
 Maria Carter

Date of Trial:	23 July 1816
Where Tried:	Lincoln, Parts of Lindsey Quarter Session
Crime:	Larceny
Sentence:	7 years
Est YOB:	1795
Stated Age on Arrival:	23
Native Place:	Horncastle/Revesby, Lincolnshire
Occupation:	Nursemaid
Alias/AKA:	Maria Peer(e)s/Piers, Pearce (m)
Marital Status (UK):	Married – John Carter
Children on Board:	
Surgeon's Remarks:	A common prostitute and insolent
Assigned NSW or VDL	VDL

The County of Lincoln Prison Register records that at the 1816 July Session for the parts of Lindsey, Maria Carter was tried and found guilty of larceny and sentenced to seven years' transportation.¹ Her crime had been to steal a pair of breeches, valued at ten pence belonging to labourer Thomas Bates of Revesby, from the dwelling house of William Wattam, another labourer also of Revesby.² At the time, Maria was a married woman, her husband being John Carter, a labourer from Horncastle. A possible marriage record has been found for John Carter and Maria Jackson – at Horncastle, Lincolnshire, in 1814. Working backwards, and based on Maria's stated birth year, one possible baptism has been found for a Maria Jackson, daughter of Edward Jackson and his wife Ann, at Coningsby on 12 October 1795.³



We are on much firmer ground when we follow Maria Carter to the colony of New South Wales. Having spent almost a year imprisoned in Lincoln Castle, Maria, together with Eliza Brady and Mercy Coltsworth [sic], was removed from the Castle on 23 May 1817 and delivered on board the *Friendship* lying in Deptford.⁴ It was probably not long after the ship weighed anchor that Surgeon Cosgreave had formed the impression of Maria Carter as 'a common prostitute and insolent' – yet another of the decidedly less reputable of his charges. On arrival at Port Jackson Maria found that her journey had not ended. She was transferred to the *Duke of Wellington* and shipped off to Van Diemen's Land, arriving at Hobart on 30 January 1818.

She was by this time 23 years old and had informed the authorities that she was a nursemaid by calling. The fact that she was illiterate would be no bar to assignment, if she could secure a position. She was just one of so many who could not read or write. Her first years in Hobart were relatively uneventful. By 1820 she had been issued with a ticket of leave, and by the muster of 1823 was free by servitude, and in October of that year it was announced that she had obtained her certificate of freedom.⁵ She had, by then, also obtained a husband, the fact

that she arrived as a married woman apparently being no bar to her marriage to Paul Peers/Pearce.⁶

Names.	Age or Convict.	Status		Date Married.	Name of Witness.	Marriages 1822.	
		Spouse	Term			Hobart Town	Suburb
Paul Pearce ✓	Convict	Lord Melville	20 years.	25 March	Peers.		
Maria Carter ✓	Convict	Friendship	2 years.			541	
William Shribbs George Northam							

After the calling of the banns, it was as Paul Pearce that 30 year old convict, per *Lord Melville*, married Maria Carter, per *Friendship* and then aged 27, at Hobart on 25 March 1822. Neither could sign their name. The two witnesses were William Shribbs and George Northam. It is possible that that Maria had also acquired a daughter in 1822 – refer to Postscript.

Paul Peers came to the attention of the public through an item in the *Chester Chronicle* of 3 April 1818.

PAUL PEERS, aged 30, a labourer from Boughton, for stealing two sheep from the field of Mr. S. Brittain, of Upton. This was a clear case, and the Prisoner was found GUILTY.

Judgement was not pronounced; but it was intimated from the Bench, that the Prisoner was a fit person to be sent out of the county.⁷

It was one week later that the sentence was confirmed. Paul Peers was one of eleven prisoners capitally convicted, but was not one of the four for whom there would be no hope of mercy.⁸ Thus, by a warrant issued by the Home Secretary, Lord Sidmouth, to the Chester Circuit justices, Paul Peers was one of the prisoners to receive a royal pardon.

We in consideration of some favourable Circumstances humbly represented unto us in their behalf are graciously pleased to Extend our Grace and Mercy unto them and to Grant them our Pardon for their said Crimes on Condition of their being Transported to the Coast of New S. Wales or some one or other of the Islands adjacent for and during the Term of their respective Natural Lives.⁹

Paul Peers spent a brief time on the hulk *Justitia* on which he was received on 13 May 1818 and from which he was dispatched on 12 June to begin his voyage to the other side of the world.¹⁰ The convict ship *Lord Melville* left England on 18 July 1818 and arrived at Van Diemen's Land on 18 December 1818. The vessel's arrival was noted by the local press which reported that only one of the 140 male convicts had died during the voyage, and those who were landed were all in good health.¹¹ In accordance with the warrant, the convict indent for Paul Peers recorded his sentence as Life. It also gave a description of the man. He was quite tall at 5ft 8½ inches, and had brown hair and eyes. He was a sawyer by trade, and therefore a much valued artisan.¹² For the 1820 to 1822 musters Paul was a 'government employee'.¹³

Not mentioned in the convict documentation was the fact that when Paul Peers arrived in New South Wales he had left behind a wife and a number of children. Thirty years old when tried, he was possibly the Paul Peers who was baptised on 2 August 1789 at Holt, Denbigh, Wales, to parents Thomas and Ann Peers (née Caterral).¹⁴ On 17 January 1809, by banns in the parish church of the pretty village of Taporley, Cheshire, one Paul Peers married Fanny Vernon, the groom signing by a X. The witness was his brother Abraham, who also could not sign his name.¹⁵ Over the next seven years at least six children were born to this couple, the baptism records listing Paul Peers as either labourer or sawyer and the family's address alternatively as Foregate Street or Boughton.¹⁶ With no record of his previous marriage the colonial authorities saw no reason to object to his marriage to Maria Carter.¹⁷

Unlike Maria, who had managed kept out of trouble, Paul Peers had recorded his first misdemeanour on 14 May 1821 when he was absent from the Sunday muster for which he was to make up the time on the Gaol Gang for one week. He was 'clean' for seven months before, on 31 December, he was in trouble for neglect of duty and being absent from his work without a pass. This earned him 25 lashes. It was on 27 September 1824 that Paul and Maria were found out after hours at 9 o'clock, and both in a drunk and disorderly state. He was reprimanded; she was fined 5/-. The following year, on 5 February, Paul Peers was again up on a charge of neglect of duty

while on loan to Mr. Stace as a sawyer, his punishment being to cut 364 feet of wood within a week.¹⁸

It was from 1826 that Maria's life really started to unravel. The marriage seems to be crumbling, and her husband's behaviour did nothing to help the situation. Indeed, it may be that Maria was equally culpable in the disintegration of their relationship. On 21 March 1826 Maria was found drunk and in a disorderly house between 8 and 9 o'clock that night, but she was not charged. By 23 March she had absconded from her husband.

On Thursday, John Collins, an assigned servant to his wife, formerly Elizabeth Williams, was charged with keeping a disorderly house in Murray-street; and William Clarke, holding a Ticket of Leave, with disorderly conduct in frequenting the same. It appeared that the wife of Paul Piers [sic], a sawyer, had absconded from her husband and was traced to Collins's house, in the company of Clarke, whom she refused to quit. When Piers came to persuade his wife to return to her home, Collins refused to admit him, abused him, and threatened to put him in the Penitentiary. Clarke attempted a defence, by saying, that the woman washed his clothes; but the case was fully proved, Collins was sentenced to be placed twelve months in the Prisoners' Barracks, and Clarke to be deprived of his Ticket of Leave, and returned to the Public Works.¹⁹

Perhaps Paul and Maria Peers got back together again (Maria's temporary protector having been sent back to the barracks) because it was on 8 April 1826 that Paul Peers was had up for breaking the peace that morning and for ill-treating his wife, for which he received a reprimand.²⁰ It was Maria who was disturbed the peace in October 1826, being ordered to find sureties to keep the peace towards Mary Ann Hurst. For the remainder of 1826 to the end of 1827 she recorded another incident of disturbing the peace, and two drunk and disorderly charges, for the second on 9 February 1827 she was sentenced to 14 days hard labour in the Gaol.

Meanwhile Paul Peers was keeping pace with his wife. He was reprimanded for being absent from his dwelling place on 30 June 1826, and on 12 October ordered to find sureties to keep the peace towards Emma Groom (one of Maria's fellow 'passengers' on the *Friendship*) for three months. Once again, on 9 November, he received a reprimand for causing nuisance in the streets of Hobart Town. Another reprimand was served for unauthorised absence from the Lumber Yard in March 1827. More seriously, on 7 August 1821 he was found guilty of stealing some pine boards from Government House on 21 June, but there is no record of what punishment was meted out.²¹ As a sawyer, such booty would have been a great temptation. Two weeks on the Chain Gang was his punishment in December 1827 for flouting orders by not coming into the Prisoners Barracks with his Gang. For the next couple of years Paul Peers managed to keep himself out of trouble. The Conduct Register makes no reference to his sojourn at Maria Island but, according to the 1830 muster that is where had been transported.²²



Chapel in Yard 1, Cascades Female Factory
Collection Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office

Maria Peers was brought up before the Supreme Court on 17 January 1828 charged with and found guilty of stealing a brush valued at three shillings, the property of the lately widowed Anna Maria Wood, of the British Hotel. She was sentenced to seven years transportation, but this was amended to imprisonment in the Penitentiary in

the Crime Class for two years on probation.²³ This effectively kept Maria out of trouble for a couple of years. As a Crime Class inmate, Maria would be assigned to the lowest order occupations – principally the backbreaking laundering, possibly ‘alleviated’ by wool carding and spinning.²⁴

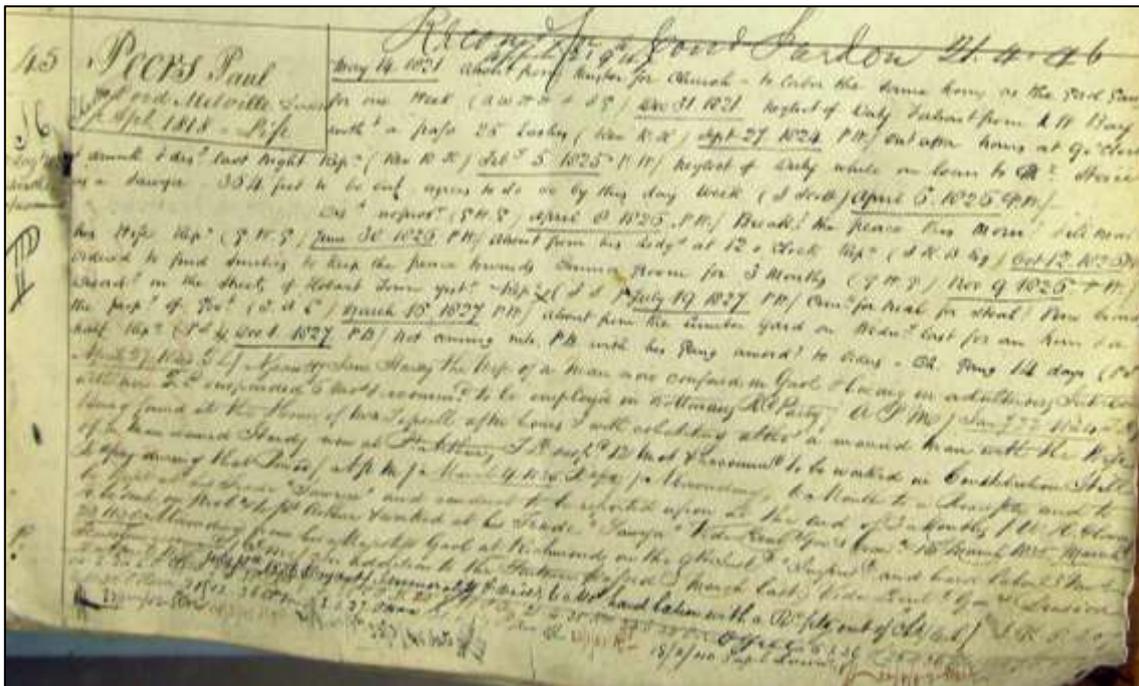
Any prospect of Maria and Paul might have of rescuing their precarious marriage was finally quashed by the circumstances of 27 April 1833 that led to Paul Peers’ ticket of leave being suspended and him being banished for six months to work on Nottman’s Road Party.

Assaulting Jane Hardy the Wife of a Man now confined in Gaol and living in adulterous Intercourse with her.²⁵

Having completed his six months, Paul had returned – not to his wife - but once more to be with Jane Hardy, a liaison which again found him in trouble in January 1834.

Paul Peers was ordered to have his ticket-of-leave suspended for twelve months, and recommended to be worked in Constitution Hill road party during that period, for being found at the house of Mr. Tapsell after hours, and with cohabitating, although a married man, with the wife of a man named Hardy, now at Port Arthur.²⁶

Between 1834 and 1841 Paul Peers’ conduct sheet documents his multiple absconding, a suspected felony, and misconduct, and the resulting punishments, often to be served consecutively – 12 months hard labour in chains; detailed off to the chain gangs; removal to Port Arthur for two years; solitary confinement and the treadmill. The 1841 muster shows him to have been with the Mount Dromedary Probation Party.²⁷ The last entry on his conduct sheet was for 14 August 1841, when the Church Committee reported him being absent without leave for which he was given 14 days Hard Labour/Treadmill at Launceston. By then approaching 50, he had virtually wasted seven years of his life.

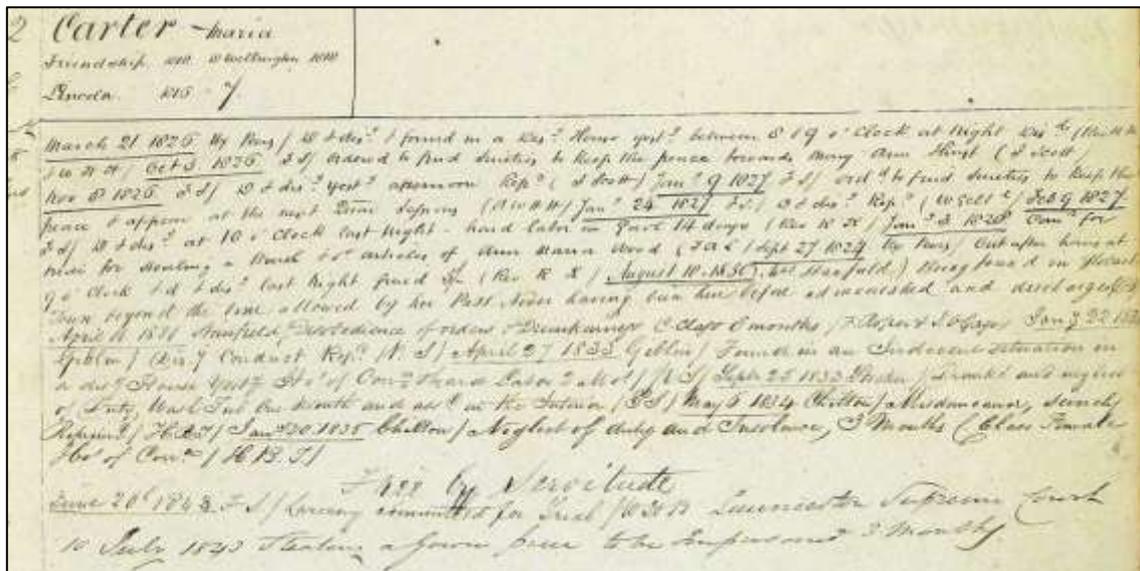


Conduct Register – Paul Peers ²⁸

To return to Maria Carter – In August 1830 she got off lightly, with just an admonishment, when Mrs. Stanfield complained that she had been found in Hobart Town beyond the time allowed by her pass. But, in April 1831, the Stanfields were not so forgiving a second time as Maria was returned to the Crime Class at the Cascade, this time for six months, for disobedience of orders and drunkenness. In 1833 schoolmaster Giblin lodged two complaints against Maria – in January for disorderly conduct for which she received a reprimand, and May when she was found in an indecent situation in a disorderly house, this second offence earning Maria two months hard labour in the House of Correction. On the word of Stocker (probably Mr. Stocker, butcher) Maria’s drunkenness and neglect of duty found her once more at the washtub for one month, and thereafter assigned to the interior.



The 'interior' may have been High Plains (just north of Deloraine), where Mr. Richard Chilton owned and worked his holding. In May 1834 a list of people who had received assignments was published in the *Colonial Times*.²⁹ One of those listed was Mrs. Chilton of High Plains. It is quite possible that Maria Peers had been assigned to the Chilton family because, on 6 May 1834, at the behest of Chilton, she was charged with a misdemeanour and severely reprimanded. By 20 January 1835 the Chiltons' patience had run out and they were not prepared to tolerate her neglect of duty and insolence. For a change of scenery, Maria was sent to the Female House of Correction at Launceston (i.e. the Launceston Female Factory), which had only been opened for business in November 1834, to serve three months in Crime Class.



Conduct Register – Maria Carter ³⁰

The last recorded offence committed by Maria was in 1843 in Launceston, at the linen and grocery shop of one Mr. H. Bennett. She was committed for trial on 20 June and the case was heard at the Supreme Court on 10 July.

The Chief Justice took his seat upon the bench precisely at ten o'clock'.

Mary Carter, a woman far advanced in years, was placed at the bar, charged with stealing a gown, value ten-shillings, the property of Mr. H. Bennett.

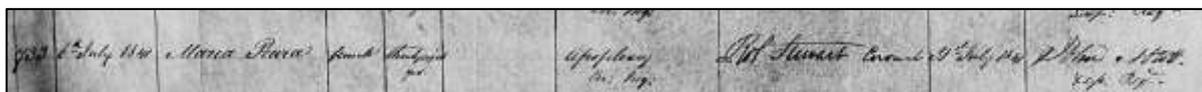
The evidence was clear and conclusive. She entered the shop of Mr. Bennett, and, whilst making some trifling purchase, manage to secrete the gown-piece in question. Upon leaving the shop, a little girl who had witnessed the fact communicated it to one of the shopmen, who followed the prisoner, and gave her into custody. The property was subsequently found upon her person. She made no defence to the charge, and the jury finding her guilty, his honor was pleased, merely out of consideration for her very advanced age, to sentence her three



months imprisonment in the female house of correction, instead of the seven years' transportation to which she would otherwise undoubtedly have been subjected.³¹

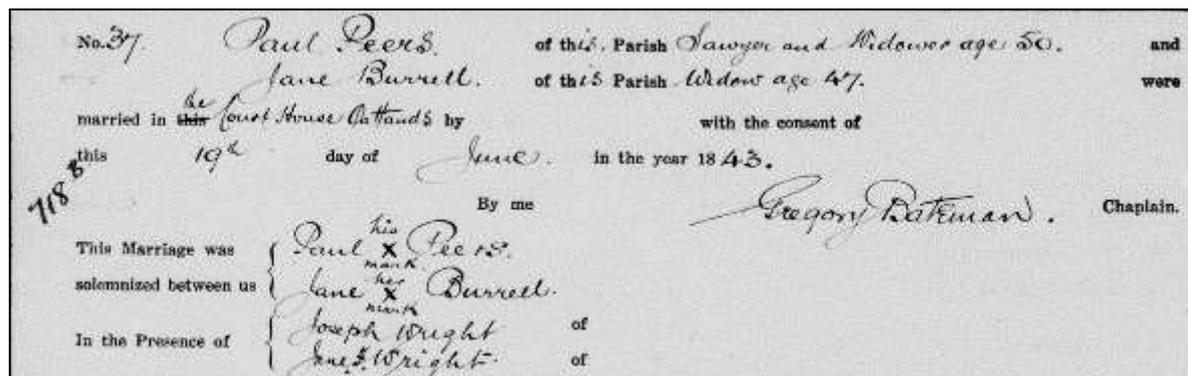
The three month sentence would have taken her to October 1843. Nothing further has been found for Maria Carter/Peers.

However, there are a few queries in relation to Maria. If, as she stated on arrival, she was born about 1795, her age in 1843 would have been 48. Even taking into account that she may have had a hard life, would she really, as the Chief Justice noted, have looked to be of 'very advanced age'? It is interesting to note that the woman of this particular case was referred to as Mary Carter, whereas for earlier offences 'our' reprobate was referred to as Maria Peers. Certainly the misdemeanour has been included in Maria Carter's official conduct register, but could this have been an administrative mistake, and the case may refer to another woman by the name of Mary Carter? It has been mooted, albeit with some reservation respecting age, that Maria Carter may have been the Maria Pearce whose death was recorded at Hobart on 6 July 1841.³²



But this cannot be so if Maria had been tried in 1843. To further confuse matters, as noted below, Paul Peers, claiming to be a widower, remarried in 1843. And finally, who was the baby Maria Carter, who was born in Hobart on 16 September and baptised there six days later on 22 September 1822, whose mother was given as Maria Carter, but no father recorded?³³

To conclude this account we return to Paul Peers. On 28 April 1843 the Muster Master received a request from Paul Peers and Jane Burrell for permission to marry, for which approval was granted on 13 May.³⁴ Permission was required because, although Paul had finally had his ticket of leave reinstated on 13 January 1843, after twenty-five years in the colony, he was still classed as a convict. In that time his literacy skills had not improved, evidenced by the fact that when the marriage duly took place on 19 June 1843 at the Court House, Oatlands, he was still not capable of signing his name. And neither was the bride.³⁵



Jane Burrell was listed as a 47 year old widow. Checking on her history reveals that she had been married at least twice before she and Paul fronted up to the Oatlands Courthouse. Six years earlier, on 11 December 1837 she had married one Thomas Burrill at Bothwell.³⁶ It was Jane Burrill who placed the following notice in 23 July 1841 issue of *The Courier*.

All persons are hereby cautioned against purchasing the Estate of the late Thomas Burrill, situated at Bothwell, there being virtually neither Trustee nor Executors to the same ...³⁷

I have not located a death record for Thomas Burrill but, from the notice, we learn that by at least July 1841 Jane Burrill was a widow. Of particular interest is that it was as Jane Hardy that she had married Thomas Burrill. And we have come across that name before! It was in April 1833 that Paul Peers had been found guilty of not only assaulting a woman by the name of Jane Hardy, but also of 'living in adulterous Intercourse with her'. And again, in January 1834, he was caught 'cohabitating, although a married man, with the wife of a man named Hardy, now

at Port Arthur'. But Jane was about to 'enjoy' her first spell of widowhood. John Hardy, prisoner at Port Arthur, died aged 50 on 9 July 1834.³⁸

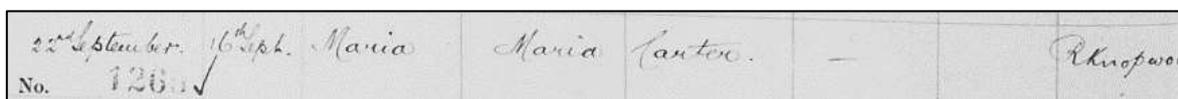
Finally, having been in servitude for just over twenty-seven years, Paul Peers was granted a pardon.

Having behaved in a very correct manner during the last Five Years, nearly Three Years and a half of which period he has held a Ticket of Leave.³⁹

The 1848 census finds just Paul and Jane living in their weatherboard house in Stanley Street, Oatlands.⁴⁰ Just over a year later, at the age of 58, Paul Peerse [sic], labourer, died on 4 April 1849, from disease of the liver. The informant was Charles Ellen, undertaker of Oatlands.⁴¹ His widow followed him to the grave at Oatlands. Registered as Jane Pearce, a pauper, she died aged 79 on 8 February 1872, the cause of death being Dropsy of the Extremities. The informant was William Exton, Superintendent of Police.⁴²

Postscript

In addition to acquiring her ticket of leave and a husband within the first few years of her time in Van Diemen's Land, did Maria also give birth on 16 September 1822 to a daughter, also named Maria, and whose birth was registered at Hobart?⁴³



One online family tree includes a Maria Carter, born at Hobart, with the same birth date as the new-born Maria shown above, and also record that on 8 April 1839 this Maria, under the name Maria Everett, married James King at Trinity Church, Hobart, as confirmed by the following record.⁴⁴



According to same family tree, Maria King died in Melbourne on 24 June 1879 and a notice to this effect was placed in a local newspapers.

KING – On the 22nd June, at her residence, corner of Napier and Rose streets, Mrs. King, late wife of James King, of dropsy. Home papers please copy.⁴⁵

I have obtained a copy of her death certificate which confirms that Maria King, aged 54, died on 22 June 1879. The informant was William King, son, of 155 Argyle Street, Fitzroy and, at face value, the details he provided refute any suggestion that Maria King was the Maria Carter, born at Hobart. He stated that Maria King's parents were William Everett, labourer, and Maria Everett, formerly (maiden name not known). Maria King had been born in Liverpool, England. She had spent 5 years in Tasmania and 34 years in Victoria.⁴⁶

Prior to relocating to Victoria, and again referring to the certificate, Maria had spent 5 years in Tasmania, which means that she had arrived there around 1839-1840 – in time to marry James King. If she had lived in Victoria for 34 years, she would have arrived there about 1845. And indeed there is a record of Maria King plus three children – Louisa aged 6, William aged 4, and Henry aged 9 months – all natives of Van Diemen's Land, who had embarked on the colonial schooner *David* at Hobart Town which had departed on 2 February 1846 and arrived at Port Phillip 13 days later. Heading the list of King passengers was a Mr. Wm. [sic] King, country of origin unknown, but a gardener by calling (which was his trade on marriage). All were intending to become settlers in Victoria.⁴⁷

James King died on 20 August 1891 at the age of 82 at his home in Station Street, Carlton. According to his death

certificate he had been a gardener by occupation, and had died of old age. His father was also named James King, but the details of his mother were unknown. James had been born in Essex, England, and had lived in Tasmania for ten years before moving to Victoria where he resided for forty years. The informant, his brother Henry King of Collingwood, knew that James had been married at Hobart, Tasmania, but did not know the date. He stated that James had married a Maria Gladstone.⁴⁸ To further muddy the waters, Louisa King, eldest daughter of James and Maria, married a William Everett in 1888. She died in 1919, the registration stating that her parents were James King and Annie Marion Gladstone.⁴⁹ Her brother, another James, had died in August 1891, a few weeks before their father's death. The death registration for James junior gave his mother's name as Maria (Everitt).⁵⁰

Another online family tree provides details for a Maria Everett, born in Liverpool, Lancashire, daughter of William Everett and Maria Carter, which fit the information furnished by Maria King's death certificate. This tree also suggests that James King may have arrived in Van Diemen's Land as a convict.⁵¹

None of the above resolves the problem as to the provenance and fate of the baby Maria Carter, about whom we only have her mother's name - Maria Carter - who, by the time the baby girl was born, had been Mrs. Peers for six months.

NOTES

¹ Findmypast (FMP), England & Wales Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935. At one time the whole of what is now known as Lincolnshire was called Lindsey, as recorded in the Domesday Book. Subsequently Lindsey was applied only to the northern area and then referred to as one of the three 'parts' of Lincolnshire. The other parts were Holland in the south east and Kesteven in the south west.

² Lincolnshire convicts transported, Lincolnshire County Council, <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives/lincolnshire-archives/archives-collections/lincolnshire-convicts-transported/>.

³ Ancestry, Select Marriages, 1538-1973. Ancestry, Select Births and Christenings, 1538-1975.

⁴ *Stamford Mercury*, 13 Jun 1817, p.3.

⁵ Female Convicts Research Centre (FCRC), Female Convicts in Van Diemen's Land database, Convict ID 3582. Ancestry, New South Wales and Tasmania, Australian Convict Musters, 1806-1849. *The Hobart Town Gazette and Van Diemen's Land Advertiser*, 4 Oct 1823, p.1.

⁶ Tasmanian Archives and Heritage Office (TAHO), Hobart marriages 1822, RGD36/1/1 no 541.

⁷ *Chester Chronicle*, 3 April, 1818.

⁸ *Chester Chronicle*, 10 Apr, 1818.

⁹ FMP, England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935, Correspondence and Warrants, pp.348-349.

¹⁰ Ancestry, UK, Prison Hulk Registers and Letter Books, 1802-1849.

¹¹ *The Hobart Town Gazette and Southern Reporter*, 19 Dec 1818, p.2.

¹² Ancestry, Australian Convict Transportation Registers, Other Fleets & Ships 1791-1868. Ancestry, New South Wales, Convict Indents, 1788-1842.

¹³ Ancestry, New South Wales and Tasmania, Australian Convict Musters, 1806-1849.

¹⁴ FMP, Denbighshire Baptisms.

¹⁵ FMP, Diocese of Chester, parish registers of Marriages c1538-1910.

¹⁶ Ann 1810, Sarah 1811, Paul 1813, Jane 1816, Frances 1817-1817, Frances 1818. FMP, Diocese of Chester, Bishop's Transcripts of Baptisms c1600-1910. FMP, Diocese of Chester, Bishop's Transcripts of Burials, c1600-1910. Ancestry, Peers Online Family Tree, <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/family-tree/person/tree/73028185/person/40341705956/facts>.

¹⁷ I have not found any death record for his wife Frances/Fanny under many variants of the surname Peers. She may have remarried.

¹⁸ TAHO, Conduct Register, 31/1/24 image 23. TAHO, Conduct Register, CON 40/1/1 image 235. Unless otherwise noted, all references to misdemeanours and punishments are sourced from the Conduct Registers.

¹⁹ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 25 Mar 1826, p.3.

²⁰ It is interesting to note that William Clarke, who had arrived per *Almorah* and subsequently sent to Van Diemen's Land per *Pilot*, had been tried at Lincoln in on 27 July 1816 and sentenced to fourteen years for uttering. He had been born at North Kyme, about 10 miles from Mary Carter's probable birthplace, Coningsby – *Stamford Mercury*, 2 Aug 1816, p.3.

²¹ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 11 Aug 1827, p.4.

²² Ancestry, New South Wales and Tasmania, Australia Convict Musters, 1806-1849.

²³ *The Hobart Town Courier*, 26 Jan 1828, p.3.

²⁴ Life in the Cascades Female Factory, FCRC, <http://femalefactory.org.au/history/life-in-the-cascades-female-factory/>.

²⁵ TAHO, Conduct Register, CON31-1-34 image 23.

²⁶ *Colonial Times*, 28 Jan 1834, p.7.

²⁷ Ancestry, New South Wales and Tasmania, Australia Convict Musters, 1806-1849.

²⁸ TAHO, Conduct Register, CON31-1-34 image 23.

²⁹ *Colonial Times*, 27 May 1834, p.3.

³⁰ TAHO, Conduct Register, CON40/1/1 image 235.

³¹ *Launceston Examiner*, 12 Jul 1843, p.3.

³² FCRC, Female Convicts in Van Diemen's Land database. TAHO, Hobart deaths 1841, RGD35/1/1 no 733.

³³ TAHO, Hobart baptisms 1822, RGD32/1/1 no 1265.

³⁴ TAHO, Marriage Permissions 1843, RGD37/3, no 781b.

³⁵ TAHO, Oatlands Marriages 1843, RGD37/1/3 no 718B.

³⁶ TAHO, Bothwell marriages 1837, RGD36/1/3 no 3998.

³⁷ *The Courier*, 23 Jul 1841 p.1.

³⁸ TAHO, Tasman deaths 1834, RGD34/1/1 no 3831.

As an aside – In March 1822 John Hardy a Yorkshireman and a butcher, was found guilty of stealing nine sheep. On the recommendation of the Jury and the Prosecutor, his death sentence was commuted to transportation for life. Shortly after he was locked up, his wife, Jane Hardy, was found guilty of having tried to smuggle three steel spring saws, and three files into York Castle in order to effect her husband's (and others') escape. At her trial, Jane Hardy 'a very respectable looking woman', had requested to be transported, in order to join her husband. After considerable correspondence regarding the legalities of her plea (refer to transcripts in FCRC database, Pre-Transportation section, Jane Hardy, Convict ID 8560), the presiding judge granted her request. She was sentenced to be transported for seven years. With 'her eyes glistening with tears' she thanked his Lordship saying 'you have done me a great service to send me to my husband' - *Yorkshire Gazette*, 16 Mar 1822, p.4; 23 Mar 1822; 20 Jul 1822, p.3; 3 Aug 1822, p.3. John Hardy arrived on the *Morley* in January 1823 and Jane on the *Mary* in October 1823. But what an ingratiate Jane's husband turned out to be. On 29 May 1823, just four months after his arrival in Van Diemen's Land, he chalked up his first offence – disobeying an order. After Jane's arrival he managed to keep out of trouble for a few years, but from October 1826 his conduct sheet is a litany of offences, culminating in his finally no longer being re-assigned to his wife and in 1831 being banished to Port Arthur, from which he absconded (and was returned) on numerous occasions – TAHO, Conduct Register, CON31/1/18 Index number 30156.

³⁹ Ancestry, New South Wales and Tasmania, Australia, Convict Pardons and Tickets of Leave, 1834-1859, Tasmania Pardons, 1847-1848.

⁴⁰ TAHO, Census 1848, CEN1/1/94 p.72.

⁴¹ TAHO, Oatlands deaths 1849, RGD35/1/19 no 30.

⁴² TAHO, Oatlands deaths 1872, RGD35/1/41 no 350.

⁴³ TAHO, Hobart births 1822, RGD32/1/1 no 1265.

⁴⁴ Ancestry, King online Family Tree, <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/family-tree/person/tree/58506411/person/32414553592/facts>. TAHO, Hobart Marriages 1839, RGD37/1/1 no 50.

⁴⁵ For example, *Illustrated Australian News*, 5 Jul 1879, p.110.

⁴⁶ VIC BDM, Death certificate, 4679/1879.

⁴⁷ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Passengers Arriving at Port Phillip, 1846.

⁴⁸ VIC BDM, Death certificate, 9575/1891.

⁴⁹ VIC BDM, Death certificate, 16173/1919.

⁵⁰ VIC BDM, Death registration, 11983/1891.

⁵¹ Ancestry, Tisbury online Family Tree, <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/family-tree/person/tree/54298463/person/13929631771/facts>.



SOURCES

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Ancestry

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England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538-1975

England, Select Marriages, 1538-1873

New South Wales and Tasmania, Australia, Convict Pardons and Tickets of Leave, 1834-1859

New South Wales and Tasmania, Australian Convict Musters, 1806-1849

New South Wales, Australia, Convict Indents, 1788-1842

New South Wales, Australia, Passengers Arriving at Port Phillip

Online Family Trees

UK, Prison Hulk Registers and Letter Books, 1802-1849

FindmyPast

Denbighshire Baptisms

Diocese of Chester, parish registers of Baptisms c1600-1910

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Other Websites

Births Deaths and Marriages Victoria, <https://www.bdm.vic.gov.au/>

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Lincolnshire County Council, <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/>

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TROVE

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Illustrated Australian News

Launceston Examiner

The Courier

The Hobart Town Courier

The Hobart Town Gazette and Southern Reporter

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