

## Ann Jennison

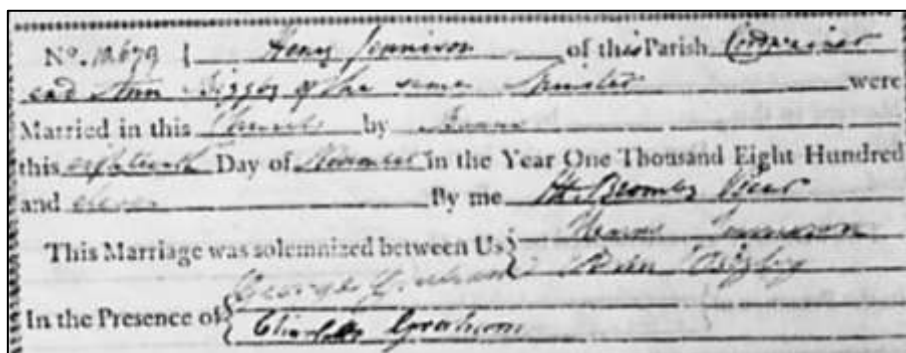
Date of Trial:	17 April 1817
Where Tried:	Kingston upon Hull Quarter Session
Crime:	Larceny
Sentence:	7 years
Est YOB:	1794
Stated Age on Arrival:	24
Native Place:	
Occupation:	Straw Worker
Alias/AKA:	
Marital Status (UK):	Married – Henry Jennison
Children on Board:	
Surgeon's Remarks:	A prostitute, shameless and mutinous since being on board; she was two months gone with child, when she miscarried in the 4th Mates berth or bed. I strongly suspect her to have used improper means.
Assigned NSW or VDL	VDL

Some information about Ann Jennison's trial was carried in the 22 April 1817 edition of the *Hull Packet*.

At the General Quarter Sessions for this town and county, on Thursday, *Ann Jennison*, for stealing thirteen handkerchiefs from Mr. King, linen-draper, pleaded *guilty*, and was sentenced to be transported for seven years. In her house a quantity of stolen goods, and forty-eight duplicates for property, a great part of which had been stolen was found.<sup>1</sup>

Judging by the ill-gotten gains found in her house, together with the 48 pawn tickets, Ann Jennison seems to have made something of a career of thieving. The *Hull Packet* also reported in May on the transfer of some female convicts, then held in gaols in York, to the convict vessel *Friendship*, but Ann Jennison is not included in the list.<sup>2</sup> But it would have been around late May that she too made the uncomfortable journey south to Deptford. She was leaving behind a husband, Henry, and possibly, but not mentioned, children.

Tentatively, Henry Jennison may have been the man who, on 18 November 1811 at the Holy Trinity Church, Hull, married Ann Bigby. Henry, a bachelor, was a cordwainer by trade; Ann was a spinster; both were 'of this parish'.<sup>3</sup>



Again speculatively, but with reference to Ann Jennison's estimated birth year, Ann Bigby may have been the daughter of George and Ann Bigby who was baptised at the Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Hull, on 12 September 1793.<sup>4</sup>

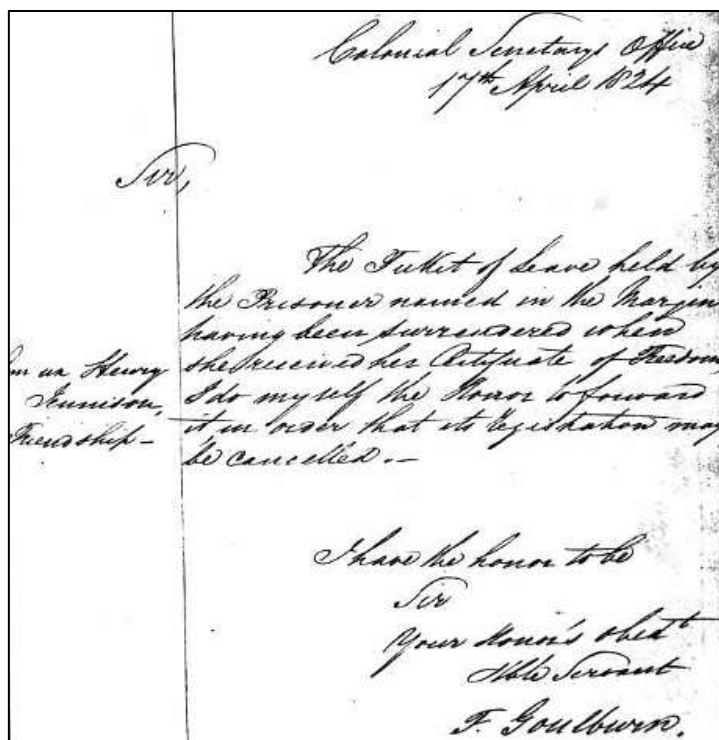
To return to 'firmer' ground. Aged 24 and a straw hat maker by trade, Ann Jennison arrived at Port Jackson on 14 January 1818, 'armed' with a scathing character reference from the ship's surgeon Peter Cosgreave. Not only was she deemed a prostitute, fraternising with the crew, but, unless she was pregnant when she boarded the ship, she also managed to become pregnant on the voyage and miscarried or possibly aborted the child. On arrival she was sent on to Van Diemen's Land, but in August 1819 she was on her way back to Port Jackson on board the colonial brig *Prince Leopold*.<sup>5</sup> According to newspaper reports, the brig had on board several prisoners

under sentence to Newcastle; and one for trial on charges of sheep-stealing.<sup>6</sup> The Tasmanian Name Index departures lists Ann as holding a ticket of leave but there is no indication as to why she was a passenger on the brig.<sup>7</sup> Nor was she included in the Colonial Secretary's correspondence relating to the matter. Perhaps she was travelling as an assigned servant to one of the passengers?

Name:	Jennison, Ann
Record Type:	Departures
Status:	Ticket of Leave
Departure date:	12 Aug 1819
Departure port:	Hobart
Ship:	Prince Leopold
Bound to:	Port Jackson
Record ID:	NAME_INDEXES.567954
Resource:	CUS33/1/3 p67B

There are three 'accounts' of Ann's whereabouts for 1820 – as a single woman mustered in Sydney; mustered at Hobart; and included in the 1820 Hobart Town Population muster.<sup>8</sup> It was as a single woman that she was again mustered in 1821 at Sydney.<sup>9</sup> She was back in Hobart for the 1823 muster for which she was listed as a servant to Z. [Zachariah] Chaffey, whose family had relocated from Norfolk Island in 1808.<sup>10</sup>

As noted above, Ann Jennison was given a ticket of leave by 1819. She was granted her certificate of freedom on 17 April 1824.<sup>11</sup>



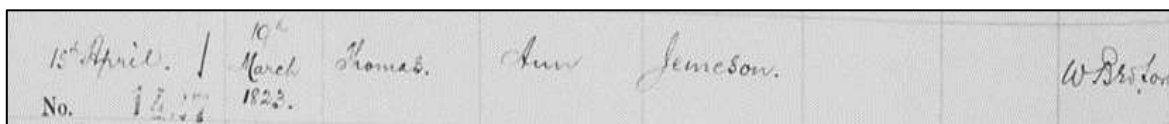
From the Register we gain some idea of what she looked like. She was 5' 1" inch tall, with a fair-ruddy complexion, brown hair and hazel eyes.<sup>12</sup> For the short time Ann was in Van Diemen's Land she did nothing to merit a mention on her conduct record.<sup>13</sup>



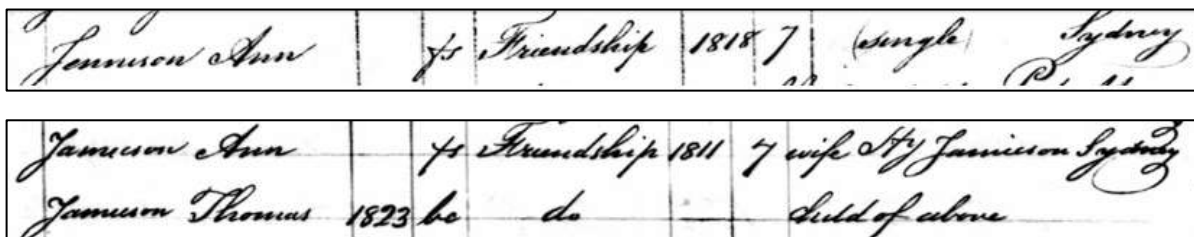
Having obtained permission to leave the Island, Ann travelled to Port Jackson in February 1824, listed as a passenger on the brig *Belinda*.<sup>14</sup>

**SHIP NEWS.**—On Monday last arrived from England and Hobart Town, the brig *Belinda*, Captain Coverdale. This vessel, it may be recollected, made the latter Port some few months back, in a dismantled and otherwise wrecked condition. Her cargo comprises sundries. Passengers, from England and Hobart Town, Mr. Edward Lee. Supercargo; Mr. Edward Spark and family; Mr. Crook, Mr. J. Harpur, Mr. Wm. Lundin, Mr. James Kiernan, Miss Mary Hosking, Master W. Hutchinson, and Ann Jamieson and child.

The child listed with her on the passenger list was her's – son Thomas – who had been born Hobart on 19 March 1823 and baptised the following month on 15 April. The father of this child remains a mystery.<sup>15</sup>



There are two records for Ann Jennison/Jamieson for the 1825 General Muster.<sup>16</sup>



The first has her as Ann Jennison, living in Sydney and designated single. The second has her as Ann Jamieson, living in Sydney, the wife of Hy Jamieson, and the mother of Thomas Jamieson.

And it is at this point that the trail for Ann Jennison runs cold. Neither she nor Thomas have been found in the 1828 NSW Census, nor in any of the Tasmanian records.

NOTES

- <sup>1</sup> *Hull Packet*, 22 Apr 1817, p.3.
- <sup>2</sup> *Hull Packet*, 24 May 1817, p.3.
- <sup>3</sup> Findmypast (FMP), Yorkshire Marriages, East Riding Archives & Local Studies Service, PE 158/27.
- <sup>4</sup> FMP, Yorkshire Baptisms, East Riding Archives & Local Studies Service, PE/158/6.
- <sup>5</sup> TAHO, Departures, CUS33/1/3, p.67B.
- <sup>6</sup> *The Hobart Town Gazette and Southern Reporter*, 14 Aug 1819, p.1.
- <sup>7</sup> TAHO, Tasmanian Departures, <https://data.gov.au/dataset/tasmanian-departures-1817-1867>.
- <sup>8</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Settler and Convict Lists, 1787-1834, New South Wales, Female 1820 [Jamieson]. Female Convicts Research Centre (FCRC), Female Convicts in Van Diemen's Land database, Convict ID: 3600. Ancestry, New South Wales Census and Population Books, 1811-1825, Hobart Town Population Muster, 1820.
- <sup>9</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Settler and Convict Lists, 1784-1834, New South Wales, Female 1821 [Jamieson].
- <sup>10</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales and Tasmania, Australia Convict Musters, 1806-1849, Tasmania, List of convicts (incomplete), 1823.



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<sup>11</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales , Australia, Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1856, Copies of Letters Sent Outside the Colony, "Foreign", 1814-1856.

<sup>12</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Certificates of Freedom 1810-1814, 1827-1867.

<sup>13</sup> TAHO, Conduct Record, CON40/1/5, p.1.

<sup>14</sup> *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, 26 Feb 1824, p.2.

<sup>15</sup> TAHO, Hobart Births, 1823, RGD31/1/1 no 1427.

<sup>16</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales and Tasmania, Australia Convict Musters, 1806-1849, New South Wales, 1825. Note that the *Friendship's* arrival is incorrect in one of the records – 1811 should have been recorded as 1818.



## **SOURCES**

### **Genealogy Websites**

#### Ancestry

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

New South Wales, Australia, Certificates of Freedom, 1810-1869

New South Wales, Australia, Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1856

New South Wales, Australia, Settler and Convict Lists, 1787-1834

New South Wales, Census and Population Books, 1811-1825

#### Findmypast

England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935

Yorkshire Baptisms

Yorkshire Marriages

### **Other Websites**

Female Convicts Research Centre, <https://www.femaleconvicts.org.au/>

LINC Tasmania, <https://www.linc.tas.gov.au/>

Tasmanian Archives and Heritage Office, <https://www.libraries.tas.gov.au/archive-heritage/>

### **Online Newspapers**

#### British Newspapers (Findmypast)

Hull Packet

#### TROVE

The Hobart Town Gazette and Southern Reporter

The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser

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