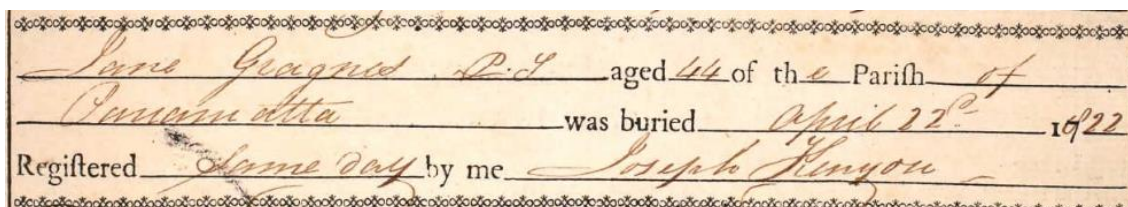


Jane Granger

Date of Trial:	15 August 1816
Where Tried:	Northumberland Assizes
Crime:	Coining
Sentence:	Life
Est YOB:	1784
Stated Age on Arrival:	34
Native Place:	
Occupation:	Country Servant
Alias/AKA:	
Marital Status (UK):	Married – Thomas Granger
Children on Board:	
Surgeon's Remarks:	<i>Inoffensive and industrious</i>
Assigned NSW or VDL	NSW

Jane Granger was very fortunate. At the Guildhall of the Town of Newcastle upon Tyne, she, together with a Daniel Brady (alias McKain), and her husband Thomas, had been found guilty of 'High Treason relating to the Coin of this Realm'. This was the charge cited in a petition to the bureaucrats at Whitehall, recommending that the trio be regarded as 'fit Objects of the Royal Mercy' and that their sentences be commuted 'for the Term of their respective Natural Lives'. In a letter dated 7 October 1816, Lord Sidmouth conveyed to the Justices of the Assize for the Northern Circuit that a pardon had been granted.¹ Nine months after her conviction, as reported in the *Durham County Advertiser*, Jane Granger was removed from the Newcastle gaol and made the journey to the London docks in readiness for embarking on the *Friendship*.² According to Peter Cosgreave, she seems to have been a model prisoner during the voyage. Having been mustered on arrival, she was assigned to the Government Factory, and was still there in 1820.³ Two years later she was dead. She died, aged 44, on 22 April 1822, and was buried at Parramatta.⁴

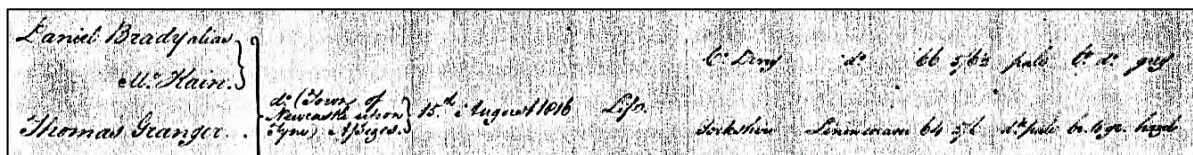


In accordance with the directions of the warrant from Lord Sidmouth, that the reprieved male convicts be immediately removed from the Newcastle gaol to the hulks, Thomas Granger was transferred to the *Justitia* moored at Sheerness.⁵

He was one of the 220 male convicts on board the *Lord Eldon* when it sailed from England on 9 April 1817 and, after a voyage of 174 days, was one of the 215 who arrived at Port Jackson on 30 September.⁶ Governor Macquarie noted the arrival in his diary.

The *Lord Eldon* Male Convict Ship commanded by Capt. Jas. Thos. Lamb, anchored this forenoon in the Harbour from England which she left on the 21st. of April last – having touched at Rio Janeiro. 215 (out of 220 Embarked) male Convicts have arrived in good Health on board the *Lord Eldon*, guarded by a Detachment of 30 men of the 46th. Regt. under the command of Lt. Norman McLean of the Royals or 1st. Regt. of Foot.⁷

Throughout his ordeal on the *Justitia* and the *Lord Eldon* Thomas Granger was accompanied by his partner in crime, Daniel Brady, and it was together that they were mustered on arrival.⁸



Thomas was a Yorkshireman and a linen weaver; Daniel hailed from Ireland. What is particularly notable about the entry is the ages of the two men. Daniel and Thomas, aged 66 and 64 respectively, were the oldest convicts on the *Lord Eldon*. Thomas was also considerably older than his wife Jane. He has been located, under the surname Grainger, for the 1821 muster, as being in Government employ.⁹ The next and final record we have for him is for his death on 21 November 1824, at the age of 67, at the Benevolent Asylum. His burial the following day was conducted by the Rev. Richard Hill and registered at St James Church of England.¹⁰

In terms of their sentences – transportation ‘for the Term of their respective Natural Lives’ – Jane served just over three years in the colony while her husband/widower ‘clocked up’ seven years. I wonder if they were able to spend any of this time together.

NOTES

¹ Findmypast (FMP), England and Wales, Crime, Prisons and Punishment, 1770-1935, Prison Registers, Correspondence and Warrants, HO 13, Piece No 29, pp.16-20.

² *Durham County Advertiser*, 31 May 1817, p.2. Note, the item incorrectly referred to her as Ann Granger.

³ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Settler and Convict Lists, 1787-1834, HO10; Piece 14.

⁴ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, St. John's Parramatta, Burials, 1790-1986. Note – death registered under the surname Gragnes.

⁵ FMP, England and Wales, Crime, Prisons and Punishment, 1770-1935, Prison Registers, Justitia's Quarterly Account of Pay and Provisions of Ship's Company, T38, Piece No 317, 1814-1818.

⁶ Claim a Convict, Details for the ship Lord Eldon (1817), <http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/claimaconvict/shipDetails.php?shipId=133>.

⁷ Macquarie, Lachlan. Memoranda & Related Papers. 22 December 1808-14 July 1823. Original held in the Mitchell Library, Sydney. ML Ref: A772 103-114 ff. [Microfilm Reel CY301 Frames #115-126].

⁸ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Convict Indents, 1788-1842, State Archives NSW; Series: *NRS 12188*; Item: [4/4005]; Microfiche: 638.

⁹ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Settler and Convict Lists, 1787-1834. Incidentally, his elder compatriot, Brady, was listed in the 1819 and 1820 musters, as a Government labourer.

¹⁰ Biographical Database of Australia (BDA), Biographical report for Thomas Granger. Ancestry, Australia, Death Index, 1787-1985, Sydney, V18246259 28.



SELECTED SOURCES

Genealogy Websites

Ancestry

Ancestry Death Index, 1787-1985

New South Wales, Australia, Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1856

New South Wales, Australia, Convict Indents, 1788-1842

New South Wales, Australia, Settler and Convict Lists, 1787-1834

New South Wales, Australia, St. John's Parramatta Burials, 1790-1986

Findmypast

England and Wales Crime and Punishment

Other Websites

Biographical Database of Australia (BDA), <http://www.bda-online.org.au/>

Claim a Convict, <http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/claimaconvict/>

Online Newspapers

British Newspapers (Findmypast)

Durham County Advertiser

Publications

Macquarie, Lachlan, Memoranda & Related Papers, 22 December 1808-14 July 1823

© Leonie Fretwell, 2019