

# Sarah Parfitt

POLICE NUMBER 209<sup>1</sup>  
 TRIAL DATE 23 March 1840  
 TRIAL PLACE Somerset (Wells) Quarter Sessions  
 OFFENCE stealing a cloak  
 SENTENCE 7 years  
 GAOL REPORT convicted before, bad, single  
 PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS  
 SURGEON'S REPORT  
 ON THE TOWN no  
 MARITAL STATUS single  
 CHILDREN 0  
 FAMILY  
 NATIVE PLACE  
 TRADE ON EMBARKATION labourer  
 TRADE ON ARRIVAL

LITERACY read only  
 AGE ON EMBARKATION 40  
 AGE ON ARRIVAL 40  
 HEIGHT  
 COMPLEXION  
 HEAD  
 HAIR  
 VISAGE  
 FOREHEAD  
 EYEBROWS  
 EYES  
 NOSE  
 MOUTH  
 CHIN  
 MARKS

c1801 **Born.**<sup>2</sup>

23 March 1840 Tried at Somerset Quarter Sessions, Wells, Somersetshire, England indicted for larceny in stealing a cloak; sentence 7 years transportation.<sup>3</sup>

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

29 June 1841 Put on the *Rajah* sick list suffering from diarrhoea; aged 40.<sup>5</sup>

Observation of doctor:  
*... put on the list 29<sup>th</sup> of June suffering from diarrhoea. She was one of those who was affected in her intellect when she first came on board the ship. Indeed she was reported as weak in intellect in the report transmitted with her from the Penitentiary. She was however perfectly harmless and always quiet except when the ship was in the variable winds near the Equator when she as well as another similarly affected shewed some symptoms of violence. Upon enquiry it appeared that her bowels have been for some days out of order without any complaint on her part and it was the Nurse who observed her going frequently to the closet during the day. That now reported the circumstance to me her appetite has been bad for some days but she makes no complaint. She was taken into Hospital and was given some chalk mixture with tincture of opium.*<sup>5</sup>

30 June 1841 Observation of doctor:  
*Bowels were moved three times in the night. The mixture was repeated to be taken every 2<sup>nd</sup> hour during the day.*<sup>5</sup>

1 July 1841 Observation of doctor:  
*Frequent calls to stool but she passes but little watery mucous without ... or pain ... She takes arrowroot with wine with great relish.*<sup>5</sup>

2 July 1841 Observation of doctor:  
*The diarrhoea is checked but she appears weak without any complaint of pain. She was ordered some preserved meat in addition to her arrowroot and wine.*<sup>5</sup>

3 July 1841 Observation of doctor:  
*Says she is better and eats with appetite but she is unwilling to get out of bed and she lies listless the whole day.*<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> TAHO, CON40/1/8 p.181 No.209 [image 152] (Sarah Parfitt); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.241 [image 124] (Sarah Parfitt); ML, CY 1282 p.152 (Sarah Parfitt); ML, CY 1197 p.156 (Sarah Parfitt); ML, CY 958 p.443 (Sarah Parfitt); ML, CY 1274 p.261 (Sarah Parfitt)

<sup>2</sup> TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.241 [image 124] (Sarah Parfitt)

<sup>3</sup> TAHO, CON40/1/8 p.181 No.209 [image 152] (Sarah Parfitt)

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

<sup>5</sup> AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah* Case 5 (Sarah Parfitt)

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

Sarah Parfitt

- 4 July 1841 Observation of doctor:  
*Bowels frequently moved in the night. No alteration in the nature of the discharge which continues watery and with scarcely any faecal matter. No complaint of pain. The tongue is moist but red at the edges, appetite the Nurse tells is good. Pulse weak ...*<sup>5</sup>
- 5 July 1841 Observation of doctor:  
*Diarrhoea again checked. No complaint but she will not leave her bed and is manifestly becoming weaker. She takes a little wine with water and asks for it often.*<sup>5</sup>
- 6 July 1841 Observation of doctor:  
*No alteration since yesterday. Bowels are quiet.*<sup>5</sup>
- 7 July 1841 Observation of doctor:  
*But little sleep in the night. Bowels moved only twice these two days, the discharges are still liquid. She eats a little with appetite.*<sup>5</sup>
- 8 July 1841 Observation of doctor:  
*She becomes weaker every day without complaint of any pain.*<sup>5</sup>
- 9 July 1841 Observation of doctor:  
*Bowels again disordered, frequent stools in the night with scarcely any faecal matter. She will not call the Nurse to give her the bed pan so unwilling is she to make the slightest exertion. The Revd Mr Davis visited her when she would scarcely answer or speak to him.*<sup>5</sup>
- 10 July 1841 Observation of doctor:  
*Bowels still relaxed ...*<sup>5</sup>
- 11 July 1841 Observation of doctor:  
*Tolerably easy during the day without any apparent improvement.*<sup>5</sup>
- 12 July 1841 Observation of doctor:  
*On the 12<sup>th</sup> no sleep in the night but is perfectly easy now she asks only for a little wine which is given her.*<sup>5</sup>
- 13 July 1841 Observation of doctor:  
*Bowels again disordered. She is very weak.*<sup>5</sup>
- 18 July 1841 **Died** of diarrhoea at sea; aged 40.<sup>6</sup>  
Observation of doctor:  
*She continued to linger in this state for a few days longer and died about half past 12 o'clock on the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup> of July, the day we arrived in Hobarton. Her body was sent on shore the following morning for burial.*<sup>5</sup>
- 19 July 1841 Arrived at Hobart on the *Rajah*.<sup>4</sup>  
Body taken on shore to the Colonial Hospital, Hobart.<sup>6</sup>
- 24 July 1841 Buried at Holy Trinity Cemetery, Hobart by Reverend P Palmer.<sup>7</sup>
- 23 March 1847 Free by servitude.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> TAHO, NS349/1/29 p.71 No.1061 (Sarah Sanfitt); AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah* Case 5 (Sarah Parfitt)

<sup>7</sup> TAHO, NS349/1/29 p.71 No.1061 (Sarah Sanfitt); TAHO, RGD34/1/2 1841/765 Hobart (Sarah Sanpilt)