



Jean Macdonald

Date of Trial:	19 April 1817
Where Tried:	Perth Court of Justiciary
Crime:	Reset of theft
Sentence:	7 years
Est YOB:	1796
Stated Age on Arrival:	22
Native Place:	Kilmarnock
Occupation:	Country Servant
Alias/AKA:	Jean/Jane Pedan, Jean/Jane Dunlop
Marital Status (UK):	James Dunlop (<i>de facto</i>)
Children on Board:	1 son
Surgeon's Remarks:	<i>A good nurse but given to theft</i>
Assigned NSW or VDL	NSW

(The forename and surname of this convict women are variously spelt in the records. Unless citing a specific record/source I have referred to her as Jane Macdonald).

The *Perthshire Courier* of 1 May 1817 reported at length on the trial of this young woman who, less than three months later, would find herself on board the convict transport *Friendship*, one of the small contingent of five woman who had been tried in Scotland and were now on their way to a destination far from their Scottish homeland.

Jane McDonald *alias* Pedan, *alias* Dunlop, James Dunlop, Helen Hughes *alias* Henderson, and John Hughes, indicted for stealing from the shops of William Dow and Peter McNaughton, two pieces of cloth; on the prisoners pleading *Not Guilty*,

Mr. David Beatson, one of the present magistrates of Perth, proved the declarations of the prisoners, [em?ted?] when brought before him for examination, when apprehended and also proved the articles to be those referred to in declarations.

John Grimmant also proved declarations and articles.

Elsbeth Fowlis, resides in South Street, remembered Mrs Hughes, whom she identified, asking lodgings of her for two men and two women; the others came on Wednesday the ---- Told her they expected their goods from Glasgow; - that they were travelling merchants – No goods came. Remembered James Dunlop giving her a parcel, desiring witness, at same time, to give it to no person but himself; not even to his wife. Did not tell witness what was in handkerchief. Witness locked it in a chest of her own. Constables came that evening (Friday) to her house to search it. Gave them the parcel, which they opened, and witness then saw that it contained a piece of blue cloth. Dunlop and his wife went out together that day; John Hughes went out that evening, and did not return. They seemed uneasy when any of their number was absent, constantly asking about each other, this witness attributed to the circumstance of their leaving town next morning, which they had a short time before acquainted her with. The women wore red duffle cloaks when they went abroad.

Duncan Robertson, Town-serjeant, examined. On Friday after the sacramental fast, in November last¹, witness asked by Mr McNaughton's foreman, to go along with him in search of a piece of cloth which had been stolen from the shop, that evening. Having also got Mr Robert Robertson, constable, were inform by Mr McNaughton, that he had reason to suspect a woman who had lately been in the shop, and who wore a red cloak, and that he had since been told 2 women with red cloaks had been seen going up to Allan's the Taylor, and also about David Laing's Vintner, South-Street. Witness went to David Laing, who denied that there were or had been any people of that description about his house. After having desired Mr Laing to send notice if such persons came afterwards, they went to the Town's drummer, who told witness he knew where they lodged. They went to Mrs Foulis, South Street, and found there, Mrs Hughes, in bed, with a red cloak lying on the bed. She denied knowing any thing of what had happened. Mrs Foulis, when she understood they were determined to search the house, opened a chest, and produced a parcel, containing a piece blue cloth, a piece cambric, and a piece printed muslin. Mr



McNaughton said it was not his cloth. The party who had gone to Allan's were by this time, also in Mrs Foulis, and brought with them 2 pair trowsers, in an unfinished state, which when compared with the cloth now found, were declared to be the same. Having lodged Mrs Hughes in jail; Mr McNaughton and witness, again went to David Laing's where they saw Dunlop and his wife, sitting round the fire, in company with David Laing himself. Saw a parcel lying beside Mrs Dunlop, which they laid hold of, and opened. It contained a piece blue cloth, which Mr McNaughton recognised as his. It was tied up in a red shawl, which he now identifies. They also observed a red cloak, which Mrs Dunlop allowed to be her's, but disclaimed the bundle; - David Laing insisted that she brought the bundle into the house with her. The cloth being measured Mr McNaughton said, that six yards were a-wanting. While they were in Laing's, observed a girl come into the house, whom witness understood to be Allan's daughter. *Cross examined* by Mr. Tayler. Mr McNaughton gave witness no description of these persons, except that they had red cloaks.

Robert Robertson, Merchant, examined. This witness corroborated the evidence of the last witness in all the circumstances that occurred when they were together. Allan the taylor at first denied having received any cloth, but afterwards admitted that he had received two pair of trowsers from two men, and at which he was then working. When at David Laing's, was told by Laing himself, though at first he likewise denied any knowledge of them that some persons had been in his house drinking with the town's drummer. This was the reason of their applying to him. Recognised the old woman who was in bed in Mrs Foulis' house, as Mrs Hughes, whom he had once before taken up on a charge of coining - *Cross examined*. Allan did not tell who the men were that brought him the cloth, and denied having seen any woman with red cloaks in his house that day.

Allan, Taylor, examined. Two young men came with 2 pieces of coarse cloth about 2½ yards in each piece, said they wanted 2 pair trowsers made that night. He could not engage to have them ready that night, but promised them by 8 o'clock next morning. One of the men came back about 6 o'clock in the same evening to see if he was begun, being shown the prisoners, he says it was Hughes who came back. The cloth was tied up in a woman's shawl or napkin, - could not say which of them carried it - there was no woman at his house that day with a red cloak - identifies the trowsers - thinks the cloth of them is the same with the web shewn him (the cloth found in Foulis' house.) Men did not tell where they lodged, - witness sent no person to give them notice that a search was making.

Josiah Austin, examined. This witness being only 12 years of age, was not put on oath - Saw a woman with a long red mantle go into Mr. McNaughton's shop on Friday evening, just before the shop was lighted - did not stay above 4 minutes - had no bundle when she went in, but carried one under her arms, and below her cloak when she came out - before she went in, - walked about sometime, as if to observe whether any person was in the shop. A man was with her before she went in, and joined her immediately on her coming out. Being desired to point out these two persons if they were present, witness pointed out Mrs Dunlop as the person who went in, and her husband as the one who loitered about the door. Witness told this to George McLauchlan, one of Mr McNaughton's apprentices, who said, they could not take any thing.

James Dow examined, - was in partnership with his father, who died about seven weeks ago. When he came home from church on Thursday, which was the last before the sacrament, his mother told him that a piece of cloth was missing. The family live in the back shop; witness took a candle and discovered one of the shelves which formerly was half full, empty; it contained a piece coarse blue cloth, 15 or 16 yards. The pantaloons being now shewn him, they appear to be of the same with the uncut piece, and he has no doubt that they made up the cloth piece taken from their shop.

Mrs Dow being now called, said, that she had occasion to go out for a few minutes, on the evening of Thursday; she shut the door, and left her husband sitting in the back shop. When she came back she found the door open, and soon afterwards missed a piece of blue cloth from one of the shelves. Her husband said nobody had been out or in, that he knew of. He told witness also that the piece of cloth was there on Wednesday evening, when he shut shop, and told her before he died, that he had been at the Sheriff clerk's office, and had there seen the cloth, which he was certain was the very piece taken from his shop.

James Munn, journeyman tailor with Mr McNaughton, related the circumstances of the search in the same way as the other witness. Was told by Geo. McLauchlan that a boy in the street said he saw a woman go into the shop, and carry out something. A short time afterwards a woman came into the shop wanting a half-penny worth of silk thread. On her going out he recollected what McLauchlan had told him, from this woman being dressed

in the same way; looked about and missed a piece blue cloth, which had been lying on the end-counter. One of the men had been working at this piece, and from a bit of the cloth now in his possession, he identified the piece.

James McLauchlan was attending the shop of Mr McNaughton on Friday evening; went out to get candles for the shop. When witness came back, Austin told him the story of the woman, as already stated, and he reported it to the foreman, Munn.

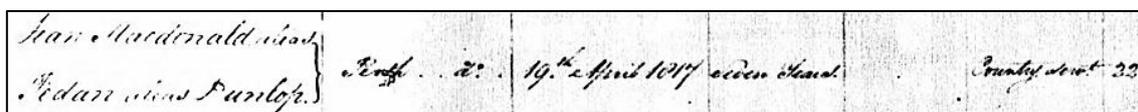
Mr McNaughton related all the circumstances in the same way – Identified the cloth.

David Laing – The man and woman, Mrs Dunlop and her husband, came into his house about 10 o'clock; were in only about five minutes when constables came in search of them; saw the woman laying down the bundle, which the constables carried off.²

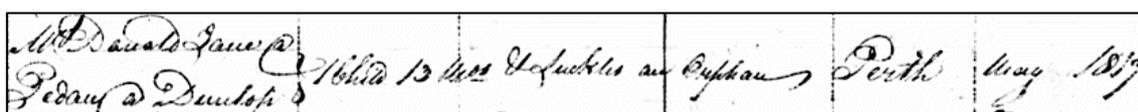
The *Caledonian Mercury*, also covering the case, reported that at the completion of the protracted proceedings the Jury was directed to stand over to the following day, Saturday 19 April.

The sitting of the Court being resumed, the Jury, in the case of Jean Macdonald and others, returned a written verdict finding, by a plurality of voices, that James Dunlop was Guilty of both theft and reset of theft, and Jean Macdonald and John Hughes of reset of theft. These persons were therefore sentenced to transportation – James Dunlop for ten years, and the other two for seven years. The Jury having made no finding as to Helen Hughes, she was, after a suitable admonition, dismissed from the bar.³

Jane did not have long to wait before she was taken down south to join the other women who had been selected for transportation on the convict ship *Friendship* which departed England on 3 July 1817 and finally arrived at its destination on 14 January 1818. With three alternative surnames, her entry in the bound indentures form took up more space most. It confirms that she was tried and convicted at Perth. Aged 22 and a country servant she would have been well regarded in the assignment 'market'.⁴

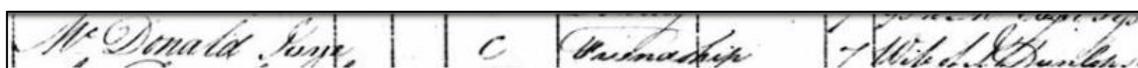


Some of the standard name/trial information is repeated in the following Settler and Convict list, but it is the information spread across columns 2-4 that is of particular interest.⁵



Surgeon Cosgreave had given an ambivalent assessment of Jane Macdonald's shipboard demeanour, but perhaps he was prepared to concede that her tendency to be light-fingered was redeemed to some extent by her nursing skills. And it may be that it was not just the nurture afforded the 13-month old child that Jane had brought on board with her that impressed Surgeon Cosgreave but, specifically, her willingness to suckle an orphan. Who was this orphan? It is possible that it was the youngest of the three children who had accompanied their convict mother Martha Thatcher who had died at sea, just five weeks out from Port Jackson.⁶

With the surname 'Mcdonald', and with the place of conviction given incorrectly at Brecon, lists for 1820 and 1821 record Jane as living in Sydney and assigned to Mrs. Plowright.⁷ This was probably Mary Plowright (née Pares) who had arrived in the colony in 1809 on the *Indispensable*, and who was related to Sophia Richards and Lucy Meares, sisters and two of the female convicts on board the *Friendship*.⁸ 1822 finds Jane listed as still a convict but now 'Wife of J. Dunlop Syd'.⁹



The first stage of James Dunlop's journey to New South Wales was his admission, on 15 May 1817 on the hulk *Justitia* at Woolwich from whence, on 28 June, he was one of eighty men, all apparently in good health, who were

transferred from the hulk to the convict transport *Larkins* and immediately put in double leg irons. Having made her way to Portsmouth, picking up more prisoners at points along the way, the *Larkins* finally set sail for Sydney on 24 July and arrived at Port Jackson on 22 November 1817, all but three of the 250 convicts having survived the journey.¹⁰ Details on newly arrived convict James Dunlop were recorded as follows. He was 22 years of age, and had been born in Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, Scotland. Prior to his conviction he had been employed as a stable boy and, like many working with horses, he was small in stature, standing at just 5/1¾. He had a dark sallow complexion, black hair and hazel eyes.¹¹

Following the initial muster the convicts were distributed to various localities, James Dunlop being one the largest contingent (54 men) who were sent to Windsor 'for general distribution'.¹² 1820 and 1821 lists record him as being in government employ as a labourer.¹³ But by 1822 his status had changed. The muster of that year records that James Dunlop had not only acquired a ticket of leave, and employment as a dealer of some kind in Sydney, but he was also apparently the father of four children.¹⁴

Dunlop James			J. L	Larkins	10	Dealer	Sydney
Dunlop James	6	"	}			}	Children to J. Dunlop Sydney
Dunlop Ann	3	"					
Dunlop Helen	2	"					
Dunlop William	8 ^{mo}	"					
Dunlop "		"					

We have noted that, for the 1822 muster, Jane, though described as the wife of James Dunlop, was listed separately. But the September 1822 muster is the first colonial record referring to her and James as a couple. The eldest child, James, was the infant who had arrived with his mother Jane on the *Friendship*. The stated ages of the other three children clearly indicate that Jane and James had got back together in some manner prior to the muster and within a short time of Jane's arrival in January 1818.

The situation in which the Dunlop family found itself in September 1822 is clarified by a petition James Dunlop submitted to the Colonial Secretary.

The Petition of Jas Dunlop Sydney, Humbly Sheweth,

That Petitioner holds the Indulgence of a Ticket of Leave and was married in Scotland, and has a wife and 4 Infant children depending on him for support.

That Petitioner is by trade a Confectioner, in which his wife assists him, and he supplies a number of the shops in Sydney and its environs with these articles, and their character for honest industry will be found of good repute since in the Colony.

That in Petitioner's business his wife and self are often absent in the day time supplying their customers, during which their infant family are left in the house under no persons care.

That a poor man presently at Grose Farm, and an Invalid; being afflicted with a paralytic stroke in his side, and of whose honesty Petitioner can depend, (having known him since he came to the Colony) named John Peartfield. Your Petitioner is anxious to take off HM Store for the purpose of taking care of his family, and house in his absence, and from the annexed certificate from the Overseer of Grose Farm can be well spared from that establishment and of good character.*

That Petitioner hopes your Honor will consider this case and allow him the said John Peartfield off HM Store for the purpose before stated as the lives of his children are often in danger for want of a person to take care of his house. And for this act of humanity Petitioner will be bound ever to pray.

Jas Dunlop

(* Mr. Smith, Supervisor of Grose Farm, certified that Jn^o Peartfield had been in No.1 Road Gang for about 4 months and was of good character, but of little service to the Government as he was 'an entire cripple'.)¹⁵



In early 1823 James Dunlop engaged in further correspondence with the Colonial Secretary’s office – to whita covering note and an annexed petition. The note concerned John Peartfield, who, having served a term of transportation at Newcastle, was now a repentant and reformed character, and had been authorised by Mr. Crawford for assignment to James. The latter was particularly concerned that Peartfield who, though crippled and reliant on a stick or crutch to get around, should have an opportunity to prove himself, and moreover that this be achieved in the service of James Dunlop. However, James regretfully reported that Mr. Hutchinson had torn up Mr. Crawford’s order, saying that “Peartfield was a d---d thief, and should not go off the Stores”. Turning now to the petition itself –

The Petitioner has a wife and four children; is a poor man and struggles hard for an honest livelihood, and being desirous to send such of his children to the Charity School as are [able?] enough to receive instruction, and his wife and himself being generally confined to the streets in vending fruit and cakes, the latter of which Petitioner makes himself at evenings or other opportunities; he most humbly prays that he might be allowed a Government Servant off the Store.

He then reiterated that he was particularly desirous to receive one John Peartfield as he had been recommended by his Overseer, that he has been pardoned by the hand of “Robert Crawford, for the Colonial Secretary”; and that Petitioner has a personal knowledge of the man’s honesty and integrity; and further, that he John Peartfield, being an almost helpless cripple, formerly invalided on the Store as an object of Charity, would be more or less housebound and free from temptation.¹⁶ Finally some success – in January 1823 John Peatfield is listed as an assigned servant to James Dunlop of Kent Street.¹⁷

1823 was to be an eventful year for James Dunlop and Jane Macdonald, and once more a petition sheds some light on their circumstances. On 30 September James sent a petition to D’Arcy Wentworth, Esquire and the Worshipful Bench of Magistrates of Sydney.

The humble petition of James Dunlop most respectfully Sheweth

That on the 17th July last (in consequence of my living with a woman to whom I was not married but by whom I have 3 children) Your Petitioner’s Ticket of Leave was taken from him and he was put into the Barracks and she put to the Factory but with a promise from Dr. Douglas that as soon as we were married (which took place the 10th instant) and your Worship would be pleased to restore me my Ticket of Leave that he would dismiss her from the factory, in order that I might support her without being a further expense to the Government.

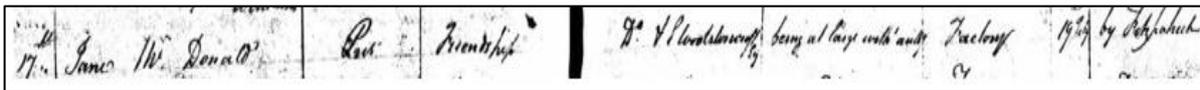
Your Petitioner most humbly solicits Your Worshipful Bench that you will be pleased to take his case into your consideration and grant him the renewal of his Ticket of Leave.

And as in duty bound will every pray

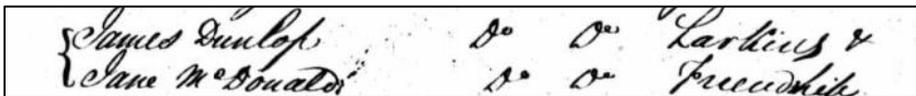
James Dunlop

*(The petition was favourably received and the ticket of leave restored.)*¹⁸

While Jane was indeed placed in the Factory on 17 July, what James omitted to mention was that she had been admitted for having been at large without authority. Had she actually been on the loose, or did the fact that she was no longer under the protection of a ticket of leave holder constitute ‘being at large’?¹⁹



In a case of paperwork catching up with events, James Dunlop featured again in the Colonial Secretary’s papers in December 1823. By a memorandum dated 27 December Rev. J.J. Therry was advised that the application for banns to be read for James and Jane had been approved.²⁰



The Sydney Gazette of 7 October 1824 announced that Jean MacDONald had obtained her certificate of freedom on 24 September. From the Register we have a description of her. She was by then twenty-nine years old. Like James, she hailed from Kilmarnock, and again like him she was short in stature. She had a ruddy, freckled complexion, brown hair and hazel eyes. James Dunlop still had a few years to run before he could expect a certificate of freedom, but on 6 October 1825 he was issued with a new ticket-of-leave, which stipulated that his free movements were restricted to the Sydney district. Of note is his statement that he was a native of Co. Armagh.²¹

217/2807	602/1976
Jean Macdonald, alias Piddan, alias Dunlop	James Dunlop
Friendship (3)	Larkins
1818	1817
Perth Co. of Scot.	Perth Co. of Scot.
19 April 1817	17 April 1817
Seven Years	Ten Years
Kilmarnock	Co. Armagh
Servant	Wauchope
Noeulynine	1796
5 feet	Shel. Linckis
Ruddy Freckled	Dark Sallow
Brown	Black
Hazel	Dark Eyes
4. 30 Sept. 1824	6 th October 1825

Once more, this time for the 1825 muster, father James Dunlop and children, and Jean Macdonald (although now Mrs. Dunlop) are listed separately.²²

Dunlop James	.	th	Larkins	1817	14	Comprehension	10
Dunlop Ellen	0	h.c	"	"	"	Daught. of J. Dunlop	10
Dunlop John	4	"	"	"	"	Son	10
Dunlop Ann	2	"	"	"	"	Daught.	10
Dunlop William	8	"	"	"	"	Parents to Deaths	10
Dunlop William	.	c	Ocean	1818	2	Gov. Campbell	10
Dunlop James	.	a	Royal George	1821	"	Residents	Paranatta
Dunlop Anne	.	g	10	1821	.	Wife of J. Dunlop	10

McDonald Jean F.S.C. Friendship 1818 7 wife J. Dunlop Sydney



The fact that there were two men with the name James Dunlop, who both had a wife named Jane, initially caused some confusion. However the James and Jane Dunlop shown listed together above arrived in 1821 as free immigrants on the *Royal George*. This James Dunlop, an astronomer was appointed as assistant, then as superintendent of the Parramatta Observatory. Further, this Dunlop couple did not have any children.²³

There are some apparent anomalies/contradictions in the listing of the Dunlop children for the 1822 and 1825 musters.

Name	1822	Est YoB		1825	Est YoB
James Dunlop	6	1816			
Ann Dunlop	3	1819		2	1823
Hellen Dunlop	2	1820		6	1819
William Quin/Dunlop	8m	1821		8	1817
John Dunlop				4	1821

The following information is extracted from the BDA reports.

James Dunlop, son of James and Jane Dunlop, born 10 Dec 1816, Perth. Baptised 22 Feb 1818, registered at St. Philip's Church of England, Sydney.

1823 Jul, James Dunlop, Died 6 Jul 1823 at Sydney aged 6½; Buried 7 Jul 1823, registered at St. Philips.

Ann Dunlop, daughter of James and Jane Dunlop, born 1 Jan 1819, Sydney. Baptised 7 Feb 1819, registered at St. Philip's Church of England, Sydney.

1822, Sep, Hellen Dunlop, Age 2, born in colony, child to J. Dunlop.

1825, Sep, Ellen Dunlop, Age 6, born in colony, daughter of James Dunlop.

William Quin, son of James Quin & Jane Dunlop, born 12 Aug 1821. Baptised 11 Jan 1827, Parramatta, registered at St Mary's Roman Catholic Sydney, sponsors John Cassidy and Catherine Jennings.

1822 Sep, William Dunlop, Age 8m, born in colony, child to J Dunlop.

1825 Sep, William Dunlop, Age 8, born in colony, [Burnt to Death].

1825 Sep, John Dunlop, Age 4, born in colony, son of James Dunlop.

The following registrations confirm the estimated birth years for the two daughter Ann and (H)ellen.²⁴

DUNLOP ANN	4692/1819 V18194692 1B	JAMES	JANE
DUNLOP ELLEN	456/1824 V1824456 125	JAMES	JANE

In his 1822 petition James refers to four children; in the September 1823 petition he refers to three children. Two death registrations confirm James Dunlop's death in 1823.Dunlop.²⁵

DUNLOP JAMES	897/1823 V1823897 8	INFANT
DUNLOP JAMES	5814/1823 V18235814 2B	INFANT

No further documentation has yet been found for John Dunlop.

The next official record found for the Dunlop family is father James' certificate of freedom, number 27/0509, which was granted on 17 May 1827.²⁶ The online trail for Jane Macdonald comes to an end with the 1825 muster. I have not been able to locate this woman, her husband, or surviving children in the 1828 census.²⁷

However, a few years later, James Dunlop appears, for the first of several occasions, in the gaol records. On 22 March 1831, described as stout and swarthy, he was found guilty of assaulting Hannah Taylor or Johnson, for which he was bailed to keep the peace on a bond of £30. James was back before the Sydney Bench in July 1835. His offence is not stated, but he was sentenced to serve six months on the Iron Gang at Parramatta. But what the record does show, and what was not noted on his earlier records, is that James was now 'blind of left eye and disfigured in the face.' A later recorded offence was a more serious matter. On 9 October 1839 James Dunlop was remanded to the Sydney Gaol. At the Quarter Sessions held on 2 December 1839 James stood trial with three others, the outcome of which was reported in the local press.²⁸

James Cook, James Dunlop, Charles Radcliffe, and Thomas Kerley were indicted for stealing in a dwelling-house. Cook, Dunlop, and Radcliffe being found guilty, were sentenced to three years each in an iron gang, but Kerley was discharged.

To which of the various convict stockades was he sent? Along the Great South Road, three Stockades – Razorback Range, Towrang and Wingello - were operational from over the 1830-mid1840s period, with the greatest concentration of convicts being housed at Towrang.²⁹ If he served out his full term, and assuming he survived the ordeal, James would have been a free man again in 1843.

More significantly for the story of Jean Macdonald is that by 1837 she was no longer within the ambit of James Dunlop. Where she might have been, and even whether she was still alive have not been established. On 11 January 1837 an application was made, and approved ten days later, for James Dunlop, stated to be a 41 year old widower, and 31 year old widow, Margaret Luffan, to marry. The marriage, with the bride's surname spelt Laffin, was registered at Parramatta.³⁰

Margaret Luffan (aka Laffin/Laffan) was born about 1806 in Waterford, Ireland. She had been tried at Cork on 28 August 1835 and found guilty of having stolen some rope. This was her first recorded offence and she was given the lightest of sentences – seven years transportation. She was one of 112 Irish women convicts who embarked on the *Thomas Harrison* which departed from Cork on 19 February 1836 and after a voyage of 111 days reached at Port Jackson on 9 June. The convict indent records Margaret as being a 30 year old widow with 3 children, the youngest of whom (aged 3 but with name or gender not specified), had accompanied her on the ship. As were most of her shipmates, Margaret was a Roman Catholic, and although she could neither read nor write, she would be employable as a 'dairymaid of all work'. She stood at 5/1½ feet, had a freckled brown complexion, dark brown hair and grey eyes. She was distinguishable by 5 blue dots on the back of her right hand and a scar on the back of the middle finger. She also had a scar on the outside of her right elbow. Her left hand was adorned with and six blue dots on the back and one on the middle finger.³¹

The first indication that all was not well between James and Margaret is a notice placed in in the 12 July 1837 *New South Wales Government Gazette* by the Principal Superintendent of the Convict Office. Included in a list of prisoners, who had absconded, is Margaret Laffin [sic] who had last been seen by her husband J. Dunlop on 8 July. However, she was not absent for long, the *Government Gazette* of 19 July informing the public that the errant Margaret had been apprehended. But there was further trouble between the couple as the *Government Gazette* once more, on 28 November 1837 alerted all Constables and others to use 'their utmost exertion in apprehending and lodging in safe custody' *inter alia* one Margaret Laffan. This time it took two weeks for the runaway to be apprehended. Both 'missing' notices included a full description of the absconder, underscoring the value of recording such personal details on the convicts' arrival.³²

A further record has been found for Margaret Laffan, which suggests that she may not have returned to her husband. The 1837 Muster records her as residing in Sydney and assigned to R. Harvey, possibly Richard Harvey, publican.³³



The last two records located for Margaret are for her ticket of leave, issued on 9 January 1841, and requiring her to remain in the Campbelltown district, and her certificate of freedom, issued on 14 September 1847, twelve years after her trial in Cork, and by which time she would have been about forty-one years old.³⁴

In summary, this account leaves us with a number of loose ends. Most importantly – what happened to Jane Macdonald after the 1825 muster? What was the fate of the children? We know that James junior died in 1823, and William, possibly not the son of James Dunlop, burned to death, and probably 1825, but when did he actually suffer this horrible death, and under what circumstances? What happened to the other children – Ann, H(ellen) and John?

What was James doing between the 1825 muster and his first appearance in court in 1831? Where and when did he die? What happened to his second wife Margaret, and who was, and what happened to, the child who accompanied her on the *Thomas Harrison*?

NOTES

¹ Sacramental Fast Days were a particular Scottish tradition during which all business activity ceased and the community enjoyed what was essentially a public holiday.

² *Perthshire Courier*, 1 May 1817, p.4. Findmypast, Scotland, Criminal Database 1801-1917, Crown Office Precognitions, Precognition against John Hughes, James Dunlop, Jean MacDonald, Helen Hughes, 1817, NRS Reference AD14/17/62.

³ *Caledonian Mercury*, 28 Apr, 1817, p.3.

⁴ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Convict Indents, 1788-1842, Bound Indentures, 1814-1818.

⁵ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Settler and Convict Lists, 1787-1834, New South Wales, Female, 1788-1819. Note – incorrect month of trial recorded.

⁶ Refer to BOF Section 3a, Elizabeth Macginnis and Section 3c, Martha Thatcher.

⁷ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Settler and Convict Lists, 1878-1934, New South Wales, Female 1820 and 1821.

⁸ Refer to Persons of Interest, <https://fretwelliana.com/the-girls/mary-and-frances-pares/>.

⁹ Ancestry, New South Wales and Tasmania, Australia Convict Musters, 1806-1849, New South Wales, General Muster, 1822.

¹⁰ Ancestry, UK, Prison Hulk Registers and Letter Books, 1802-1849, Justitia, Register, 1803-1836. Free Settler or Felon? Convict Ship Larkins 1817, https://www.jenwillets.com/convict_ship_larkins_1817.htm. Convict Records, Larkins, 1817, <https://convictrecords.com.au/ships/larkins/1817>.

¹¹ Biographical Database of Australia (BDA), Biographical report for James Dunlop. Note contradictory information on Ticket of Leave Butt – endnote 21.

¹² Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1856, Series: *NRS 937*; Reel or Fiche Numbers: *Reels 6004-6016*, p.192.

¹³ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Settler and Convict Lists, 1878-1834, New South Wales, Male A-K 1820, Male A-J 1821.

¹⁴ Ancestry, New South Wales and Tasmania, Australia Convict Musters, 1806-1849, New South Wales, General muster, 1822.

¹⁵ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1856, Series: *NRS 897*; Reel or Fiche Numbers: *Reels 6041-6064, 6071-6072*, p.144. John Peatfield, transported for life on the *Atlas (3)* for horse-stealing. According to the *Hull Packet*, 27 Jun 1815, p.1, he was lame on his right side, having his right hand, arm and leg withered.

¹⁶ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1856, Series: *NRS 897*; Reel or Fiche Numbers: *Reels 6041-6064, 6071-6072*, pp.38-39a. An initiative of Governor Lachlan Macquarie, a Public Charity School for the education of Poor Children was established in April 1810.

¹⁷ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1856, Series: *NRS 898*; Reel or Fiche Numbers: *Reels 6020-6040, 6070, Fiche 3260-3312*, p.97.

¹⁸ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1856, Series: *NRS 897*; Reel or Fiche Numbers: *Reels 6041-6064, 6071-6072*, p.127.

¹⁹ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Gaol Description and Entrance Books, 1818-1930, Entrance Book, Sydney, 1819-1833.

²⁰ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1856, Series: *NRS 937*; Reel or Fiche Numbers: *Reels 6004-6016*, pp.100-1.

²¹ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Certificates of Freedom, 1810-1814, 1827-1867, (NRS 12208) Register of Certificates of Freedom, 4 Feb 1810-26 Aug 1814. Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Tickets of Leave, 1810-1869, Register of tickets of leave, 1824-1827 (NRS 12200).

²² Ancestry, New South Wales and Tasmania, Australia Convict Musters, 1806-1849, New South Wales, General Muster A-L and M-Z, 1825.

²³ Wikipedia, James Dunlop, Scottish Astronomer, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Dunlop.



²⁴ NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages (NSW BDM), Birth registrations.

²⁵ NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages (NSW BDM), Death registrations.

²⁶ BDA, Biographical record, James Dunlop.

²⁷ It is most likely that this family was enumerated but their census forms are among the missing returns.

²⁸ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Gaol Description and Entrance Books, 1818-1930, Entrance and Description Books, Sydney, 1831-1847, 1825-1832, 1835-1838, 1834-1838, Parramatta, 1835-1836. *The Australasian Chronicle*, 6 Dec 1839, p.2.

²⁹ Convict Stockades of New South Wales, <https://www.comleroyroad.com/convict-stockades-nsw.html>. NSW Office of Environment & Heritage, Towrang Convict Stockade, Associated Sites and Road Formations, <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=5001346>.

³⁰ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Registers of Convicts' Applications to Marry, 1826-1851, Granted, 1837. Ancestry, Marriage Index, 1788-1950, Vol No: V. 'V' denotes a Roman Catholic ceremony.

³¹ BDA, Biographical report for Margaret Luffan. Free Settler or Felon? Convict Ship Thomas Harrison 1836, https://www.jenwilletts.com/convict_ship_thomas_harrison_1836.htm. Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Convict Indents, 1788-1842, Annotated Printed Indentures, 1836.

³² *New South Wales Government Gazette*, 12 Jul 1837 [Issue No.284] p.503, 19 Jul 1837 [Issue No.285] p.520, 29 Nov 1837 [Issue No.306] p.898, 13 Dec 1837 [Issue No.309] p.936.

³³ BDA, Biographical record of Margaret Laffan. Ancestry, New South Wales and Tasmania Australia Convict Musters, 1806-1849. Note, that her age is incorrectly recorded as 34. Note also that there are issues with interpreting this muster data – a muster, as such, was not conducted, compiling the data was mainly a 'desktop' exercise with some data (not updated) just copied from previous musters. The returns date of 31 December 1837 was a nominal, not actual, end date of the compilation - see BDA, General Return of Convicts in New South Wales 1837, http://www.bda-online.org.au/files/MC1837_Muster.pdf.

³⁴ Ancestry, New South Wales, Tickets of Leave, 1810-1869, Ticket of leave butts (NRS 12202), Dec 1840-Mar 1841. Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Certificates of Freedom, 1810-1814, 1227-1867, (NRS 12210), Butts of Certificates of Freedom, 1847, September, All Records.



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