

Sarah Phoebe Woodhouse *

(alias Sarah Palmer)

POLICE NUMBER 424 ¹	LITERACY read & write
TRIAL DATE 20 July 1840	AGE ON EMBARKATION 53
TRIAL PLACE Edinburgh Court of Justiciary	AGE ON ARRIVAL 53
OFFENCE stealing a sheet in a dwelling house and previous conviction	HEIGHT 5' ½"
SENTENCE 7 years	COMPLEXION pale
GAOL REPORT bad, convicted and imprisoned before, single	HEAD oval
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS 3 times in prison before for theft	HAIR grey
SURGEON'S REPORT weak in intellect and quiet	VISAGE thin
ON THE TOWN no	FOREHEAD flat
MARITAL STATUS single	EYEBROWS brown
CHILDREN 0	EYES hazel
FAMILY father John Woodhouse, mother Sarah	NOSE long
NATIVE PLACE Nottingham, England	MOUTH medium
TRADE ON EMBARKATION sempstress	CHIN round
TRADE ON ARRIVAL dressmaker	MARKS none

c1787	Born at Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, England; father John Woodhouse; mother Sarah. ²
28 November 1787	Baptised at St Marys Anglican Church, Nottingham, England. ³
24 February 1839	Charged as Sarah Palmer at the Police Court, Edinburgh with theft. ⁴
20 July 1840	Tried at the Court of Justiciary, Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland indicted for theft, habit and repute in stealing a sheet from the house of John and Isabella Morrison at Grassmarket, Edinburgh; plea guilty; sentence 7 years transportation; no fixed abode. ⁵
5 April 1841	Departed Woolwich, England on the <i>Rajah</i> . ⁶
19 July 1841	Arrived at Hobart on the <i>Rajah</i> . ⁶
c24 July 1841	Upon arrival at Hobart, sent to Cascades Female Factory, Hobart; not fit for assignment, sickly. ⁷
31 December 1841	Mustered in the service of Mr McTavish, Hobart. ⁸
5 March 1842	Charged with being drunk and out after hours from the service of Rowe; sentence 10 days in solitary confinement at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart. ⁹
13 June 1842	Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on the complaint of Constable Hadfield with disobedience of the orders of her mistress Mrs McTavish, New Town Road, Hobart; plea guilty; reprimanded and returned to her service. ¹⁰

¹ TAHO, CON40/1/10 p.221 No.424 [image 198] (Sarah Phoebe Woodhouse); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.271 [image 139] (Sarah Palmer Woodhouse); ML, CY 1282 p.156 (Sarah Patience Woodhouse); ML, CY 1197 p.157 (Sarah Palmer Woodhouse); ML, CY 958 p.443 (Sarah Palmer Woodhouse)

² TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.271 [image 139] (Sarah Palmer Woodhouse); *Family Search*, IGI Batch 730790-1 Film No.822722 (Sarah Palmer Woodhouse)

³ *Family Search*, IGI Batch 730790-1 Film No.822722 (Sarah Palmer Woodhouse)

⁴ NAS, JC26/1840/447 (Sarah Palmer Woodhouse)

⁵ NAS, AD14/40/366 (Sarah Palmer Woodhouse); NAS, JC26/1840/447 (Sarah Palmer Woodhouse)

⁶ AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah*

⁷ ML, CY 1282 p.143 (Sarah Woodhouse); ML, CY 1274 p.265 (Sarah Patience Woodhouse)

⁸ AJCP, HO 10/51 p.404 No.424 (Sarah Woodhouse)

⁹ TAHO, CON40/1/10 p.221 No.424 [image 198] (Sarah Phoebe Woodhouse)

¹⁰ TAHO, AC480/1/1, 13 June 1842 (Sarah Woodhouse)

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

- 25 August 1842 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on the complaint of Constable Martin with being drunk on 23 August in the streets; in the service of Mr Sloane; sentence 6 days in solitary confinement at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.¹¹
- 24 December 1842 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on the complaint of her master Mr Swan with being drunk yesterday and disorderly conduct in breaking the windows last evening; plea guilty; sentence 6 days in solitary confinement at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.¹²
- 21 June 1843 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on the complaint of her mistress with being drunk and taking liquor into her mistress' house last evening; in the service of Mrs McTavish, New Town Road, Hobart; sentence 3 months hard labour at the wash tub at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.¹³
- 22 February 1844 Classified as a 2nd class probation pass-holder; gazetted 23 February.¹⁴
- 31 August 1844 Promoted from a 2nd class to a 3rd class probation pass-holder; gazetted 6 September.¹⁵
- 14¹⁶ October 1844 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart by her mistress with being drunk last night; in the service of Mrs McTavish, New Town; plea guilty; sentence 3 months hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.¹⁷
- 22 September 1845 Ticket of Leave granted; gazetted 23 September.¹⁸
- 9 November 1846 Charged at the Police Court, Clarence by District Constable McArthur with being drunk and disturbing the peace at Kangaroo Point on the night of 6 November; plea guilty; sentence 10 days hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.¹⁹
- 18 January 1847 Charged at the Police Court, Clarence by Constable Longcast with being drunk at Kangaroo Point on 17 January; in the service of Nicholls; plea not guilty; fined 6 shillings²⁰ and allowed 1 hour to pay, or in default 14 days imprisonment.²¹
- 21 January 1847 Charged with being drunk; sentence 3 months hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.
- 1 April 1847 Admitted to the hospital at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.²²
- 3²³ April 1847 **Died** as the natural result of intense disease occurring in a broken down constitution in the hospital at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.²⁴
- 6 April 1847 Inquest into death held at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart before Samuel Barrow Esquire, coroner.
Verdict: died by the visitation of God in a natural way and not otherwise.²⁵
Statement of witness Ann Anthony:²⁶
I am a Prisoner of Crown employed as nurse at the Hospital in the Female House of Correction. I ... the deceased Sarah Woodhouse about 7 hours o'clock on Thursday evening last the 1st of April she was brought to Hospital she was received in & put to bed, on the following morning she appeared a little better and when the Doctor Casey came he ordered a blister to be applied & give her some medicine in the afternoon she ... worse the Doctor saw her again that afternoon. I acted according to the Doctor's directions & gave her the medicine

¹¹ TAHO, AC480/1/1, 25 August 1842 (Sarah Woodhouse)

¹² TAHO, AC480/1/1, 24 December 1842 (Sarah Woodhouse)

¹³ TAHO, AC480/1/1, 21 June 1843 (Sarah Woodhouse)

¹⁴ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 23 February 1844 p.248 (Sarah Woodhouse)

¹⁵ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 6 September 1844 p.1074 (Sarah Woodhouse)

¹⁶ Date given as 15 October 1844 on conduct record.

¹⁷ TAHO, AC480/1/1, 14 October 1844 (Sarah Woodhouse)

¹⁸ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 23 September 1845 p.1196 (Phoebe Woodhouse)

¹⁹ TAHO, LC104/1/1, 9 November 1846 (Sarah Woodhouse)

²⁰ Fine given as 5 shillings on conduct record.

²¹ TAHO, LC104/1/1, 18 January 1847 (Sarah Woodhouse)

²² TAHO, SC195/1/20 No.1657 (Sarah Woodhouse)

²³ Death date given s 13 April 1847 on 1846 muster (AJCP, HO 10/39 (Sarah Woodhouse)).

²⁴ TAHO, CON63/1/2 (Sarah Woodhouse); TAHO, SC195/1/20 No.1657 (Sarah Woodhouse)

²⁵ TAHO, SC195/1/20 No.1657 (Sarah Woodhouse)

²⁶ Ann Anthony was transported for 7 years on the *Emma Eugenia* in 1841.

he prescribed regularly the following morning (Saturday, she again appeared to rally & the Doctor saw her again. Between 11 & 12 o'clock on that day she changed for the worse and about four o'clock she was past taking medicine she did not speak again after the morning she died on Saturday night about 11 o'clock. She did not complain at all, there was no appearance of any bruises about her at all she was a very quiet woman. She was 56 years old when she came in to Hospital by foreman[?] she did not complain of anything but a sore throat.²⁵

Statement of witness Elizabeth Graham:²⁷

I am a Prisoner of the Crown confined in the Female House of Correction at Hobart Town. I knew the deceased Sarah Woodhouse she was taken[?] to the surgery on Thursday last she was taken ill about 9[?] o'clock in the afternoon but did not wish to go to Hospital she got worse and at bed time about 7 o'clock I persuaded her to come to Hospital. I accompanied her to the Hospital and did not see her again until she was dead. She complained a few days previous of a little pain in her side, she was a very quiet woman, had not been quarrelling at all that day.²⁵

Statement of witness Cornelius Gavin Casey:

I am a legally qualified Medical Practitioner and Medical Officer to the Female House of Correction The Cascades near Hobart Town.

I have this day seen the body of Sarah Woodhouse now lying dead in the Surgery of this Hospital.

The deceased was admitted to the Hospital on night of the 1st of April & on the morning of the 2nd at nine o'clock I saw her I considered her to be in state of extreme danger on first seeing her so much so that I was induced to inquire whether she had made any complaints in the yard previous to her admission. She denied having done so herself & the turnkey who had custody of her likewise stated she had not known her to complain of being ill until the day of admission. I placed her under active treatment immediately & saw her again that evening when she appeared to be much worse. I prescribed additional remedies for her on that visit & saw her on an earlier hour than usual the following morning when she appeared to have rallied a little, previous to quitting the Building about 11½ o'clock I again saw her when I became convinced she was dying. Her death took place that evening I believe from the time of her admission she had every assistance & attention that her case demanded & I consider her death to be the natural result of intense disease occurring in a broken down constitution. There were no marks of violence on her body whatever.²⁵

20 April 1847

Fees of £2.2 for holding the inquest paid to Samuel Barrow, coroner, Hobart.²⁸

²⁷ This is likely to be the Elizabeth Graham who was transported for 7 years on the *Mexborough* in 1841.

²⁸ TAHO, CON66/1/1, within the register for CON65/1/1 (Sarah Woodhouse)