

Jane Wilson

(proper name Jane Mercamp; uxor Jane Whitehead)

POLICE NUMBER 412 ¹	LITERACY read and write imperfectly
TRIAL DATE 23 November 1840	AGE ON EMBARKATION 21
TRIAL PLACE Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey), London	AGE ON ARRIVAL 21
OFFENCE stealing money from the person	HEIGHT 4' 11½"
SENTENCE 10 years	COMPLEXION fair
GAOL REPORT 6 weeks in the House of Correction before, poor, widow, 3 children	HEAD round
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS once in prison 14 days	HAIR brown
SURGEON'S REPORT assistant in hospital and good	VISAGE oval
ON THE TOWN no	FOREHEAD retreating
MARITAL STATUS married ²	EYEBROWS light brown, thin
CHILDREN 3	EYES hazel
FAMILY	NOSE medium
NATIVE PLACE Paris, France	MOUTH medium
TRADE ON EMBARKATION	CHIN round
TRADE ON ARRIVAL cook (brought up by her father as a cook)	MARKS deeply pockpitted, stout made

c1820

Born at Paris, France.³

23 November 1840

Tried at the Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey), London, England indicted for larceny from the person in stealing on 7 November 1840 1 purse value 3 pence, 1 half crown, and 8 shillings from the person of musician John Piggott, Lamb's Conduit Street, London; found guilty; sentence 10 years transportation; aged 21.⁴

Statement of witness John Piggott:

I am a musician. Between two and three o'clock in the morning of the 7th of November I had been taking a little with some friends, and I met the prisoner about half way down Lamb's Conduit-street – she asked me to treat her to a glass of ale – I said there was no place open – I walked a few yards, and left her; and found I had lost my purse, containing eight shillings and a half-crown, from one of my trowsers' pockets – I taxed her with it – she had walked close to me for a few yards – I cannot say on which side she was – I called a policeman, who took the purse and money from her hand in my presence – this is the purse.⁴

Statement of witness John Crispin Rawley:

I am a police-inspector. The prosecutor called to me, and said the prisoner had robbed him of hit purse and 15s. – I saw her about to conceal something she had in her hand – I seized her hand, and took this purse from her – I then took her to the station-house.⁴

Statement of defendant Jane Wilson:

I saw the prosecutor at the corner of Lamb's Conduit-passage, about five minutes before, talking to another female, and saying she had robbed him of his purse; he overtook me, and asked where I was going, and said I had robbed him of his purse and 15s.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 Government House.⁶

15 September 1841

Mentioned in Lady Jane Franklin's diary.

¹ TAHO, CON40/1/10 p.217 No.412 [image 194] (Jane Wilson); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.264 [image 135] (Jane Wilson); ML, CY 1282 p.155 (Jane Wilson); ML, CY 1197 p.152 (Jane Wilson); ML, CY 958 p.441 (Jane Wilson)

² Marital status given as single on Embarkation List (ML, CY 1197 p.152 (Jane Wilson)).

³ TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.264 [image 135] (Jane Wilson)

⁴ *Old Bailey Proceedings Online*, t18401123-104 (Jane Wilson)

⁵ AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah*

⁶ ML, CY 1282 p.140 (Jane Wilson); ML, CY 1274 p.264 (Jane Wilson)

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- Diary entry:
*went to Factory – Miss Hayter was coming away – our Wilson had just been sent in – was in yds – got her put in separate cell.*⁷
- 17 September 1841 Charged with misconduct in service at Government House; sentence 3 days in solitary confinement at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart, then returned to Government House.⁸
- 27 September 1841 Mentioned in Lady Jane Franklin’s diary.
Diary entry:
*I drove to the Factory to prepare Me. Hutchinson to receive Margaret Callaghan,⁹ the Laundress who immediately on hearing of Wilson’s return from the Factory, determined that she would do what she could to earn a visit to it also, & is now in the Watchhouse preparatory to being brought into court for her sentence.*¹⁰
- 31 December 1841 Mustered in the service of SR Dawson Esquire, Clarence Plains.¹¹
- 10 July 1843 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on the complaint of Constable Andrews with an unknown offence; in the service of Dr Bright; discharged.¹²
- 15 August 1843 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on complaint of her master with being drunk and insolent last night; in the service of Dr Bright, Macquarie Street, Hobart; plea guilty; reprimanded and discharged.¹³
- 15 February 1844 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart by Constable Long with being drunk and disorderly yesterday in the service of Mr Carter, New Town; sentence 6 days in solitary confinement at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.¹⁴
- 27 February 1844 Classified as a 2nd class probation pass-holder; gazetted 1 March.¹⁵
- 5 March 1844 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart by her master with being drunk and insolent on Sunday 3 March and using bad language in the taming of the children; in the service of Mr Carter, New Town; plea guilty; sentence 3 months hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.¹⁶
- 29 July 1844 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart by Constable William Greentree with misconduct in using obscene language and abusing the Constable on his way to the watch house and being drunk; in the service of Mr Ashton, Liverpool Street, Hobart; plea not guilty; sentence 3 months hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.¹⁷
Statement of Constable William Greentree:
*This woman was not sober when I apprehended her, she called us “Bloody Traps” and used other disgusting language on her way to the watchhouse.*¹⁷
- 31 July 1844 Hired in private service as a probation pass-holder to Henry Ashton, Hobart.¹⁸
- 31 August 1844 Promoted from a 2nd class to a 3rd class probation pass-holder; gazetted 6 September.¹⁹
- 23 September 1844 **Son** William Wilson born at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.²⁰
- 29 September 1844 Son William Wilson baptised at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart by Robert Wilson, Chaplain; mother Jane Wilson, ship to colony *Rajah*.²⁰

⁷ SPRI, MS248/92 (Wilson)

⁸ TAHO, CON40/1/10 p.217 No.412 [image 194] (Jane Wilson)

⁹ This was shipmate Margaret Callaghan.

¹⁰ SPRI, MS248/92 (Wilson)

¹¹ AJCP, HO 10/51 p.404 No.412 (Jane Wilson)

¹² TAHO, AC480/1/1, 10 July 1843 (Jane Wilson)

¹³ TAHO, AC480/1/1, 15 August 1843 (Jane Wilson)

¹⁴ TAHO, AC480/1/1, 15 February 1844 (Jane Wilson)

¹⁵ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 1 March 1844 p.266 (Jane Wilson)

¹⁶ TAHO, AC480/1/1, 5 March 1844 (Jane Wilson)

¹⁷ TAHO, AC480/1/1, 29 July 1844 (Jane Wilson)

¹⁸ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 2 August 1844 p.914 (Jane Wilson)

¹⁹ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 6 September 1844 p.1075 (Jane Wilson)

²⁰ QVMAG, Baptisms solemnized in the Female House of Correction, Hobart Town, VDL (William Wilson)

- 5 December 1844 Hired in private service for 3 months as a probation pass-holder to JW Davis, *Waverley Park*.²¹
- 7 January 1845 Hired in private service for 3 months as a probation pass-holder to John Shadwick, Collins Street, Hobart.²²
- 5 March 1845 Hired in private service for 12 months as a probation pass-holder to Eliza Hackett, Murray Street, Hobart.²³
- 8 July 1845 Hired in private service for 3 months as a probation pass-holder to Rosetta Rheuben, New Town Road, Hobart.²⁴
- 1 November 1845 Ticket of Leave granted; gazetted 4 November.²⁵
- 9 April 1847 Application for permission to marry William Whitehead²⁶ (free) sent to the Secretary; approved.²⁷
- 10 April 1847 Notice given of approval for permission to marry William Whitehead; Jane holding a Ticket of Leave, resident of Hobart; William free, resident of Hobart.²⁸
- 10 May 1847 **Married** William Whitehead at Bethesda Anglican Church, Hobart; Jane aged 26, spinster; William aged 35, labourer; witnesses William Thompson and Mary Nash.²⁹
- 16 June 1847 Conditional Pardon recommended; gazetted 22 June.³⁰
- 22 August 1848 Conditional Pardon approved.⁸
- 22 June 1854 At the Colonial Hospital, Hobart.⁸
- 30 August 1854 Admitted to the Asylum for the Insane, New Norfolk for mania; aged 32, free by servitude, ship to colony *Rajah*.³¹
- 1 December 1854 Observation of doctor:
*Much improved. Very tractable and useful ...ing on various subjects. Notes that she is always knocked about by some imaginary person or other. Bowel health good.*³¹
- 1 January 1855 Observation of doctor:
*In good bodily health, useful, quiet, tractable, same delusions ... demented mutters that her husband may be killed his horse and cart sold &c.*³¹
- 1 February 1855 Observation of doctor:
*Quiet, orderly, feels of delusions of various kinds with interval of rational conversation, useful.*³¹
- 4 March 1855 Observation of doctor:
*In the same state as last report.*³¹
- 1 April 1855 Observation of doctor:
*The same delusions, health good.*³¹

²¹ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 24 December 1844 p.1540 (Jane Wilson)

²² *Hobart Town Gazette*, 28 January 1845 p.113 (Jane Wilson)

²³ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 1 April 1845 p.442 (Jane Wilson)

²⁴ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 29 July 1845 p.937 (Jane Wilson)

²⁵ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 4 November 1845 p.1386 (Jane Wilson)

²⁶ There are two possibilities for William as a convict. A William Whitehead was transported for life on the *Red Rover* in 1831; tried at Leicester Assizes on 6 August 1830 for street robbery (as stated by Wm Bradley); single, wool comber, aged 29, deaf and dumb, mouth awry, native place Nottingham, Protestant, illiterate; Ticket of Leave 18 February 1843, Conditional Pardon 9 January 1849, taken up 9 February 1849; at Launceston in June 1847; tried at Launceston Supreme Court on 7 January 1864 for larceny, verdict not sane, ordered to be removed to Lunatic Depot Port Arthur during Her Majesty's pleasure (papers in Sheriff's office) (TAHO, CON31/1/46 p.88 No.1204 [image 91] (William Whitehead), TAHO, CON34/1/3 p.58 No.1204 [image 63] (William Whitehead), TAHO, MM33/1/22 *Red Rover* No.1204 (Wm Whitehead), TAHO, CON18/1/22 [image 200] (Wm Whitehead)).

Another William Whitehead alias Robert Young alias Thomson was transported for 7 years on the *York* in 1829; tried at Perth on 8 September 1828 for stealing in a dwelling house; single, aged 16, tailor's boy (18 months), native place Edinburgh, Protestant, read not write, proper name Robert Young (TAHO, CON31/1/45 p.22 No.64 [image 368] (Robert Young alias W^m Whitehead alias Thomson), TAHO, CON18/1/1 p.341 No.64 [image 177] (Robert Young alias W^m Whitehead alias Thomson); TAHO, MM33/1 *York* No.64 (Robert Young alias William Whitehead alias Thomson)).

²⁷ TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.397 (Wm Whitehead & Jane Wilson)

²⁸ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 13 April 1847 p.351 (William Whitehead & Jane Wilson)

²⁹ TAHO, RGD37/1/6 1847/799 Hobart (William Whitehead & Jane Wilson)

³⁰ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 22 June 1847 p.566 (Jane Wilson)

³¹ TAHO, HSD52/1/1 Folio 1 (Jane Wilson or Whitbread)

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1 May 1855	Observation of doctor: <i>The same in all respects.</i> ³¹
24 May 1855	Observation of doctor: <i>Menses. The same as before.</i> ³¹
12 June 1855	Observation of doctor: <i>Menses. In good bodily health.</i> ³¹
3 July 1855	Observation of doctor: <i>... bursts[?] of ... anger and in ... language[?] destroys her shoes ... will not wear ... shoes.</i> ³¹
17 July 1855	Observation of doctor: <i>Menses.</i> ³¹
11 August 1855	Observation of doctor: <i>In good health. Mind the same, delusions varied.</i> ³¹
1 September 1855	Observation of doctor: <i>The same in all respects.</i> ³¹
8 October 1855	Observation of doctor: <i>Health appears good. Incoherent but improving.</i> ³¹
6 November 1855	Observation of doctor: <i>Improved, talks sometimes rationally for a few minutes and then lapses into incoherence.</i> ³¹
6 December 1855	Observation of doctor: <i>Variable sometimes appears better and rational at others violent and incoherent.</i> ³¹
9 January 1856	Observation of doctor until 16 February: <i>The same.</i> ³¹
13 March 1856	Observation of doctor: <i>On the whole much improved lately.</i> ³¹
16 April 1856	Observation of doctor: <i>Is on the whole a good deal better but occasionally lapses into incoherence and fancies she has been engaged here as Matron or some other responsible position.</i> ³²
16 May 1856	Observation of doctor until 10 June: <i>The same.</i> ³²
22 July 1856	Observation of doctor: <i>Conduct quiet and orderly but importunate for her discharge.</i> ³²
21 August 1856	Observation of doctor until 25 September: <i>The same.</i> ³²
24 October 1856	Observation of doctor: <i>The day before yesterday this woman threw her tea and sugar into the fire in my presence and was ordered into seclusion when she ran to a window and broke nine panes of glass. In the cells in seclusion.</i> ³²
27 November 1856	Observation of doctor: <i>Is tolerably amenable at present but refuses to do needle work.</i> ³²
28 December 1856	Observation of doctor: <i>Has continued amenable from last entry with some slight ... of temper.</i> ³²
27 January 1857	Observation of doctor: <i>In the cells for another violent outburst of temper.</i> ³²
24 February 1857	Observation of doctor: <i>Still kept in the cells, temper very uncertain.</i> ³²
25 March 1857	Observation of doctor until 26 May: <i>The same.</i> ³²
24 June 1857	Observation of doctor: <i>In seclusion for violent conduct.</i> ³²

³² TAHO, HSD52/1/1 Folio 111 (Jane Wilson or Whitbread)

- 27 July 1857 Observation of doctor:
*No longer violent but sullen & refuses to do any thing.*³²
- 25 August 1857 Observation of doctor:
*Refuses to be employed but quiet.*³²
- 28 September 1857 Observation of doctor until 27 January 1858:
*The same.*³²
- 24 February 1858 Observation of doctor:
*Quiet and orderly.*³²
- 29 March 1858 Observation of doctor until 29 September:
*The same.*³²
- 30 October 1858 Observation of doctor:
*Conduct generally quiet and orderly but at no time believes she is not in some ... here.*³³
- 25 November 1858 Observation of doctor until 25 January 1859:
*The same.*³³
- 4 February 1859 Observation of doctor:
*Has a bad sore throat with an ulcer through the soft palate, looks very much like "Syphilis Cons..."*³³
- 7 February 1859 Observation of doctor:
*Ulcer through the 'Velum[?] ...' enlarging, the woman is looking thin and weak, can swallow nothing but soft food.*³³
- 28 February 1859 Observation of doctor:
*Throat better, ulcer healing, ... swollen much better.*³³
- 28 March 1859 Observation of doctor:
*Throat almost well. Mental condition unchanged.*³³
- 27 April 1859 Observation of doctor:
*Throat well.*³³
- 25 May 1859 Observation of doctor:
*Mental condition unchanged.*³³
- 29 June 1859 Observation of doctor until 26 July 1860:³⁴
*The same.*³³
- 27 July 1865 Observation of doctor:
*Quiet and amenable though at times very incoherent.*³⁵
- 29 August 1865 Observation of doctor until 30 October 1867:
*The same.*³⁵
- 30 November 1865 Observation of doctor:
*Incoherent.*³⁵
- 31 December 1865 Observation of doctor until 28 May 1869:
*The same.*³⁵
- 28 June 1869 Observation of doctor:
*Works well in the wash house.*³⁵
- 28 July 1869 Observation of doctor until 29 October 1870:
*The same.*³⁵
- 28 November 1870 Observation of doctor:
*Well behaved though easily excited, is always working in the wash house & laundry.*³⁶
- 28 December 1870 Observation of doctor until 27 September 1871:
*The same.*³⁶

³³ TAHO, HSD52/1/1 Folio 248 (Jane Wilson or Whitbread)

³⁴ The case book for August 1860 to June 1865 has not survived.

³⁵ TAHO, HSD52/1/2 Folio 110 (Jane Wilson or Whitbread)

³⁶ TAHO, HSD52/1/2 Folio 288 (Jane Wilson or Whitbread)

- 28 September 1871 Observation of doctor:
*Complains of severe pain in the chest & oppression of breathing, pulse very weak.*³⁶
- 19 October 1871 Observation of doctor:
*Got much better after a blister though she still complains of oppression in breathing, most unmanageable as to treatment, slight tumefaction of the feet at night, takes very little nourishment.*³⁶
- 21 October 1871 Observation of doctor:
*Breathing with difficulty, pulse scarcely perceptible, taking stimulants.*³⁶
- 26 October 1871 Observation of doctor:
*Slight swelling of the feet still, and face tumified, breathing very much oppressed. ... by the ...*³⁶
- 28 October 1871 Observation of doctor:
*Appears to be getting gradually worse, the pulse scarcely perceptible, breathing laboured, takes plenty of stimulants but eats scarcely any thing.*³⁶
- 30 October 1871 Observation of doctor:
*Dyspnoea*³⁷ *continues, pulse scarcely perceptible at the wrist but ... of the heart strong with a slight trait, lives on stimulants.*³⁶
- 6 November 1871 Observation of doctor:
*Has been improving slightly, pulse only imperceptible at wrist, is taking more nourishment, has expectorated some blood during the last two or three days. Dyspnoea not so urgent.*³⁶
- 9 November 1871 Observation of doctor:
*Has been much better for the last two days but today not so well again. More Dyspnoea. Extremities cold, puffy face, no pulse at the wrist, takes a good quantity of stimulants and nourishment.*³⁶
- 15 November 1871 Observation of doctor:
*A good deal better for the last day or two, but raves[?] a good deal.*³⁶
- 21 November 1871 Observation of doctor:
*Appears much worse today, dyspnoea very bad, pulse less at the wrist, feet oedematous, taking very little nourishment.*³⁶
- 29 November 1871 Observation of doctor:
*Lingering on, some days scarcely any circulation, extremities cold & oedematous, takes nourishment & stimulants.*³⁶
- 3 December 1871 **Died** of dropsy of the chest at 9:50 pm at New Norfolk Insane Asylum; aged 49, pauper; informant GF Huston, Superintendent and Medical Officer of New Norfolk Hospital for the Insane.³⁸
Observation of doctor:
*Legs and thighs much swollen, face puffy, sat up a short time yesterday and was got out a little this afternoon but soon after being put into bed she collapsed and died at 9.50 PM.*³⁶
- 4 December 1871 Post mortem examination conducted at New Norfolk Insane Asylum.³⁹
Post mortem:
Body thin but emaciated, skull bones thick, dura mater thin but firmly adherent to the cervix of the brain covering an opaque arachnoid. Lateral ventricles distended with serum but not much generally effused, altogether about 6oz. Anterior portion of cerebrum very soft, almost pulpy; posterior portion firmer as was also the cerebellum. General anasarca of the extremities. Abdominal and thoracic cavities full of fluid, in the latter a large quantity of lymph, on the right side the corresponding lung in a state of collapse and forming a hollow tumour at its left edge (at first thought to be an animal[?]) the heart very large ... the pericardium containing a quantity of coagulated lymph. The pulmonary arteries in a state of ossification, aorta & valves normal. Liver healthy. Kidneys the same. Weight of brain:

³⁷ Dyspnoea is a shortness of breath.

³⁸ TAHO, HSD52/1/2 Folio 288 (Jane Wilson or Whitbread); TAHO, RGD35/1/40 1871/360 New Norfolk (Jane Wilson)

³⁹ TAHO, HSD52/1/2 Folio 312 (Jane Wilson)

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Cerebrum 2lb 8oz, Cerebellum 6oz, [total] 2lb 14 oz; weight of heart emptied of contents 15oz.³⁹

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