

*Maria Wicks**
(*uxor Maria Andrews*)

POLICE NUMBER 415 ¹	LITERACY neither read nor write
TRIAL DATE 4 January 1841	AGE ON EMBARKATION 21
TRIAL PLACE Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey), London	AGE ON ARRIVAL 22
OFFENCE coining	HEIGHT 4' 6"
SENTENCE 15 years	COMPLEXION fair
GAOL REPORT poor, single	HEAD oval
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS 3 times in prison before, once discharged for being disorderly, 3 days for passing bad money	HAIR dark brown
SURGEON'S REPORT quiet	VISAGE sharp
ON THE TOWN no	FOREHEAD medium
MARITAL STATUS single	EYEBROWS brown
CHILDREN 0	EYES dark brown
FAMILY	NOSE pointed
NATIVE PLACE Somers Town, London, England	MOUTH medium
TRADE ON EMBARKATION	CHIN round
TRADE ON ARRIVAL housemaid, needlewoman – make shirts	MARKS J on left arm, H on right arm

c1819

Born at Somers Town, London, Middlesex, England.²

4 January 1841

Tried at the Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey), London, England with John (Jem) Perkins³ indicted for coining in feloniously making 1 piece of false and counterfeit coin intended to resemble and pass for a current shilling at 3 Church Street, St Giles, London; found guilty; sentence 15 years transportation; aged 21.⁴

Statement of witness William Penney:

I am a police-inspector of G division. On the 29th of December I went, in company with Redman, Farrow, and Humphreys, to No. 3, Church-street, St. Giles's, and found the street-door open, I went up to the first floor front-room, which I found locked inside – I forced it open, and saw the prisoner Wicks sitting on a bed, quite close to a large clear fire – Perkins was standing up by the fire with a mould in his left hand, and a saucepan full of hot metal in his right hand – he dropped both – Wicks called out, "Jem, you b – r, break it, you b – r, smash it" – Perkins had the mould under his feet at the time, and ground it to powder, except a few bits, which went right and left of his feet – on the fire was a small pot, red hot, without a handle, nearly full of white metal in a liquid state – I took it off – it was hot, and I dropped it on the ashes – both the prisoners kicked it under the bed – I took it up, and produce the contents, which were strewed about – I afterwards lifted up a loose board on the landing, just outside the door, and found a mould there for a half-crown of George III. – Perkins said it was not his, and he knew nothing about it –

Perkins. Q. Is not the other room nearer to the place the mould was, than mine? A. There is a room on the same landing as near, but not nearer – your door was locked – I tried to open it – you said yourself, I must have given it a fine kick, for the staple was in such a way.⁴

Statement of witness Henry Redman:

I am a policeman. I accompanied Penney to the house – the room door was fastened inside – I did not hear the prisoner make any remark about the staple – I saw the door tried before it was forced, and we were obliged to make a regular rush before it opened – I found Perkins standing by the fire, and Wicks sitting on a bedstead close to the fire – Perkins let

¹ TAHO, CON40/1/10 p.218 No.415 [image 195] (Maria Wicks); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.266 [image 136] (Maria Wicks); ML, CY 1282 p.155 (Maria Wicks); ML, CY 1197 p.152 (Maria Wicks); ML, CY 958 p.441 (Maria Wicks)

² TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.266 [image 136] (Maria Wicks)

³ John Perkins, aged 22, was also found guilty and sentenced to 15 years' transportation. He was transported on the *Layton* in 1841; single, labourer, aged 23, native place London: TAHO, CON33/1/10 No.2384 [image 168] (John Perkins); TAHO, CON14/1/7 No.2384 pp.44-45 [images 46-47] (John Perkins)

⁴ *Old Bailey Proceedings Online*, t18410104-449 (John Perkins & Maria Wicks)

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something fall from his hand like a white mould – he put his foot on it before I could get hold of it – I saw the pot of white metal – an iron spoon fell from Perkins – it was quite hot – I found some white metal in the cinders, and a counterfeit shilling, quite hot, which I produce – I found part of a Britannia-metal spoon on a table near the fire-place – on the mantel-piece was an old pair of scissors – I saw Penney take the pot from the fire – I picked part of it up from under the bed – it was still hot – both the prisoners attempted to kick it, and Wicks called to Jem to break it.⁴

Statement of witness Benjamin Farrow, Police Constable G 200:

I went with the other officers – I picked up part of a mould in front of the fire-place, on the floor – there were four or five pieces of a mould there – there was an impression on only one piece – a great deal was crushed to powder – on a shelf on the right hand of the fire-place I found a quantity of plaster-of-Paris in brown paper, and on the same shelf a cake of white metal, cold, which had been melted.⁴

Statement of witness Daniel Humphries:

I accompanied the witnesses to the house, and saw the mould found under the board on the landing – I found four counterfeit sixpences under the next board, quite handy to the mould.⁴

Statement of witness Richard Langley:

The house the officers went to belongs to me – I let it out – I let the front room, first-floor, about eight months ago, to a young woman who gave the name, of “Perkins” – she lived there with the prisoner, as her husband – he has paid me the rent about half a dozen times – I let it at 7d. a-night, to be paid every night – I generally send over for the rent, but sometimes Mrs. Perkins brought it – Wicks is an acquaintance of Mrs. Perkins’s – I have seen them a great deal together – I have seen her in the room with both Perkins and his wife.

Perkins. Q. Was there a lock on my room? A. There was a bolt and latch on every room – the board which was taken up is rather nearer to your room than the other, I think, if there is any difference – the end of the board comes against the front room door – any thing could be put there without going into your room – one Smith lived in the back room – I believe he removed there a day or two after the officers came.⁴

Statement of witness John Field:

I am inspector of counterfeit coin to the Mint – (examining the articles produced) – here are two or three small pieces of plaster-of-Paris, which I believe have formed part of a mould – on one piece I find a small part of what I believe to be the impression of the dexter part of the shield, the three lions, and a portion of the Hanoverian crown – here is a cast counterfeit shilling in an unfinished state, and some white metal of a similar description to the shilling, which is Britannia metal – the shilling is of Geo. III., and has the Hanoverian crown corresponding with this portion of the mould – here is a small pipkin or blacking-pot, with similar white metal – this iron spoon appears to have been used to fill the mould – it is tapered at the point to make a channel, and some white metal adhering to it – here is some plaster-of-Paris in powder, of which moulds are generally made – this part of a spoon has been melted – scissors are used to cut off the gets – here are four counterfeit sixpences cast in white metal, and a complete mould for half-crowns, which appears to have been very much used; it is perfect, and has white metal now remaining in it – it is much discoloured with heat.⁴

Statement of defendant John Perkins:

Perkins. I hope you will consider it is my first offence.⁴

Statement of defendant Maria Wicks:

Wicks. It is my first offence.⁴

Newspaper report of crime:

Information having been received by the police that a gang of coiners were in the habit of assembling at a house situate No. 3, Church-street, St. Giles’s, where they carried on an extensive trade, yesterday afternoon, at about half-past three o’clock, Inspector Penny, Humphries, 74, Redman, 224, Farrar, 200, and Reynolds, a constable of Clerkenwell, proceeded thither, when they burst into the house, and on proceeding to the first-floor front room, they discovered a man and woman seated before a large clear fire, which had a crucible and pot upon it, and they were in the act of melting a quantity of metal. They were surrounded by metal spoons, moulds, and implements for manufacturing counterfeit coin. On

the officers entering the apartments the man upset the pot on the fire, on which the female exclaimed, "Jim, you b — —, break it," when Jim threw down a mould of plaster of Paris and trampled upon it, but the officers collected the pieces, and on placing them together they found that it corresponded with a hot base shilling, which had evidently been recently made in it. The whole of the implements were seized, and the prisoners secured, but they made a violent resistance, especially the female, whom Reynolds could scarcely hold whilst they were securing her. On searching the place a quantity of base money was found concealed under the flooring, and also a mould for the purpose of manufacturing half-crowns. The prisoners were led from the house by the officers, who were pursued by the lower orders of that neighbourhood, and they met with some rough usage, and were pelted, and a cry to rescue was raised; but they at length succeeded in placing the prisoners in a hackney-coach, and ultimately conveyed them to the bar of Hatton-garden police-office, before Mr. Combe, where they gave their names John Parkins and Maria Wicks, and the officers produced the whole of the property which they had found in the place. The prisoners (the man about 22, and the woman, a diminutive person, 20), treated the matter with the greatest indifference, and said nothing in their defence. Mr. Combe remanded them, with directions that the officer should communicate with the solicitor to the Mint, and the prisoners were ultimately conveyed in the police-van to the New Prison.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 Mr J Scott, Launceston.⁸
- 8 September 1842 Absconded from the service of Mr J Brooks, Launceston.⁹
- 10 September 1842 Charged with being absent without leave from the service of Brooks; sentence 1 month hard labour in the Crime Class at Launceston Female Factory.¹⁰
- 5 December 1842 Application for permission to marry James Andrews¹¹ (free) sent to the Muster Master.¹²
- 17 December 1842 Application for permission to marry James Andrews sent to the Secretary; not approved on account of the female's conduct.¹²
- 15 February 1843 Application for permission to marry James Andrews (free) sent to the Muster Master.¹³
- 7 March 1843 Application for permission to marry James Andrews sent to the Secretary; approved.¹³
- 16 March 1843 Notice given of approval for permission to marry James Andrews; Maria a prisoner at Launceston; James free.¹⁴
- 12 April 1843 **Married** James Andrews at St John's Anglican Church, Launceston; Maria aged 21, prisoner, single, illiterate; James aged 25, free, single, illiterate; witnesses William Hewlett and William Jones (clerk).¹⁵
- 8¹⁶ November 1844 Charged at the Police Court, Campbell Town with representing herself to be free on 6 November; plea guilty; verdict guilty; sentence 3 days in solitary confinement.¹⁷

⁵ *Standard*, 30 December 1840 Issue 5158 Article 1 (Maria Wicks)

⁶ AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah*

⁷ ML, CY 1282 p.142 (Maria Wicks); ML, CY 1274 p.264 (Maria Wicks)

⁸ AJCP, HO 10/51 p.404 No.415 (Maria Wicks)

⁹ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 16 September 1842 p.796 (Maria Wicks)

¹⁰ TAHO, CON40/1/10 p.218 No.415 [image 195] (Maria Wicks)

¹¹ This may be James Andrews transported for 7 years on the *Lord Lyndoch* in 1836; tried at Middlesex (Westminster) Sessions of the Peace on 20 August 1835 for larceny from the person; single, labourer, aged 21, native place London; Certificate of Freedom 1842; charged on 10 August 1844 with larceny, admitted to bail (TAHO, CON31/1/2 p.143 No.733 [image 146] (James Andrews), TAHO, CON18/1/13 p.265 No.733 [image 144] (James Andrews)).

¹² TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.2 (James Andrews & Maria Wicks)

¹³ TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.3 (James Andrews & Maria Wicks)

¹⁴ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 17 March 1843 p.280; 24 March 1843 p.311; 31 March 1843 p.336 (Andrew James & Maria Wicks)

¹⁵ TAHO, RGD37/1/3 1843/137 Launceston (James Andres & Maria Hicks)

¹⁶ Date given as 7 November 1844 on conduct record (TAHO, CON40/1/10 p.218 No.415 [image 195] (Maria Wicks)).

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11 November 1844	Received a pass at Campbell Town to proceed to Launceston; had not yet reported herself on 29 November; aged 25, ticket-of-leave holder ^{18,19}
21 February 1845	Classified as a 3 rd class probation pass-holder; gazetted 28 February. ²⁰
1 November 1845	Ticket of Leave granted; gazetted 4 November. ²¹
22 November 1846	At Launceston. ¹⁰
12 February 1847	At Launceston. ¹⁰
12 March 1847	Conditional Pardon recommended; gazetted 16 March. ²²
23 December 1847	Charged with using obscene language; fined 5 shillings. ¹⁰
16 January 1849	Conditional Pardon approved. ¹⁰
4 January 1856	Free by servitude. ¹⁰

Notes

- Maria may be the mother of William Hitchmough born on 28 September 1847 at Launceston; mother Maria Wicks; informant father William Hitchmough, painter, resident of Little Franklin Street, Launceston.²³ He was baptised on 22 December 1847 at Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Launceston.²⁴ No marriage has been found for Maria Wicks and William Hitchmough.
- If so, then Maria was also the mother of Robert Hitchmough born on 19 December 1851 at Launceston; father William Hitchmough, painter; mother Maria Wicks; informant William Austin, friend, resident of Little Franklin Street, Launceston.²⁵
- Maria's husband may be the James Andrews who died in 1858 in Victoria; aged 36, born England.²⁶
- Maria's husband may be the James Andrews for which an inquest was held on 16 December 1845 at the *Rob Roy Hotel*, Lincoln before Francis Hartweel Henslowe Esquire, coroner. Verdict: accidentally suffocated and drowned on going into the Macquarie River to bathe.²⁷

Statement of witness Thomas Gallagher:

I reside at Cleveland I am a Brickmaker I have seen the body of James Andrews upon which this inquest is now sitting I have known the deceased about four weeks I was in his company on Sunday last the fourteenth instant down to the Macquarie river with deceased for the purpose of bathing – the deceased undressed in my company, between eight and nine o'clock in the morning – the deceased was perfectly sober – he was in good health I saw him go into the water – he swam for a few yards then turned to swim back, I saw him turn upon his back make a struggle and go down he did not say a word – I then stripped and went in – I can swim a little and I thought I could have saved his life if he had come up again, he was so close to the edge – but he did not come up again – the deceased was an inferior swimmer – Mr. Mozley was within call on the opposite side of the river – he came to me, he then ran home and brought two men down – In the afternoon I procured drags and dragged for the body, Mr Robert Taylor, Mr Mozley Two Constables and several others were present with me assisting I could not succeed on the Sunday. I recommenced the search on Monday Morning with the Two Constables Mr Mozley and another man, and found the body of the deceased James Andrews between Ten and Eleven o'clock – the deceased was in his usual spirit – the deceased told me he had had his breakfast the deceased was perfectly naked when he went into the water – I drew him up within a quarter of a yard of where he went down, when the body was drawn up I observed wounds in both eyes which appeared to have been inflicted by the hooks.²⁷

¹⁷ TAHO, LC83/1/6 p.172 (Maria Wicks)

¹⁸ Maria was not holding a Ticket of Leave at this time, she was a probation pass-holder.

¹⁹ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 3 December 1844 pp.1468–1469 (Maria Wicks)

²⁰ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 28 February 1845 p.232 (Maria Wicks)

²¹ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 4 November 1845 p.1386 (Maria Wicks)

²² *Hobart Town Gazette*, 16 March 1847 p.269 (Maria Wicks)

²³ TAHO, RGD33/1/23 1847/1837 Launceston (male Hitchmough); TAHO, NS1735/1/2 p.29 No.284 (William Hitchmough)

²⁴ TAHO, NS1735/1/2 p.29 No.284 (William Hitchmough)

²⁵ TAHO, RGD33/1/25 1851/3385 Launceston (Robert Hitchmough)

²⁶ VIC Death Record 1858/8515 (James Andrews)

²⁷ TAHO, SC195/1/17 No.1353 (James Andrews)

Maria Wicks

Statement of witness Robert Mozley:

I reside at Lincoln I am a Shoemaker I have seen the body of James Andrews upon which this inquest is now sitting – the deceased was in my service ...²⁷

Statement of witness John Travis Leake:

I am a duly qualified Medical Practitioner and reside at Rosedale near Campbell town ...²⁷