

*Joan Russell*  
(*uxor Joan Watson, Joan Steers*)

POLICE NUMBER 232 <sup>1</sup>	LITERACY neither read nor write
TRIAL DATE 8 September 1840	AGE ON EMBARKATION 22
TRIAL PLACE Glasgow Court of Justiciary	AGE ON ARRIVAL 22
OFFENCE stealing clothes and former conviction	HEIGHT 5' 1¾"
SENTENCE 7 years	COMPLEXION fresh
GAOL REPORT convicted and imprisoned before, bad, single	HEAD oval
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS once before 6 months for same, again 60 days, 3 times in prison	HAIR red
SURGEON'S REPORT quiet	VISAGE full
ON THE TOWN no	FOREHEAD high
MARITAL STATUS married <sup>2</sup>	EYEBROWS light
CHILDREN 0	EYES hazel
FAMILY husband George Watson enlisted in 78 <sup>th</sup> Regiment	NOSE medium
NATIVE PLACE Oban <sup>3</sup> in the Island, Argyllshire, Scotland	MOUTH wide
TRADE ON EMBARKATION shawl fringer	CHIN round
TRADE ON ARRIVAL house servant, wash, iron	MARKS cast in right eye

c1819                      **Born** at Oban, Argyllshire, Scotland.<sup>4</sup>

8 September 1840      Tried at the Court of Justiciary, Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland indicted for theft, habit and repute in stealing clothes and previous conviction of theft; plea guilty; sentence 7 years transportation; cannot write, shawl fringer, resident c/o Widow Nelson, Port Dundas, near Glasgow.<sup>5</sup>

5 April 1841            Departed Woolwich, England on the *Rajah*.<sup>6</sup>

19 July 1841            Arrived at Hobart on the *Rajah*.<sup>6</sup>

c24 July 1841            Upon arrival at Hobart, sent to Launceston for assignment.<sup>7</sup>

31 December 1841      Mustered in the service of Mr CB Hardwick, Launceston.<sup>8</sup>

21 December 1842      Application for permission to marry John Steers<sup>9</sup> (free) sent to the Muster Master; ecclesiastical objection.<sup>10</sup>

**Son** John Steers born at Launceston; father John Steers, farm servant; informant mother Jane Russell, illiterate.<sup>11</sup>

14 February 1843      Son John Steers baptised in the Chapel at Launceston Female Factory.<sup>12</sup>

28 January 1845        Ticket of Leave granted; gazetted 28 January.<sup>13</sup>

8 September 1847      Free by servitude; Certificate of Freedom available for collection.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>1</sup> TAHO, CON40/1/8 p.263 No.232 [image 210] (Joan Russell); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.249 [image 128] (Jean Russell); ML, CY 1282 p.153 (Joan Russell); ML, CY 1197 p.158 (Jean Russell); ML, CY 958 p.444 (Jean Russell)

<sup>2</sup> Marital status given as single on Embarkation List (ML, CY 1197 p.158 (Jean Russell)).

<sup>3</sup> This place name may not be Oban, it is difficult to read and is spelt like Obben.

<sup>4</sup> TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.249 [image 128] (Jean Russell)

<sup>5</sup> NAS, AD14/40/83 (Jean Russell); NAS, JC26/1840/303 (Jean Russell)

<sup>6</sup> AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah*

<sup>7</sup> ML, CY 1282 p.142 (Joan Russell); ML, CY 1274 p.262 (Joan Russell)

<sup>8</sup> AJCP, HO 10/51 p.391 No.232 (Joan Russell)

<sup>9</sup> A John Steers was transported for 7 years on the *John* in 1830, tried at Middlesex on 27 May 1830 for larceny; widower, 1 child, labourer and navigator, aged 30; no entries on conduct record; at Campbell Town December 1836 (TAHO, CON31/1/39 p.97 No.1277 [image 102] (John Steers), TAHO, CON18/1/9 p.191 No.1277 [image 102] (Jno Steers)). There was also a John Steers transported on the *Chapman* in 1824 and a John Steers transported on the *Commodore Hayes* in 1823.

<sup>10</sup> TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.186 (Jane Russell & Jno Steers)

<sup>11</sup> TAHO, RGD33/1/23 1843/1315 Launceston (John Steers)

<sup>12</sup> TAHO, NS1735/1/2 p.1 No.6 (John Steers)

<sup>13</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 28 January 1845 p.106 (Joan Russell)

<sup>14</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 7 September 1847 p.894 (Jean Russell)

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

**Notes**

- Joan's son John Steers may be the John Steer who married Mary Ann Brond on 5 July 1866 in the house of Mrs Harris at Launceston (Church of Scotland service); John adult, bachelor; Mary Ann adult, spinster; witnesses James Coulter, Walt Baniter<sup>15</sup> and WP Avery.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> This name may not be Baniter, it is difficult to read.

<sup>16</sup> TAHO, RGD37/1/25 1866/321 Launceston (John Steer & Mary Ann Brond)