

Elizabeth Weston *
(*uxor Elizabeth Atterfield*)

POLICE NUMBER 409 ¹	LITERACY read and write imperfectly
TRIAL DATE 17 August 1840	AGE ON EMBARKATION 22
TRIAL PLACE Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey), London	AGE ON ARRIVAL 22
OFFENCE burglary	HEIGHT 5' 5½"
SENTENCE 15 years	COMPLEXION fresh
GAOL REPORT connexions poor, single	HEAD oval
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS 'I deny ever having been in prison before'	HAIR brown
SURGEON'S REPORT good	VISAGE oval
ON THE TOWN no	FOREHEAD medium
MARITAL STATUS single	EYEBROWS brown
CHILDREN 0	EYES light brown
FAMILY	NOSE medium
NATIVE PLACE Newington Butts, England	MOUTH medium
TRADE ON EMBARKATION ²	CHIN dimple
TRADE ON ARRIVAL house servant, wash, plain needlewoman	MARKS lost sight of right eye

c1819

Born at Newington Butts, Southwark, Surrey, England.³

17 August 1840

Tried at the Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey), London, England indicted for burglariously breaking and entering the dwelling house of victualler Charles Davis about 3am on 24 July 1840 at Balls' Gardens, Leather Lane, St Andrew, Holborn with intent to steal and stealing therein 2 watches value £2.15.0, 1 time piece value 15 shillings, 1 handkerchief value 1 shilling, 4 pieces of foreign silver coin value 5 shillings, 2 half crowns, 8 shillings, 16 sixpences, 6 pence, 132 halfpence, and 450 farthings; found guilty; sentence 15 years transportation; aged 22.⁴

Statement of witness Charles Davis:

I am a victualler, and live in Balls'-gardens, Leather-lane, in the parish of St. Andrew, Holborn. On Friday, the 24th of July, I went to bed at one o'clock, leaving all safe – there is a grating in street at the back of the house, which leads to the cellar – it was quite safe that night – the cellar leads to the other parts of the house – I was called up about ten minutes before six o'clock by a private watchman – I came down and saw that the grating was removed so as to admit a person – I then looked in the parlour, and found the press broken open, and two watches and a quantity of farthings taken from it – I missed a time-piece off the mantel-piece, some silver from the shop, and about 20s. in silver besides, amongst which were some old sixpences and coins – I lost great number of Irish harp-farthings, which I had been saving up for years – there was one farthing of the reign of George the Second, and three or four others, which I could positively swear to – (produced) – I swear these are my property – the time-piece, watches, and other property, are quite lost – about three o'clock that afternoon, in consequence of information, I went to the Crown public-house, West-street – the prisoner had been there, but was gone – she had a stall at my door three weeks or a month previous to the robbery, and I had seen her at my house.

*Prisoner. Q. Do you know any thing wrong of me? A. I know nothing of you, except that you lived with one of the persons who were indicted with you, but against whom no bill has been found.*⁴

¹ TAHO, CON40/1/10 p.216 No.409 [image 193] (Elizabeth Weston); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.263 [image 135] (Elizabeth Weston); ML, CY 1282 p.155 (Elizabeth Weston); ML, CY 1197 p.150 (Elizabeth Weston); ML, CY 958 p.440 (Elizabeth Weston)

² At her trial, she stated that she "sells things in the street" and the prosecutor stated "she had a stall at my door three weeks or a month previous to the robbery".

³ TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.263 [image 135] (Elizabeth Weston)

⁴ *Old Bailey Proceedings Online*, t18400817-2149 (Elizabeth Weston)

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

Statement of witness Henry Grant:

*I lodge at Mr. Davis's. I went to bed on the night in question after him – every thing was secure then, the grating and all, for I am very particular in seeing to it.*⁴

Statement of witness Sarah Sheerman:

I live at the Crown public-house, West-street, Saffron-hill. On Saturday, the 25th of July, I saw the prisoner at our house, I think, between eleven and twelve o'clock – there were several others with her – she asked for half-a-pint of gin, a pint of porter, and a pipe of tobacco – it came to 10 1/2 d. – she paid me forty-two farthings – I put them in the bowl along with others – I heard of the robbery between two and three o'clock in the afternoon – the farthings were given up then to Mr. Davis or the officer.

*Prisoner. I did not pay for any tobacco; it was not all in farthings.*⁴

Statement of witness Alexander Benson:

I am pot-boy at the Crown public-house. I saw the prisoner come into the house, and saw her with some farthings in a white handkerchief or bag – there appeared to be a good many – I did not see her pay them.

*Prisoner. It is false; it was bread and cheese I had in the handkerchief.*⁴

Statement of witness Sarah Chandler:

*I live in Greville-street, and let lodgings? The prisoner lodged a short time with a man in my house. On the Wednesday preceding the 25th of July there was some rent due – she told me that day that she would pay me on Saturday morning, and on Saturday she did pay me 3s. 6d. in halfpence and 1s. in silver – she went away on the Sunday – she had lodged there a fortnight.*⁴

Statement of witness Joseph Ginger, Police Constable G 137:

*I apprehended the prisoner, and received this money from the prosecutor – there is a George the second farthing among it – the prisoner said she knew nothing of the robbery, and denied all about the public-house – I received these ninety harp-farthings from Mr. Davis.*⁴

Statement of witness Charles Davis:

*Mr. Davis re-examined. These are part of what I lost.*⁴

Statement of defendant Elizabeth Weston:

*I sell things in the street, and am in the habit of taking great quantities of farthings, and that is how I came by them.*⁴

5 April 1841	Departed Woolwich, England on the <i>Rajah</i> . ⁵
19 July 1841	Arrived at Hobart on the <i>Rajah</i> . ⁵
c24 July 1841	Upon arrival at Hobart, sent to Launceston for assignment. ⁶
31 December 1841	Mustered in the service of Mr JA Denham, Tamar. ⁷
26 January 1842	Application for permission to marry Richard Atterfield ⁸ (free) sent to the Muster Master. ⁹
17 February 1842	Application for permission to marry Richard Atterfield sent to the Secretary; not approved, the female not having been a sufficient time in the colony, may petition again when that time arrives if conduct continues good. ⁹
2 March 1842	Husband-to-be Richard Atterfield eligible to apply for a Certificate of Freedom. ¹⁰
27 July 1842	Application for permission to marry Richard Atterfield (free) sent to the Muster Master. ¹¹
15 August 1842	Application for permission to marry Richard Atterfield sent to the Secretary; approved. ¹¹

⁵ AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah*

⁶ ML, CY 1282 p.142 (Elizabeth Weston); ML, CY 1274 p.264 (Elizabeth Weston)

⁷ AJCP, HO 10/51 p.403 No.409 (Elizabeth Weston)

⁸ Richard Atterfield was transported on the *Asia* in 1836, tried at Middlesex Sessions of the Peace on 2 March 1835 for stealing a copper; single, brickmaker's and farm labourer, aged 22, native place Fulham; Ticket of Leave restored 14 July 1841 (TAHO, CON31/1/2 p.135 No.707 [image 138] (Richard Atterfield), TAHO, CON18/1/4 p.161 [image 84] (Richard Atterfield)).

⁹ TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.78 (Richard Atterfield & Elizabeth Weston)

¹⁰ *Hobart Town Courier*, 18 March 1842 p.5 (Richard Atterfield)

24 September 1842	Married Richard Atterfield at St John's Anglican Church, Launceston; Elizabeth aged 23, convict, single; Richard aged 25, free, single, illiterate; witnesses Thomas Ledger and William Jones (clerk). ¹²
13 December 1844	Charged with being out after hours; sentence 14 days solitary confinement. ¹³
21 February 1845	Classified as a 3 rd class probation pass-holder; gazetted 28 February. ¹⁴
14 August 1845	Ticket of Leave granted; gazetted 19 August. ¹⁵
28 July 1846	Charged with being drunk and out after hours; sentence 1 month hard labour at Cascades Female Factory. ¹⁶
1 August 1846	Husband Richard Atterfield pledged a grotto and case of birds at Matthews' Pawn Office, Patterson Street, Launceston; unredeemed and sold by auction on 29 April 1846. ¹⁷
18 April 1847	Conditional Pardon recommended; gazetted 4 May. ¹⁸
1 July 1848	Conditional Pardon approved upon condition she shall not return to or be found within the country in which she was convicted during the remaining term or her transportation; gazetted 4 July. ¹⁹
17 August 1855	Free by servitude. ¹³

Notes

- Elizabeth may be the Elizabeth Williams who departed Launceston on 18 January 1851 with Thomas Williams bound for Adelaide as steerage passengers on the *Peri*; Elizabeth holding a Conditional Pardon, ship to colony *Rajah*; Thomas free, ship to colony *Elizabeth*.²⁰
- Elizabeth's husband may be the Mr Richard Hatterfield who departed Sydney, NSW on 21 April 1845 for Launceston via Port Fairy, VIC as a passenger on the schooner *Lowestoft*.²¹

¹¹ TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.80 (Rich^d Hattersfield & Elizabeth Weston)

¹² TAHO, RGD37/1/2 1842/1623 Launceston (Richard Atterfield & Elizabeth Weston)

¹³ TAHO, CON40/1/10 p.216 No.409 [image 193] (Elizabeth Weston)

¹⁴ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 28 February 1845 p.232 (Elizabeth Weston)

¹⁵ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 19 August 1845 p.1017 (Elizabeth Weston)

¹⁶ TAHO, CON78/1/3 p.430 (Elizabeth Weston)

¹⁷ *Cornwall Chronicle*, 29 April 1846 p.330 (Richard Atterfield)

¹⁸ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 4 May 1847 p.424 (Elizabeth Weston)

¹⁹ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 4 July 1848 p.591 (Elizabeth Weston)

²⁰ TAHO, POL220/1/1 p.318 (Elizabeth Williams)

²¹ *Sydney Morning Herald*, 21 April 1845 p.2 (Mr Richard Hatterfield)