

# Emily Turner

(nee Emily Woolger)

POLICE NUMBER 174<sup>1</sup>  
TRIAL DATE 14 September 1840  
TRIAL PLACE Surrey (Newington) Quarter Sessions  
OFFENCE stealing money, 2 watches and other articles,  
housebreaking  
SENTENCE 7 years  
GAOL REPORT frequently imprisoned before, bad, single  
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS twice in prison before, 14 days and 1  
month for being disorderly  
SURGEON'S REPORT orderly  
ON THE TOWN 2 years—I lived on the town since my husband  
was transported  
MARITAL STATUS married<sup>2</sup>  
CHILDREN 0  
FAMILY husband James<sup>3</sup> transported here 2 years ago last  
December, tried at Horsemunger Lane, 10 years; sister Louisa  
Woolger on board  
NATIVE PLACE Cobham, Surrey, England  
TRADE ON EMBARKATION  
TRADE ON ARRIVAL house servant, farm servant, milk, butter,  
cheese, bake, brew, laundry maid

LITERACY read and write  
AGE ON EMBARKATION 21  
AGE ON ARRIVAL 23  
HEIGHT 5' 2¾"  
COMPLEXION fair  
HEAD oval  
HAIR brown  
VISAGE oval  
FOREHEAD flat  
EYEBROWS brown  
EYES dark brown  
NOSE medium  
MOUTH rather wide  
CHIN round  
MARKS none

c1819 **Born** at Cobham, Surrey, England.<sup>4</sup>

c1825 Sister Louisa Woolger born at Cobham, Surrey, England.<sup>5</sup>

14 September 1840 Tried at the Quarter Sessions, Newington, Surrey, England with sister and shipmate Louisa Woolger (*qv*) indicted for larceny in stealing money (£17), 2 watches, 2 rings and other articles, the property of Sarah Ledger and her sons, Cobham; sentence 7 years transportation.<sup>6</sup>

Newspaper report:

SURREY SESSIONS. – SEPT. 15.

*Emily Turner and Louisa Woolger, sisters, were indicted for entering the house of Sarah Ledger, at Cobham, and stealing 17l., two watches, two rings, and several other articles, the property of her and her sons.*

*Mr. Knapp defended the prisoners, both of whom were well-dressed young girls, under twenty years of age.*

*From the evidence it appeared that on Friday, the 1<sup>st</sup> of September, the prosecutrix and her sons left their cottage in the morning, having locked it after them, for the purpose of going to work at Lady Molesworth's, at a short distance off. On the return of one of the prosecutrix's sons, between twelve and one o'clock the same day, he found that the house had been entered in their absence, and the whole of the property mentioned in the indictment carried off. The thieves got into the house by taking a pane of glass out of the back kitchen window, which enabled them to put an arm through and open the sash. On subsequent examination the footmarks of a female were observed underneath the window through which the entry had been*

<sup>1</sup> TAHO, CON40/1/10 p.121 No.174 [image 124] (Emily Turner); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.262 [image 134] (Emily Turner); ML, CY 1282 p.155 (Emily Turner); ML, CY 1197 p.156 (Emily Turner); ML, CY 958 p.443 (Emily Turner)

<sup>2</sup> Marital status given as single on Embarkation List (ML, CY 1197 p.156).

<sup>3</sup> James does not appear to have been transported to Van Diemen's Land. He is possibly the James Turner transported to New South Wales for 10 years on the *Parkfield* 1839, tried at Surrey in 1838, aged 23, died under sentence (Uebel, *The Port Jackson Convicts Anthology*).

<sup>4</sup> TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.262 [image 134] (Emily Turner)

<sup>5</sup> TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.269 [image 138] (Louisa Woolger)

<sup>6</sup> TAHO, CON40/1/10 p.121 No.174 [image 124] (Emily Turner)

This biography supplements our book *Patchwork Prisoners* available from [www.researchtasmania.com.au](http://www.researchtasmania.com.au).

effected. Information of the robbery having been given, the two prisoners were taken into custody the same evening in the town of Guildford, having in their possession at the time a great portion of the property stolen from the cottage of the prosecutrix. There was no money of any consequence, however, found in their possession, and the latter fact was particularly dwelt upon by their Counsel in order to show the improbability of their having committed the offence with which they were charged. Independently of the various articles belonging to the prosecutors, and found in the prisoners' possession, were also two bundles containing a variety of gaudy dress, which they had been purchasing in Guildford the same day, and on which a considerable sum of money must have been expended.

Mr. Knapp contended that no evidence had been adduced to prove that the prisoners had broken into the house and stolen the property, and that it was much more probable the articles found in their possession and claimed by the prosecutor might have been given them by some other parties who had really committed the offence.

The jury found the prisoners Guilty, and they were sentenced to be transported for seven years each.<sup>7</sup>

5 April 1841	Departed Woolwich, England on the <i>Rajah</i> . <sup>8</sup>
19 July 1841	Arrived at Hobart on the <i>Rajah</i> . <sup>8</sup>
c24 July 1841	Upon arrival at Hobart, sent to Launceston for assignment. <sup>9</sup>
11 September 1841	Charged at the Police Court, Longford with uselessness by her master Mr Arthur; <sup>10</sup> returned to Government. <sup>11</sup>
29 September 1841	Charged with misconduct in making false statements to her master Mr Cathcart; sentence 1 month hard labour in the Crime Class at Launceston Female Factory. <sup>6</sup>
8 October 1841	At Launceston. <sup>6</sup>
31 December 1841	Mustered at Launceston Female Factory. <sup>12</sup>
11 April 1844	Classified as a 3 <sup>rd</sup> class probation pass-holder; gazetted 12 April. <sup>13</sup>
23 July 1844	Hired in private service as a probation pass-holder to Charles Skarrey, Launceston. <sup>14</sup>
24 July 1844	At Launceston. <sup>6</sup>
24 December 1844	At Launceston. <sup>6</sup>
8 February 1845	Ticket of Leave granted; gazetted 11 February. <sup>15</sup>
14 September 1847	Free by servitude; Certificate of Freedom available for collection. <sup>16</sup>
21 September 1847	Certificate of Freedom issued. <sup>6</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> *Morning Post*, 16 September 1840 Issue 21729 Article 1 (Emily Turner & Louisa Woolger)

<sup>8</sup> AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah*

<sup>9</sup> ML, CY 1282 p.142 (Emily Turner); ML, CY 1274 p.264 (Emily Turner)

<sup>10</sup> Charles Arthur Esquire was the sitting police magistrate.

<sup>11</sup> TAHO, LC326/1/5 p.135 (Emily Turner)

<sup>12</sup> AJCP, HO 10/5 p.398 No.174 (Emily Turner)

<sup>13</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 12 April 1844 p.426 (Emily Turner)

<sup>14</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 26 July 1844 p.879 (Emily Turner)

<sup>15</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 11 February 1845 p.173 (Emily Turner)

<sup>16</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette*, 7 September 1847 p.894 (Emily Turner)