

Sarah Taylor 1st *

POLICE NUMBER 171¹
TRIAL DATE 16² September 1840
TRIAL PLACE Sussex (Lewes) Quarter Sessions
OFFENCE stealing sundry articles of dress etc, selling stolen property
SENTENCE 7 years
GAOL REPORT not known, married
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS first offence
SURGEON'S REPORT ship woman, good
ON THE TOWN no
MARITAL STATUS married
CHILDREN 0
FAMILY husband William, 'I left him at Kingstone with his mother'
NATIVE PLACE Yevel, Surrey, England
TRADE ON EMBARKATION
TRADE ON ARRIVAL housemaid, plain needlewoman

LITERACY read only
AGE ON EMBARKATION 23
AGE ON ARRIVAL 25
HEIGHT 5' 3¼"
COMPLEXION fresh
HEAD oval
HAIR brown
VISAGE long
FOREHEAD flat
EYEBROWS brown
EYES light grey
NOSE long
MOUTH medium
CHIN medium
MARKS cast in left eye

c1817 **Born** at Yeovil,³ Surrey, England.⁴
16 September 1840 Tried at the Quarter Sessions, Lewes, Sussex, England indicted for stealing sundry articles of dress etc and selling them; sentence 7 years transportation.⁵
5 April 1841 Departed Woolwich, England on the *Rajah*.⁶
19 July 1841 Arrived at Hobart on the *Rajah*.⁶
c24 July 1841 Upon arrival at Hobart, sent to Launceston for assignment.⁷
31 December 1841 Mustered in the service of Reverend Mr Gibbon, Launceston.⁸
6 June 1842 Charged with misconduct in the service of Gibbon; sentence 10 days in solitary confinement at Launceston Female Factory.⁵
11 April 1844 Classified as a 3rd class probation pass-holder; gazetted 12 April.⁹
June 1844 Requested to go into service with Reverend Dr WH Browne instead of Mr Henry Pike.¹⁰

Letter from Reverend Dr WH Browne at the Parsonage, Launceston to M Foster Esquire, Comptroller General dated 21 June 1844:

Sir, I beg leave to state that I have, at different times within the last five weeks, applied for a female servant either directly per an order or enquiring if the classification had arrived, but was always plainly told by Mr Jones the Clerk in Capt. Gardiners office that I could not get even an order to select one: in order not to lose time being without a female servant, & my wife a great invalid unable to walk and frequently confined to bed, while not a woman bond or free could be obtained in the town, I made enquiry of the woman & also of Mr Pearson at the female house of Correction & found one waiting for classification, who expressed her desire to come into my service, this morning as usual I enquired at Capt. Gardiner's office if any

¹ TAHO, CON40/1/10 p.120 No.171 [image 123] (Sarah Taylor); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.260 [image 133] (Sarah Taylor (1)); ML, CY 1282 p.154 (Sarah Taylor); ML, CY 1197 p.156 (Sarah Taylor); ML, CY 958 p.443 (Sarah Taylor)

² Trial date given as 14 September 1840 on Conduct Record (TAHO, CON40/1/10 p.120 No.171 [image 123] (Sarah Taylor)).

³ This reads as Yevel on the description list and so is probably Yeovil.

⁴ TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.260 [image 133] (Sarah Taylor (1))

⁵ TAHO, CON40/1/10 p.120 No.171 [image 123] (Sarah Taylor)

⁶ AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah*

⁷ ML, CY 1282 p.142 (Sarah Taylor (1)); ML, CY 1274 p.263 (Sarah Taylor)

⁸ AJCP, HO 10/5 p.398 No.171 (Sarah Taylor)

⁹ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 12 April 1844 p.426 (Sarah Taylor 171)

¹⁰ TAHO, CON1/1/18 No.1572 (Sarah Taylor)

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women were classified by last post; Mr Jones replied yes but "I was not to have one", or words tantamount thereto; on my asking why? he replied "In the first place that woman is not classified, and in the next, if she was, you can't have her." I told him that she wished, when I saw her a few days ago, to come to me when she should be classified; he added, "she should not, for she was promised to another person before me & if she did come to me he would himself appear to get her punished.

Conceiving the regulations to be, that it was open to a prisoner now (when classified) to determine what service he or she will enter I denied his Mr Jones' right to interfere which would neutralise the prisoners freedom of choice & leave the public like myself in this case dependant on the favour or good will of a subordinate clerk in your department, which I am sure is not your intention; for it appears Mr Jones objects to my having spoken to Mr Pearson before classification while priority of engagement is at the same moment his reason why he would not allow the woman to come to my service if classified.

Now Sir I do not want that woman in particular, nor any woman, save for a short time, while my sick wife is waiting to get one from Hobart, where I am now obliged to seek one; but I think it due to myself and right in principle to refer the matter to you, hoping that you will give information thro the Gazette or otherwise what are to be the rules of your department in the respect mentioned; & also to remove the injunction, Mr Jones complained to Capt Gardiner in my presence, was not observed in my case, that the Superintendent should not give any information respecting the character &c &c of women likely to be available for service, an injunction attended with many inconveniences to the public & no benefit to the Government; whilst no such secrecy & difficulty of getting information exists in Hobart Town.

In all this matter I beg distinctly to be understood that I make no complaint whatever against Capt. Gardiner, I have none to make, nor against his clerk Mr Jones not ever for the want of courtesy which he might have shewn to a man of my age & office, but only that the arrangements of the office may be better defined & known for the convenience of all parties concerned.¹⁰

Memo from Arthur Gardiner Esquire, Superintendent of Convicts at Launceston to Reverend Dr WH Browne dated 22 June 1844:

The Female Convict named in the margin (Sarah Taylor Rajah) having been classed and expressed a wish to enter the employment of the Rev^d Dr Brown in preference to being discharged to Mr H Pike with whom she had previously agreed The Superintendent of Convicts begs to state the woman can be obtained upon Doctor Brown entering into the requisite contract and forwarding it to this office.¹⁰

Letter from Reverend Dr WH Browne to Arthur Gardiner Esquire, Superintendent of Convicts at Launceston dated 24 June 1844:

The memorandum from your office dated 22nd Inst was received by me too late on Saturday to be acknowledged that day. I beg now to state that I was not aware that "Sarah Taylor" had made any agreement with Mr. Henry Pike previously to that with me or I should most certainly not have spoken to her, and I now decline to take her that I may not appear to do so, I do assure you nothing would induce me knowingly to interfere in such matter with the poorest person in the land for my own convenience or to commit any breach of Govern^t regulation distinctly known to be such. I beg to thank you for your politeness in making the communication contained in your Memo and I enclose copy of my letter to the Comptroller General in reference to the matter in question.¹⁰

Letter from Reverend Dr WH Browne at Launceston to M Foster Esquire, Comptroller General dated 24 June 1844:

Since addressing you on 21st inst. I received memorandum 22nd June copy of which is now annexed by which it appears that Captain Gardiner has since considered the matter: that part of my letter therefore, referring to Mr Jones threat to interfere with the woman's liberty to enter the service she should prefer, is I suppose settled; there remains then only for consideration whether you can[?] take off the injunction given both Superintendents have not to give any information respecting prisoners character, usefulness &c to persons wanting any class of servants.¹⁰

Memo from the Comptroller General dated 26 June 1844:

Referred for Captain Gardiner's directions, the Comptroller General begs that every ... may be afforded to parties wishing to attain seroants.¹⁰

Memo from Arthur Gardiner Esquire, Superintendent of Convicts at Launceston dated 4 July 1844:

I beg to forward Mr Jones's statement in reply to Doctor Browne's complaint against him and also a copy of memorial of mine to Doctor Brown with his answer thereto. I have no doubt in my mind of the ... of Mr Jones's statement and that Doctor Brown wrote his letter when under great excitement on learning that there was a difficulty in the way of his getting the woman "Taylor". In my opinion Doctor Browne's conduct was not such as we[?] would expect from a Gentleman of his "Age and office" and really[?] without provocation from Mr Jones but those ebullitions[?] of temper are not of rare occurrence with the Revd Doctor.

I do assure the Comptroller Gen^l "that every facility is afforded to parties wishing to obtain seroants" and that I should be the first to complain of Mr Jones if I found any want of courtesy in the discharge of his duties.

I expect the Comptroller Gen^l will have another complaint against me from Mr Pike relative to this woman Taylor, that Gentleman said as much to me yesterday.¹⁰

Memo from Arthur Gardiner Esquire, Superintendent of Convicts at Launceston to the Comptroller General dated 5 July 1844:

The Reverend Brown has since writing me this letter taken the woman into his service.¹⁰

Memo from George Jones dated 5 July 1844:

I beg leave to state in reference to this communication that the Reverend Doctor Browne was never told by me he could not have an order to select "even a seroant from the Factory" that Gentleman never applied for the Sup^t of Convicts' permission to select a seroant. Doctor Browne invariably when he called at the office enquired of the women for disposal in the Factory now classed and as this was not done I could not answer him otherwise than No Sir.

In consequence of there being but five[?] females eligible for private service the classification of them having been from some cause delayed Captain Gardiner directed me to receive at the office blank forms of contracts from Gentlemen residing in the country who had selected females who were meriting classification. Among several contracts thus[?] left was one from Mr Henry Pike of Morven who had engaged a woman of the name of "Sarah Taylor" and whose name was inserted in the Contract. After this the Reverend Doctor Browne visited the Factory in his Ministerial capacity and it appears was permitted to hire a seroant and also the very woman who was at the same moment justly[?] speaking Mr Pike's seroant. After I became acquainted with this the Reverend Doctor Browne did not call at the office until the 21st of June when he came and enquired as usual if a classification list had been received by that morning's post. I replied Yes Sir, Doctor Browne said Are there many classed? I replied there were but Sir I fear you will not be able to obtain the seroant you wish. Doctor Browne would not here permit me to offer him an explanation but commenced a long discussion as to, in his opinion, the impropriety of the regulations of the Department generally this he had entirely to himself. I attempted once to address him but he would not allow me in fact he worked himself up into such a rage that he would hear nothing until Mr Upton the Chief Clerk interfered and said Doctor Browne if you will be good enough to hear an explanation I am sure you will be perfectly satisfied as to there being a doubt of your getting the woman you wish. Dr Browne then[?] permitted me to state to him the particulars and in addition I told him that I considered it my duty to make Captain Gardiner acquainted with the circumstance as the woman actually deserved punishment for having hired with Mr Pike and after keeping him waiting for upwards of a month in the expectation of her coming to him and then hiring with another Gentleman. At this moment Captain Gardiner returned to the office and heard the matter again explained in Doctor Brown's presence.

I regret very much being called upon to deny which I do most distinctly but respectfully ever having stated to the Reverend Doctor Browne. "That he was not to have a seroant or that he should not have the seroant he wanted and if the woman he wished did go to him I would appear[?] to get her punished nor I did make use of the expression "In the first place that woman is not classed and in the next if she was you can't have her." and as to my having presumed to dictate to Captain Gardiner any measure with reference to the Sup^t of the Female House of Correction I would respectfully beg that Gentleman's testimony and also if at any

time he has had any complaint of my either causing obstacles (if such a thing was possible for me to do) to prevent the Public being accommodated or having to hand[?] to any person but in the manner and with the respect due to them.¹⁰

- 15 August 1844 Hired in private service as a probation pass-holder to Reverend WH Browne, Launceston.¹¹
- 24 September 1844 At Launceston.⁵
- 3 October 1844 Charged with being absent without leave from the service of Browne; sentence 1 month hard labour at Launceston Female Factory.⁵
- 12 October 1844 Ticket of Leave granted; gazetted 15 October.¹²
- 24 October 1844 Charged¹³ at Launceston Female Factory with misconduct in refusing to go to the service of Mr McArthur after having hired for that service; recommended to be placed on probation for 3 months at Launceston Female Factory.⁵
- 7 March 1845 Charged with absenting herself from her lawful and usual service without consent; sentence 14 days hard labour at Launceston Female Factory.¹⁴
- 20 March 1845 Hired in private service for 1 month as a probation pass-holder¹³ to Matthew Ralston, Morven.¹⁵
- 25 March 1845 Charged with disobedience of orders and insolence; in the service of Ralston; sentence 3 months hard labour at Launceston Female Factory.⁵
- 29 September 1845 Application for permission to marry John Hinchcliffe¹⁶ (free) sent to the Secretary; approved.¹⁷
- Notice given of approval for permission to marry John Hinchcliffe; Sarah holding a Ticket of Leave, resident of Launceston; John free, resident of Launceston.¹⁸
- 16 September 1847 Free by servitude; Certificate of Freedom available for collection.¹⁹
- 24 September 1847 Certificate of Freedom issued.⁵
- 18 December 1851 John Hinchcliffe departed Launceston for Melbourne as a steerage passenger on the steamer *Shamrock*; holding a Conditional Pardon, ship to colony *Isabella*.²⁰
- 3 September 1852 John Hinchcliffe departed Launceston for Melbourne as a steerage passenger on the steamer *Shamrock*; free by servitude, ship to colony *Isabella*.²¹

Notes

- Sarah may be the mother of Joseph Owen born on 2 January 1854 at Stringybark Forest; mother Sarah Taylor; informant father William Owen, sawyer.²² No marriage for Joseph Owen and Sarah Taylor has been found.
- Sarah may be the mother of Hannah Reilly born on 31 May 1856 at Launceston; mother Sarah Taylor; informant father Edward Reilly, private 12th Regiment.²³ Hannah died on 6 June 1856 of convulsions at Launceston; aged 6 days, private soldier's child; informant father Edward Reilly, 12th Regiment.²⁴ No marriage for Edward Reilly and Sarah Taylor has been found.

¹¹ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 16 August 1844 p.977 (Sarah Taylor)

¹² *Hobart Town Gazette*, 15 October 1844 p.171 (Sarah Taylor 171)

¹³ As Sarah was holding a Ticket of Leave by this time, this engagement as probation pass-holder possibly refers to Sarah Taylor 2nd.

¹⁴ TAHO, CON78/1/3 p.320 (Sarah Taylor)

¹⁵ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 15 April 1845 p.487 (Sarah Taylor)

¹⁶ John Hinchcliffe was transported for life on the *Isabella* in 1833, tried at York on 27 August 1832 for housebreaking; single, labourer; Ticket of Leave 19 November 1841, Conditional Pardon 16 December 1845; at Launceston 24 June 1844 (TAHO, CON31/1/21 p.246 No.1668 [image 26] (Jno Hinchcliffe); TAHO, CON27/1/6 No.1668 [image 91] (John Hinchliff)).

¹⁷ TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.373 (Jno Hinchcliffe & Sarah Taylor 171)

¹⁸ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 30 September 1845 p.1223; 7 October 1845 p.1240; 14 October 1845 p.1274 (John Hinchcliffe & Sarah Taylor)

¹⁹ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 7 September 1847 p.894 (Sarah Taylor 175) . Police number given erroneously as that of Sarah Taylor 2nd.

²⁰ TAHO, POL220/1/1 p.486 (John Hinchcliffe)

²¹ TAHO, POL220/1/2 p.123 (John Hinchcliffe)

²² TAHO, RGD33/1/32 1854/403 Launceston (Joseph Owen)

²³ TAHO, RGD33/1/34 1856/709 Launceston (Hannah Reilly)

²⁴ TAHO, RGD35/1/25 1856/104 Launceston (Hannah Reilly)

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- If so, Sarah may be the mother of Francis Reilly born on 12 October 1857 at the Military Barracks, Hobart; mother Sarah Taylor; informant father Edward Reilly, private 12th Regiment;²⁵ and the mother of Edward Reilly born on 9 March 1860 at Davey Street, Hobart; mother Sarah Taylor; informant father Edward Reilly licensed victualler.²⁶
- Sarah may be the Mrs John Hinchcliffe who departed Hobart for London, England on the *Valetta* on 9 March 1891.²⁷

²⁵ TAHO, RGD33/1/7 1857/877 Hobart (Francis Reilly)

²⁶ TAHO, RGD33/1/7 1860/3258 Hobart (Edward Reilly)

²⁷ *Mercury*, 4 March 1891 p.25 (Mrs. John Hinchcliffe)

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