



## Mary Jones

Date of Trial:	22 Mar 1817
Where Tried:	Lancaster Assizes
Crime:	Having forged bank notes
Sentence:	14 years
Est YOB:	1773
Stated Age on Arrival:	45
Native Place:	Gibraltar?
Occupation:	Housekeeper
Alias/AKA:	Margaret Jones
Marital Status (UK):	
Children on Board:	
Surgeon's Remarks:	Quiet
Assigned NSW or VDL	VDL

Researching a person by the name of Mary Jones is as challenging as researching a person by the name of John Smith, and the more so as this woman was also referred to as Margaret Jones!

The Calendar for the March 1817 Lancaster Assizes was notable for the number of cases 'which exhibited the widest system of forgery (and perhaps the most complete in imitation that has yet been discovered)'. There were twenty such cases of which the trial for Mary Jones was but one. Along with others, she was:

... capitally indicted for the offence of disposing and putting away quantities of forged notes, with intent to defraud the Governor and the Bank of England. – The prisoners all pleaded guilty to the minor offence [possession], and have, of course, subjected themselves each to fourteen years transportation.<sup>1</sup>

Mary had been held in the Lancaster Gaol for just two months when, on 19 May, the Governor sent to the Secretary of State the Orders of Transportation for fifteen female prisoners currently in his custody. Mary Jones was on the list. Nine days later he recorded in his Journal that Mary Jones was one of eleven of these prisoners who had been removed to Deptford in readiness for embarking on the *Friendship*.<sup>2</sup>

This 'quiet' woman managed to stay out of trouble on the voyage to Port Jackson and, on arrival, was one of those selected to be sent on to Hobart on the *Duke of Wellington*, arriving there on 20 February 1818. According to an annotated copy of the original Assignment List, Mary Jones was to be taken into the service of the Brodrigg family.<sup>3</sup>

Mrs. Prudence Brodrigg had been one of the free passengers on board the *Friendship*, and also on the *Duke of Wellington*. Her arrival at Hobart was noted in the local paper of 21 February 1818.

SHIP NEWS – Yesterday arrived from Port Jackson, the ship Duke of Wellington ... Passengers ... Mrs. Brodrigg and family, lately from England in the *Friendship*<sup>4</sup>

Mrs. Brodrigg, with four children in tow, was joining her husband, William Adam Brodrigg, who, in 1817, had been transported for seven years, but who, because of his legal training, had been sent with Governor Sorell to Hobart Town where he had been appointed as clerk to the bench of magistrates.<sup>5</sup> Mrs. Brodrigg may have observed Mary Jones during the voyage and put in a request for her services once on land. If not, the decision to assign Mary Jones to this family is an example of the policy of the authorities, where possible, to 'best-fit' assignees to employers. Mary Jones was one of the four housekeepers in the convict complement of the *Friendship*. This 'qualification', together with her demeanour on board and her maturity at age 45, would have well equipped her to be of assistance to Prudence Brodrigg.

But whether Mary Jones took up this assignment and if so, for how long, is questionable. The Conduct Record

drawn up for Mary (Marg<sup>t</sup>) Jones is not only blank, but even the standard details of convict ship/arrival and trial have not been entered.<sup>6</sup>



Similarly, her entry in the Female Convicts in Van Diemen's Land database, as Margaret Jones only provides details of her trial and transportation and convict description.<sup>7</sup> The only entry in the Tasmanian Names Index is for convict Mary Jones, and it only references the Assignment List.<sup>8</sup>

The reason that Mary Jones cannot be located in any of the Van Diemen's Land records is that by 1820 she was actually in New South Wales. How and when she arrived there is not known, but Mary Jones, tried at Lancaster, and who arrived in the colony on the *Friendship* to serve fourteen years, was mustered in 1820 at Sydney, holding a ticket-of-leave.<sup>9</sup> Two years later she is listed in the 1822 muster as a 'House Holder Sydney' and in 1825 as 'GS Jn Anslip Constable'. For the same muster John Anslip was described as an Invalided Constable.<sup>10</sup>

It was as John Houslip (alias John Hanslip) that this man, a labourer, prosecuted by Robert Shank, Esq. and on the oaths of John Duden and John Mahony, was locked up in the Southwark House of Correction on 13 January 1787:

... on a violent suspicion of having, on the 19th day of December last, in the parish of Rotherhithe, in the county of Surrey, feloniously stole, took, and carried away, six bushels and upwards of oats, the property of William Morley.

Further, together with two others, and again prosecuted by Robert Shank:

Detained, (the said John Houslip) the 13th day of January, 1787, by Robert Shank, esq. charged on the oaths of John Morris, Christopher Albin, and Richard May, on a violent suspicion of having feloniously stole, took, and carried away, in the parish of St. Saviour, Southwark, in the said county, one sack, and about two bushels of horse beans, the property of Robert Burnett and William Coxson.

At his trial on 27 February at the Surrey Quarter Epiphany Sessions he was charged on both counts, found guilty, and sentenced to be transported for seven years.<sup>11</sup>

He arrived at Port Jackson on 1 August 1791 on the *Matilda*, one of the eleven Third Fleet vessels. The *Matilda* had commenced its voyage with 230 convicts but, with the death of 25 at sea, landed only 205. And, according to David Collins, many of those who landed were aged and infirm and/or sick.<sup>12</sup> Aged about 30, John was probably one of the younger arrivals. On New Year's Day 1797 John Hanslip married Sarah Wood at St Philips Church. What happened to this Sarah is not known, but by 1801 he was living with another woman with the same first name – Sarah Slade – who had arrived per *Indispensable* in April 1796. In 1804 John Anslip was a constable, a position he held for about twenty years. The muster of 1814 refers to Sarah Slade as wife of John Anslip and with one child. The trio, John, Sarah and son Charles, were mustered in 1821. In February 1823 the Commissariat Office published a list of constables employed in Sydney who received a commuted allowance in lieu of rations. The allowance for a constable was 6s 8d, for a wife 2s 6d, and for each child (not exceeding 2) 1s 6d. John Anslip is listed as eligible for a total allowance of 10s 5d.<sup>13</sup> Sarah Hanslop [sic] died on 25 May 1823 and was buried two days later.<sup>14</sup>

Mary Jones is listed in the 1822 census and population return as a ticket-of-leave holder living at Parramatta.<sup>15</sup> Turning now to the 1828 census.<sup>16</sup> Mary Jones is recorded as living at Castlereagh Street with John Hanslip and earning her living as a needlewoman. John Hanslip, of the same address, is recorded as being a weaver. The final record located for John is that of his death in 1830 at the age of 70. He was buried on 17 December by the Reverend William Cowper, and his death was registered at St. Phillip's Church.<sup>17</sup> What happened to son Charles is not known.

The news of Mary Jones' certificate of freedom was published in *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* in 23 April 1831.<sup>18</sup> She had completed her full term of transportation and would have been about 58 years old when she was finally free. From the Butts of Certificates of Freedom we get some idea of what she looked like. Interestingly, and with no other means found of verifying the statement, her native place was recorded as Gibraltar.<sup>19</sup>

CERTIFICATE OF FREEDOM.	
No.	31/226
Date	28 March 1831
—	
Prisoner's No.	—
Name	Mary Jones
Ship	Falg. ship (3)
Master	Amitt
Year	1818
Native Place	Gibraltar
Trade or Calling	Housekeeper
Offence	uttering forged notes
Place of Trial	Lancaster ass.
Date of Trial	22 March 1817
Sentence	fourteen years
Year of Birth	1773
Height	5 feet 1/2 inches
Complexion	fair ruddy
Hair	Brown turning grey
Eyes	Grey
General Remarks	Scar on left cheek - lost nearly all her front teeth in upper jaw -

The search for further information about Mary Jones continues, particularly details of when and where she died.

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> *Cambridge Chronicle and Journal*, 18 Apr 1817, p.4.

<sup>2</sup> Findmypast (FMP), England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935.

<sup>3</sup> Tasmanian Archives and Heritage Office (TAHO), Assignment List, CON13/1/1 p.140.

<sup>4</sup> *The Hobart Town Gazette and Southern Reporter*, 21 Feb 1818, p.2.

<sup>5</sup> William Adams Brodribb (1789-1861) came from a notable Somerset family. He was convicted at Gloucester Assizes on 3 April 1816 for administering unlawful oaths and transported on the *Sir William Bensley* in March 1817. He was conditionally pardoned in December 1818, permitted to practise privately as an attorney, and was fully pardoned on 7 August 1821 - Janette Finch and Ruth Teale, 'Brodribb, William Adams (1809-1886)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/brodribb-william-adams-3060/text4511>, published first in hardcopy 1969, accessed online 24 May 2018. See also Bond of Friendship accounts for Jean Lang Jnr and Elizabeth Burrell.

<sup>6</sup> TAHO, Conduct Register, CON40-1-5.

<sup>7</sup> Female Convicts Research Centre (FCRC), Female Convicts in Van Diemen's Land database, Convict ID: 3601.

<sup>8</sup> TAHO, Assignment List, CON13/1/1 p.40.

<sup>9</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Settler and Convict Lists, 1787-1834, New South Wales, Female, 1820.

<sup>10</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales and Tasmania, Australia Convict Musters, 1806-1849, New South Wales, General Muster, 1822.

Ancestry, New South Wales and Tasmania Australia Convict Musters, 1806-1849, New South Wales, General Muster A-L, 1825.

<sup>11</sup> FMP, Surrey Quarter Sessions 1780-1820.

<sup>12</sup> Free Settler or Felon? Convict Ship Matilda 1791, [https://www.jenwillets.com/convict\\_ship\\_matilda\\_1791.htm](https://www.jenwillets.com/convict_ship_matilda_1791.htm).

<sup>13</sup> *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, 20 Feb 1823, p.1.

<sup>14</sup> Biographical Database of Australia (BDA), Biographical reports for John Houslip, Sarah Slade, and Charles Anslip.

<sup>15</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales, Census and Population Books, 1811-1825, Parramatta (Baulkham Hill), 1822, (Book 3).



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<sup>16</sup> Ancestry, 1828 New South Wales, Australia Census (TNA) Copy.

<sup>17</sup> BDA, Biographical report for John Houslip.

<sup>18</sup> *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, 23 Apr 1831, p.1.

<sup>19</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Certificates of Freedom, 1810-1814, 1831, March.



## SOURCES

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### Online Newspapers

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#### TROVE

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