

Mary Ann Whitmore

(uxor Mary Ann Steers)

POLICE NUMBER 410 ¹	LITERACY neither read nor write
TRIAL DATE 17 August 1840	AGE ON EMBARKATION 28
TRIAL PLACE Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey), London	AGE ON ARRIVAL 28
OFFENCE robbery in stealing money from the person	HEIGHT 5' 2"
SENTENCE 15 years	COMPLEXION fair
GAOL REPORT connexions poor, single	HEAD oval
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS 'never in prison before'	HAIR dark brown
SURGEON'S REPORT ship woman and good	VISAGE oval
ON THE TOWN no	FOREHEAD flat
MARITAL STATUS single	EYEBROWS dark brown
CHILDREN 0	EYES hazel
FAMILY father Michael, mother Elizabeth ¹⁹	NOSE medium
NATIVE PLACE Bristol, England	MOUTH medium
TRADE ON EMBARKATION	CHIN round
TRADE ON ARRIVAL plain cook, laundry maid	MARKS mole on right breast

c1813 **Born** at Bristol, Gloucestershire, England; father Michael Whitmore; mother Elizabeth.²

17 August 1840 Tried at the Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey), London, England indicted for robbery in stealing on 9 August 1840 4 shillings and 1 sixpence from the person of Henry Brown in New Road, London; found guilty; sentence 15 years transportation; aged 28.³

Statement of witness Henry Brown:

I live in Tottenham-street, Tottenham Court-road. On the 9th of August I was in the New-road, just by the rails of Euston-square, about two o'clock in the morning, returning home from a friend's house – I had two half-crowns, 5s. and a 6d. about me – I saw the prisoner coming towards me – when she got within about six yards of me, she suddenly ran, and came with that violence against me, I must have fallen down if I had not laid hold of the rails – she put her hand round my body, under my coat, saying, "I am in great distress, can you relieve me?" – she was off in a moment – I heard money jink in her hand – I put my hand into my pocket, and missed 4s. 6d. – I ran after her, calling, "Stop thief" – I overtook her about thirty yards off, and told her she had robbed me – she said, "What of?" – I said, "4s. 6d." – she put her hand behind her – I tried to catch hold of it – she then put her hand to her bosom – I heard money jink in her hand when it came from her bosom – I took hold of her hand, and held it till I got to the policeman – she said if I did not let her hand go, she would knock ray b – eyes out, and that she had no money in the world – I gave her hand over to the policeman – he asked what she had in her hand – she said "Nothing" – he forced her hand open, and found 2s. 6d. – on the way to the station-house she dropped 1s., which I took up and gave to the policeman.

Prisoner. Q. Did you not follow me, catch hold of me, and want to drag me back to the square? A. No – I did not tell you I would give you 1s. – I did not want you to go with me to the step of a door – it is false – I never touched you till you violently ran against me – I never lost sight of you.³

Statement of witness John Eaton, Police Constable S 193:

I was on duty, and heard the cry of "Stop thief" and "Police" – I ran up and found the prosecutor and prisoner together – he said, "This woman has robbed me of 4s. 6d." – her right hand was clenched – I asked what she had there – she said, "Nothing" – I opened it and found

¹ TAHO, CON40/1/10 p.217 No.410 [image 194] (Mary Ann Whitmore); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.263 [image 135] (Mary Ann Whitmore); ML, CY 1282 p.155 (Mary Ann Whitmore); ML, CY 1197 p.150 (Mary Ann Whitmore); ML, CY 958 p.440 (Mary Ann Whitmore)

² TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.263 [image 135] (Mary Ann Whitmore); VIC Death Certificate 1868/6999

³ *Old Bailey Proceedings Online*, t18400817-1962 (Mary Ann Whitmore)

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2s. 6d. – she then said, “It is a d – d lie, he wanted to go with me, and I would not let him” – on the way to the station-house a shilling dropped from her person, and it was picked up – she then said, “I had three shillings and two sixpences” – there was a fourpenny-piece and fourpence in copper in her pocket, which she said she had got as she went along – they were both sober – she gave two or three different accounts going to the station-house.

Prisoner’s Defence. He asked me to go with him – I said I would not – he offered me 1s. – I said it was too little – he dragged me by main force, and wanted me to go with him to the step of a door – I said, “Why not take me to a house, if you want me?” – he said, “Where is there a house?” – I said, “There are plenty close by here” – he said, “I will give you a shilling, which is all I have got” – I said, “Give it to me” – he would not, and wanted to force me down at the step of a door – I ran away, and he hallooed out that I had robbed him – I said I would show him all I had – I pulled out my money – he caught hold of my hand, and tried to wrench it from me – I called the police first.³

Statement of witness Henry Brown:

Henry Brown re-examined. We were not within a hundred yards of any door.³

Newspaper report of crime:

MARYLEBONE. – Yesterday a decently-dressed woman, named Mary Ann Whitmore, was placed at the bar, charged by Mr. Henry Brown, jewel-case maker, 3, Tottenham-street, Tottenham-court-road, with the following highway robbery: –

Prosecutor stated that on the same morning, about two o’clock, as he was proceeding along the New-road, having just left the house of a friend in Denton-street, the prisoner ran violently against him, saying, “I’m in great poverty, and I want you to relieve me;” in an instant she thrust her hand into his trousers pocket, from which she took some money, and then ran off; finding that he had been robbed of 4s. 6., he pursued her, crying “Stop thief,” and at the distance of 30 or 40 yards came up with her, when he gave her into the custody of a police-constable; she declared that she had no money about her, but the constable found 10s. 6d. firmly grasped in her hand, and on the way to the station-house another 1s. dropped from some part of her clothing.

The above evidence was corroborated by the policeman alluded to.

The prisoner was fully committed to Newgate for trial.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, detained on board for assignment; assigned to Mr Arthur Perry Esquire.⁶
30 September 1841 Charged with being absent without leave from the service of Mr Perry; sentence 2 months at the wash tub at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.⁷
31 December 1841 Mustered in the service of Mr J Johnson, Hobart.⁸
1 April 1842 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on the complaint of her mistress Mrs Johnson with misconduct in absenting herself without leave yesterday; plea guilty; reprimanded and returned to her service.⁹
27 July 1842 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart with being drunk on 25 July on arriving at the Brickfields Barracks (Hiring Depot), sent from the service of Mr Johnson, Patrick Street, Hobart; sentence 6 months hard labour at the wash tub at Cascades Female Factory.¹⁰
Ann Scott (*Nautilus*) charged with the same offence, same sentence; in the service of Mr Symmonds, Collins Street, Hobart.¹⁰

⁴ *Standard*, 11 August 1840 Issue 5037 (Mary Ann Whitmore)

⁵ AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah*

⁶ ML, CY 1274 p.264 (Mary Ann Whitmore)

⁷ TAHO, CON40/1/10 p.217 No.410 [image 194] (Mary Ann Whitmore)

⁸ AJCP, HO 10/51 p.404 No.410 (Mary Ann Whitmore)

⁹ TAHO, AC480/1/1, 1 April 1842 (Mary Ann Whitmore)

¹⁰ TAHO, AC480/1/1, 27 July 1842 (Ann Scott & Mary Whitmore)

Statement of witness Mr George Brooks:

On Monday afternoon last I received the two women persons from the Messenger about ½ past 4 o'clock, they both drunk. Scott was much worse than the other as she could scarcely stand. I questioned the Messenger who stated that he had not given them anything to drink on the Road that they were drunk on being given to him at the Office, which he remarked at the time and the watch keeper said they had had nothing but coffee.¹⁰

Statement of witness Detective Constable Binn:

I was present on Monday last when the two women were given to the Messenger in the watch house, they were then both as sober as they are now. They asked whether they were to ride I said no get along with your bundles.¹⁰

Statement of witness John Stoker:

I am watch house keeper, and on Monday last these two women had some coffee but nothing more. I am sure they had not spirits.¹⁰

- 25 April 1843 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on complaint of her master Thomas Horne Esquire with misconduct in being absent all night without leave; reprimanded.¹¹
- 15 June 1843 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart by Constable Turner with misconduct in refusing to give a proper account of herself and making use of improper language in the service of Mr Horne, Fitzroy Crescent, Hobart; no sentence.¹²
- 4 December 1843 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart by Constable Anderson with misconduct in being absent all night without leave from the service of Mrs Ross, Brisbane Street, Hobart; sentence 6 days in solitary confinement at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.¹³
- 6 May 1844 Application for permission to marry William Steers¹⁴ (free) sent to the Muster Master.¹⁵
- 7 May 1844 Application for permission to marry William Steers sent to the Secretary; approved.¹⁵
- 30 May 1844 Notice given of approval for permission to marry William Steers; Mary Ann in private service at Hobart; William free.¹⁶
- 8 July 1844 **Married** William Steers at St David's Anglican Church, Hobart; Mary Ann aged 28, convict, spinster, illiterate; William aged 33, hop grower, bachelor, illiterate; witnesses W Giles and James Sly (clerk).¹⁷
- 18 April 1845 Ticket of Leave granted; gazetted 22 April.¹⁸
- 28 May 1845 Charged with being drunk; fined 5 shillings.⁷
- 12 June 1848 Charged with being out after hours and drunk; sentence 2 months hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.⁷
- 21 September 1852 Recommended for a Conditional Pardon.⁷
- 29 October 1852 Charged with being drunk; fined 5 shillings.⁷
- 14 April 1854 Charged with disturbing the peace; sentence 7 days in cells at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.⁷
- 15 April 1854 At Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.⁷
- 24 April 1854 Sent to her husband William Steers, Murray Street, Hobart.⁷
- 17 August 1855 Free by servitude.⁷
- 29 August 1855 Certificate of Freedom issued.⁷

¹¹ TAHO, AC480/1/1, 25 April 1843 (Mary Ann Whitmore)

¹² TAHO, AC480/1/1, 15 June 1843 (Mary Ann Whitmore)

¹³ TAHO, AC480/1/1, 4 December 1843 (Mary A Whitmore)

¹⁴ This is likely to have been William Steer who was transported for 14 years on the *York* in 1829; tried at Surrey on 27 December 1828 for receiving stolen goods; single, aged 19, hop grower, native place Farnham; Conditional Pardon 6 January 1841, Certificate of Freedom 1842 (TAHO, CON31/1/38 p.348 No.1038 [image 352] (Will^m Steer), TAHO, CON18/1/1 p.320 [image 167] (William Steer)).

¹⁵ TAHO, CON 52/1/2 p.426 (Wm Steers & Mary A Whitman)

¹⁶ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 7 June 1844 p.616; 14 June 1844 p.644; 21 June 1844 p.685 (William Steers & Mary Ann Whitmore)

¹⁷ TAHO, RGD37/1/3 1844/1095 Hobart (William Steers & Mary Ann Whitmore)

¹⁸ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 22 April 1845 p.516 (Mary Ann Whitmore)

Mary Ann Whitmore

- 28 July 1868 **Died** of debility in the Benevolent Asylum, North Melbourne, VIC; aged 50, laundress, father Michael Whitmore, mother Elizabeth, born London, England, 26 years in Victoria, married but particulars not known, no issue.¹⁹
- 29 July 1868 Buried at Melbourne General Cemetery, VIC.¹⁹

Notes

- Mary Ann's husband is likely to be the William Steer who died in 1875 in Victoria; aged 59, born Surrey, father James, mother Mary.²⁰
- Mary Ann's husband may be the W Steer who was enquired about by Mrs Steer, 18 Charlotte Street, Old S Road, London on 14 March 1854, no ship given, enquiry returned 25 July 1854.²¹

¹⁹ VIC Death Certificate 1868/6999 (Mary Ann Steir)

²⁰ VIC Death Record 1875/10996 (William Steer)

²¹ TAHO, GO121/1/1 (W Steer)