

# *Hester Spreadborough*

*(uxor Hester Stevens; alias Esther Williams)*

POLICE NUMBER 453 <sup>1</sup>	LITERACY neither read nor write
TRIAL DATE 16 September 1840	AGE ON EMBARKATION 24
TRIAL PLACE Sussex (Lewes) Quarter Sessions	AGE ON ARRIVAL 25
OFFENCE stealing sundry articles of dress etc, selling stolen property	HEIGHT 5' 2"
SENTENCE 7 years	COMPLEXION pale
GAOL REPORT not known, married	HEAD oval
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS first offence	HAIR dark brown
SURGEON'S REPORT orderly	VISAGE oval
ON THE TOWN no	FOREHEAD medium
MARITAL STATUS married	EYEBROWS brown
CHILDREN 0	EYES light brown
FAMILY husband Samuel was tried with me, he is on board the <i>Layton</i> <sup>2</sup>	NOSE medium
NATIVE PLACE Bexley, Kent, England	MOUTH medium
TRADE ON EMBARKATION	CHIN round
TRADE ON ARRIVAL plain cook, house servant	MARKS none

c1816	<b>Born</b> at Bexley, Kent, England. <sup>3</sup>
16 September 1840	Tried at the Quarter Sessions, Lewes, Sussex, England with husband Samuel Spreadborough indicted for larceny in stealing sundry articles of dress etc and selling them; sentence 7 years transportation. <sup>4</sup>
5 April 1841	Departed Woolwich, England on the <i>Rajah</i> . <sup>5</sup>
19 July 1841	Arrived at Hobart on the <i>Rajah</i> . <sup>5</sup>
c24 July 1841	Upon arrival at Hobart, assigned to Mr C Darling. <sup>6</sup>
6 December 1841	Charged with disobedience of orders in the service of Darling; sentence 3 days in solitary confinement at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart. <sup>4</sup>
31 December 1841	Mustered at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart. <sup>7</sup>
1 February 1842	Charged with disobedience of orders in the service of Joel; sentence 10 days in solitary confinement at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart, and her conduct reported.
19 February 1842	Husband Samuel Spreadborough arrived as a convict on the <i>Tortoise</i> sentenced to 7 years transportation for stealing clothing and various other articles; aged 26, native place East Indies, bricklayer and plasterer. <sup>8</sup>
6 June 1842	Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on the complaint of her master with misconduct in being out after hours last night; in the service of Mr Solomon, Elizabeth Street, Hobart; plea guilty; reprimanded and returned to her service. <sup>9</sup>
15 August 1842	Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on the complaint of her master Mr H Solomon with misconduct in admitting a man into his house last night by concealing him in

<sup>1</sup> TAHO, CON40/1/10 p.53 No.453 [image 56] (Hester Spreadborough); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.257 [image 132] (Ester Spreadborough); ML, CY 1282 p.154 (Hester Spreadborough); ML, CY 1197 p.156 (Esther Spreadborough); ML, CY 958 p.443 (Esther Spreadborough)

<sup>2</sup> He was transported on the *Tortoise* HMS.

<sup>3</sup> TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.257 [image 132] (Ester Spreadborough)

<sup>4</sup> TAHO, CON40/1/10 p.53 No.453 [image 56] (Hester Spreadborough)

<sup>5</sup> AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah*

<sup>6</sup> ML, CY 1274 p.263 (Hester Spreadborough)

<sup>7</sup> AJCP, HO 10/51 p.396 No.453 (Hester Spreadborough)

<sup>8</sup> TAHO, CON33/1/17 No.42409 [image 336] (Sam<sup>l</sup> Spreadborough)

<sup>9</sup> TAHO, AC480/1/1, 6 June 1842 (Esther Spreadborough)

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- the cellar at 11 o'clock; plea guilty; sentence 14 days in solitary confinement at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart, then returned to her service.<sup>10</sup>
- 31 December 1842 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on the complaint of her master Mr H Solomon with absconding from her service on 28 December and remaining illegally at large until apprehended at New Town last night; plea guilty; existing sentence of transportation extended 12 months and recommended that she be placed at the wash tub on probation for 4 months at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.<sup>11</sup>
- 8 May 1843 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart with misconduct in being in a public house last night after hours; in the service of Mrs Solomon, Liverpool Street, Hobart; plea guilty; sentence 1 month hard labour at the wash tub at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.<sup>12</sup>
- 1 June 1843 Husband Samuel Spreadborough hired in private service as a probation pass-holder to M Arthur, Deloraine.<sup>13</sup>
- 14 August 1843 Absconded from the service of Mr Wilkinson, Elizabeth Street, Hobart.<sup>14</sup>
- 21 August 1843 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on the complaint of Constable Anderson with misconduct in being absent 4 days and nights without leave from the service of Mr H Wilkinson; plea guilty; sentence 8 months hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.<sup>15</sup>
- 23 August 1843 Apprehended, gazetted 25 August.<sup>16</sup>
- 9 February 1844 Husband Samuel Spreadborough classified as a 3<sup>rd</sup> class probation pass-holder.<sup>17</sup>
- 16 February 1844 Husband Samuel Spreadborough at Perth.<sup>13</sup>
- 29 February 1844 Husband Samuel Spreadborough hired in private service as a probation pass-holder to Mr William Smart, Launceston.<sup>13,18</sup>
- 16 May 1844 Classified as a 1<sup>st</sup> class probation pass-holder; gazetted 17 May.<sup>19</sup>
- 30 May 1844 Hired in private service to Elizabeth Solomon, Liverpool Street, Hobart.<sup>20</sup>
- 1844 At Launceston.<sup>4</sup>
- 16 July 1844 Hired in private service as a probation pass-holder to William Smart, Launceston.<sup>21</sup>
- 26 September 1844 Promoted from a 1<sup>st</sup> class to a 3<sup>rd</sup> class probation pass-holder; gazetted 1 October.<sup>22</sup>
- 1 October 1844 Charged with neglect of work in the service of Smart; sentence 7 days' solitary confinement.<sup>4</sup>
- 9 October 1844 Hired in private service for 1 month as a probation pass-holder to WL Gibbon, Launceston.<sup>23</sup>
- 11 October 1844 Husband Samuel Spreadborough returned to the Public Barracks, Launceston, then hired in private service for 1 month as a probation pass-holder to Mr WL Gibbon, Launceston.<sup>24</sup>
- 11 November 1844 Husband Samuel Spreadborough hired in private service for 1 month as a probation pass-holder to Edward Jowell, Launceston.<sup>13</sup>
- 7 March 1845 Ticket of Leave granted; gazetted 11 March.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> TAHO, AC480/1/1, 15 August 1842 (Esther Spreadborough)

<sup>11</sup> TAHO, AC480/1/1, 31 December 1842 (Hester Spreadborough)

<sup>12</sup> TAHO, AC480/1/1, 8 May 1843 (Esther Spreadburg)

<sup>13</sup> TAHO, CON33/1/17 No.42409 [image 336] (Sam<sup>l</sup> Spreadborough)

<sup>14</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 18 August 1843 p.951 (Hester Spreadborough)

<sup>15</sup> TAHO, AC480/1/1, 21 August 1843 (Esther Spreadborough)

<sup>16</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 25 August 1843 p.979 (Hester Spreadborough)

<sup>17</sup> *Examiner*, 17 February 1844 pp.7-8 (Samuel Spreadborough)

<sup>18</sup> *Examiner*, 13 March 1844 p.7 (Samuel Spreadborough)

<sup>19</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 17 May 1844 p.554 (Esther Spreadborough)

<sup>20</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 31 May 1844 p.598 (Esther Spreadborough)

<sup>21</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 19 July 1844 p.846 (Hester Spreadborough)

<sup>22</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 1 October 1844 p.1209 (Esther Spreadborough)

<sup>23</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette* 29 October 1844 p.1381 (Esther Spreadborough)

<sup>24</sup> TAHO, CON33/1/17 No.42409 [image 336] (Sam<sup>l</sup> Spreadborough); *Hobart Town Gazette*, 29 October 1844 p.1381 (Samuel Spreadborough)

*Hester Spreadborough*

- 22 August 1845 Husband Samuel Spreadborough granted a Ticket of Leave; gazetted 22 August.<sup>13,26</sup>
- 3 February 1847 Charged at the Police Court, Launceston upon complaint of a constable with being drunk in a public street yesterday; plea guilty; verdict guilty; fined 5 shillings.<sup>27</sup>  
Husband Samuel Spreadborough charged at the Police Court, Launceston with having used obscene language in a public street; plea guilty; verdict guilty; fined 5 shillings.<sup>28</sup>
- 12 March 1847 Husband Samuel Spreadborough charged at the Police Court, Launceston upon complaint of Constable Smith with having disturbed the public peace in a public street yesterday; plea guilty; verdict guilty; fined 5 shillings.<sup>29</sup>
- 16 September 1847 Husband Samuel Spreadborough free by servitude.<sup>13</sup>
- 21 September 1847 Husband Samuel Spreadborough issued a Certificate of Freedom.<sup>13</sup>
- 16 September 1848 Free by servitude.<sup>4</sup>
- 22 September 1848 Certificate of Freedom issued.<sup>4</sup>
- 15 January 1851 Charged at the Police Court, Westbury upon complaint of District Constable Mr Humphreys with having resisted him in the execution of his duty at Deloraine on Saturday night last; plea not guilty; fined 10 shillings and costs 2 shillings, given 3 days to pay, paid 18 January.  
Description: free by servitude, aged 26, neither read nor write.<sup>30</sup>  
Husband Samuel Spreadborough charged with the same offence, plea guilty, same fine.  
Description: free by servitude, aged 42, read and write well.<sup>31</sup>
- 5 April 1851 Husband Samuel Spreadborough departed Launceston for Melbourne, VIC as a steerage passenger on the schooner *Swift*; free, ship to colony *Swan*.<sup>32</sup>
- 8 January 1852 Husband Samuel Spreadborough departed Launceston for Melbourne, VIC as a steerage passenger on the schooner *Alice*; free, ship to colony *Swift*.<sup>33</sup>
- October 1852 Departed Melbourne, VIC for Launceston with husband Samuel Spreadborough as passengers on the *Launceston*; Hester aged 38; Samuel aged 42.<sup>34</sup>
- 7 October 1857 Husband Samuel Spreadborough married<sup>35</sup> Ann Isable Nicholas at Christ Anglican Church, Longford; Samuel adult, bricklayer, bachelor; Ann adult, spinster; witnesses Charles Joyce and Catharine Griffin.<sup>36</sup>
- 7 February 1880 Charged at the Police Court, Green Ponds with larceny; sentence 3 months' imprisonment at Campbell Street Gaol, Hobart.  
Description: aged 60, free by servitude, ship to colony *Rajah*, 5' 3", no prior conviction, resident of the Green Ponds district, native place England; grey hair.<sup>37</sup>
- 6–12 May 1880 Discharged from Campbell Street Gaol, Hobart.<sup>37</sup>
- 23 June 1883 Husband Samuel Spreadborough notified that as he defaulted on the mortgage of his property at Westbury and that it will be auctioned on 11 August.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 11 March 1845 p.326 (Hester Spreadborough)

<sup>26</sup> *Colonial Times*, 2 September 1845 p.4 (Samuel Spreadborough)

<sup>27</sup> TAHO, LC346/1/9 (Esther Spreadborough & Samuel Spreadborough)

<sup>28</sup> TAHO, LC346/1/9 (Esther Spreadborough & Samuel Spreadborough); TAHO, CON33/1/17 No.42409 [image 336] (Sam<sup>l</sup> Spreadborough)

<sup>29</sup> TAHO, LC346/1/9 (Samuel Spreadborough); TAHO, CON33/17 No.42409 [image 336] (Sam<sup>l</sup> Spreadborough)

<sup>30</sup> TAHO, LC534/1/1 pp.96, 98 (Hester Spreadborough)

<sup>31</sup> TAHO, LC534/1/1 pp.96, 98 (Samuel Spreadborough)

<sup>32</sup> TAHO, POL220/1/1 p.351 (Samuel Spreadborough)

<sup>33</sup> TAHO, POL220/1/1 p.512 (Samuel Spreadborough)

<sup>34</sup> PROV, 'Online Indexes: Index to Outward Passengers to Interstate, UK, NZ and Foreign Ports 1852–1923' October 1852 p.2 (Mrs & S Spreadboro)

<sup>35</sup> This was a bigamous marriage as Hester was still living.

<sup>36</sup> TAHO, RGD37/1/16 1857/739 Longford (Samuel Spreadborough & Ann Isabel Nicholas)

<sup>37</sup> *Tasmania Police Gazette*, 13 February 1880 p.27 (Hester Williams)

<sup>38</sup> *Examiner*, 25 June 1883 p.4 (Samuel Spreadborough)

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*Hester Spreadborough*

- 29 January 1884      **Married**,<sup>39</sup> as Esther Williams,<sup>40</sup> Charles Stevens in the private house of Charles Stevens, Westbury (Wesleyan service); Hester aged 60, widow; Charles aged 50, labourer, bachelor; witnesses Thomas Howard and Eliza White.<sup>41</sup>
- 1 July 1888          Husband Samuel Spreadborough died of bronchitis in the Westbury district; aged 76, labourer; informant certificate of medical attendant.<sup>42</sup>
- 8 August 1888      **Married** (again) Charles Stevens at St Andrew's Church of England, Westbury; Hester adult, labourer's daughter, widow, illiterate; Charles adult, labourer, bachelor, illiterate; witnesses James Parker and Margaret Smith (illiterate).<sup>43</sup>
- 5 August 1893      **Died** of heart disease at Launceston Hospital; aged 77, born England, housewife; informant AG Jones, undertaker's assistant, Launceston.<sup>44</sup>

**Notes**

- Hester may be the Esther Nusted who married Samuel Spreadborough on 16 May 1837 at St Mary's Church, Aylesbury, Buckingham, England.<sup>45</sup>
- Hester's second husband may be the Charles Stevens who died of senility on 26 January 1889 at the General Hospital, Hobart; aged 75, born England, shoemaker; informant Secretary, General Hospital.<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>39</sup> This was a bigamous marriage as Samuel was still living.

<sup>40</sup> As Samuel was still alive, Esther married under an assumed name.

<sup>41</sup> TAHO, RGD37/1/43 1884/994 Westbury (Charles Stevens & Esther Williams)

<sup>42</sup> TAHO, RGD35/1/57 1888/870 Westbury (Samuel Speidborough)

<sup>43</sup> TAHO, RGD37/1/47 1888/955 Westbury (Esther Spreadborough & Charles Stevens)

<sup>44</sup> TAHO, RGD35/1/62 1893/242 Launceston (Hester Stevens)

<sup>45</sup> *Family Search*, IGI Batch No.M07364-3 Source File No.0919221 (Samuel Spreadborough & Esther Nusted)

<sup>46</sup> TAHO, RGD35/1/12 1889/366 Hobart (Charles Stevens)