sussex Special Gaol Delivery on 18 December 1830 for arson (setting fire to a barn in the riots); single, farm labourer and hurdle maker, aged 22, native place Battle, Sussex, Protestant, read and write, 2 brothers and 2 sisters; Conditional Pardon 5 April 1838; at Launceston in 1837 (TAHO, CON31/1/16 p.56 No.750 [image 60] (Tho^s Goodman); TAHO, CON18/1/18 No.750 [image 178] (Tho^s Goodman); TAHO, CON14/1/3 No.750 [images 23–24] (Thos Goodman)). Thomas Goodman 1st was transported for 14 years on the *Emperor Alexander* in 1833, tried at Kent Quarter Sessions on 3 January 1833 for stealing a watch; married, 3 children, labourer; Conditional Pardon July 1845; Certificate of Freedom 29 April 1852 (TAHO, CON31/1/16 p.117 No.926 [image 121] (Thomas Goodman (1)), TAHO, CON18/1/6 p.485 No.926 [image 263] (Thomas Goodman)). Thomas Goodman 2nd was transported for life on the *Emperor Alexander* in 1833, tried at London Gaol Delivery on 6 September 1832 for stealing from the person; single, shoemaker, aged 19, native place Islington; at Norfolk Plains in 1844 (TAHO, CON31/1/16 p.117 No.927 [image 121] (Thomas Goodman (2)), TAHO, CON18/1/6 p.483 [image 262] (Thomas Goodman)).

¹¹ TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.67 (Marg: Neillis & Thomas Goodman)

¹² This name may not be Mathie, it is difficult to read.

¹³ TAHO, RGD37/1/2 1842/1602 Launceston (Thomas Goodman & Margaret Neillis)

¹⁴ TAHO, LC346/1/8 (Margaret Neillis now Goodman)

¹⁵ *Examiner*, 21 February 1844 p.3 (Margaret Neillis)

¹⁶ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 28 February 1845 p.232 (Margaret Neillis)

¹⁷ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 27 May 1845 p.630 (Margaret Neillis)

¹⁸ *Cornwall Chronicle*, 20 December 1845 p.435 (Margaret Goodman)

- 17 August 1847 Husband Thomas Goodman charged at the Police Court, Launceston on suspicion of larceny; remanded.¹⁹
Newspaper report:
*Thomas Goodman, suspected of being a very bad man, was remanded on suspicion of stealing a variety of articles from the house of Mr. P. Monaghan. He was apprehended ten minutes after the robbery by the activity of Constable Durham.*¹⁹
- 9 September 1847 Free by servitude; Certificate of Freedom available for collection.²⁰
- 15 November 1847 Certificate of Freedom issued; gazetted 16 November.²¹
- 26 July 1849 Attempted suicide.⁹
Newspaper report:
*HUMANE AND INTREPID CONDUCT OF A PASSHOLDER. – On Thursday morning last about half-past 10'oclock, as a passholder named George Lewis in the employ of Mr. Bishop was passing over the Tamar Bridge, he saw a female named Margaret M'Neillis spring from off the top of the railing and jump into the river; Lewis immediately ran round to the marsh side, jumped in and succeeded in catching the female by the hair of her head as she rose to the surface of the water; by this time a boat containing four men from Mr. Griffiths' yard came to the assistance of Lewis, and ultimately succeeded in rescuing her from a watery grave; she was taken home and soon recovered from her aquatic exploits. – Communicated.*²²
- 5 February 1850 Departed Launceston for Port Phillip, VIC as a passenger on the schooner *Red Rover*; free by servitude, ship to colony *Rajah*.²³

¹⁹ *Cornwall Chronicle*, 18 August 1847 p.3 (Thomas Goodman)

²⁰ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 7 September 1847 p.894 (Margaret Neilles)

²¹ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 16 November 1847 p.1121 (Margaret Neilles)

²² *Cornwall Chronicle*, 28 July 1849 p.750 (Margaret M'Neillis)

²³ TAHO, POL220/1/1 p.191 (Margaret Neillis)