



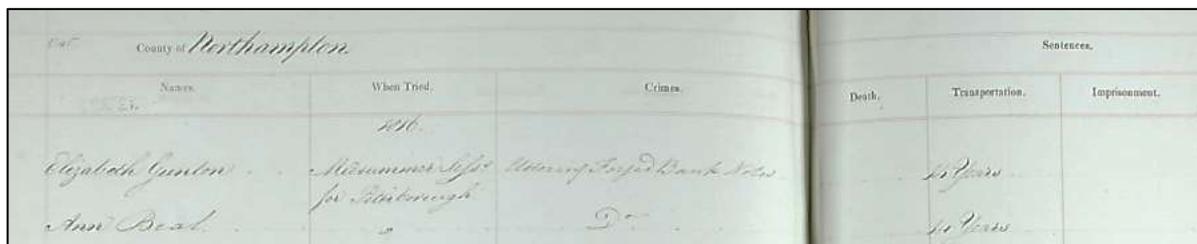
Ann Beal

Date of Trial:	17 July 1816
Where Tried:	Northampton, Liberty of Peterborough Quarter Session Oyer and Terminal Gaol
Crime:	Uttering forged notes
Sentence:	14 years
Est YOB:	
Native Place:	
Occupation:	
Alias/AKA:	
Surgeon's Remarks:	<i>Prostitute regardless of remonstrance. "Dead"</i>

Where and when Ann Beal was born is not known, nor has anything been found as yet regarding her family, her marital situation, and what occupation might have been recorded for her in the convict indent documentation to guide the colonial authorities as to where she might best be deployed.¹ What we do know, however, is that with partner in crime, Mary Gunton, she pleaded guilty when she fronted up to the Peterborough Court on 17 July 1816.

At the Sessions for the city and liberty of Peterborough, held on Wednesday se'nnight, Ann Beal and Mary Gunton, pleaded guilty to an indictment of uttering forged notes, purporting to be of the Bank of England, and were severally sentenced to fourteen years' transportation.²

Together with Mary (now referred to as Elizabeth), Ann was entered into the Criminal Register.³



For reasons unstated, J. Atkinson, Clerk of the Peace for the Liberty of Peterborough had made enquiries as to removing the pair, which elicited the following response from J. Beckett, Whitehall, dated 20 August 1816.

Sir

I am directed by Lord Sidmouth to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of Yesterday's date, referring to a former one upon the subject of the removal of Eliz^h Gunton & Ann Beal, two Convicts under Sentence of Transportation in the Goal at Peterborough, and in reply I am to acquaint you that it will not be possible to give any orders for the removal of the Prisoners in question until a vessel is employed for the conveyance of Female Convicts to New South Wales which is not expected to take place till the early part of next year.⁴

It would be nearly a year before a vessel was ready to accommodate these two prisoners.

The next, and final, record for Ann is the unfavourable commentary of the *Friendship's* Surgeon Superintendent which concludes with the word "Dead". The Surgeon's Journal has not survived, so we do not know when, or from what cause, Ann Beal died. Her partner in crime arrived safely at her destination and was then transferred to Van Diemen's Land.

NOTES

¹ Ancestry, Australia Convict Index, 1788-1868. Biographical Database of Australia (BDA), Biographical report for Ann Beal.

² *Northampton Mercury*, 27 Jul 1816, p.3.

³ Ancestry, England & Wales, Criminal Registers, 1791-1892, England, Northampton, 1816. Findmypast (FMP), England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935, Prison Register.

⁴ FMP, England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935, Correspondence and Warrants.



SELECTED SOURCES

Genealogy Websites

Ancestry

Australia Convict Index

Findmypast

England and Wales Crime and Punishment

Other Websites

Biographical Database of Australia (BDA), <http://www.bda-online.org.au/>

Online Newspapers

British Newspapers (Findmypast)

Northampton Mercury

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