

Mary Thompson

(uxor Mary Townsend)

POLICE NUMBER 173 ¹	LITERACY neither read nor write
TRIAL DATE 21 October 1840	AGE ON EMBARKATION
TRIAL PLACE Northumberland (Newcastle Upon Tyne) Quarter Sessions	AGE ON ARRIVAL 24
OFFENCE stealing money from the person	HEIGHT 5' 3¼" or 5' 1¾"
SENTENCE 10 years	COMPLEXION ruddy
GAOL REPORT not known, married, 1 child	HEAD oval
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS first offence	HAIR brown
SURGEON'S REPORT the best character I can give	VISAGE full
ON THE TOWN no	FOREHEAD flat
MARITAL STATUS married	EYEBROWS light brown
CHILDREN 1, 0 on board	EYES
FAMILY husband John Thompson a hawkler	NOSE medium
NATIVE PLACE Stafford Town, Staffordshire, England	MOUTH medium
TRADE ON EMBARKATION	CHIN round
TRADE ON ARRIVAL housemaid, wash, iron	MARKS scar on right side of cheek bone

c1817 **Born** at Stafford Town, Staffordshire, England.²

21 October 1840 Tried at the Quarter Sessions, Newcastle Upon Tyne, Northumberland, England indicted for larceny in stealing money from the person; sentence 10 years transportation.³

Newspaper report:
*MARY THOMPSON was next placed at the bar, charged with stealing, from the person of John Newland, butcher, two purses, one containing 4l. 12s. In silver, the other containing two five pound notes, seven sovereigns, and one half sovereign. It appeared that, on the night of the 11th August, prosecutor was in the street, about half-past twelve, waiting for the Morpeth coach, when prisoner came up, and beckoned him into a passage, a few yards off. He followed her, and she asked him "to treat her." He refused, and immediately after, feeling her hand in his pocket, he seized her by the arm, when she screamed out, and four men came up, and knocked down and otherwise ill-treated the prosecutor. He continued to retain his hold, however, and on the arrival of a policeman, the four men made off, and the prisoner was secured. 10 years' transportation.*⁴

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

19 July 1841 Arrived at Hobart on the *Rajah*.⁵

c24 July 1841 Upon arrival at Hobart, assigned to Dr Turnbull, Campbell Street, Hobart.⁶

24 September 1841 At Hobart Gaol.³

2 November 1841 Ordered by the Lieutenant Governor to be detained at Cascades Female Factory on probation for 3 months, then to be placed for disposal in the interior, vide memo of the Principal Superintendent.³

31 December 1841 Mustered in the service of Lieutenant Wettenhall, Carlton.⁷

1843 Resident in the district of Sorell, ticket of leave holder.⁸

¹ TAHO, CON40/1/10 p.120 No.173 [image 123] (Mary Thompson); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.260 [image 134] (Mary Thompson); ML, CY 1282 p.155 (Mary Thompson); ML, CY 1197 p.156 (Mary Thompson); ML, CY 958 p.443 (Mary Thompson)

² TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.260 [image 134] (Mary Thompson)

³ TAHO, CON40/1/10 p.120 No.173 [image 123] (Mary Thompson)

⁴ *Newcastle Courant*, 23 October 1840 Issue 8657 Article 46 (Mary Thompson)

⁵ AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah*

⁶ ML, CY 1274 p.264 (Mary Thompson)

⁷ AJCP, HO 10/5 p.398 No.173 (Mary Thompson)

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

- 3 January 1844 Charged at the Police Court, Richmond with misconduct; confined at Richmond Gaol by CS Schaw Esquire for examination.³
George Hopkins and William Mills charged with the same offence; sentence 6 months hard labour, discharged 17 January to the Town Surveyor's Gang at Hobart.⁹
- 5 January 1844 At Richmond.³
- 11 April 1844 Classified as a 3rd class probation pass-holder; gazetted 12 April.¹⁰
- 1 February 1845 Ticket of Leave granted; gazetted 4 February.¹¹
Notice given of approval for permission to marry Alfred Bayley (*Westmoreland*); Mary a ticket-of-leave holder, in private service at Jerusalem; Alfred in private service at Jerusalem.¹²
- 3 February 1845 Application for permission to marry Alfred Bayley sent to the Secretary; approved if clergyman satisfied.¹³
- 24 November 1845 Application for permission to marry James Townsend¹⁴ (free) sent to the Secretary; approved.¹⁵
Notice given of approval for permission to marry James Townsend; Mary a ticket-of-leave holder, resident of Black Brush, Brighton district; James free, resident of Black Brush, Brighton district.¹⁶
- 25 December 1845 **Married** James Townsend at St Mark's Anglican Church, Pontville; Mary aged 28, house servant; James aged 32, farm labourer; witnesses Louisa Beck (illiterate), John Nunn (illiterate) and Alfred Thrupp (clerk).¹⁷
- 6 June 1846 Husband James Townsend tried at the Supreme Court, Hobart indicted for feloniously receiving well knowing etc; sentence 14 years transportation, period of labour 3 years at Port Arthur, later at Spring Hill.
Description: single, farm labourer, splitter and fencer, aged 35, native place Finchingfield near Bramtree.¹⁸
Statement:
*Cattle stealing a cow ... never in trouble since I became free or before.*¹⁸
Newspaper report:

CATTLE STEALING.

John Jackson was charged with having, on the 8th April, stolen a cow, of the value of £7, the property of [Miss] Frances Lascelles [of Bothwell]; and John Burns, Thomas Button, John Hutton, and James Townsend with having received the same, knowing it to have been stolen.

The evidence having been taken, Mr. Macdowell addressed the jury at some length on behalf of the prisoners, and His Honor having summed up, the jury returned a verdict of Guilty against all the prisoners.

The following sentences were then passed upon the prisoners who had been tried during these criminal sittings: –

... John Jackson, for housebreaking and robbery, to be transported beyond the seas for the term of their natural lives.

⁸ TAHO, POL625/1/1 p.52 (Mary Thorndon)

⁹ ML, CY 151 329/127 Reel P3-10 (Mary Thompson)

¹⁰ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 12 April 1844 p.426 (Mary Thomson)

¹¹ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 4 February 1845 p.144 (Mary Thompson)

¹² *Hobart Town Gazette*, 4 February 1845 p.145, 11 February 1845 p.170, 18 February 1845 p.197 (Alfred Bayle & Mary Thompson)

¹³ TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.277 (Alfred Bayley & Mary Thompson)

¹⁴ James Townsend was transported for 7 years on the *Thames* in 1829, tried at Essex on 10 December 1828 for larceny; married, 2 children, wife and children at native place, farm labourer, aged 26, native place Finchingfield, Essex (TAHO, CON31/1/42 p.154 No.462 [image 157] (Ja^s Townsend), TAHO, CON37/1/3 No.646 [image 45] (James Townsend), TAHO, CON18/1/21 [image 462] (James Townsend)).

¹⁵ TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.204 (Ja^s Townsend & Mary Thompson)

¹⁶ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 25 November 1845 p.1463; 2 December 1845 p.1477; *Hobart Town Gazette*, 9 December 1845 p.1500 (James Townsend & Mary Thompson)

¹⁷ TAHO, RGD37/1/4 1845/2126 Brighton (James Townsend & Mary Thompson)

¹⁸ TAHO, CON37/1/3 No.646 [image 45] (James Townsend)

Mary Thompson

*John Burns, Thomas Button, John Hutton, James Townsend ... for receiving property, knowing the same to have been stolen, to be transported beyond the seas for the term of 14 years.*¹⁹

- 2 July 1846 Charged with misconduct in being out after hours; sentence 1 month's hard labour at Cascades Female Factory.³
- April 1847 Resident with GC Clarke, Campbell Town district, to May 1849.²⁰
- 13 December 1848 Husband James Townsend charged at Spring Hill with neglect of duty; sentence 3 months imprisonment and hard labour.¹⁸
- 2 February 1849 Husband James Townsend charged at Spring Hill with misconduct in making a false statement in reference to the Superintendent; existing sentence of imprisonment and hard labour to be extended 3 months.¹⁸
- 20 March 1849 Husband James Townsend at Perth.¹⁸
- 6 June 1849 Husband James Townsend classified as a probation pass-holder.¹⁸
- 4 August 1849 Husband James Townsend in service to Hugh Turner, Perth.¹⁸
- 21 October 1850 Free by servitude.³
- 17 April 1851 Certificate of Freedom issued.³
- 9 July 1851 Husband James Townsend at Longford Gaol.¹⁸
- 12 July 1851 Husband James Townsend charged at Longford with larceny under £5; in the service of Turner; sentence 12 months imprisonment and hard labour, 18 months colonial servitude.¹⁸
- 14 July 1851 Husband James Townsend at Launceston Depot.¹⁸
- 29 March 1852 Husband James Townsend returned to his service.¹⁸
- 4 April 1853 Husband James Townsend in service to J King, Perth.¹⁸
- 9 May 1854 Husband James Townsend granted a Ticket of Leave.¹⁸
- 6 February 1855 Husband James Townsend granted a Conditional Pardon.¹⁸
- 3 December 1862 Husband James Townsend charged with larceny under the value of £5; in the service of Reverend J Fookes, Perth; sentence 6 months hard labour.²¹
- Newspaper report:
*James Townsend, larceny under the value of five pounds in his service, six months' imprisonment with hard labor. – This man was in the service of the Rev. J. Fookes, of Perth. He had been suspected of stealing various articles from the store to which he had access occasionally to get pigs' food. On this occasion he was watched, and seen to go to the tea chest and take out about a pound; and some tea was found in his pocket afterwards, and some lying on the ground where his coat lay.*²¹
- 29 September 1868 **Died** of abscess and cancer at Perth; aged 53, labourer's wife; informant husband James Townsend.²²
- 18 December 1880 Husband James Townsend died of senility at the General Hospital, Launceston; aged 73, labourer; informant Thomas J Doolan, undertaker, Launceston.²³
- Death notice:
*Townsend. – On the 18th December, at the General Hospital, Launceston, Mr James Townsend, of Perth, aged 80 years.*²⁴

¹⁹ *Hobart Town Courier*, 10 June 1846 p.3 (James Townsend); *Colonial Times*, 12 June 1846 p.4 (James Townsend)

²⁰ TAHO, POL47/1/4 (Mary Thompson)

²¹ *Examiner*, 6 December 1862 p.3 (James Townsend)

²² TAHO, RGD35/1/37 1868/310 Longford (Mary Ann Townsend)

²³ TAHO, RGD35/1/50 1881/185 Launceston (James Townsend); *Examiner*, 22 December 1880 p.1S (James Townsend)

²⁴ *Examiner*, 22 December 1880 p.1S (James Townsend)