

Margaret Speirs

(uxor Margaret Green)

POLICE NUMBER 456 ¹	LITERACY neither read nor write
TRIAL DATE 4 November 1840	AGE ON EMBARKATION 24
TRIAL PLACE Edinburgh Court of Justiciary	AGE ON ARRIVAL 26
OFFENCE theft by habit and previous conviction, stealing a watch	HEIGHT 5' 1¾"
SENTENCE 7 years	COMPLEXION fair
GAOL REPORT convicted and imprisoned before, bad, single	HEAD oval
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS 3 times in prison, 60 days for stealing a handkerchief, again 60 days for stealing cloth	HAIR brown
SURGEON'S REPORT quiet	VISAGE oval
ON THE TOWN 2 years	FOREHEAD medium
MARITAL STATUS single	EYEBROWS dark brown
CHILDREN 0	EYES brown
FAMILY	NOSE medium
NATIVE PLACE Edinburgh, Scotland	MOUTH small
TRADE ON EMBARKATION	CHIN round
TRADE ON ARRIVAL house servant	MARKS none

c1816 **Born** at Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland.²

4 November 1840 Tried at the Court of Justiciary, Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland indicted for theft, habit and repute in stealing a watch between South Hanover Street and South St David Street, Edinburgh, the property of John Gardiner and William Gardiner of Frederick Street, Edinburgh, and previous conviction of theft; verdict guilty; sentence 7 years transportation; resident of Dickson's Close, High Street, Edinburgh.³

5 April 1841 Departed Woolwich, England on the *Rajah*.⁴

19 July 1841 Arrived at Hobart on the *Rajah*.⁴

c24 July 1841 Upon arrival at Hobart, sent to Launceston for assignment.⁵

31 December 1841 Mustered in the service of Mr J Little, Launceston.⁶

16 May 1842 Charged with being drunk and disorderly in the service of Little; sentence 3 days in solitary confinement.⁷

17 June 1842 At Launceston.⁷

5 August 1842 Application for permission to marry Peter Green⁸ (free) sent to the Muster Master.⁹

31 August 1842 Application for permission to marry Peter Green sent to the Secretary; approved.⁹

19 September 1842 **Married** Peter Green at St John's Anglican Church, Launceston; Margaret aged 25, convict, single, illiterate; Peter aged 30, free, single; witnesses John Paine and William Jones.¹⁰

¹ TAHO, CON40/1/10 p.54 No.456 [image 57] (Margaret Speirs); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.259 [image 133] (Margt Spiers); ML, CY 1282 p.154 (Margaret Speirs); ML, CY 1197 p.158 (Margaret Spiers); ML, CY 958 p.444 (Margaret Speirs)

² TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.259 [image 133] (Margt Spiers)

³ NAS, AD14/40/352 (Margaret Speirs); NAS, JC26/1840/482 (Margaret Speirs)

⁴ AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah*

⁵ ML, CY 1282 p.142 (Margaret Speirs); ML, CY 1274 p.263 (Margaret Speirs)

⁶ AJCP, HO 10/51 p.396 No.456 (Margaret Speirs)

⁷ TAHO, CON40/1/10 p.54 No.456 [image 57] (Margaret Speirs)

⁸ Peter Green was transported for 7 years on the *Woodford* in 1828, tried at Lancaster on 5 November 1827 for stealing a tub of butter in the market place at native place, Liverpool; single, mother Margaret Green, Kitchen Street, Liverpool, a washerwoman, I was last in business for myself, lived with my brother, hairdresser, aged 23, native place Liverpool; sentence extended 2 years on 18 December 1837; Certificate of Freedom 1841 (TAHO, CON31/1/15 p.186 No.557 [image 146] (Peter Green), TAHO, CON18/1/21 No.557 [image 149] (Peter Green); TAHO, MM33/1 *Woodford* (Peter Green); TAHO, CON32/1/1 p.52 No.557 [image 56] (Peter Green))

⁹ TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.67 (Margt Speirs & Peter Green)

¹⁰ TAHO, RGD37/1/2 1842/1617 Launceston (Peter Green & Margaret Spicer)

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

Margaret Speirs

- 24 November 1843 Charged with misconduct in keeping a disorderly house; sentence 3 months hard labour in the Crime Class at Launceston Female Factory.⁷
- 16 January 1844 **Son** John Green,¹¹ illegitimate, born at Launceston Female Factory; mother Margaret Spearce; informant father John Green, hairdresser, resident of Charles Street, Launceston.¹²
- 10 January 1845 Charged with disturbing the peace; admonished.⁷
- 21 February 1845 Ticket of Leave granted; gazetted 25 February.¹³
- 27 March 1845 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart by Constable Hucker¹⁴ with disturbing the peace last night; plea guilty; reprimanded and discharged.¹⁵
- 16 August 1845 Charged with larceny; discharged.⁷
- 19 June 1846 Charged with being drunk and using indecent language; sentence 2 months hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.⁷
- 26 June 1846 **Son** John Speirs, illegitimate, born at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart, vide return for June 1846.⁷
- 16 September 1846 Charged with using obscene language; sentence 10 days in solitary confinement at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.⁷
- 4 November 1847 Free by servitude, Certificate of Freedom issued; gazetted 9 November.¹⁶
- 7 April 1849 **Died** of inflammation from drinking at Hobart, aged 33; informant husband Peter Green, barber, resident of Argyle Street, Hobart.¹⁷
- 10 April 1849 Buried at St David's Church of England Cemetery, Hobart; aged 33, hairdresser's wife.¹⁸

¹¹ Child registered as an unnamed female, illegitimate, by Robert Pearson, Superintendent, Launceston Female Factory and birth date given as 17 January 1844, mother Margaret Spears (TAHO, RGD33/1/23 1844/119 Launceston (female Spears))

¹² TAHO, RGD33/1/23 1844/23 Launceston (John Green)

¹³ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 25 February 1845 p.234 (Margaret Speirs)

¹⁴ Name may not be Hucker, it is difficult to read.

¹⁵ TAHO, AC480/1/1, 27 March 1845 (Margaret Speirs)

¹⁶ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 9 November 1847 p.1103 (Margaret Spiers)

¹⁷ TAHO, RGD35/1/2 1849/2358 Hobart (Margaret Green)

¹⁸ TAHO, NS282/11/1 p.107 (Margaret Green)