

*Mary Russell*¹
(uxor *Mary Purcell*)

<i>Place Tried</i> Co. Cork Assizes	<i>Date Tried</i> 17 March 1849
<i>Offence</i> stealing 2 shirts	<i>Sentence</i> 7 years
<i>Prosecutor</i> unknown, Co. Cork	<i>Previous Convictions</i> 1 – insolence (2m), house robbery (12m)
<i>Gaol Report</i> middling	<i>Surgeon's Report</i> middling
<i>Station of Gang</i> Anson	<i>Class</i> not stated
<i>Religion</i> Roman Catholic	<i>Literacy</i> neither read nor write
<i>Marital Status</i> single	<i>Trade</i> housemaid, servant
<i>Age</i> 26 ^a	<i>Native Place</i> Co. Cork
<i>Height</i> 5' 4½"	<i>Complexion</i> fair
<i>Head</i> round	<i>Hair</i> dark brown, brown
<i>Visage</i> oval	<i>Forehead</i> low
<i>Eyebrows</i> brown	<i>Eyes</i> hazel
<i>Nose</i> medium	<i>Mouth</i> medium
<i>Chin</i> medium	<i>Marks</i> none
<i>Family</i> brothers Daniel (in America) & Richard; sisters Margaret (in America), Bess (in America), Eleanor (in America) & Catherine	

19 April 1849	Received at Grangegorman Depot at 9:30am. ²
28 September 1849	Put on <i>Australasia</i> sick list for dysentery (off 29 September, sent to Hobart Hospital). ³
8 April 1850	Contracted as PPH to Martha E Abbott, <i>Anson</i> , 12m at £7 pa. ⁴
24 May 1850	Absconded from the service of Miss Susannah Holditch, ^b <i>Anson</i> . ^{5,6}
1 June 1850	Tried at Hobart PC charged with absence without leave from the service of Miss Susannah Holditch, <i>Anson</i> , from 24 to 31 May; sentence 6m HL, Cascades FF. ⁷
13 January 1851	Illegitimate child stillborn at Cascades FF. ⁵
17 April 1851	Charged at Cascades FF with disobedience of regulations; sentence 48h bread & water. ⁸
23 July 1851	Sponsor at baptism of Mary Ann Maguire, daughter of Catherine Maguire (<i>qv</i>), at Hobart. ⁹
1 December 1851	Charged at Cascades FF with being asleep on her post last night; sentence 48h bread & water. ⁸
22 December 1851	Charged at Cascades FF with loud talking in the mess room; sentence 48h bread & water. ⁸
19 January 1852	To Brickfields Hiring Depot, Hobart. ⁵
20 January 1852	To John G Winter, Macquarie St, Hobart. ⁵
21 January 1852	Absconded from the service of John G Winter, Hobart. ¹⁰
9 February 1852	Tried at Hobart PC, in service to John G Winter of Macquarie St, Hobart, charged with misconduct in being out after hours at 12 midnight on 8 February & falsely representing herself to be a Ticket-of-Leave holder; sentence 6m HL, Cascades FF. ⁷
20 May 1852	Charged at Cascades FF with loud talking at work; sentence 48h bread & water. ⁸
26 August 1852	Charged at Cascades FF with not performing her task, 1½ oz; admonished. ⁸
21 September 1852 ^c	Illegitimate daughter Elizabeth Russell born at Cascades FF; baptised same day in parish of St Joseph's RC Church, Hobart; sponsor Rebecca White. ¹¹

^a Age given as: 25y on Grangegorman prison register; 28y on *Australasia* sick list.

^b Susannah Holditch was Assistant Superintendent of the *Anson* and was a sister of Martha E Abbott (*nee* Holditch), Principal Warder of the *Anson*.

^c Date given as 21 October 1852 on birth record.

5 November 1852	Charged at Cascades FF with disobedience of orders; sentence 3d bread & water, dismissed. ¹²
23 February 1853	Charged at Cascades FF with neglect of duty when employed in the cook house; sentence removed from cook house, dismissed, not to hold any billet & cook's credit stopped. ¹²
1 September 1853	To Mr Clements, Murray St, Hobart. ⁵
29 September 1853	Tried at Hobart PC charged with absconding from the service of Mr Clements, Murray St, Hobart on 25 September & remaining at large until apprehended in Hobart on 28 September; sentence 12m HL, Cascades FF. ⁷
October 1853	To serve 12 months additional probation. ⁵
21 October 1854	To Richard Allwright, Broadmarsh. ⁵
10 December 1854	Mustered in Brighton district. ⁵
10 January 1855	Application for permission to marry Joseph Purcell, FS (<i>Pestonjee Bomanjee</i> 3); referred 10 January to Richard Allwright, Broadmarsh; woman must be 6 months free from offence (approved 21 March ^d). ¹³
31 March 1855	To William Lythgow, Pontville. ⁵
16 April 1855	Married as 30y, spinster, to Joseph Purcell, 38y, widower, at St Mark's CE Church, Pontville; witnesses Robert Aiden & Ann Archer. ¹⁴
27 July 1855	Son William John Purcell, labourer's child, born at Black Brush; baptised 12 August at St Joseph's RC Church, Hobart; sponsors Daniel Johnson & Ellen Addison. ¹⁵
17 March 1857	Free by servitude.
25 May 1857 ^e	Son Michael Purcell, labourer's child, born at Black Brush; baptised 2 June 1857 at St Joseph's RC Church, Hobart; sponsor Catherine Donovan. ¹⁶
4 January 1859	Certificate of Freedom sent to Brighton for collection. ⁵
14 May 1861 ^f	Son William Purcell, labourer's child, born in Brighton district; baptised 9 June 1862 at St John's RC Church, Richmond; sponsors Jeremiah Sullivan & Mary Hardwicke. ¹⁷
3 August 1877	Son William Purcell, 16y, labourer, resident at Brighton, died of scarlet fever (secondary infection) at Hobart Hospital (admitted 6 July 1877). ¹⁸
9 May 1886	Husband Joseph Purcell admitted to Hobart Hospital. ¹⁹
26 August 1881	Husband Joseph Purcell, 55y, labourer, resident at Brighton, died of paraplegia at Hobart Hospital. ²⁰
10 August 1894	Died of cardiac disease at Hobart Hospital, 70y, servant. ²¹



^d Date given as 27 March 1855 on conduct record.

^e Date given as 18 May 1857 on baptism record.

^f Date given as 14 May 1862 on baptism record.

References

- ¹ AOT, CON 41/24 *Australasia* No.505 (Mary Russell); AOT, CON 19/8 *Australasia* (Mary Russell); AOT, CON 15/6 *Australasia* No.167 (Mary Russell); NAI, Prisons 1/9/4 No.1848 (Mary Russell)
- ² NAI, Prisons 1/9/4 No.1848 (Mary Russell)
- ³ AJCP, ADM 101/6 *Australasia* Sick List Case No.39 (Mary Russell)
- ⁴ AOT, CON 30/2 p.288 (Mary Russell)
- ⁵ AOT, CON 41/24 *Australasia* No.505 (Mary Russell)
- ⁶ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 4 June 1850 p.435 (Mary Russell)
- ⁷ AOT, LC 251/2 (Mary Russell)
- ⁸ AOT, CON 138/1 (Mary Russell)
- ⁹ AOT, NS 1052/8 p.142 (Mary Russell)
- ¹⁰ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 27 January 1852 p.54 (Mary Russell)
- ¹¹ AOT, RGD 33/4 1852/1784 Hobart (Elizabeth Russell); AOT, NS 1052/8 p.174 (Elizabeth Russell)
- ¹² AL&MFA, Beattie Papers, Record Book Women's Punishments 1852-1854, pp.157 & 163 (Mary Russell)
- ¹³ AOT, CON 52/7 p.360 (Joseph Purcell & Mary Russell)
- ¹⁴ AOT, RGD 37/14 1855/27 Brighton (Joseph Purcell & Mary Russell)
- ¹⁵ AOT, RGD 33/33 1855/95 Brighton (William John Purcell); AOT, NS 1052/8 p.279 (William John Purcell)
- ¹⁶ AOT, RGD 33/35 1857/90 Brighton (Michael Purcell); AOT, NS 1052/8 p.17 (Michael Purcell)
- ¹⁷ AOT, RGD 33/39 1861/547 Brighton (William Purcell); AOT, NS 1052/3 p.27 (William Purcell)
- ¹⁸ AOT, RGD 35/9 1877/702 Hobart (William Purcell)
- ¹⁹ Purtscher, *Deaths at General Hospital Hobart* (Joseph Purcell)
- ²⁰ AOT, RGD 35/9 1881/3322 Hobart (Joseph Purcell)
- ²¹ AOT, RGD 35/14 1894/1234 Hobart (Mary Purcell)