

Mary Ann Smith*

(*uxor Mary Ann Matthews, alias Angelina Matthews*)

POLICE NUMBER 452 ¹	LITERACY read and write
TRIAL DATE 23 October 1840	AGE ON EMBARKATION 25
TRIAL PLACE Suffolk (Ipswich) Quarter Sessions	AGE ON ARRIVAL 26
OFFENCE picking pockets	HEIGHT 4' 11"
SENTENCE life	COMPLEXION florid
GAOL REPORT twice convicted before, very bad, married	HEAD oval
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS twice before 12 months and 2 months	HAIR brown
SURGEON'S REPORT orderly & quiet	VISAGE full
ON THE TOWN no	FOREHEAD high
MARITAL STATUS widow ²	EYEBROWS light brown
CHILDREN 1, 0 on board	EYES hazel
FAMILY husband dead 3 years, name Matthew at Beintrees ³	NOSE medium
NATIVE PLACE near Sudbury, Suffolk, England	MOUTH wide
TRADE ON EMBARKATION huckster	CHIN medium
TRADE ON ARRIVAL dressmaker, tailoress	MARKS small scar back of right hand

c1815 **Born** near Sudbury, Suffolk, England.⁴

27 March 1840 Tried at the Lent Assizes, Suffolk, England indicted for larceny in stealing 2 sheets, a bolster, and a nightgown from the house of James Frost of Bury; plea guilty; sentence 2 months imprisonment.⁵

23 October 1840 Tried at the Quarter Sessions, Ipswich, Suffolk, England with William Minks⁶ indicted for picking pockets, William for receiving the same; sentence transportation for life.⁷

Newspaper reports:

*COMMITMENTS TO THE COUNTY GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION – ... – Mary Ann Smith, by the Rev. Edw. Frere, charged with having feloniously stolen from the person of Harry Leggatt, of Finningham, a purse containing eight shillings in silver, fivepence, and also a small bag, which contained one sovereign and two half sovereigns in gold., one silver coin, one silver four-penny piece, and five coins of metal, the property of the said Harry Leggatt, of Gisleingham. – Wm. Winks, by the Rev. E. Frere, charged with having received the above, well knowing the same to have been stolen.*⁸

SUFFOLK MICHAELMAS SESSIONS.

IPSWICH, OCT. 23 : Edward Godfrey, Esq., Chairman.

Mary Ann Smith, for having stolen a purse containing a sovereign and two half-sovereigns, eight shillings in silver, and other monies, from the person of Harry Leggatt; and Wm. Minks, charged with having received the money, knowing it to have been stolen, were sentenced Smith to be transported for life; Minks to be transported for seven years. The female

¹ TAHO, CON40/1/10 p.52 No.452 [image 55] (Mary Ann Smith); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.257 [image 132] (Mary Ann Smith); ML, CY 1282 p.154 (Mary Ann Smith alias Matthews); ML, CY 1197 p.156 (Mary Ann Smith alias Matthews); ML, CY 958 p.443 (Mary Ann Smith)

² Marital status given as married on Embarkation List (ML, CY 1197 p.156 (Mary Ann Smith alias Matthews)).

³ This place may not be Beintrees, it is difficult to read.

⁴ TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.257 [image 132] (Mary Ann Smith)

⁵ *Bury and Norwich Post*, 1 April 1840 Issue 2014 Article 1 (Angelina Matthews)

⁶ William Minks was transported for 7 years on the *Eden* arriving 5 July 1842; single, farm labourer, aged 28, native place Colchester, Protestant, illiterate; Ticket of Leave 17 January 1846, Certificate of Freedom 29 October 1847; 1 brother Thomas, 1 sister Emma, nephew John Green a bricklayer (TAHO, CON33/1/22 No.5314 [image 162] (William Minks); TAHO, CON14/1/12 pp.184–185 [images 187–188] (William Minks)).

⁷ TAHO, CON40/1/10 No.452 p.52 [image 55] (Mary Ann Smith)

⁸ *Ipswich Journal*, 12 September 1840 Issue 5293 Article 12 (Mary Ann Smith)

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

prisoner was convicted at the last Assizes at Bury of felony, in the name of "Angelina Matthews."⁹

STEALING FROM THE PERSON.

Mary Ann Smith, 25, a married woman, was charged with having, at Finningham Fair, stolen a purse containing one sovereign and two half-sovereigns, eight shillings in silver, and other monies, from the person of Harry Leggatt; and William Minks, 25, described as a fishmonger residing at Colchester, was charged with having received the money, knowing it to have been stolen.

Mr. O'Malley appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Rouse for the prisoner Minks.

The prosecutor is a labourer, and was at the last Finningham fair. The prisoner, about 10 in the evening, placed her hand upon his pocket, and asked him if he was going home. He replied, "No." She then turned away; and after he had got half-a-mile from the fair he missed his purse. He came back immediately, and accused the prisoner of the robbery, which she denied; but as she tried to get away he instantly called a policeman. The woman was searched by Jukes, superintendent of police, at the White Horse, and upon her person he found two pieces of the coin which had been taken from Leggatt's purse. On the following morning, between 8 and 9 o'clock, the prosecutor saw the male prisoner at the White Horse, in the passage: when the latter asked Leggatt what he had lost, and whether he would make it up, as the prisoner was his sister. He was accordingly going to make it up, but one of the police-officers told him to sit down. The male prisoner offered 28s. The two pieces of coin found upon the female prisoner were produced by Jukes, and identified by the prosecutor. When Minks was searched, a sovereign, two half-sovereigns, and eight shillings were found on his person.

Another fact proved against Minks, was his having attempted in the morning after the robbery, to rescue the other prisoner from a policeman who had her in custody in the wash-house at the back of the White Horse. Minks applied to light his pipe which was refused; when a rush took place at the door, in which Minks assisted, who struck the policeman, and the woman, for a short time, made her escape.

Mr. Rouse addressed the jury in behalf of Minks, contending that he must be acquitted, as there was no evidence to shew that the prisoners were together on the evening when the robbery took place. All he had done was, merely to get the woman out of the scrape, and he submitted that, under all the circumstances, he must be acquitted upon this charge; however, he might be open to an indictment for the assault upon the police officer.

Three witnesses were called to speak to the character of the prisoner Minks, one of whom admitted that he himself "had been in gaol but for no harm"; and that he had known nothing of the prisoner for the last eight years!

The Chairman, in summing up, remarked upon the strong fact of the prisoner Minks, having the exact sum of money in his possession of which the prosecutor was robbed.

The female prisoner was convicted at the last Assizes at Bury of felony, in the name of "Angelina Matthews."

Smith was sentenced to be transported for life; for which she said "Thank you!" Minks to be transported for seven years.¹⁰

- 5 April 1841 Departed Woolwich, England on the *Rajah*.¹¹
19 July 1841 Arrived at Hobart on the *Rajah*.¹¹
c24 July 1841 Upon arrival at Hobart, sent to Launceston for assignment.¹²
11 October 1841 Charged at the Police Court, Longford with neglect of duty, insolence and misconduct in her service in being absent from her room when the house was being locked up and being in the mangling room with William Borne; in the service of Dumaresque; plea guilty; sentence 3 months hard labour at Launceston Female Factory.¹³
31 December 1841 Mustered in the service of Mr Hortle, Longford.¹⁴

⁹ *Bury and Norwich Post*, 28 October 1840 Issue 3044 Article 13 p.1 (Mary Ann Smith)

¹⁰ *Ipswich Journal*, 24 October 1840 Issue 5299 Article 2 (Mary Ann Smith)

¹¹ AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah*

¹² ML, CY 1282 p.142 (Mary Ann Smith alias Matthews); ML, CY 1274 p.263 (Mary Ann Smith alias Matthews)

¹³ TAHO, LC326/1/5 p.144 (Mary A Smith)

¹⁴ AJCP, HO 10/51 p.396 No.452 (Mary Ann Smith)

Mary Ann Smith

- 18 January 1842 Returned to Government from the service of Mrs Simpson in the George Town district; her mistress having no further use for her services.¹⁵
- 7 February 1842 Charged at the Police Court, Longford by CDC Mr Hortle with misconduct in talking during divine service and leaving the church before divine service was complete; in the service of Mrs Houghton; plea guilty; admonished.¹⁶
Ann Cullen (*Neva*) charged with the same offence, same sentence; in the service of Mr Dumaresq.¹⁶
- 24 February 1842 Charged at the Police Court, Longford by CDC Mr Hortle with having been drunk yesterday in the service of Mrs Houghton; plea not guilty; sentence 10 days in solitary confinement, then returned to Government.¹⁷
- 3 May 1842 Charged at the Police Court, Longford with uselessness by her master Mr Thomas Hortle; returned to Government.¹⁸
- 31 July 1842 **Died** at the Colonial Hospital, Launceston; aged 27.^{19,20}
- 6 August 1842 Buried in Cypress Street Anglican Cemetery, Launceston, registered at St John's Anglican Church.²⁰

¹⁵ TAHO, LC156/1/1 (Mary Ann Smith)

¹⁶ TAHO, LC362/1/5 p.190 (Mary A Smith)

¹⁷ TAHO, LC362/1/5 p.210 (Mary A Smith)

¹⁸ TAHO, LC362/1/5 (M A Smith)

¹⁹ AJCP, HO 10/51 p.396 No.452 (Mary Ann Smith)

²⁰ TAHO, RGD34/1/2 1842/1034 Launceston (Mary Ann Smith); TAHO, NS748/1/75 p.43 (Mary Ann Smith); personal communication, Dianne Cassidy, 18 August 2012

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