

Ann Wright
(*alias Ann Walker; uxor Ann Bennett*)

POLICE NUMBER 422 ¹	LITERACY read only
TRIAL DATE 1 July 1840	AGE ON EMBARKATION 21
TRIAL PLACE York (West Riding, Bradford) Quarter Sessions	AGE ON ARRIVAL 23
OFFENCE stealing money from the person ²	HEIGHT 5' 6½" or 5' 5½"
SENTENCE 10 years	COMPLEXION fresh
GAOL REPORT tried before and acquitted, has been several times in prison, very bad, single	HEAD oval
PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS several times in prison before, never convicted	HAIR brown
SURGEON'S REPORT ship woman and good	VISAGE full
ON THE TOWN 3 years	FOREHEAD medium
MARITAL STATUS single	EYEBROWS dark brown
CHILDREN 0	EYES grey
FAMILY	NOSE long
NATIVE PLACE Roscrea, Ireland	MOUTH small
TRADE ON EMBARKATION labourer	CHIN small
TRADE ON ARRIVAL plain cook, housemaid	MARKS long scar inside left hand

c1819 **Born** at Roscrea, County Tipperary, Ireland.³
1 July 1840 Tried at West-Riding Quarter Sessions, Bradford, Yorkshire, England, with shipmate Elizabeth Archer (*qv*)⁴ indicted for stealing a purse and money, the property of Joseph Muff; found guilty; sentence 10 years' transportation.⁵

Newspaper report:

WEST-RIDING QUARTER SESSIONS.
BRADFORD.

*Elizabeth Archer (20), and Ann Wright (22), pleaded guilty to an indictment charging them with stealing a purse and money, the property of Joseph Muff. The two prisoners had been long on the pavé, and were too well known for their plea of guilty to avail them. The chairman read over a long list of previous imprisonments, and said it was perfectly clear that imprisonment would do them no good. The court had therefore determined to send them out of the country; the sentence of the court was that they be each transported beyond the sea for the term of Ten Years. Archer immediately clapped her hands and shouted out "and may you, you old grey-haired ____ sit there till I come back." The other, grinning at Mr. James, inspector of police at Leeds, who had stated several particulars in reference to her, expressed herself in language too gross for publication. They were immediately removed, shouting and clapping their hands in a most revolting manner.*⁶

5 April 1841 Departed Woolwich, England on the *Rajah*.⁷
19 July 1841 Arrived at Hobart on the *Rajah*.⁷
c24 July 1841 Upon arrival at Hobart, assigned to Mr Justice Montagu.⁸

¹ TAHO, CON40/1/10 p.221 No.422 [image 198] (Ann Wright); TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.270 [image 138] (Ann Wright); ML, CY 1282 p.156 (Ann Wright); ML, CY 1197 p.157 (Ann Wright); ML, CY 958 p.443 (Ann Wright)

² Tried with Elizabeth Archer (*qv*) for stealing a purse and money from Joseph Muff at Bradford (*Leeds Mercury*, 11 July 1840).

³ TAHO, CON19/1/1 p.270 [image 138] (Ann Wright)

⁴ Elizabeth was also found guilty and sentenced to 10 years transportation on the *Rajah*.

⁵ *Bradford Observer*, 9 July 1840 Issue 335 Article 15 (Ann Wright); *Bradford Observer*, 9 July 1840 Issue 335 Article 14 (Ann Wright); *Leeds Mercury*, 11 July 1840 Issue 5560 Article 16 (Ann Wright); *Northern Star*, 11 July 1840 Issue 139 Article 17 (Ann Wright); TAHO, CON40/1/10 p.221 No.422 [image 198] (Ann Wright)

⁶ *Bradford Observer*, 9 July 1840 Issue 335 Article 15 (Elizabeth Archer)

⁷ AJCP, ADM 101/63 *Rajah*

⁸ ML, CY 1274 p.265 (Ann Wright)

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- 28 December 1841 Charged with being absent without leave from the service of Wilson; sentence 7 days in solitary confinement at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart, then returned to her service.⁹
- 31 December 1841 Mustered at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.¹⁰
- 27 February 1842 Absconded from the service of Captain Lock.¹¹
- 2 March 1842 Charged with absconding from the service of Lock; sentence 2 months hard labour in the separate working rooms at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.⁹
- 12 July 1842 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on the complaint of Constable Hadfield with misconduct in being absent 1¹² day and night without leave from the service of Mr Foord; plea guilty; sentence 10 days in solitary confinement at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.¹³
- 30 January 1843 Charged at the Police Court, Hobart on the complaint of her master with misconduct in being absent without leave from her service; in the service of Mr Johnstone, Liverpool Street, Hobart; sentence 6 months hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart.¹⁴
- Statement of witness Constable George Hager¹⁵:
*On Friday last I saw the prisoner in the streets with a bundle about 11 o'clock, she was going up Argyle St. I went to Mr Johnstone to enquire about her & found that she had left there with a bundle. I went in search of her and saw her coming out of a public house in Argyle St with another woman. She then turned of into Campbell St. I followed, and saw her go into the Old Commodore in Brisbane St. I watched her out, and went up, she told she was going to where she had left her bundle but refused to go with me. I then took her to her master's and he gave her in charge.*¹⁴
- 21 September 1843 **Son** William Wright born at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart; mother Anne Wright, female convict; informant Edward Hawson, clerk, House of Correction.¹⁶
- 13 October 1843 Son William Wright baptised at Cascades Female Factory by Reverend William Bedford; mother Ann Wright (*Rajah*).¹⁷
- 12 October 1844 Ticket of Leave granted; gazetted 15 October.¹⁸
- 20 December 1844 Application for permission to marry William Thomas¹⁹ (*John Barry*, Ticket of Leave) sent to the Secretary; approved.²⁰
- 21 December 1844 Notice given of approval for permission to marry William Thomas; Ann a ticket-of-leave holder, in private service at Launceston; William a ticket-of-leave holder.²¹
- 6 February 1845 Charged at the Police Court, Launceston upon complaint of Constable McFarlane with using obscene language in a public street on 6 February; plea guilty; verdict guilty; fined 5 shillings; no service.²²

⁹ TAHO, CON40/1/10 p.221 No.422 [image 198] (Ann Wright)

¹⁰ AJCP, HO 10/51 p.404 No.422 (Ann Wright)

¹¹ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 4 March 1842 p.217 (Ann Wright)

¹² Absent 2 days given on conduct record.

¹³ TAHO, AC480/1/1, 12 July 1842 (Ann Wright)

¹⁴ TAHO, AC480/1/1, 30 January 1843 (Ann Wright)

¹⁵ This name may not be Hager, it is difficult to read.

¹⁶ TAHO, RGD33/1/1 1843/1797 Hobart (male Wright); Gunn & Kippen, 'Household and Family Formation in Nineteenth-Century Tasmania' No.101708 (male Wright)

¹⁷ QVMAG, Baptisms solemnized in the Female House of Correction, Hobart Town, VDL (William Wright)

¹⁸ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 15 October 1844 p.1312 (Ann Wright)

¹⁹ William Thomas was transported for life on the *John Barry* in 1834; tried at Hertfordshire (St Albans) Quarter Sessions & Gaol Delivery on 17 October 1833 for horse stealing; single, groom and cook, aged 19, native place Bristol; Ticket of Leave 15 December 1843; tried again at Hobart Supreme Court on 4 September 1849 for feloniously receiving 100 yards merino and £10 the property of JS Butler and sentenced to 7 years' transportation; station of gang Port Arthur 19 September 1849, Prisoners' Barracks 20 August 1850; probation pass-holder 19 August 1850, Ticket of Leave 22 March 1853; married, wife Katherine at Hobart Town (TAHO, CON31/1/43 p.131 No.829 [image 133] (William Thomas); TAHO, CON18/1/11 p.141 No.829 [image 81] (William Thomas); TAHO, CON32/1/2 p.381 [image 194] (William Thomas); TAHO, CON37/1/5 No.1565 [image 174] (William Thomas); TAHO, CON16/1/4 pp.48-49 [images 50-51] (William Thomas)).

²⁰ TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.201 (Wm Thomas & Ann Wright)

²¹ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 24 December 1844 p.1543; 31 December 1844 p.1564; 7 January 1845 p.14 (William Thomas & Ann Wright)

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- 20 February 1845 Charged at the Police Court, Launceston upon complaint of Constable Potter with using obscene language in a public street on 19 February; plea guilty; verdict guilty; fined 5 shillings; no service.²³
- 5 May²⁴ 1845 Charged with using obscene language; fined 5 shillings.²⁵
- 7 May 1845 Charged with using obscene language; fined 5 shillings.²⁶
Notice given again of approval for permission to marry William Thomas (*John Barry*); Ann a ticket-of-leave holder, William a ticket-of-leave holder.²⁷
- 17 May 1845 Charged at the Police Court, Launceston with being drunk in a public place on 16 May; plea guilty; in the service of Mrs Cross; verdict guilty; fined 5 shillings; allowed till 19 May; has no goods.²⁸
- 21 June 1845 Charged at the Police Court, Launceston upon complaint of Constable Fenning with misconduct in being out after hours on 20 June from the service of Mrs Bellamy; plea guilty; verdict guilty; admonished.²⁹
- 17 August 1845³⁰ Charged at the Police Court, Launceston upon complaint of Constable Williams with being drunk in a public street yesterday; plea guilty; verdict guilty; fined 5 shillings.³¹
- 23 August 1845 Charged at the Police Court, Launceston upon complaint of Constable William Durham with being drunk in a public house and using obscene language yesterday; plea guilty; verdict guilty; fined 5 shillings for each offence.³²
- 4 September 1845 Charged at the Police Court, Launceston upon complaint of Joseph Carnal with felony; plea not guilty; verdict not guilty; discharged.³³
- 25 September 1845 Charged at the Police Court, Launceston upon complaint of Constable Moore with using obscene language in a public street yesterday; plea guilty; verdict guilty; fined 5 shillings.³⁴
- 18 May 1846 Application for permission to marry John Bennett³⁵ (free by servitude) sent to the Secretary; approved.³⁶
Notice given of approval for permission to marry John Bennett; Ann a ticket-of-leave holder, resident of Launceston; John free, resident of Launceston.³⁷
- 16 June 1846 **Married** John Bennett at St John's Anglican Church, Launceston; Ann aged 26, ticket-of-leave holder, single, illiterate; John aged 23, shoemaker, free, single, illiterate; witnesses Andrew Gavan (illiterate) and J Wood.³⁸
- 16 July 1846 **Daughter** Cheister Bennett born at Launceston; father John Bennett, shoemaker; mother Ann Wright; informant Thomas Boyes, resident of George Street, Launceston.³⁹
- 31 July 1847 Conditional Pardon recommended; gazetted 3 August.⁴⁰

²² TAHO, LC346/1/14 (Ann Wright); TAHO, CON78/1/3 p.358 (Anne Wright)

²³ TAHO, LC346/1/14 (Ann Wright); TAHO, CON78/1/3 p.358 (Anne Wright)

²⁴ Month given as March on CON 78 and May on conduct record.

²⁵ TAHO, CON78/1/3 p.358 (Anne Wright)

²⁶ TAHO, CON78/1/3 p.358 (Anne Wright)

²⁷ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 13 May 1845 p.589 (William Thomas & Ann Wright)

²⁸ TAHO, LC346/1/14 (Ann Wright); TAHO, CON78/1/3 p.358 (Anne Wright)

²⁹ TAHO, LC346/1/14 (Ann Wright); TAHO, CON78/1/3 p.358 (Anne Wright)

³⁰ Date given as 7 August 1845 on conduct record and CON 78.

³¹ TAHO, LC346/1/14 (Ann Wright)

³² TAHO, LC346/1/14 (Ann Wright); TAHO, CON78/1/3 p.358 (Anne Wright)

³³ TAHO, LC346/1/14 (Ann Wright); TAHO, CON78/1/3 p.358 (Anne Wright)

³⁴ TAHO, LC346/1/14 (Ann Wright); TAHO, CON78/1/3 p.358 (Anne Wright)

³⁵ There were 15 convicts named John Bennett transported to Van Diemen's Land, 7 of which could have been this John Bennett.

³⁶ TAHO, CON52/1/2 p.285 (Jno Bennett & Ann Wright)

³⁷ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 19 May 1846 p.446; 26 May 1846 p.461; 2 June 1846 p.490 (John Bennett & Ann Wright)

³⁸ TAHO, RGD37/1/5 1846/281 Launceston (John Bennett & Ann Wright)

³⁹ TAHO, RGD33/1/23 1846/1343 Launceston (Cheister Bennett)

⁴⁰ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 3 August 1847 p.791 (Ann Wright)

Ann Wright

25 October 1847	Charged at the Police Court, Launceston upon complaint of her husband with misconduct in being absent from her authorised place of residence on 25 October; plea not guilty; verdict not guilty; discharged. ⁴¹
13 January 1848	At Launceston. ⁹
8 May 1848	Charged with being absent from her place of residence; sentence 3 months hard labour at Cascades Female Factory, Hobart. ⁹
4 December 1848	Paper at the Police Magistrate's. ⁹
6 February 1849	Conditional Pardon approved. ⁹
1 July 1850	Free by servitude. ⁹

Notes

- Ann is one of several possibilities for Anne Garton (*Rajah*, free by servitude) who departed Launceston on 5 December 1852 as a passenger for Melbourne. Also on board was William Garton⁴² (*Eden*).

⁴¹ TAHO, LC346/1/9 (Ann Wright *ux* Bennett)

⁴² William Garton was transported for 15 years on the *Eden* in 1842; tried Derby Quarter Sessions 4 January 1842 for sheep stealing; Protestant, illiterate, stocking weaver, aged 26, native place Duffield; Ticket of Leave 14 November 1848, Conditional Pardon 25 March 1851 (TAHO, CON33/1/22 No.5241 [image 90] (William Garton); TAHO, CON14/1/12 pp.158-159 No.5241 [images 160-161] (William Garton)).

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