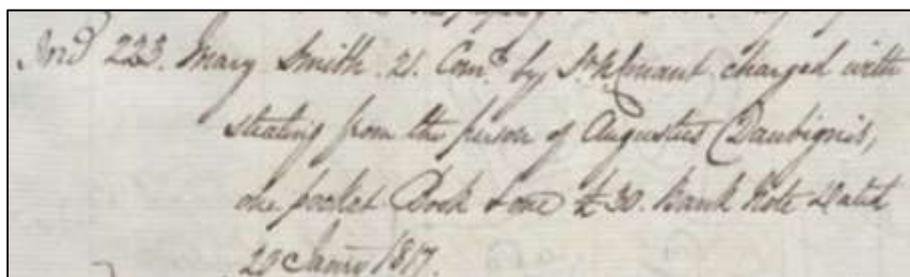

 Mary Smith

Date of Trial:	15 January 1817
Where Tried:	Old Bailey, London
Crime:	Larceny from a person
Sentence:	7 years
Est YOB:	1796
Stated Age on Arrival:	22
Native Place:	
Occupation:	Servant
Alias/AKA:	Margaret Smith, Mary Smyth
Marital Status (UK):	
Children on Board:	
Surgeon's Remarks:	Quiet and filthy
Assigned NSW or VDL	VDL

Mary Smith was only 21 when, on 14 December 1816, she committed the offence of 'larceny from a person' – her victim being one Augustus Daubignis – and had her name entered into the Newgate Prison Register.¹



Charged with Mary Smith was another young woman, Emma Thomas. However, there did not appear to be sufficient proof against Miss Thomas and she was discharged on the proviso that she would give evidence against Mary Smith if called upon to do so.²

Mary's trial was held a month later. It was an open and shut case, based on the evidence of Monsieur Daubignis and Mr William Cricket.

(352) AUGUSTUS DAUBIGNIS. I am a French teacher. On the 14th of January, about twelve o'clock at night, I met the prisoner in St. Giles's. I was rather intoxicated. I went home with her, and staid there about five minutes, it was in Lazarus-court; nobody else was in the room. I had my pocket-book safe then, it had a 30l. bank-note in it. I do not know whether I gave her any thing or not. There was no light in the room. I did not like the house, and she suffered me to go away. When I got out I missed my pocket-book. I had got to the top of Queen-street, Bloomsbury, where I lived. The next day, I gave information at Bow-street, and stopped the note at the bank, it was No. 7,899, and had my hand-writing on it. I saw it at Bow-street, about three days afterwards. I am sure the prisoner is the woman.

WILLIAM CRICKET. I am a salesman, and live in the Minories. On the 15th of December, about ten o'clock in the morning, the prisoner and another woman, came to my house, and bought two pelises and three silk handkerchiefs, which came to 4l. together; they appeared to be meanly dressed. The prisoner gave me a 30l. note, I gave her 26l. in change. I asked her where she got the note; she said, she lodged with a man who had received it as prize-money, and had given them leave to spend 4l.; she said, he would want some things himself, and I gave her a card of my shop. She gave me the name of Smith, Newman-street, Deptford, to put on the note. I gave her one 10l. note and one 5l. note in change, and the rest in 1l. notes. Salmon, the officer, came to me the next morning, and produced my card; and asked me, if I had taken a 30l. note - I told him I had; he produced some notes, I knew the 10l. note and the 5l., and will swear, that I gave the 10l. note to the prisoner. (I produce the 30l. note, which I took of the prisoner.)

AUGUSTUS DOUBIGNIS. It has my hand-writing on it. I took it of Mr. Dick.

WILLIAM SALMON. I am an officer. I apprehended the prisoner in Rose-court, St. Giles's. I told her what I



apprehended her for, and asked her, if she had got any money about her, she said, she had not; I found a 1l. and a 5l. note, in her bosom; I apprehended another woman with her, and found Cricket's card on her, which led me to go to him; he produced the note which agreed with the description which the prosecutor gave him; the prosecutor swore to the prisoner directly he saw her, I produce the notes found on her.

CRICKIT. I know the 5l. note, by the letters R.C. over the 5. I took it of Robert Coleman. I am sure it is the note. Prisoner's Defence. I found the note on the bed.

GUILTY - Aged 21.

Transported for Seven Years.³

Mary Smith was one of the *Friendship* women who, on arrival at Port Jackson in January 1818, were on the list of prisoners to be trans-shipped to Van Diemen's Land where they arrived on 20 February 1818.⁴ Against Mary's name on the official Assignment List was the annotation 'Taylor'⁵. But her travels were not yet over

On 28 February, under the heading 'Awful and Melancholy Catastrophe', the local paper reported:

It is with the most poignant and feelings of sorrow we have to relate to our Readers one of the most shocking accidents that ever came under our notice in this Island. Yesterday a boat, the property of Richard Burrows, Sen., who plied the ferry at the Black Snake, left town for the purpose of returning home; in which were twelve passengers besides the boatman, together with a heavy cart and other luggage belonging to Mr. Peters. It appears, from the intelligence already received, that the boat ran up the river with a strong sea-breeze; and by some accident or other, about Mr. Austin's, upset; when, melancholy to relate, the whole of the unhappy souls except one were consigned to a watery grave. The names of the unfortunate persons are *John Taylor*, *James Price*, *John Taylor* and his wife *Ann Taylor*, respectable settlers, and all late of the Royal Marine Corps; *Mary Ann Williams*, wife of James Williams, settler and district constable at Jerico [sic] with her infant child in her arms; *Elizabeth Ashbold*, a near relation to the last mentioned sufferer; *Mary Smyth*, a young woman who only landed a few days ago from the Duke of Wellington; *Richrd Burrows*, the owner of the boat; *Joseph Pocock*, a shoemaker; *Peter Doran*, assigned servant to Rd Burrows, jun; and a fine little girl about 6 years of age, the daughter of Mr. William Williams of Macquarie-street. ... When this paper was put to press, only the bodies of Mrs Taylor, the two children, and Mary Smyth had been found; which were brought to town.⁶

A coronial inquiry, held on 2 March, determined that the four whose bodies had been recovered had 'Drowned by Accident'. That same day their remains were conveyed to the burial ground, 'followed by an immense concourse of people, who appeared all anxious to pay their last respects', where the funeral service was read by the Rev Mr Knopwood. *The Gazette* concluded its report by observing that:

... the appearance of four funerals, in addition to the sudden manner in which they were called to quit this stage, must leave an indelible impression on the minds of the living, teaching them that holiness, virtue, and sobriety, are the sure guides to the haven of bliss.⁷

When Mary's death was registered, her age was given as 20.⁸

<i>Mary Smith</i> No. 262	27 th February 1818	2 nd March 1818	20 year	Friendship	Convict Drowned	R. Knopwood
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Mary was on board the ill-fated ferry boat as an assigned servant to the Taylor family, settlers in the Black Brush district.⁹ Perhaps, having found a position with a 'good' family, she had resolved to be holy, virtuous and sober. It is sadly ironic that she had survived the sea voyage from England to Port Jackson, and the following voyage from Port Jackson to Hobart, only to lose her life on a river trip.



NOTES

¹ Findmypast (FMP), England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935, FMP, Newgate Prison Calendar, HO77, Piece 24.

² *Public Ledger and Daily Advertiser* 17 Jan 1817, p.3.



³ *Old Bailey Proceedings Online* (www.oldbaileyonline.org, version 7.2, 17 September 2017), January 1817, trial of MARY SMITH (t18170115-204).

⁴ Female Convicts Research Centre (FCRC), Female Convicts in Van Diemen's Land database, Convict ID: 3622.

⁵ Tasmanian Archives and Heritage Office (TAHO), Assignment List, CON13/1/1 image 111.

⁶ *The Hobart Town Gazette and Southern Reporter*, 28 Feb 1818, p.2. The 'fine little girl' was Isabella Williams who is also referred to in the Bond of Friendship account of Hannah Jarvis.

⁷ *The Hobart Town Gazette and Southern Reporter*, 7 Mar 1818, p.1.

⁸ TAHO, Hobart deaths 1818, RGD34/1/1 no 262.

⁹ The administrators of John Taylor's estate referred to him as John Taylor, a settler, late of the Black Brush, near Hobart – e.g. *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 24 Apr 1819, p.1.



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