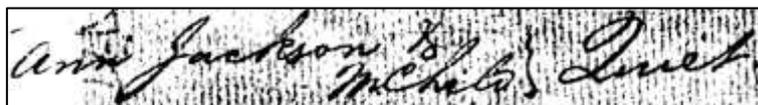


Ann Jackson

Date of Trial:	16 April 1817
Where Tried:	Middlesex Gaol Delivery
Crime	Larceny from a person
Sentence:	7 years
Est YOB:	c1795
Stated Age on Arrival:	23
Native Place:	
Occupation:	Servant
Alias/AKA:	Ann Turner (m)
Marital Status (UK):	
Children on Board:	1 – male
Surgeon's Remarks:	Quiet
Assigned NSW or VDL	VDL

Ann Jackson was one of the few *Friendship* women who was accompanied by a child when she embarked on the convict transport at Deptford. No name is provided for this child, and while the annotation on the *Friendship* schedule is unclear, it is more than likely (and later confirmed) that the child was male.¹



Ann Jackson, aged 20, was taken into custody at Middlesex on 24 March 1817 on a charge of having two days prior picked the pockets of one Mathias Brooks, and relieved him of a watch and money.² The account of the trial, held on 16 April at the Old Bailey, was recorded as follows, at the conclusion of which she was taken back to gaol to await the time of her removal to the convict transport *Friendship*.³

689. ANN JACKSON was indicted for stealing, on the 22d of March, one watch, value 2l.; one 3s. bank token, and a 1l. bank note, the goods and monies of Mathias Brooks, from his person.

MATHIAS BROOKS. I am a carpenter. On the 22d of March, about twelve o'clock, I met the prisoner in Charles-street, Drury-lane, and went home with her. I was quite sober—we had some drink—I awoke in about an hour, and found the place quite dark, and the prisoner gone—I missed my watch and 1l. 3s., from my breeches pocket—I am sure the prisoner is the woman—I went in search of her, and found the watch and note on her

JOSEPH TRIMBEY. I am a watchman. I was calling three o'clock—the prosecutor said he had been robbed, and described the prisoner to me—we traced her to two or three cook-shops, in Dyot-street, and found her in Monmouth-street, Crawley found the 1l. note on her.

PATRICK CRAWLEY. I am a watchman. I traced the prisoner to Monmouth-street—I had seen her going towards St. Giles's—I found the watch and 1l. note on her.

(Watch sworn to.)

GUILTY. Aged 20.

Transported for Seven Years.
Second Middlesex Jury, before Mr. Recorder.

During the voyage from England to Port Jackson Ann Jackson kept herself out of trouble, being described by Surgeon Cosgreave, no doubt thankfully, as 'quiet'. Recorded as 20 when she committed her crime, and at her trial, when she was mustered on arrival in January 1818 her age was recorded as 23 and her occupation as servant. We know that her child also survived the journey as he was recorded as having arrived as a free

passenger.⁴ The preliminary administrative procedures having been completed, Ann, presumably with her child, was sent on to Hobart per the *Duke of Wellington*, which dropped anchor on 20 February 1818. She was mustered in Hobart as 'off stores' for 1819 and 1820, indicating that she had been placed on assignment. For the 1820 and 1821 musters she was shown as having a ticket of leave.⁵ The 1822 muster shows her still as a ticket of leave woman and also against her name is listed 1 male child.⁶

On 13 November 1819 the following item appeared in the *Hobart Town Gazette and Southern Reporter* reporting on a particularly callous act by a group of four women, but only named one of these heartless females.⁷

During the absence of the family yesterday afternoon at the funeral of Mr. Anson (whose death is mentioned in this paper), a woman named Elizabeth Bannister, who was left in charge of the premises, taking the advantage of the mournful occasion, along with three other confederates in iniquity, robbed the house of sundry articles of wearing apparel, and a quantity of wine and spirits, which they conveyed off to a house in the neighbourhood. Bannister and her companions are lodged in prison.

Two of the others were Ann Jackson and her fellow *Friendship* shipmate Susan Courtney. Having spent a few days in gaol, their case came up for hearing by the magistrates on 18 November. The 'gang' was fortunate as the case was dismissed. This was the first of only three charges on Ann Jackson's conduct record. On 25 June 1825, by which time Ann was free by servitude, she was charged with having been drunk and disorderly at ½ past four the previous afternoon and was fined 5/-. Eighteen months later, on 20 December 1826, the Reverend Knopwood ordered her bound over to keep the peace towards one John Neil for two months.⁸

The next recorded event in Ann's life in Van Diemen's Land was her marriage to Thomas Turner. Many of the *Friendship* women who married had done so within a relatively short time after their arrival, and indeed it has been calculated that between 1817 and 1823 some 35 percent of female prisoners who arrived in the colony were married within two years, a pleasing outcome for the authorities who actively encouraged marriage not only as a means of nurturing a semblance of 'domestication', but also as a means of reducing reliance on government rations.⁹ Ann Jackson did not follow the trend. She had been in the colony for nearly ten years before she and Thomas Turner were married by banns at Launceston on 14 December 1829. Both groom and bride were 'free' but only the groom was able to sign his name. He had arrived in the colony on board the convict transport *Surry*. The two witnesses were Josiah Pitcher and William Jones, both of Launceston. Ann and Thomas were described as being of the 'District of Morven'.¹⁰

Marriages solemnized in the Parish of *St. Johns, Launceston* in the County of *Cornwall* in the Year 1829.

No. 122. *Thomas Turner* (free) of the Parish *District of Morven*
 & *Ann Jackson* (free) of the Parish *District of Morven*
 married in this Church by Banns with consent of
 this *fourteenth* day of *December* in the year 1829.

By me *W. C. Brown* Chaplain.

This Marriage was solemnized between us
Thomas Turner of *Friendship*
Ann X Jackson
 In the Presence of
Josiah Pitcher of *Launceston*
William Jones of *Launceston*.

This, of course, begs the question as to what Ann Jackson had been doing during the previous three years, and

when and why she moved from Hobart to the Morven district, the centre of which was Evandale, a settlement 18 kms south of Launceston on the banks of the South Esk River, and named after George William Evans, the first permanent surveyor appointed in Van Diemen's Land in 1814.¹¹



Can we find any clues in the two people selected to witness the marriage? There are too many men by the name of William Jones to be able to identify this witness. However, Josiah Pitcher, tried at Wells, Somerset, in August 1818 for stealing shop goods, and sentenced to transportation for life (death commuted), had arrived in the colony on the *Hibernia* in 1819, and from at least 1820 to 1826 was assigned to George W Evans, Esq.¹² As noted below, it was to George W Evans that Thomas Turner was also assigned. While this establishes a link with the groom, it does not add any further information on the bride.

Thomas Turner had been remanded in custody 'for stealing 3 Hosiery Petticoats of Sarah Newman'.¹³ He was tried at the Old Bailey on 14 January 1818 for housebreaking but, fortunately for him, the charge was down-graded to theft, as was the concomitant sentence. From the account of the trial we find that he was only 16 years old at the time.

273. THOMAS TURNER was indicted for feloniously breaking and entering the dwelling-house of Charles Florey, about ten o'clock in the forenoon of the 9th of January (he and others of his family being therein), with intent to steal, and stealing therein three petticoats, value 30s., the goods of James Newman.

SARAH NEWMAN. I lodge in Mr. Florey's front kitchen. On Thursday morning I put the petticoats in the back kitchen to dry; I left the window shut, and locked the door, and gave the key to the landlady, as she, and the other lodgers, dry their things there also. Next evening I went there, and missed them - I do not know when they were taken.

CHARLES FLOREY. I am the landlord of the house. On Thursday and Friday I saw the window shut down.

MARY FLOREY. I had the key of the back kitchen, and saw the things safe on Thursday evening. I put the key in the shop.

SAMUEL FURZEMAN. I am an officer. On Friday morning, the 9th of January, I met a young man in Charles-street, Drury-lane; he turned two or three times, and looked towards Drury-lane, from where he came; suspecting something, I stood a moment or two, and saw the prisoner on the opposite side, looking down Charles-street - he saw me cross towards him, and he crossed directly opposite Short's-gardens; I stopped him, and asked him what he had in this bundle? He said it was some things for his sister, and that he brought them from his mother. I found they were three wet petticoats. It was about half-past eleven o'clock.

(Property produced and sworn to.)

Prisoner's Defence. I met two young men in the Newroad; they told me to come with them; the prosecutor's

daughter called one of them in; he came out with the bundle, gave it to me, and told me to go on, and said he would follow. When we came to Oxford-street he said it was stolen.

JOHN WILD. I am a hair-dresser. On the 9th of January, about a quarter after nine o'clock, I saw two lads come out of the house; they had nothing in their hands - I did not see the prisoner.

GUILTY. Aged 16.

Of Stealing only. Transported for Seven Years.

Second Middlesex Jury, before Mr. Recorder.¹⁴

Thomas was transferred from Newgate to the hulk *Bellerophon* on 11 February where he spent seven months before being removed on 12 September for embarkation on the convict ship *Surry*.¹⁵ Like all the prisoners from the hulks, Thomas' transfer was fettered by the double leg chains. Together with 159 other convicts Thomas bade farewell to England on 18 September. The vessel arrived at Port Jackson on 4 March 1819 after a passage of 156 days and with three less convicts than had started out, these having died during the voyage. A small contingent of the convicts was off-loaded at Sydney, the balance of 150, including Thomas Turner, being taken on to Hobart, 'for the service of the public', where the *Surry* arrived on 17 March.¹⁶

According to the bound indentures, Thomas' age on arrival was stated as 18. He was 5'4" tall, with a dark/sallow complexion, brown hair and hazel eyes. Prior to his arrest he had been employed as an errand boy, hardly a calling to fulfil the role of useful artisan or heavy-duty labourer, but at least, judging from his marriage registration, he was literate.¹⁷ In what capacity is not known, Thomas Turner was recorded as being assigned to Mr. Evans from at least 1821 to 1826.¹⁸ Perhaps during this time he undertook training in something more useful for himself and the colony other than running errands.

Only two items appear on Thomas Turner's conduct register. On 22 November 1822, at the behest of his employer Mr. Evans, he was charged with having been absent from Sunday muster, for which he received a reprimand. By the second (date illegible) he was bound over.¹⁹

In the normal course of events, Ann Jackson having served out her sentence would have been free by servitude in 1824/5, and indeed this was her status when she was charged with being drunk and disorderly in June 1825. So it is rather surprising to find that her freedom was confirmed, belatedly, by a government notice of January 1828.

The Period for which the under-mentioned Persons were transported, having expired, Certificates have been granted to them accordingly:-

Ann Jackson, Friendship ...²⁰

Had she not collected her certificate in 1824/5? Had she lost the original? Or had she spent some time, as yet unidentified/unrecorded, under a further sentence? Or was the late issue of the certificate due to an earlier administrative oversight?

The indulgence of a ticket of leave to Thomas Turner was announced in February 1824; in 1827 he was issued with a certificate of freedom.²¹

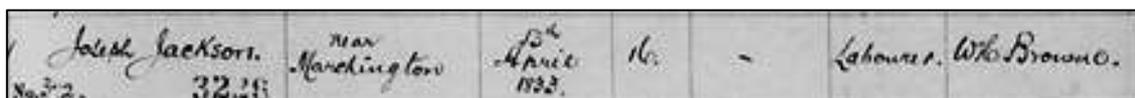
What happened to Ann and Thomas after their marriage? No record of any children born to this couple has been found. No definitive death record has been found for Thomas Turner – and there were a number of men of that name who lived and died in Tasmania. With respect to Ann, she may have been the Ann Turner, wife of a sawyer, who died on 28 December 1848 at the age of 50, but whose death was not registered until 3 February 1849, the informant being a friend, Benjamin Loriman of Launceston.²²

28 Decemr 1848	Ann Turner	Female	50 Years	Sawyer's Wife	Informations of Benoit	Benj Loriman Friend of John St	3 February
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But this speculation presupposes that the Turner couple remained in Tasmania after their marriage.

Another mystery is the identity and fate of Ann Jackson's son, whose arrival had been recorded and who was

listed (anonymously) with his mother for the 1822 muster. Apart from not knowing his name, no reference is made to his age/estimated year of birth. He does not appear in the 1827 Tasmanian Muster of Children, nor was he an inmate of the Orphan School, online records for which commence in 1828, perhaps suggesting that he was 'too old' to be recorded as a child by the late 1820s. Purely speculative, but perhaps worth following up, is a death registration for one Joseph Jackson, a 16 year old labourer, who died 'nr Marchington'.²³ This Joseph would have been born about 1817.



Marchington, at Breadalbane, was the property of John Smith, located halfway between Launceston and Evandale.

NOTES

¹ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1856. The Biographical Database of Australia (BDA) Biographical report for Ann Jackson refers to a female child, and also suggests an estimated year of birth for Ann as 1795.

² Findmypast (FMP), England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935, Prison Register.

³ Proceedings of the Old Bailey, 16 Apr 1817, p.45, <http://www.oldbaileyonline.org/images.jsp?doc=181704160045>. FMP, England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935, Prison Register.

⁴ BDA, Biographical Report for Ann Jackson, Convict Indents & Ships Musters. Biographical Report for Jackson, Free Passengers NSW Arrivals 1788-1825.

⁵ BDA, Biographical Report for Ann Jackson, Tasmanian Musters. Female Convicts Research Centre (FCRC), Female Convicts in Van Diemen's Land database, Convict ID: 3598. Ancestry, New South Wales, Census and Population Books, 1811-1825, Hobart Town Population Musters, 1820 and 1821.

⁶ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Settler and Convict Lists, 1787-1834, Male and Female, 1822.

⁷ *The Hobart Town Gazette and Southern Reporter*, 13 Nov 1819, p.2.

⁸ Tasmanian Archives and Heritage Office (TAHO), Conduct Record, CON40/1/5 p.2.

⁹ Michael Nash, *Convict Places*, Navarine Publishing, Hobart, 2016, p.15.

¹⁰ TAHO, Launceston marriages 1829, RGD36/1/1/ no1348.

¹¹ Wikipedia, Evandale, Tasmania, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evandale,_Tasmania. LISTmap – Land Information System, <https://maps.thelist.tas.gov.au/listmap/app/list/map>.

¹² *Taunton Courier and Western Advertiser*, 13 Aug 1818, p.7. Ancestry, New South Wales and Tasmania, Australian Convict Musters, 1806-1849, 1820. Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Settler and Convict Lists, 1787-1834, 1822, 1823 and 1826. Josiah Pitcher gained a ticket of leave in January 1826, and a conditional pardon on 24 October 1829 – a few weeks before he witnessed the Jackson-Turner marriage – *Hobart Town Gazette*, 28 Jan 1826, p.1; TAHO, Conduct Register, CON31/1/34 p.23. He was one of the ten survivors of the July 1826 wreck of the Colonial schooner, *Sally*, which took the life of his first wife, Mary – *Colonial Times and Tasmanian Advertiser*, 28 Jul 1826, p.3.

¹³ FMP, England & Wales, Crime, Prisons and Punishment, 1770-1935, Prison Registers.

¹⁴ *Old Bailey Proceedings Online* (www.oldbaileyonline.org, version 8.0, 22 June 2018), January 1818, trial of THOMAS TURNER (t18180114-107).

¹⁵ FMP, Prison ship (Hulk) Registers, Bellerophon.

¹⁶ Free Settler or Felon? Convict Ship *Surry*, 1819, https://www.jenwilletts.com/convict_ship_surry_1819.htm. Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1856, correspondence from Campbell to Sorell, 10 March 1819.

¹⁷ BDA, Biographical report for Thomas Turner, Convict Indents and Ship Musters, 1819 Mar.

¹⁸ Ancestry, New South Wales, Census and Population Books, 1811-1825, 1821. Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Settler and Convict Lists, 1787-1834, 1822 and 1826.

¹⁹ TAHO, Conduct Register, CON31/1/42 p.20.

²⁰ *Colonial Times*, 18 Jan 1828, p.3.

²¹ *The Hobart Town Gazette and Van Diemen's Land Advertiser*, 6 Feb 1824, p.1. Ancestry, Tasmania, Australia, Convict Court and Selected Records, 1800-1899, Register, (Core Series) N-Z, 1804-1847.

²² TAHO, Launceston deaths 1848, RGD35/1/16 no 1081.

²³ TAHO, Launceston deaths 1833, RGD34/1/1 no 3226.



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