



Susan Courtney

Date of Trial:	16 April 1817
Where Tried:	Middlesex Gaol Delivery
Crime:	Having forged bank notes
Sentence:	14 years
Est YOB:	1793
Stated Age on Arrival:	25
Native Place:	London
Occupation:	Servant
Alias/AKA:	Susannah Courtney, Susan Peck (m)
Marital Status (UK):	
Children on Board:	
Surgeon's Remarks:	A common prostitute, insolent and mutinous
Assigned NSW or VDL	VDL

On 8 April 1817 Susan (alternatively Susannah) Courtney was remanded in custody on two charges which were heard at the Old Bailey on 16 April 1817.

Susan Courtney, 24, from New Prison, committed by R. Baker, Esq. charged on oath, with feloniously disposing of and putting away to John Austen the younger, a false, forged and counterfeited Bank note, purporting to be a note of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, for payment of five pounds, knowing the same to be forged, with intent to defraud the said Governor and Company.

Detained charged on oath, for putting away to John Austen, a counterfeit Bank-note, for Two pounds, knowing the same to be counterfeited, with intent to defraud the said Governor and Company.¹

For the charge of feloniously and knowingly having a forged Bank of England note in her custody and possession, she pleaded guilty and was sentenced to transportation for fourteen years. No evidence was presented for the second charge and she was therefore found not guilty of this offence.² Following the trial she was taken to Newgate Prison to await embarkation on the convict vessel which would transport her to the other side of the world. During this time she arranged (as she herself could not write) for someone (whose literacy skills were marginal) to compose three petitions to the Bank of England on her behalf. They were characteristically designed to tug at the authorities' heart-strings.³

237. [F25/4/9] *Susannah Courtney, Newgate, 22 April 1817*

Sir Being informed of your Kind allowance to your prisoners, prermett me humbly to solicket the same, as I have no friends that as it in their power to assist me, and having been in prison for this tow monthe I have been oblidge to part with a many of my Cloathe to suport myself but relying on your goodness I Remain Your most obet Humb Sert S. Courtney

Annotated: in great distress & pregnant

249. [F25/4/22] *Susannah Courtney, Newgate, 27 May 1817*

Pardon me sir for intruding on your goodness has i am in Great Destress and most humbly Begs to be Partaker of your goodness the same as my fellow Prisoners has i have Parted with What few things that i had and i have got any Freinds to help me an i have been 4 months in Confinement and i am in Great Destress and i shall be in duty Bound to Pray for your goodness to me Susanah Courtney

Annotated: Susa Courtney convict £5

276. [F25/4/53] *Susannah Courtney, Friendship transport ship, Deptford, 7 June 1817*

Sir I am sorry to be so troublesome But my distress'd situation must plead my Excuse I recev'd 5 pounds but I never had any thing all the 4 Months that I were in Confinement [5s. a week ordered from 24 Apr. 1817] and I were so distress'd that I have not now one penny to help myself I had Borrowd so Much Money in the prison and I hope if there is any More Coming to me that you will have the Goodness to send it to me and you will Greatly Oblige your Humble petitioner Susanah Courtney

The extent to which Susan Courtney was ‘distressed’ cannot be truly measured, but the Bank did provide her with some financial assistance. What her account does reveal is that, without friends and family, those with no resources to fall back on, which might be sold or bartered for a few comforts, and indeed necessities, had a particularly hard time in gaol. The annotation to her first petition states that Susan was pregnant in April 1817 and, if she went to full term, she would likely have given birth on board ship. No further reference has been found for any such child born to Susan.

Susan Courtney could not be counted among the more passive and compliant women on board the *Friendship*. In the opinion of Surgeon Cosgreave she was ‘a common prostitute, insolent and mutinous’. No doubt both were relieved when they parted company on arrival at Port Jackson, and Susan’s subsequent removal to Van Diemen’s Land, under the name of Susannah Courtney. She was by now aged 25 and could offer her services as a servant. Nine months after her arrival in Hobart Susan was charged with the only offence that appeared on her Conduct Register. She was brought before the Magistrates to answer the charge of having committed a robbery in the house of Mrs. Anson, a particularly callous crime perpetrated by a group of four women as reported by the *Hobart Town Gazette and Southern Reporter*.⁴

During the absence of the family yesterday afternoon at the funeral of Mr. Anson (whose death is mentioned in this paper), a woman named Elizabeth Bannister, who was left in charge of the premises, taking the advantage of the mournful occasion, along with three other confederates in iniquity, robbed the house of sundry articles of wearing apparel, and a quantity of wine and spirits, which they conveyed off to a house in the neighbourhood. Bannister and her companions are lodged in prison.

The report only named one of these heartless females, but two of the others were Susan Courtney and her fellow *Friendship* shipmate Ann Jackson. Having spent a few days in gaol, the case came up for hearing by the magistrates on 18 November. The ‘gang’ was fortunate as the case was dismissed.⁵

Holding a ticket of leave, she was mustered at Hobart for 1820 and 1821 as a servant to Mr. James M(?).⁶ On 29 May 1822 Susannah Courtney and John Peck were married by banns at Hobart. Both were recorded as being 28 years old and neither was able to sign their name. While the bride was listed as a convict, the groom was a free man.⁷

Marriages in the Hobart Town District 1822.

Names.	Free Convict.	Ship		Age	When Married.	Banns. Read.	
John ^{his} Peck ✓ _{mark}	Free	-		28 years.	27 th May.	Banns.	
Susannah ^{her} Courtney ✓ _{mark}	Convict	Friendship		28 years.			556
Witnesses: John Ballanger. George Northam.							

For the 1818 Hobart Town Muster John Peck for was recorded as being born on Norfolk Island and had, between December 1818 and June 1819, tendered for and supplied 250lb of fresh meat to the Government stores. In the 1819 Land and Stock Muster he was shown as not having any land, but running five cattle and two hundred sheep at Herdsmans Cove.⁸

John was the second son, and one of the many children born to Joshua Peck and Mary Frost. His father had been tried for theft at Exeter in March 1786 and sentenced to seven years transportation. Having spent time on the hulk *Dunkirk* at Plymouth, he was sent out to New South Wales on the *Charlotte*, one of the vessels of the 1788 First Fleet which arrived at Botany Bay on 19 January, and subsequently at the more favourable Port Jackson.⁹ He was sent to Norfolk Island in October 1788 where he met Mary Frost, convicted at Thetford, Norfolk, in May 1789



and transported to Sydney per *Neptune*, and then forwarded on to Norfolk Island on the *Surprize*, arriving there in August 1790. Joshua and Mary were one of the couples married at Norfolk Island in November 1791 by the Reverend Richard Johnson. The Pecks, including son John who had been born on Norfolk Island in 1792, relocated to Sydney where, by 1801, Joshua was farming a grant of land at Prospect Hill. Two years later the Prospect Hill property, known as 'Peck's Farm' was placed on the market 'for the benefit of the Creditors' and the Peck family returned to Norfolk Island.¹⁰ In December 1807, leaving behind their farm and livestock, they embarked on the *Porpoise*, bound for Hobart. Joshua was granted 45 acres of land in New Norfolk.

In 1821 the Peck father – Joshua the elder, then in his late 60s – and three of the Peck sons – William, Joshua the younger, and Thomas, the latter being about 15 - were charged and convicted of having stolen and killed ten sheep from the government flock and also with killing a heifer, the property of the government flock overseer, and they were ordered to be sent to Newcastle.

The Court found all prisoners guilty, and the Judge Advocate strongly remarking upon the nature of the case in proof against the prisoners, pronounced the sentence of the Court to be, that for the offence, of which they had been convicted, they be respectively transported to Newcastle for the term of 14 years.¹¹

In fact, the Pecks were a particularly lawless bunch.¹²

Within a month of his marriage, John Peck was to see another of his family depart Van Diemen's Land. On 30 June 1822 the *Emerald*, under Captain Elliott, sailed from Hobart, bound for Port Jackson, and thence to England.¹³ On board was the newly-wed ticket-of-leave woman, and now stowaway, Mrs. Susan Peck who was possibly travelling under the name of Elizabeth Jones, and who made it all the way back to England. Her freedom was short-lived. Having returned to her old haunts, she was recognised, apprehended, and was back before the Old Bailey in September 1823.

1042. SUSAN COURTNEY, *alias* ELIZABETH JONES, was indicted for that she, on the 22d of August last, at St. Martin in the Fields, feloniously was at large without any lawful cause, before the expiration of the term, for which she was ordered to be transported, at the Delivery of the King's Gaol of Newgate, holden for the County of Middlesex at Justice Hall, in the Old Bailey, the 16th of April, in the 57th year of the reign of his late Majesty against the statute.

MR. LAW *conducted the prosecution.*

WILLIAM NICHOLLS. I am one of the conductors of the Bow-street night patrol. I produce a certificate which I got from Mr. Shelton's office, of the prisoner's conviction and sentence of fourteen years transportation, on the 16th of April. I saw Mr. Shelton* sign it – I apprehended the prisoner in Cockspur-street in the parish of St. Martin, on the 22nd of August last. (*Certificate read*).

SAMUEL DAVIS. I was turnkey of Newgate, in 1817, and attended at the bar in the April Sessions of that year, when the prisoner pleaded guilty to knowingly having a forged note in her possession, and was present when she received sentence- I am certain of her person, she went by the name of Susan Courtney. I am now turnkey of the King's Bench.

JOHN UPSON. I was present with Nicholls on the 22d of August; when the prisoner was taken, she gave us the name of Elizabeth Jones.

The prisoner made no Defence.

GUILTY – DEATH. Aged 27.¹⁴

* *Thomas Shelton Esq., long time Clerk of the Sessions of Oyer and Terminer and Gaol Delivery at the Old Bailey for London and Middlesex.*¹⁵

Commenting on the proceedings one court reporter, having summarised the indictment and the sentence, added the following:

The prisoner is an exceedingly pretty young woman, about twenty-four years of age. She is pregnant, and continued in tears during the trial. If this unfortunate young woman had deferred her return from Botany Bay for another year and a half, it is probable this odious and unnatural Act would have expired, and that she would not have been subjected to a trial for her life, because she endeavoured to return to her native country.¹⁶

William Nicholls and Samuel Davis, the two officers of the law responsible for apprehending and identifying Susan Courtney in August 1823, stated that they had not seen her for at least five years. Perhaps they were blessed with excellent powers of recall and recognition. But perhaps also, their memories were jogged by Susan's good looks, something she may have been able to use to her advantage, but which in this case were her downfall.

It was Robert Peel who, on 21 November, signed off on the warrant advising that 'Susan Courtney alias Elizabeth Jones' was one of those capitally convicted at the Old Bailey 1823 September session who was to be pardoned, and whose sentence was commuted to transportation for life for the term of her natural life.¹⁷

Those back in Van Diemen's Land who might have been interested in Susan Courtney's fate had some time to wait before they received any news. It was not until August 1824, when newspapers had arrived from England, that the *Hobart Town Gazette* was able to advise its readers that several prisoners had been convicted at the Old Bailey for returning from transportation, among them being 'Susan Courtney, a pretty looking woman, about 27 years of age, who escaped from this colony'.¹⁸ By this time Susan had spent almost another year in Newgate, and she was to remain there for another couple of months before embarkation on the convict transport *Grenada* which, according to the *Morning Advertiser*, was lying off Woolwich in late September 1824.¹⁹

FEMALE CONVICTS.—The *Grenada* and *Henry*, now lying off Woolwich, are expected to sail in the course of this week for New South Wales, with female convicts, of which there are 160 on board the two vessels. The vessels also take out some free settlers, as passengers. While the convicts have been at Woolwich, they have been frequently visited by some respectable Members of the Society of Friends. Yesterday Mr. and Mrs. Pryor, of Gracechurch-street, a young Lady of the name of Bennet, and Mr. Baker, well known for his attention to prisoners in Newgate under condemnation, went on board the *Grenada*. Their object was to distribute Bibles, with which they had been supplied by the British and Foreign Bible Society, to the convicts. When they were assembled below, each convict was presented with a Bible, in which her name had been previously written. Mr. Prior then briefly addressed the convicts on the inestimable gift they had just received. He was followed by Mr. Baker, who spoke to them at some length on the necessity of their religious duties. He also read a letter from one of their fellow prisoners in Newgate, of the name of Margaret Stuart, in which she earnestly entreated them to read their Bibles, and avoid all quarrelling and strife. Mrs. Prior next addressed the convicts in terms which were calculated to affect them, and several indeed were in tears during the time she was speaking.

How grateful was Susan for the gift of a bible, inscribed with her own name, and how attentively did she listen to and heed the words of the well-meaning 'prison visitors'? Was she one of those moved to tears? And if so, were they tears of contrition, or frustration at having been caught and about to, once more, undertake the voyage to Sydney, this time under the sentence of never returning to her homeland.

Carrying 81 female prisoners with 15 of their children, the *Grenada*, in company with the *Henry* left England on 4 October 1824 and arrived at Port Jackson on 23 January 1825. According to the muster held the next day the prisoners all appeared in good health, declared themselves well treated, and were spoken of favourably by the Surgeon Superintendent and the Commander.²⁰ Separately an 1825 listing records Susan's details as follows.²¹



Name	Susan Courtney alias Elizabeth Jones – Escape from the Colony in the <i>Emerald</i> 1823 from VD Land about 2½ years ago; came in the <i>Friendship</i> ; husband of John Peck; lived at [illegible]
Trade or Calling	Nursery Maid
Tried	London, 16 Sept 1823
Sentence	Life
Age	32
Native Place	London
Height	5 2½
Eyes	Hazel
Hair	Light Brown
Complexion	Fresh
Remarks	Well

As noted above, and as for her first trial in 1817, Susan Courtney was pregnant when she was tried in September 1823. And, as for the first instance, there is no record of the child who, if the pregnancy went full term, would have been born while Susan was serving time in gaol. If so, was this child one of the 15 children who accompanied their convict mothers on the *Grenada*?

For the 1825 muster Susanna [sic] Courtney was assigned to a Mr. Radley.²² It was not long before she was again in trouble with the authorities. On 13 June 1826 she was sentenced to the Female Factory at Parramatta for being at large, having been harboured by Emanuel Myers (known as ‘Monkey’ Myers) an assigned tailor, as wryly reported by the Australian.²³

Susan Courtney, found illegally at large, was ordered to repair, without loss of time to the Factory, and then and there to become an inmate of the second class.

Emanuel Myers, assigned to a master taylor, and himself a taylor “by trade”, who had been paying his addresses to the last mentioned damsel, and which addresses she did not appear to have at all rejected, as it was said that both lived harmoniously together as if man and wife, but without having first had imposed upon them the shackles of matrimony, next appeared to hear and receive his quantum of penance. It was love, all-pervading love – love “the disturber of high and of low,” that had been busy with this unlucky tailor, and which had induced him to contribute a part and parcel of his weekly wages, towards the support of this frail and unlawfully at large *protégé*. For being thus accessory to her concealed and unauthorised detention from the Factory, Myers, whose love was not yet uncooled, and as sharp as a “needle,” received sentence of banishment, (Ha! banishment be merciful, say death) from the object on whom he had bestowed so much of his affections and earnings, and what was still worse, to while away ten days on the Tread Mill, before he could again “thread the needle” for his own, or his master’s benefit.

Within months of this offence, the Gaol Entrance Books list Susan as having appeared before the 1826 Sydney General Sessions of 31 October on a charge of having left her service without leave, which earned her another spell in the 2nd class at the Factory.²⁴ She was entered in the Sydney Goal Entrance book on 31 August as having absented herself from her service, for which she was to serve six months in the 3rd Class, a more severe punishment than previously meted out.²⁵ Once more on the run, in November 1827 Susan Courtney, alias Eliza Jones, was included in a list of prisoners who had ‘absented themselves from their respective Employments’, in her case, and for the second time, from the Female Factory.²⁶

Susannah Courtney was enumerated in the 1828 census as a 33 year old general servant residing at Mt. Druitt, in the Melville District, and assigned to George Druitt.²⁷ George Druitt had arrived in the colony in 1816 as Major Druitt, of the 48th Regiment but, by the time his handsome dwelling on his 1000 acre grant on the Mount Druitt estate was completed in 1822, he had resigned his commission and was concentrating on developing his property interests, with the assistance of a bevy of convict labour and assigned females.²⁸ Susan Courtney may have been employed as a nursery maid because by November 1828 the Druitts had four children ranging in age from ten to ten months.²⁹ Was it George Druitt who, in May 1829, returned Susan to the Factory, where she was found on 19

May in the 1st Class at the Factory?³⁰

In the normal course of events Susan Courtney could expect to be a convict for many years, as the life sentence imposed on her in 1823 would have superseded the original (and not completed) 14 year sentence. However, by some unexplained means, unless it was an administrative error, she obtained a certificate of freedom in late May 1831, as recorded in the Register of Certificates of Freedom and reported in the *Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* on 9 June.³¹

CERTIFICATE OF FREEDOM.	
No.	31/494
Date,	20 May 1831
Prisoner's No. —	
Name, —	Susan Courtney
Ship, —	Friendship
Master, —	Amint
Year, —	1827
Native Place, —	London
Trade or Calling, —	Servant
Offence, —	Attending for get Notes
Place of Trial, —	Hobart Town V. S.
Date of Trial, —	10 April 1827
Sentence, —	Fourteen Years
Year of Birth, —	1791
Height, —	5 feet 3/4 inches
Complexion, —	Ruddy
Hair, —	Light Brown
Eyes, —	Dark Hazel
General Remarks, —	Wife of John Peck

It was as Number 1054 that on 7 May 1833, Susan Courtney, was yet again listed in the Sydney Gaol Entrance Book. At this time she was a servant, but to whom is not stated. Nor is her offence recorded, but she was ordered to spend two months in 3rd Class in the Female Factory where she was received on 10 May.³² It is perhaps surprising that in 1833 her husband John Peck sent a letter to the Colonial Secretary petitioning for her release. Was this at the behest of his seemingly estranged wife?³³ If Susan completed her term at Parramatta, she would have been due for release in mid-July 1833. At this point the trail of Susannah Courtney evaporates. Where she lived thereafter, and how and when she died are yet to be established.

At the time his wife was languishing in gaol pending her re-transportation, John Peck was himself in trouble with the law. On 7 June 1824 he was acquitted of a charge of having received twenty sheep, knowing them to have been stolen.³⁴ However he was not so fortunate the following month when, together with married couple William and Jane Davis, he was tried in the Hobart Supreme Court, charged with receiving sheep stolen by Thomas Butler and Thomas Keane (who turned King's evidence) from the properties of Edward Lord, John Beamont, and Thomas Wells, Esqrs. The case took up two days of the Court's time at the conclusion of which all were found guilty and sentenced to fourteen years transportation.³⁵ John Peck was ordered to serve his sentence at Macquarie Harbour, where he met up again with his brother William who, having escaped from Port Macquarie, had been caught and deported to Macquarie Island.³⁶ Now that John was a convict we are able to form a picture of him from his description, as recorded in one of the registers. He stood at 5' 6½", had a sallow complexion, brown hair and grey eyes. Additionally, note was made of his high temples and high cheek bones.³⁷ As announced in the *Launceston Advertiser* on 3 January 1831, the Lieutenant Governor 'has been pleased to grant the undermentioned indulgence' – twenty five or so of those convicted before the Supreme Court at Hobart town in 1824 were to be granted a ticket of leave, and one of these lucky people was John Peck.³⁸ The ticket came with certain conditions, one of which would have been a geographical restriction. On 31 January 1831 John Peck was issued with a pass

which permitted him, as an assigned convict, to travel to his nominated address 'Springs', under the employ of his brother Charles Peck.³⁹

Matriarch, Mary Peck of Patterson Plains, placed a notice dated 3 May 1834 in the papers by which she cautioned the public against allowing their cattle to run on her farms, and also gave notice that she had appointed Mr. John Peck, as her Overseer, with authority to impound such wandering cattle.⁴⁰ The following year John Peck put some bullocks and a cart on the market.⁴¹

Working Bullocks

TO BE SOLD BY PUBLIC AUCTION,
By MR. G. HAMILTON,
THIS DAY, 3rd of September, on the pre-
mises of Mr John Peck, Patterson's Plains,
at 1 o'clock precisely, without reserve,
FOUR excellent WORKING BULLOCKS,
and one excellent BULLOCK CART.
TERMS.—CASH.

Wandering stock was an ongoing problem for the Pecks, as instanced by the following notice placed in the *Launceston Advertiser* in July 1837.⁴²

**PUBLIC POUND, LONG MEADOWS, DIS-
TRICT OF LAUNCESTON.**

IMPOUNDED by Mr. John Peck, of Paterson's
Plains, 16th July, 1837.
One red cow, snail horns, right ear swallowed,
left half cut off, illegible brand on the near rump,
off rump D-C.
One brown cow, white belly, both ears swallowed,
no brand.
One red male calf, branded on the near rump
R M.
Poundage fees, 6d. per head per day. Food and
water, 3d. per head per day.
If the above animals be not claimed and redeemed
within the time allowed by law, they will be sold by
me at the above Pound, on Wednesday, the 2nd
day of August, 1837, according to the provisions of
the Impounding Act.
THOMAS PHILLIPS, Pound-keeper.

But it was not only cattle that might wander – the following notice was placed in the *Launceston Advertiser* earlier that year.⁴³

**PUBLIC POUND, LONG MEADOWS, DIS-
TRICT OF LAUNCESTON.**

IMPOUNDED, by Mr. John Peck, of Paterson's
Plains, January 1, 1837,—
1 black sow pig, white legs
1 white sow pig
1 black and white boar pig
Damages claimed, 20s. each; poundage fees 1s. 3d.
each per day.
If the above animals be not claimed and redeemed
within the time allowed by law, they will be sold by
me at the above pound, on Wednesday, 18th January,
1837, according to the provisions of the Impounding
Act.
THOMAS PHILLIPS, Pound-keeper.

The Hobart Town Courier of 27 April 1838 carried welcome news for a number of people. Under the heading 'Colonial Sentences' was the name of John Peck, 24th May.

The period for which the undermentioned persons were transported, expiring at the date placed after their respective name, certificates of their freedom may be obtained then, or at any subsequent period, upon

application at the Muster Master's Office, Hobart town, or at that of a Police Magistrate in the interior.⁴⁴

He suffered a set-back in 1840, having been declared insolvent.⁴⁵ His application for a liquor licence was refused in 1845 – but on what grounds was not published, 'Mr. Wales having communicated written objections to the premises.'⁴⁶ He was by this time in his early-50s and had not, as far as is known, remarried. John Peck remained at Patterson Plains until his death, at the age of 80, on 8 November 1872.⁴⁷

Number.	When died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.
1899	8 Nov 72	John Peck	Male	80	Farmer	Senility	Thomas J. Wales Muster Master	13 Nov

Susan Courtney was something of a cause célèbre in her day and her 'achievements' have guaranteed her a special status in the annals of female convict history.

Susan Courtney appears to be the only one of more than 1600 convict women sent to Van Diemen's Land in that colony's first quarter century who managed to make it back to England and be transported for the second time. She did not achieve the feat of James Hardy Vaux, the only convict known to have been transported three times, but hers was a remarkable achievement. If only she had recorded her story, what a tale it would make.⁴⁸

If only !!!

NOTES

¹ Findmypast (FMP), England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935, Prison Registers.

² *Old Bailey Proceedings Online* (www.oldbaileyonline.org, version 8.0, 30 June 2018), April 1817, trial of SUSAN COURTNEY (t18170416-47). *Old Bailey Proceedings Online* (www.oldbaileyonline.org, version 8.0, 30 June 2018), April 1817, trial of SUSAN COURTNEY (t18170416-53).

³ Prisoners' Letters to the Bank of England, 1781-1827, ed. Deirdre Palk (London, 2007), British History Online, <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/london-record-soc/vol42> [accessed 30 June 2018].

⁴ Irene Schaffer, Land Musters, Stock Returns and Lists Van Diemen's Land 1803-1822, St David's Park Publishing, Hobart, 1991. *The Hobart Town Gazette and Southern Reporter*, 13 Nov 1819, p.2.

⁵ Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office (TAHO), Conduct Register, CON40/1/1 p.3.

⁶ Female Convicts Research Centre (FCRC), Female Convicts in Van Diemen's Land database, Convict ID 3584. Ancestry, New South Wales and Tasmania, Australian Convict Musters, 1806-1849, 1820. Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Settler and Convict Lists, 1787-1834, 1821.

⁷ TAHO, Hobart marriages 1822, RGD36/1/1 no 556.

⁸ *The Hobart Town Gazette and Southern Reporter*, 19 Dec 1818, p.1.

⁹ Cathy Dunn, 'Joshua Peck, Convict Charlotte 1788', Australia History Research, <http://www.australianhistoryresearch.info/joshua-peck-convict-charlotte-1788/>, accessed 30 June 2018. Free Settler or Felon? Convict Ship Charlotte 1788, https://www.jenwilletts.com/convict_ship_charlotte_1788.htm. Biographical Database of Australia (BDA), Biographical reports for Joshua Peck and for Mary Frost. Ancestry Online Family tree, Williams Family Tree, <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/family-tree/person/tree/72330257/person/44277797691/facts>.

¹⁰ *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, 26 Mar 1803, p.4.

¹¹ *The Hobart Town Gazette and Van Diemen's Land Advertiser*, 9 Jun 1821, p.1. For the record, despite petitions for mitigation of sentence, Joshua the elder died under sentence at Newcastle in February 1825. His widow Mary outlived him by just over twenty years, her death occurring at the age of 96 at Curramore, at the residence of her daughter Elizabeth Stevenson – Cathy Dunn, 'Joshua Peck, Convict Charlotte 1788'. *Launceston Examiner*, 24 Nov 1847, p.6.

¹² For a detailed account of Joshua Peck and his family see Irene Schaffer and Thelma McKay, *Exiled Three Times Over! Profiles of Norfolk Islanders exiled in Van Diemen's Land 1807-13*, St David's Park Publishing, Hobart, 1992, pp.82-105.

¹³ *The Hobart Town Gazette and Van Diemen's Land Advertiser*, 29 Jun 1822, p.2.

¹⁴ *Old Bailey Proceedings Online* (www.oldbaileyonline.org, version 8.0, 02 July 2018), September 1823, trial of SUSAN COURTNEY, alias ELIZABETH JONES (t18230910-69).

¹⁵ For further information on Thomas Shelton, refer to Merchant Networks, <http://www.merchantnetworks.com.au/blackheath/thebc35.htm>.

¹⁶ *Bell's Life in London and Sporting Chronicle*, 21 Sep 1823, p.8.

¹⁷ FMP, England & Wales, Crimes, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935, Correspondence And Warrants.

¹⁸ *Hobart Town Gazette and Van Diemen's Land Advertiser*, 20 Aug 1824, p.2.

¹⁹ *Morning Advertiser*, 28 Sep 1824, p.3.

²⁰ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Convict Indents, 1788-1842, Bound Indentures, 1823-1826.



- ²¹ Ancestry, Australia List of Convicts with Particulars, 1788-1842, 1788-1825 (Part 3)
- ²² Ancestry, New South Wales and Tasmania, Australian Convict Musters, 1806-1949, General Muster A-L, 1825.
- ²³ *The Australian*, 17 Jun 1826, p.3.
- ²⁴ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Gaol Description and Entrance Books, 1818-1930, Entrance Book, Sydney, 1825-1832.
- ²⁵ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Gaol Description and Entrance Books, 1818-1830, Entrance Book, Sydney, 1819-1833.
- ²⁶ *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, 5 Nov 1827, p.3.
- ²⁷ Ancestry, New South Wales, 1828 Australia Census (Australian Copy).
- ²⁸ Alan Sharpe, Pictorial History of Blacktown and District, Kingsclere Books Pty Ltd, Blacktown, 2000, pp 52-54. M. Austin, 'Druitt, George (1775–1842)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/druitt-george-1994/text2431>, published first in hardcopy 1966, accessed online 4 July 2018.
- ²⁹ George Druitt, Australian Royalty, <https://australianroyalty.net.au/individual.php?pid=179826&ged=purnellmccord.ged>.
- ³⁰ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Gaol Description and Entrance Books, 1818-1930, Entrance Book, Sydney, 1825-1832.
- ³¹ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Register of Certificates of Freedom, 1 Dec 1823-Apr 1827, June 1828-Dec 1833. *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, 9 Jun 1831, p.1. Ancestry, New South Wales, Certificates of Freedom, Butts of Certificates of Freedom, 1831, May.
- ³² Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Gaol Description and Entrance Books, 1818-1930, Entrance Book, Sydney, 1834-1838.
- ³³ NSW State Archives & Records, <https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/magazine/onthisday/10-september-1823>.
- ³⁴ *Hobart Town Gazette and Van Diemen's Land Advertiser*, 11 Jun 1824, p.3
- ³⁵ *Hobart Town Gazette and Van Diemen's Land Advertiser*, 2 Jul 1824, p.3. *Hobart Town Gazette and Van Diemen's Land Advertiser*, 6 Aug 1824, p.2.
- ³⁶ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Colonial Secretary's Papers 1788-1856, Goulburn to Sorell, 31 July 1822.
- ³⁷ Ancestry, Tasmania, Australia, Convict Court and Selected Records, 1800-1899, Alphabetical register of the appropriation of convicts in the North, 1833-1835.
- ³⁸ *Launceston Advertiser*, 3 Jan 1831, p.6.
- ³⁹ Ancestry, Tasmania, Australia, Convict Court and Selected Records, Pardon, Leave, Discharge – Register of passes to travel granted to convicts assigned – Northern Tasmania, 1828-1833. 'The Springs' could refer either to the property then owned by John's brother, Jeremiah Peck, or generally to the area around Breadalbane – refer to Mary Mackenzie Friends and Family, <http://www.beswick.info/besfam/beshist2.htm>.
- ⁴⁰ *The Independent*, 7 May 1834, p.3.
- ⁴¹ *Launceston Advertiser*, 3 Sep 1835, p.2.
- ⁴² *Launceston Advertiser*, 20 Jul 1837, p.2.
- ⁴³ *Launceston Advertiser* 12 Jan, 1837.p.2.
- ⁴⁴ *The Hobart Town Courier*, 27 Apr 1838, p.1.
- ⁴⁵ *The Austral-Asiatic Review, Tasmanian and Australian Advertiser*, 25 Feb 1840, p.3.
- ⁴⁶ *Launceston Examiner*, 3 Sep 1845, p.3.
- ⁴⁷ TAHO, Launceston deaths 1872, RGD35/1/41 no1897.
- ⁴⁸ "Tracing Tasmania's Convicts", a review of Phillip Tardif's book 'Notorious Strumpets and Dangerous Girls', *The Canberra Times*, 29 Sep 1990, p.4.



SOURCES

Genealogy Websites

Ancestry

Australia List of Convicts with Particulars, 1788-1842
 New South Wales and Tasmania, Australian Convict Musters, 1806-1849
 New South Wales, 1828 Australia Census (Australian Copy)
 New South Wales, Australia, Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1856
 New South Wales, Australia, Convict Indents, 1788-1842
 New South Wales, Australia, Gaol Description and Entrance Books, 1818-1930
 New South Wales, Australia, Register of Certificates of Freedom, 1 Dec 1823-Apr 1827, June 1828-Dec 1833
 New South Wales, Australia, Settler and Convict Lists, 1787-1834
 New South Wales, Certificates of Freedom, Butts of Certificates of Freedom
 Online Family Trees
 Tasmania, Australia, Convict Court and Selected Records, 1800-1899

FindmyPast

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

Other Websites

Australia History Research, <http://www.australianhistoryresearch.info/>
 Australian Dictionary of Biography, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/>
 Australian Royalty, <https://australianroyalty.net.au>
 Biographical Database of Australia (BDA), <http://www.bda-online.org.au/>
 British History Online, <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/>
 Female Convicts Research Centre, <https://www.femaleconvicts.org.au/>
 Free Settler or Felon? <https://www.jenwillets.com/>
 LINC Tasmania, <https://www.linc.tas.gov.au/>
 Mary Mackenzie Friends and Family, <http://www.beswick.info/besfam/beshist2.htm>
 Merchant Networks, <http://www.merchantnetworks.com.au/blackheath/thebc35.htm>
 NSW State Archives & Records, <https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/>
 Old Bailey Proceedings Online, <http://www.oldbaileyonline.org/>
 Tasmanian Archives and Heritage Office, <https://www.libraries.tas.gov.au/archive-heritage/>

Online Newspapers

British Newspapers (FindmyPast)
 Bell's Life in London and Sporting Chronicle
 Morning Chronicle

TROVE

Launceston Advertiser
 Launceston Examiner
 The Austral-Asiatic Review, Tasmanian and Australian Advertiser
 The Australian
 The Canberra Times
 The Hobart Town Courier
 The Hobart Town Gazette and Southern Reporter
 The Hobart Town Gazette and Van Diemen's Land Advertiser
 The Independent
 The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser

Publications

Schaffer, Irene, Land Musters, Stock Returns and Lists Van Diemen's Land 1803-1822, St David's Park Publishing, Hobart, 1991.
 Sharpe, Alan, Pictorial History of Blacktown and District, Kingsclere Books Pty Ltd, Blacktown, 2000

© Leonie Fretwell, 2019