

*Ellen O'Neill*  
(uxor *Ellen Marsden*)

|   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| POLICE NUMBER 82 <sup>1</sup>   | LITERACY neither read nor write |
| TRIAL DATE 26 October 1840  | AGE ON EMBARKATION 26           |
| TRIAL PLACE Lancaster (Liverpool) Quarter Sessions                              | AGE ON ARRIVAL 27               |
| OFFENCE stealing money from the person  | HEIGHT 5' 4½" or 5' 4¼"         |
| SENTENCE 15 years   | COMPLEXION fresh                |
| GAOL REPORT convicted before, very bad, married                                 | HEAD oval                       |
| PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS once 2 years for stealing money                            | HAIR dark brown                 |
| SURGEON'S REPORT mess Woman and hard working                                    | VISAGE long                     |
| ON THE TOWN no  | FOREHEAD high                   |
| MARITAL STATUS married  | EYEBROWS brown                  |
| CHILDREN 1, 1 on board – daughter Mary, aged 13 months, not weaned <sup>2</sup> | EYES grey                       |
| FAMILY husband Edward   | NOSE long, straight             |
| NATIVE PLACE Liverpool, England   | MOUTH medium                    |
| TRADE ON EMBARKATION servant  | CHIN long                       |
| TRADE ON ARRIVAL plain cook, house servant, bake                                | MARKS TT and AL on left arm     |

c1814                      **Born** at Liverpool, Lancashire, England.<sup>3</sup>

26 October 1840        Tried at Lancaster Quarter Sessions, Liverpool, Lancashire, England indicted for larceny in stealing money from the person; sentence 15 years transportation.<sup>4</sup>

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

19 July 1841            Arrived at Hobart on the *Rajah*.<sup>5</sup>

c24 July 1841            Upon arrival at Hobart, sent to Cascades Female Factory, Hobart; not immediately assigned.<sup>6</sup>

1 October 1841        Charged with being absent without leave from the service of Bailey; reprimanded and returned to her service.<sup>4</sup>

31 December 1841     Mustered in the service to Mr Bailey, New Town.<sup>7</sup>

8 April 1842            Charged on the complaint of her master Mr J Bailey, New Town Road, Hobart with misconduct in absenting herself without leave all last night; plea guilty; sentence 14 days in solitary confinement at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.<sup>8</sup>

8 April 1842            Charged at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart on complaint of Constable Hawes with disorderly conduct in using improper language to him after being sentenced this morning; plea not guilty; sentence 6 months hard labour to commence at the expiration of her present sentence to solitary confinement at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.<sup>9</sup>

Statement of witness John Hawes:  
*This morning I charged the prisoner with being absent all night, and after she had been sentenced, I was taking her to the watch house, when she was talking I told her to hold her tongue, she replied I shall first see you stuck at the hand cart or in chains.*<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup> TAHO, CON40/1/8 p.11 No.82 [image 104] (Ellen O'Neill); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.238 [image 122] (Ellen O'Neal); ML, CY 1282 p.152 (Ellen O'Neill); ML, CY 1197 p.155 (Ellen O'Neal); ML, CY 958 p.442 (Ellen O'Neill)

<sup>2</sup> ML, CY 1282 p.139 (Ellen O'Neil); ML, CY 1274 p.261 (Ellen O'Neill)

<sup>3</sup> TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.238 [image 122] (Ellen O'Neal)

<sup>4</sup> TAHO, CON40/1/8 p.11 No.82 [image 104] (Ellen O'Neill)

<sup>5</sup> AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah*

<sup>6</sup> ML, CY 1282 p.143 (Ellen O'Neill)

<sup>7</sup> AJCP, HO 10/51 p.384 No.82 (Ellen O'Neil)

<sup>8</sup> TAHO, AC480/1/1, 8 April 1842 (Ellen O'Neill)

<sup>9</sup> TAHO, AC480/1/1, 8 April 1842 (Ellen O'Neill)

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Statement of witness Edward Jones:

*I am a Constable and was standing in the passage this morning, when I heard the Prisoner call Howes a f\_\_\_\_\_g rogue and several other bad names. She said she should see him in chains or at the hand cart before long.*<sup>9</sup>

- 19 June 1844 Classified as a 3<sup>rd</sup> class probation pass-holder; gazetted 21 June.<sup>10</sup>
- 24 June 1844 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart by Constable Fitzgerald with being absent without leave all night from the service of Mr Reeves, Davey Street, Hobart; plea guilty; sentence 3 months hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.<sup>11</sup>
- 18 February 1845 Ticket of Leave granted; gazetted 18 February.<sup>12</sup>
- 22 March 1845 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart with felony in stealing £29, the property of Charles Phillips; committed for trial.<sup>13</sup>
- 7 April 1845 Tried at the Quarter Sessions, Hobart with stealing 29 notes value £1 each the property of Charles Phillips; verdict guilty; sentence 2 years hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart, and to undergo 2 months in solitary confinement, 1 month on going into the factory and the other month at the termination of the sentence.<sup>14</sup>  
Thomas Bell (*Royal Sovereign*) charged with the same offence; verdict guilty; sentence 7 years transportation.<sup>14</sup>  
Newspaper report:  
*Ellen O'Neil and Thomas Bell were arraigned for stealing £29, the property of Charles Phillips. The prosecutor was a stranger, having but recently come from the country, and late one night was picked up in the streets by a "friend," who introduced prosecutor to a house occupied by the prisoners, where the misplaced confidence of the prosecutor occasioned him to fall a victim to the dishonesty of the female prisoner, who robbed him of all his money. Both prisoners were found guilty, their combination to rob the prosecutor being quite evident. O'Neil to be imprisoned for two years in the female factory, with two months' solitary confinement. Bell to be transported for 7 years.*<sup>15</sup>
- 10 October 1846 Classified as a 1<sup>st</sup> class probation pass-holder; gazetted 13 October.<sup>16</sup>
- 21 November 1846 Charged at Brickfields Hiring Depot, Hobart with misconduct; reprimanded.<sup>4</sup>
- 16 February 1847 Classified as a 3<sup>rd</sup> class probation pass-holder.<sup>4</sup>
- 11 July 1847 At New Norfolk.<sup>4</sup>
- 20 July 1847 Ticket of Leave application form issued at the Police Office, New Norfolk; in the service of Mr Creed.<sup>17</sup>
- 7 August 1847 Ticket of Leave application received at the Police Office, New Norfolk; forwarded to the Comptroller General.<sup>18</sup>
- 9 October 1847 Charged with misconduct in the service of Creed; reprimanded.<sup>4</sup>
- 28 January 1848 Charged with absence from the service of Moore; sentence 2 months hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.<sup>4</sup>
- 31 March 1848 Charged with absence from the service of Martin; sentence 5 days in solitary confinement at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.<sup>4</sup>
- 19 September 1848 Charged with being drunk and using obscene language in the service of Foster; sentence 6 days in cells at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.<sup>4</sup>
- 7 May 1849 Application for a Ticket of Leave.<sup>4</sup>
- 17 May 1849 At New Norfolk<sup>4</sup>

<sup>10</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 21 June 1844 p.689 (Ellen O'Neill)

<sup>11</sup> TAHO, AC480/1/1, 24 June 1844 (Ellen O'Neill)

<sup>12</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 18 February 1845 p.198 (Ellen O'Neill)

<sup>13</sup> *Hobart Town Courier*, 10 April 1845 p.2 (Ellen O'Neil & Thomas Bell)

<sup>14</sup> TAHO, LC218/1/1 p.132 No.4 (Ellen O'Neale & Thomas Bell)

<sup>15</sup> *Hobart Town Courier*, 10 April 1845 p.2 (Ellen O'Neil & Thomas Bell)

<sup>16</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 13 October 1846 p.1203 (Ellen O'Neill)

<sup>17</sup> TAHO, POL517/1/1, 20 July 1847 (Ellen O'Neill)

<sup>18</sup> TAHO, POL517/1/1, 7 August 1847 (Ellen O'Neil)

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| 14 June 1849     | Ticket of Leave refused, to apply in 6 months. <sup>4</sup>  |
| 12 August 1849   | <b>Son</b> Richard O'Neill born at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart; mother Ellen O'Neil. <sup>19</sup>   |
| 26 August 1849   | Son Richard O'Neill baptised at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart. <sup>20</sup>   |
| 9 January 1850   | Son Richard O'Neill died of acute dysentery at Dynnryne Nursery, Hobart; aged 5 months; mother Ellen O'Neil, convict; informant Harriett Sleas, matron, Dynnryne Nursery. <sup>19</sup>  |
| 22 January 1850  | Ticket of Leave granted. <sup>4</sup>  |
| 2 October 1850   | Charged with disturbing the peace; fined 5 shillings. <sup>4</sup>   |
| 21 November 1850 | Charged with being out after hours and being drunk; sentence 14 days hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart. <sup>4</sup>  |
| 7 June 1851      | Charged with being in the district without a pass; sentence 3 months hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart. <sup>4</sup>  |
| 6 February 1852  | Charged with common assault; sentence 7 days in cells at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart. <sup>4</sup>   |
| 18 August 1854   | Application for permission to marry Henry Marsden <sup>21</sup> (free) sent to the Muster Master. <sup>22</sup>  |
| 23 August 1854   | Application for permission to marry Henry Marsden sent to the Secretary, will be approved if clergyman is satisfied. <sup>22</sup>   |
| 17 October 1854  | Marriage with Henry Marsden approved. <sup>4</sup>   |
| 27 November 1854 | <b>Married</b> Henry Marsden at St George's Anglican Church, Battery Point; Ellen aged 34, widow, illiterate; Henry aged 30, labourer, illiterate; witnesses Charles Cook (illiterate) and Jane Cook (illiterate). <sup>23</sup> |
| 26 October 1855  | Free by servitude. <sup>4</sup>  |
| 29 October 1855  | Certificate of Freedom issued at Hobart. <sup>4</sup>  |

### Notes

- Ellen may be the Helen Marsden who died on 9 November 1856 of consumption at Hobart; aged 40, labourer's wife; informant Richard Evans,<sup>24</sup> brother, resident of Macquarie Street, Hobart.<sup>25</sup>
- Alternatively, Ellen may have been 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>26</sup>
- Ellen's husband is probably the Henry Marsden who died on 6 February 1887 of bronchitis at New Town Pauper Establishment, Hobart; aged 69, moulder, born England; informant J Withrington, Superintendent, New Town Pauper Establishment.<sup>27</sup> He was buried on 8 February 1887 in pauper section A, No.482 at Cornelian Bay Cemetery, Hobart; last address New Town.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> TAHO, RGD35/1/2 1850/2886 Hobart (Richard O'Neil)

<sup>20</sup> personal communication, Lucy Frost, 13 December 2012; QVMAG, 'Baptisms solemnized in the Female House of Correction, Hobart Town, VDL' (Richard Pearce)

<sup>21</sup> A Henry Marsden was transported for 7 years on the *HMS Anson* in 1843, tried at Lancaster (Reston) Quarter Sessions on 29 June 1842 for stealing 54 lbs of lead; married; 23, farm labourer, native place Yorkshire; Ticket of Leave 3 April 1849; Certificate of Freedom 30 June 1849 (TAHO, CON33/1/50 No.11630 [image 30] (Henry Marsden)).

<sup>22</sup> TAHO, CON52/1/7 p.288 (Ellen O'Neill & Henry Marsden)

<sup>23</sup> TAHO, RGD37/1/13 1854/489 Hobart (Henry Marsden & Ellen O'Neil)

<sup>24</sup> If this is Ellen's brother, then it is not the Richard Evans who arrived as a convict on the *Lady Franklin*.

<sup>25</sup> TAHO, RGD35/1/5 1856/1080 Hobart (Helen Marsden)

<sup>26</sup> *Tasmanian Police Gazette*, 23 February 1883 No.1231 p.32 (Ellen Hamilton)

<sup>27</sup> TAHO, RGD35/1/11 1887/493 Hobart (Henry Marsden)

<sup>28</sup> SRCT, *SRCT Record Search* No.6124 (Henry Marsden)

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