

Mary Rook*

POLICE NUMBER 221¹
TRIAL DATE 14 September 1840
TRIAL PLACE Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey), London
OFFENCE stealing money
SENTENCE 7 years
GAOL REPORT tried before not guilty and in House of Correction,
married
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS once tried and acquitted for stealing lace,
again 14 days for stealing glass
SURGEON'S REPORT quiet
ON THE TOWN no
MARITAL STATUS single²
CHILDREN 0
FAMILY
NATIVE PLACE Woolwich, England
TRADE ON EMBARKATION
TRADE ON ARRIVAL house servant, wash, iron, plain
needlewoman

LITERACY read only
AGE ON EMBARKATION 26
AGE ON ARRIVAL 26
HEIGHT 4' 10½" or 4' 11¼"
COMPLEXION pale
HEAD oval
HAIR black
VISAGE full
FOREHEAD wrinkled
EYEBROWS brown
EYES light brown
NOSE long
MOUTH wide
CHIN round
MARKS Kevin E J on right arm, W K on
left arm

c1815

Born at Woolwich, Kent, England.³

14 September 1840

Tried at the Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey), London, England indicted for stealing on 7 September 1840 1 bowl value 3 pence, 8 shillings, 9 sixpences and 2 groats from John Milne, *Flying Horse* public house, Wilson Street, Finsbury; found guilty; sentence 7 years transportation; aged 26.⁴

Statement of witness John Milne:

I keep the Flying Horse public-house, Wilson-street, Finsbury. On the 7th of September, about five o'clock, I was serving gin and milk – I heard a noise at my till in my counter – I had this bowl – (looking at it) – in my till, and to the best of my knowledge it had 12s. or 13s. in it – there were several shillings, sixpences, and groats – on hearing the noise my wife went into the bar to see what was the matter, and I saw some of the party who were at the counter drawing their hands from that side where the till was – their hands had no business there – my wife went and found the till a little drawn out – she missed the bowl and silver – she accused the prisoner, who was going to the door, with having stolen the bowl – I went after her, and caught her – I saw her throw this bowl away, as she was running in the street.

Cross-examined by Mr. Payne. Q. You say some of the party were there? A. Yes, there were three men with her – I could not see any particular hand in my till – I was in my bar parlour – I was in Wilson-street, ten or twelve yards from her, when I saw her throw the bowl away – I am quite sure I saw her throw it – my boy was nearer to her than I – I know the bowl by its general appearance, and by No. 2 on the bottom – I have two more the same – I had seen it safe about ten minutes before the persons came in for the gin and milk – the money was then safe in it.⁴

Statement of witness George Gimber:

I am the pot-boy. I came in and heard my mistress accuse the prisoner – she was coming out at the door, and had the bowl in her hand, and a white pocket-handkerchief on the top of it – this is the bowl she had.

Cross-examined. Q. How was the handkerchief placed? A. Just on the top, it was not covered over it – I had not known her before, but I am sure she is the person.⁴

¹ TAHO, CON40/1/8 p.259 No.221 [image 206] (Mary Rook); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.243 [image 125] (Mary Rook); ML, CY 1282 p.152 (Mary Rook); ML, CY 1197 p.151 (Mary Rook); ML, CY 958 p.440 (Mary Took)

² Marital status given as married on Embarkation List (ML, CY 1197 p.151 (Mary Rook)).

³ TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.243 [image 125] (Mary Rook)

⁴ *Old Bailey Proceedings Online*, t18400914-2326 (Mary Rook)

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

Statement of witness William Holland, Police Constable N 146:

I took the prisoner – in her pocket were found eight shillings, nine sixpences, two groats, and a few halfpence – one of the sixpences the prosecutor said he could swear to, as having been in the till a quarter of an hour before.

Cross-examined. Q. Did he say what money he had lost before you took the money? A. She gave up her pocket at the station-house, and this money was in it – I put it down, and the prosecutor said directly, “Here is a sixpence I can swear to, as having been in the bowl” – the prisoner said she had some money in her pocket, which she had earned as a milliner.⁴

5 April 1841	Departed Woolwich, England on the <i>Rajah</i> . ⁵
19 July 1841	Arrived at Hobart on the <i>Rajah</i> . ⁵
c24 July 1841	Upon arrival at Hobart, assigned to Mr Mawle, Bagdad. ⁶
31 December 1841	Mustered in the service of Mr Dart, Bagdad. ⁷
17 January 1842	Returned to Government at the Police Office, Brighton not being required in the service of Mr Dart. ⁸
30 July 1842	Application for permission to marry George Colley (free) sent to the Muster Master. ⁹
31 August 1842	Application for permission to marry George Colley sent to the Secretary; approved if the clergyman be satisfied the woman was single on her arrival. ⁹
28 June 1843	Application for permission to marry James Thomas (<i>Circassian</i>) sent to the Muster Master; ecclesiastical objection. ¹⁰
9 August 1843	Returned to Government at the Police Office, Brighton not being required in the service of Mrs Dart; forwarded to Cascades Female Factory, Hobart. ¹¹
11 April 1844	Classified as a 3 rd class probation pass-holder; gazetted 12 April. ¹²
4 July 1844	Ticket of Leave granted; gazetted 5 July. ¹³
19 June 1845	Recommended to Her Majesty the Queen for a Conditional Pardon available within the limits of the Australian Colonies; gazetted 24 June. ¹⁴
11 July 1845	Charged with disturbing the peace; sentence 14 days hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart. ¹⁵
12 June 1846	Conditional Pardon approved. ¹⁵
29 June 1846	Notice given of approval for Conditional Pardon being granted on condition of her remaining in the island of Van Diemen’s Land or some one of Her Majesty’s Australian Colonies, she not having committed any offences since she was recommended to the Queen’s mercy which would disentitle her to the indulgence. ¹⁶
14 September 1847	Free by servitude; Certificate of Freedom available for collection. ¹⁷
15 September 1847	Certificate of Freedom issued. ¹⁵

Notes

- Mary may be the Mary Rourke who married William Dooly on 27 September 1852 at St Joseph’s Catholic Church, Hobart; Mary aged 40, servant, widow, illiterate; William aged 40, labourer, bachelor; witnesses Patrick Foly (illiterate) and Bridget Foly (illiterate).¹⁸

⁵ AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah*

⁶ ML, CY 1274 p.261 (Mary Rook)

⁷ AJCP, HO 10/51 p.391 No.221 (Mary Rook)

⁸ TAHO, LC53/1/2 p.90 (Mary Rook)

⁹ TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.26 (Mary Rook & George Colley)

¹⁰ TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.198 (Mary Rook & James Thomas)

¹¹ TAHO, LC53/1/2 p.445 (Mary Rooke)

¹² *Hobart Town Gazette*, 12 April 1844 p.425 (Mary Rook)

¹³ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 5 July 1844 p.763 (Mary Rooke)

¹⁴ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 24 June 1845 p.732 (Mary Rook)

¹⁵ TAHO, CON40/1/8 p.259 No.221 [image 206] (Mary Rook)

¹⁶ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 30 June 1846 p.640 (Mary Rook)

¹⁷ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 7 September 1847 p.894 (Mary Rook)

¹⁸ TAHO, RGD37/1/11 1852/712 Hobart (Mary Rourke & William Dooly)

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