



Jean Lang (Jnr)

Date of Trial:	25 April 1817
Where Tried:	Glasgow Court of Justiciary
Crime:	Theft
Sentence:	14 years
Est YOB:	1796
Stated Age on Arrival:	23
Native Place:	
Occupation:	Servant
Alias/AKA:	Jane Morrison, Jane Morgan (m)
Marital Status (UK):	
Children on Board:	
Surgeon's Remarks:	Mutinous and a prostitute
Assigned NSW or VDL	VDL

Of the five *Friendship* females tried and convicted in Scotland, there were two by name of Jean Lang on board the ship when it departed from England's shores in July 1817. Although not yet been confirmed, they were most likely mother and daughter. The *Caledonian Mercury* of 12 April 1817 listed them together as scheduled to appear at the forthcoming Glasgow Spring Circuit, and they were tried together on 24 April 1817.

John Smith, John McLean, Jean Lang senior, and Jean Lang junior, *alias* Morrison, accused of theft, by breaking into Newton Cottage, Sauchiehall road, on the 15th October 1816, and carrying away feather pillows, bedcovers, English blankets, nine white ivory handled knives, three forks, and two table cloths, belonging to the sequestered estate of Alexander Still, merchant in Glasgow.

Smith was charged with being habit and repute a thief, McLean with theft only, and the Langs for the reset of said goods at their house, second close east from Claythorn-street Glasgow. Smith is the person who was admitted king's evidence against Quigly, at a former Circuit Court here.

Smith and McLean pleaded *Guilty*; the Langs pleaded *Not Guilty*.

Lord Gillies asked McLean his age, and he answered he was 14.

After evidence had been gone through, Mr Drummond addressed the Jury for the Crown, and intimated that he had restricted the libel against McLean to an arbitrary punishment; but that of Smith was very different, as his case was aggravated by being habit and repute. As to the women, they were only actors, or resetters of the goods stolen. The Learned Counsel then adverted to the general tenor of the evidence, and called upon them to bring in a verdict of *Guilty* against the whole prisoners at the bar.

Mr. Stewart addressed the Jury for the prisoners.

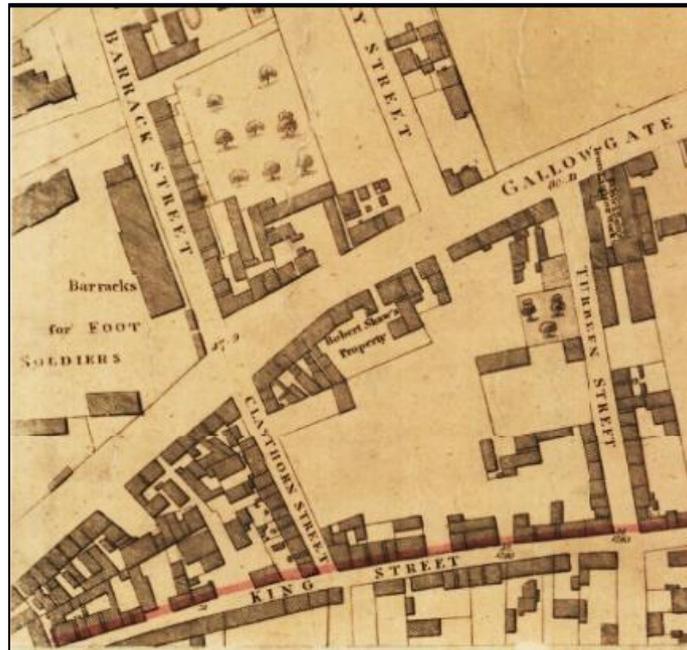
Lord Hermand charged the Jury, who, without leaving the box, in two minutes returned their verdict, finding the boys *Guilty* on their own confession, and the women also *Guilty*. – Sentence delayed till tomorrow.¹

Due to the length of proceedings, sentencing was delayed to the following day. There was to be no mercy for habitual criminal John Smith who was sentenced to be hanged on 28 May. Young John McLean was sentenced to be transported for 14 years, as were Jean Lang senior and Jean Lang junior.²

As an aside, the victim Alexander Still, formerly a substantial merchant in Greenock (Glasgow) moved to London after his bankruptcy and thereafter emigrated to New South Wales in 1821 on the *Westmoreland*. He was appointed as principal muster-clerk in the Colonial Secretary's office. He was mustered in 1825 at Sydney with his wife and five children, the youngest two having been born in the colony, and, at the age of 63, almost thirty years older than his wife Sarah, he and his family were included in the 1828 census, Alexander being described as a Clerk in Colonial Secretary's Office.³ He died in March 1830, leaving a destitute widow and five children for whom a public subscription was organised to raise money for their support. Alexander had died of dysentery in the crowded and noisome debtors' section of the Sydney Gaol where he had been confined for some months.⁴



Claythorn Street, sandwiched between Gallow Gate and Barrack Streets, and where the Langs resided, was some distance from the up-market Sauchiehall Street.⁵



Fortunately for the younger Lang she did not have to languish in Glasgow for too long. On 30 May, together with four others, she commenced the journey southwards.⁶

Yesterday forenoon the following convicts; from Glasgow, were sent from the jail here to Leith, to embark for the hulks, viz. Jean Hume, Mary Cain, Jane Lang, junior, Elizabeth Brodie, and Elizabeth Robertson.

Jean, together with her purported mother, was one of those convict women who in the latter part of June 1817 were mustered on board the *Friendship* which, when all pre-departure arrangements were completed, sailed on 3 July 1817. Unlike Jean senior, whom Surgeon Peter Cosgreave assessed as 'Quiet, humane and industrious', Jean junior was deemed to be 'Mutinous and a prostitute'.

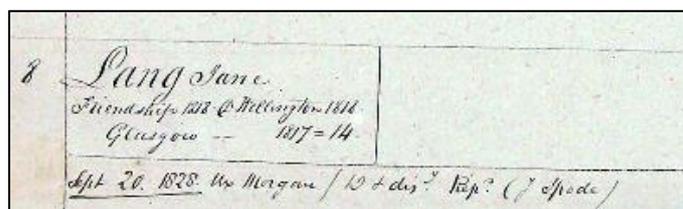
On arrival the convict index listed her as Jean jnr Lang [Jean jnr Morrison], aged 23 (alternatively 22) and a servant by occupation, who could neither read nor write, but who was known to have been 'On the Town'. Having been mustered she was selected as one of the group of *Friendship* women to be transferred for the benefit of the Van Diemen's Land community. Thus she was embarked on the *Duke of Wellington*, and arrived at Hobart on 20 January 1818, to be assigned by or to (?) the 'Lt. Gov'.⁷

29 Jan Lang Junr: alias Morrison 1831/183 Lt-Governor Do Do 25 April 1817 Southern Cross

For the 1821 convict list Jean was being held at the Government Factory.⁸ This listing does not mention the fact that she was by then a married woman. The 1823 convict list does, however, refer to Jane Lang as the wife of Thos. Morgan.⁹ She and Thomas Morgan had married on 30 August 1820 at Hobart.¹⁰

Thomas Morgan	Convict.	Sir Wm Bausley	23 years.	20 August.	Bonus.
Jane Lang	Convict.	Bridshie.	24 years.		
William Robert					
George					
Grove					
Northam					

Apart from one misdemeanour recorded Jean/Jane led a quiet and unremarked life as Mrs. Morgan. Charged on 20 September 1828 with being drunk and disorderly, she got away with a just a reprimand.¹¹



The transportation period for Jean Lang jnr (alias Morrison) having expired, she was granted her certificate of freedom in May 1831.¹²

As one of a group of men whose exploits 'had excited more than ordinary interest, not only in the immediate scene of the transaction', but also throughout the kingdom at large, Thomas Morgan's conviction and early days in the colony are easier to track.¹³ As noted on the marriage record, he had arrived at Port Jackson on the *Sir William Bensley*. The ship had weighed anchor on 10 March 1817, and Thomas was one of 70 convicts (including the eight other men convicted with him for the same offence) who were subsequently sent on to Van Diemen's Land aboard the *Elizabeth Henrietta*, arriving at Hobart in April.¹⁴ He had been tried on 3 April 1816 at the Gloucester Lent Assizes, having been brought into the County Goal on 27 January of that year at which time his offence and personal details were recorded in the Register.

Charged on the oaths of John King and others with having feloniously been present at the murder of one William Ingram aiding helping abetting comforting and assisting and maintaining John Penny the said felony murder to do and commit.¹⁵

He was 19 years old and a blacksmith by trade, standing at 5' 9½, with light hair, grey eyes, a dark complexion, round features, and being 'stout made'. He had scars on his right arm and left wrist, and he had apparently broken his right arm twice. This solidly built Thomas Morgan who, on the night of the affray had armed himself with a stick, was one of nine men, and the youngest member of the gang referred to as the 'Berkeley Poachers'. The *Bristol Mirror* (*inter alia*) gave an account of the trial.¹⁶

THE BERKELEY POACHERS

At the Gloucester Assizes on Tuesday, John Penny was indicted for the wilful murder of Wm. Ingram, a gamekeeper of Colonel Berkeley, on the night of the 18th of January last, in the parish of Hill; and John Allen, Thomas Morgan, Daniel Long, James Jenkins, James Roach, Thomas Collins, John Reeves, William Penny, John Barley, and Robert Grove *alias* Groves, for aiding and assisting in the said murder. The trial lasted two days, the Court having adjourned from eleven at night till the following morning. The Jury after deliberating about two hours, found the whole *Guilty*, at the same time recommending all to mercy, except John Penny, and John Allen, who appeared to be the principal instigators of the business.—The Judge (Mr. Justice Holroyd) immediately passed sentence of *Death* upon the whole, and gave J. Penny and J. Allen no hopes of mercy. The principal witness against the prisoners was William Greenaway, one of the party, who was admitted King's evidence. His examination alone lasted upwards of four hours. The greater number of these young men were of very respectable appearance, and all resided in the neighbourhood of Thornbury. Four of the offenders are still at large.

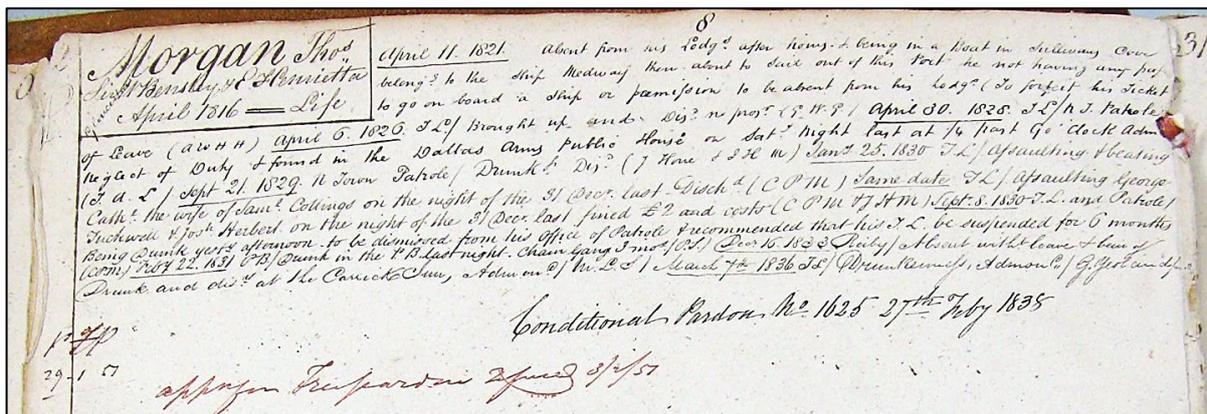
Penny and Allen will undergo the sentence of the law this morning.

Col. Berkeley very humanely and promptly seconded the recommendation of the Jury, that mercy might be extended to nine of the culprits, whose conduct appeared the least atrocious.

The whole gang was initially capitally convicted but, on Colonel Berkeley's recommendation, all but the two principal instigators had their sentences commuted to transportation for life. As reported in the press, all nine of these 'fortunate' men were removed from the County prison in June 'for the purpose of being immediately sent to New South Wales – Thus ends the melancholy tale'.¹⁷ They were all received on the hulk *Justitia* on 21 June and incarcerated there until being transferred to the *Sir William Bensley* on 5 September.¹⁸

In brief, Thomas Morgan can be traced through the various musters and convict lists from 1820 to 1835. He held a ticket of leave in 1820 and was off rations. For 1822 and 1823 he still held his ticket and was also recorded as being married for the 1823 listing. 'Ticket of Leave' was the notation in 1826, but in 1830 he had been put to 'Public Works' and for 1832 and 1835 he was assigned to Thomas Reiby [sic].¹⁹

His Conduct Record provided a more 'lively' account of Thomas Morgan's activities.²⁰



Thomas had been married for about six months when the first misdemeanour was recorded on 11 April 1821.

Absent after hours from his lodgings and being in a boat in Sullivan's Cove belonging to the ship *Medway* then about to sail out of this Port, he not having any pass to go on board a ship or permission to be absent from his lodg^s [lodgings].

This would seem to be a serious offence, and one which suggests that Thomas had determined on 'doing a bunk', perhaps to escape from his wife? His punishment was forfeiture of his ticket of leave (which he presumably regained before the drawing up of the 1822 lists).

There was then a break of five years before the next charge was brought up on 6 April, 1826, but this was dismissed for want of a prosecutor. Two years later, on 30 April 1828, Thomas was charged of neglecting his vigilante duties as a member of the New Town Patrole. He was found at ¼ past nine o'clock in the "Dallas Arms" public house, and admonished for this lapse. No punishment is recorded for being found drunk and disorderly on 21 September 1829 when he was again on duty with the Patrole. On a more serious note, on 25 January 1830 he was charged with having assaulted and beaten Catherine, the wife of Samuel Collings on the night of 31 December (possibly Samuel Collings, wheelwright, of Liverpool Street). This charge was dismissed but on the same day Thomas was charged with having assaulted George Tuckwell (coachmaker, of Liverpool Street) and Jos^h Herbert, for which he was fined £2 and costs. Perhaps he was welcoming in the New Year too enthusiastically? On 8 September 1830, and yet again while on patrole duties, Thomas had been found drunk the previous afternoon. Not only was he to be dismissed from his Office of Patrole, but the magistrates recommended that his ticket of leave be suspended for 6 months, as widely reported in the local newspapers.²¹

Thomas Morgan's ticket of leave suspended for six months, for Drunkenness, and dismissed his office of Patrole on the New-town road.

Thomas' drinking problem accounts for the last three entries in his Conduct Register. On 22 February 1831 he was sentenced to three months on the chain-gang for being found drunk in the prisoners' barracks. Eighteen

months later, on 16 December 1833, his master, Mr. Reibey charged him with having been absent without leave and being found drunk and disorderly at the “Carrick Inn” for which he was duly admonished. Thomas would not have had far to walk to the Inn, Carrick being very close to Hadspen, where Thomas Reibey had established his Entally estate. Thomas Morgan would also have been one of the first patrons, as the Carrick Inn, the only licensed premises even now, dates from 1833.²² By notice in *The Hobart Town Courier* in March 1836, the public were advised that Thomas Morgan had regained his ticket of leave. And it was with this status that on 7 March 1837 he was charged and admonished for drunkenness.²³



Carrick Inn

(Photograph Leonie Fretwell May 2018)

In anticipation of applying for a convict pardon the following record was drawn up in respect of Thomas Morgan.²⁴

Name and Ship	Date of Trial	Sentence	Period in the Colony	Period holding Ticket of leave
Joseph Syme. Chapman	14 th July 1823	Life	14 Yrs.	5 Yrs.
Jacob Pen. Chapman	2 nd Aug st 1823	Life	14 Yrs.	4 Yrs.
John Perryman Commodore Hayes	22 nd May 1822	Life	10 Yrs.	5 Yrs.
Thomas Morgan, Sir W. Bensley and Elizabeth Hewitts	Apr. 1817	Life	21 Yrs.	0 th Yrs.

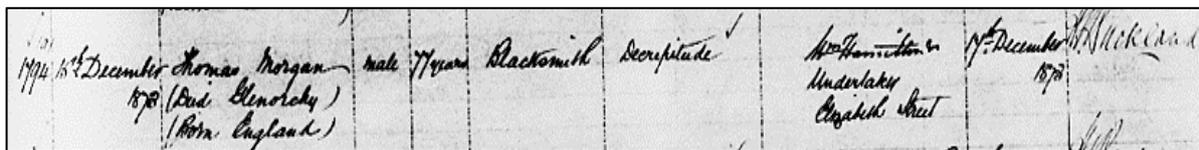
It cited his name and ship; the date of his trial; the sentence; the period he had spent in the Colony; and the period of holding a ticket of leave (the latter presumably being an accumulative calculation). Based on Thomas Morgan having been in the colony since 1817, the date of the record would be about 1838. It was not until February 1840, with Government Notice No. 35, that it was announced that Thomas Morgan (among many others), had earned a conditional pardon. Each of the pardoned individuals could apply at the Muster Master’s Office, Hobart Town, or to that of a Police Magistrate in the interior, failing which they were liable to be treated as prisoners of the Crown.²⁵ The last annotation on his conduct record, although difficult to read, suggests that Thomas Morgan applied for a Free Pardon, but that this was refused in February 1857.²⁶

A search on TROVE finds numerous references to the name Thomas Morgan, but very few conclusively associated with the Thomas Morgan who arrived on the *Sir William Bensley*. Jane Morgan may have been the subject of a crime reported in the press in February 1830 – the victim of Joseph Morris who was convicted of stealing a watch and chain, value two guineas.²⁷ But the last definite TROVE reference to Jean Lang is that of 23 May 1831, announcing the issue of her certificate of freedom.²⁸ Was she in fact the Jean Morgan, wife of a blacksmith, who was buried on 20 April 1837 at Norfolk Plains and whose death, at the age of 36 was registered at Longford?²⁹

Jean Morgan.	Norfolk Plains	1837.	36.	Husband
5219		20 th April.		Blacksmith

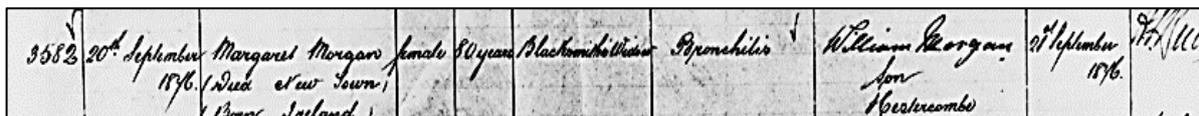
And speculating again, was her husband the Thomas Morgan, blacksmith, born in England, who died at Glenorchy

on 15 December 1873 at the age of 77 and whose death was registered at Hobart, and for whom a funeral notice appeared in the press?³⁰



MORGAN.—At Hestercombe, Glenorchy, Thomas Morgan, in 77th year of his age. The funeral will move from the Church, Hestercombe, THIS DAY, Thursday, 18th inst., at half-past 2. Friends are respectfully invited to attend.

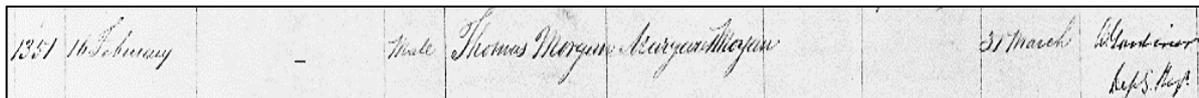
If his first wife died in 1837, did Thomas remarry? If so, was the Margaret Morgan, whose death was registered at Hobart in 1876 and whose funeral notice was placed in the press, Thomas' wife?³¹



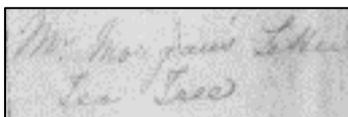
MORGAN.—On the 20th September, at New Town, Margaret, wife of the late Thomas Morgan, of Hestercombe, Glenorchy. The funeral will move from her late residence at Hestercombe on Sunday, the 24th inst., at 4 o'clock, when friends are respectfully invited to attend.

Postscript

No records have been found to indicate that Jean Lang and Thomas Morgan had any children. The death registration for Margaret Morgan refers to a son William as the Informant. The birth of a son to a Thomas and Margaret Morgan on 13 February 1843 was registered at Hobart, but the child's name was not recorded, nor were the rank/profession of the father or the former name of the mother.³²



The end column of the birth register was provided for comments, and in this column against the above entry, very faintly, is the annotation 'Mr. Morgan's Letter Tea Tree'. Tea Tree was 'up country' and notification by mail accounts for the delay in registering the birth. Given the relative remoteness of the area, it is likely that there had not previously been an opportunity for the child to be baptised and therefore he 'had no name'.



Coincidentally, for the 1842 census we find a Thomas Morgan residing at Brandon Cottage, in the parish of Yarrington, and working as a blacksmith. The proprietor of the cottage was T & C Bonney – brothers Thomas and Christopher, settlers and farmers at Tea Tree.³³ It so happened that Thomas and Christopher had been two of the six children who had accompanied their mother Frances (née Atkins) Bonney when she sailed on the *Friendship* in 1817 and then on to Hobart on the *Duke of Wellington*. She and the children came as free settlers, and they had made the journey to reunite with their convict husband/father, Joseph Bonney.³⁴

The 'Berkeley Poachers' were bound together by birthplace, crime, sentence and transportation. Something of their fortunes once they arrived in the colony has been unearthed, but apart from the fact that Thomas Morgan married a Jean Lang, he does not feature in the research to date.³⁵ In fact, from the very start of the affair, he was set apart from the others in the group, not only because he was the youngest, but also because unlike them he

was not a farmer, but a blacksmith. The above account, albeit given that some of it is speculative, may assist in filling in some of the gaps.

NOTES

- ¹ *Caledonian Mercury*, 12 Apr 1817, p.3 and 18 Apr 1817, p.3.
- ² *The Scots Magazine*, 1 May 1817, p.74.
- ³ Ancestry, New South Wales and Tasmania, Australia Convict Musters, 1806-1849, General Muster M-Z, 1825; Ancestry, 1828 New South Wales, Australia Census (TNA Copy), New South Wales, Census R-S, 1828.
- ⁴ 'Still, Alexander (?-1830)', Obituaries Australia, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://oa.anu.edu.au/obituary/still-alexander-13703/text24485>, accessed 19 August 2018. For a heart-wrenching account of his fate, see the article by Vindex in *The Australian*, 17 Mar 1830. "THE SYDNEY GAOL." *The Australian (Sydney, NSW : 1824 - 1848)* 17 March 1830: 2. Web. 19 Aug 2018 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article36867953>>. Note, there was another Alexander Still who arrived in the colony in 1822 and who was appointed to the Government Commissariat at Bathurst. He is generally referred to as Alexander Still junior in newspaper accounts.
- ⁵ National Library of Scotland, Town Plan Views, <https://maps.nls.uk/view/74400941>.
- ⁶ *Caledonian Mercury*, 31 May 1817, p.3.
- ⁷ Ancestry, Australia, Convict Index, 1788-1868. Female Convicts Research Centre (FCRC), Female Convicts in Van Diemen's Land database, Convict ID: 3602. TAHO, Assignment List, CON13/1/1 p.140. Note: the FCRC database had entered Jean Lang under the name Jean Morrison.
- ⁸ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Settler and Convict Lists, 1787-1834, New South Wales, Female, 1821.
- ⁹ Ancestry, New South Wales and Tasmania, Australia Convict Musters, 1806-1849, Tasmania, 1823.
- ¹⁰ TAHO, Hobart marriages 1820, RDG36/1/1 no 395.
- ¹¹ TAHO, Conduct Register, CON40/1/5 p.4
- ¹² *The Hobart Town Courier*, 21 May 1831, p.2.
- ¹³ *Windsor and Eton Express*, 23 Jun 1816, p.3.
- ¹⁴ TAHO, Assignment List, CON13/1/1 p.77.
- ¹⁵ Ancestry, Gloucestershire, England, Prison Records, 1728-1914, Registers of Prisoners, The County Gaol, 1815-1817.
- ¹⁶ Babette Smith, *Australia's Birthstain : The Startling Legacy of the Convict Era*, Allen & Unwin, Crows Nest, 2008, p.19. *Bristol Mirror*, 13 Apr 1816, p.3.
- ¹⁷ *Windsor and Eton Express*, 23 Jun 1816, p.3. Refer also to BoF account on Elizabeth Burrell.
- ¹⁸ Ancestry. UK, Prison Hulk Registers and Letter Books, 1802-1849, Justitia, Register, 1803-1836.
- ¹⁹ Ancestry, New South Wales and Tasmania, Australia Convict Musters, 1806-1849, 1820; Ancestry, New South Wales, Census and Population Books, 1811-1825, Hobart Town 1820; Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Settler and Convict Lists, 1787-1834, New South Wales, Male and Female, 1822; Ancestry, New South Wales and Tasmania, Australia Convict Musters, 1806-1849, Tasmania 1823, 1826, 1830, 1832, 1835.
- ²⁰ TAHO, Conduct Register, CON31/1/29 p.8.
- ²¹ For example, *The Tasmanian*, 10 Sep 1830, p.7.
- ²² Thomas Haydock Reibey, grandson of Mary Reibey, was born at Hadspen and founded the Entally estate, a 300 acre land grant, with government provisions and a large assigned convict labour force.
- ²³ *The Hobart Town Courier*, 4 Mar 1836, p.1. TAHO, Conduct Register, CON31/1/29 p.8.
- ²⁴ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Convict Pardons and Tickets of Leave, 1834-1859, New South Wales, Pardons (also TASMANIA), 1834-1838.
- ²⁵ *The Hobart Town Courier and Van Diemen's Land Gazette*, 14 Feb 1840, p.2.
- ²⁶ TAHO, Conduct Register, CON31/1/29 p.8.
- ²⁷ *The Hobart Town Courier*, 13 Feb 1830, p.3.
- ²⁸ *Launceston Advertiser*, 23 May 1831, p.165.
- ²⁹ TAHO, Longford deaths 1837, RGD34/1/1 no 5249.
- ³⁰ TAHO, Hobart deaths 1873, RGD35/1/8 no 1794A. *The Mercury*, 18 Dec 1873, p.1.
- ³¹ TAHO, Hobart deaths 1876. RGD35/1/8 no 3582. *The Mercury*, 23 Sep 1876, p.1.
- ³² TAHO, Hobart births, 1843, RGD33/1/1 no 1351.
- ³³ TAHO, Census 1842, CEN1/1/37-93.
- ³⁴ Chestnut Blue, Person Page-64, <http://chestnut-blue.com/Chestnut%20Blue-o/p64.htm#4187>.
- ³⁵ Babette Smith, *Australia's Birthstain*, pp 133-135. Jo Watson, "William Adams Brodribb and the Berkeley Castle Poaching Affray of 1816", *Tasmanian Ancestry*, Volume 25 Number 1 – June 2004, Tasmanian Family History Society Inc., pp.13-15.



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