



## Jane Jones

Date of Trial:	20 January 1817
Where Tried:	Lancaster Quarter Session
Crime:	Larceny
Sentence:	7 years
Est YOB:	1782
Stated Age on Arrival:	
Native Place:	Denbighshire
Occupation:	Servant
Alias/AKA:	
Marital Status (UK):	Married – John Jones
Children on Board:	
Surgeon's Remarks:	<i>Quiet and industrious</i>
Assigned NSW or VDL	NSW

Jane Jones was tried on 20 January 1817 at the Lancaster Quarter Session. What crime had brought her before the bench is not known, but the outcome was recorded in the Quarter Sessions Order Book.

Whereas Jane Jones the Wife of John Jones, late of Liverpool in the said County laborer hath at this Session been convicted of Felony This Court doth therefore order and adjudge that the said Jane Jones be sent and transported to some part beyond the seas for the Term of Seven Years pursuant to the Statute in such case made and provided.<sup>1</sup>

She was one of fifteen women, who had been tried in 1816 and 1817 and imprisoned at Lancaster after their convictions, who were destined for New South Wales on the convict transport *Friendship*. It must have been a relief to the Governor when, on 19 May, he wrote to the Secretary of State regarding the orders of transportation for these fifteen charges. The Governor must have been even more relieved when, in two groups, these women were removed from the Gaol on 27 and 28 May. Jane Jones was in the second group.<sup>2</sup>

In presenting his report on the convicts (and some of the wives of convicts) for whom he had responsibility during the voyage, Surgeon Peter Cosgreave, noted against her name that Jane Jones had been 'quiet and industrious'.<sup>3</sup> However, within a few months of her arrival Jane was once again aboard a ship, this time the *Lady Nelson*, as the only female among a group of one of a group of thirteen prisoners sent to Newcastle on 26 May 1818 for an unidentified colonial offence, but one which earned her a 12 month sentence.<sup>4</sup>

Ship came by	Prisoners Names	Sex or Convict	By Whom convicted	Time convicted	Sentence
<i>Ann Bus</i>	<i>Eden Hewitt</i>	<i>Convict</i>	<i>The Gov</i>	<i>28 May 1818</i>	<i>Two Years</i>
<i>Guildford</i>	<i>Edward Walsh</i>	<i>Convict</i>	<i>D. Wentworth Esq</i>	<i>15<sup>th</sup> May 1818</i>	<i>One year</i>
<i>Friendship</i>	<i>John Parrell</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>D:</i>	<i>" " "</i>	<i>One year</i>
	<i>Jane Jones</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>D:</i>	<i>22<sup>nd</sup> " "</i>	<i>One year</i>

The Population Muster of 1819 records Jane as being back in Sydney and resident at the Parramatta Female Factory.<sup>5</sup> Jane Jones again came to the authorities' attention on New Year's Day, 1821. Together with James Crossland, and through the auspices of George Augustus Middleton, Officiating Chaplain at Parramatta, she submitted a request for permission to have banns read at St. John's Church in anticipation of their marriage.<sup>6</sup> Notwithstanding the fact that Jane was recorded on arrival as wife of John Jones, the application was granted, and the marriage was registered at Parramatta in 1821.<sup>7</sup> Without sighting the marriage record it is not known whether or not James Crossland had previously been married – not that his marital status would necessarily have been included in the registry entry.

The man Jane Jones married in 1821 had been tried on 25 May 1812 at a Special Session at Chester. This

session was one of a number of Special Commissions appointed across ‘troublesome’ areas of England in response to the alarming number of people charged with Luddite inspired activities – chief of which were the making of secret oaths and the destruction of textile machinery. Judge Dallas, who presided over the Chester Session, opened the proceedings with a solemn and lengthy address to the Grand Jury, explaining that they were assembled to deal specifically with those charged with -

... having been concerned in the several riotous and feloniously practices that have of late taken place; and which tending to the subversion of all order and Government, demand early enquiry and, if the result should render it unfortunately necessary, early example.<sup>8</sup>

James Crossland, aged 49 and a shoemaker, was found guilty of threatening the life of one Robert Thornley, a textile manufacturer at Tintwistle, and breaking and destroying his tools, and sentenced to death.<sup>9</sup> Fortunately for James he was granted a reprieve with his capital conviction being replaced with fourteen years transportation.<sup>10</sup> He was received on the hulk *Retribution* on 26 June 1812, from where, on 14 October of that year he was transferred to the convict transport *Fortune*.<sup>11</sup> Departing in November with 200 convicts on board, and having spent nearly seven weeks at Rio, the *Fortune* arrived at Port Jackson on 11 June 1813, having lost four prisoners *en route*. The surviving prisoners, declared to be fit and healthy, were landed on 18 June and assigned to their respective places.<sup>12</sup> From 1814 to 1817 James Crossland was at Parramatta, assigned to the Rev. Samuel Marsden.<sup>13</sup> By 1822, still at Parramatta, he was assigned to emancipated convict and landholder Patrick Farrell who had arrived at the colony in 1803 per the *Glutton*. For the same muster Jane Jones was listed as the wife of J. Croslin [sic], Parramatta.<sup>14</sup>

As announced in the *Sydney Gazette* of 29 January 1824, Jane (*ux John*) Jones, having completed her seven years sentence, was granted her certificate of freedom (59/1756).<sup>15</sup>

59/1756
Jane ( <i>ux John</i> ) Jones
Parramatta (31)
1818
Lancaster 20
20 January 1817
Seven Years
Denbighshire
Servant
Forty five
5 feet 2 inches
Pale
Brown
Hazel
22 January 1824

It is from this record that we find that she was a native of Denbighshire, that she was 5' 2" tall, and had a pale complexion, brown hair and hazel eyes. This record is the first to be found that tells us her age – forty-five – which suggests a birth year of about 1779, if the age on the certificate was as at 1824. It also clarifies her calling – servant. Jane is listed in the 1825 general muster as Jane Jones, FS, wife of J. Crossland, Parramatta. The corresponding entry for James Crossland reflects Jane's ‘free by servitude status’. He is recorded as an assigned government servant assigned to Jane Jones.<sup>16</sup> However, on 1 June 1826 James Crossland, almost fourteen years

from the date of his conviction, gained his certificate of freedom. – No 12/5353 – as announced in *The Australian*. He apparently hailed from York, was 5' 8¼" tall with a dark/ruddy complexion, brown hair and eyes and, at sixty years of age, was quite an elderly man.<sup>17</sup>

12/5353

James Crossland  
Forslane @

1813

Chester Dept of Trade

25 May 1812

Forslane Pass

York

Theromaker

Sixty

5 feet 8 1/4 in

Dark Ruddy

Brown

Brown

1 June 1816

Two years later James and Jane Crossland were included in the 1828 census. James, now 62, and Jane, aged 46, were still resident at Parramatta. Included in the household was Patrick Connor, also free by servitude, who had arrived per *Guildford* in 1816 to serve a seven year sentence.<sup>18</sup>

**DISTRICT of Parramatta**  
No. 114

**NEW SOUTH WALES.**  
**Census for the Year 1828.**

By Act of the Governor and Council of the 6th Gen. IV. No. 4, s. 9, it is enacted, that if any Householder, Employer of Servants, or Proprietor or Occupier of Lands, shall refuse or neglect to answer, or shall answer falsely or untrue, any of the Questions authorized by the said Act to be put relative to the Population, Cattle, and Occupied Land in the Colony, the Person so offending shall be fined, at the discretion of two or more Magistrates, in a Sum not exceeding Ten Pounds.

HOUSEHOLDER'S NAME	RESIDENCE		ARRIVAL		RELIGION	EMPLOYMENT	RELIGION	RELIGION
	Household	Street	Ship	Year				
James Crossland			Forslane	1813	18 yrs	Theromaker	Protestant	Protestant
Jane Crossland			Forslane	1812	7 yrs	Wife of James	C.	C.
Patrick Connor			Guildford	1816	7	Labourer	C.	Rom Catholic
					James & Crossland 11th St. Parramatta Constable.			

No further records have been found for Jane and James Crossland. Jane may have been the woman who died at Parramatta on 2 July 1841 and was buried the next day, but the age at death – 46 – throws some doubt on this, given that this was her stated aged in 1828.<sup>19</sup>

Jane Crossland	Parramatta	2 July	3 July	46		Mr West Simpson
No. 1177				1841		

I am intrigued at the unusually detailed identification of Jane Jones, recorded in the Lancashire Quarter Sessions Order Book, as 'Jane Jones the Wife of John Jones, late of Liverpool in the said County laborer ...'. Was the reader of this record expected to know who John Jones was and, if so, what would make him readily identifiable? Could he have been the John Jones who so recently had gained considerable notoriety?



At the 1816 Lancaster Summer Assizes one John Jones, together with two others, was tried, found guilty and sentenced to death. Unlike most of the offenders capitally convicted during the Summer session, the sentences of these three men were not reprieved at the conclusion of the court proceedings. The *Chester Courant* of 15 October was one of the newspapers of the day to carry the following account.

EXECUTION, - On Saturday se'nnight, at noon, John Jones, aged 45, John James, a mulatto, aged 28, and Michael Maguire, aged 28, convicted at the late Lancaster Assizes of a burglary in the house of Mr. Yates, at Toxteth Park ... underwent the awful sentence of the law, on the Drop, behind Lancaster Castle. They all appeared very penitent, particularly the mulatto, who shed abundance of tears. They each spoke a few words to the surrounding spectators, requesting them to pray for them, and hoping, if there were any of their former companions near, they would take warning by their untimely fate, and refrain from their evil ways.<sup>20</sup>

While there is nothing in the accounts to link John Jones with Jane Jones, they would have been about the same age, and John had committed his crime at Toxteth Park, a district of Liverpool. And if Jane Jones was actually a widow, there would have been no impediment to her marriage to James Crossland. But, of course, this is just speculation.

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#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> Ancestry, Lancashire, England, Quarter Session Records and Petitions, 1648-1908, Lancashire-Order Books-1817, RB 40.

<sup>2</sup> Findmypast (FMP), England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935, Lancaster Gaol, Lancashire, Governor's Journals.

<sup>3</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1856, Series: *NRS:897; Reels 6041-6064, 6071-6072*, pp.58-67.

<sup>4</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1856, Series: *NRS:937; Reels 6004-6016*, p.239.

<sup>5</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales, Census and Population Books, 1811-1825, Population Muster 1819.

<sup>6</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1856, Series: *NRS:937; Reels 6004-6016*, p.6.

<sup>7</sup> Ancestry, Australia, Marriage Index, 1788-1850, 1821, Vol VB.

<sup>8</sup> *Chester Chronicle*, 12 Jun 1812, p.4.

<sup>9</sup> *London Courier and Evening Gazette*, 1 Jun 1812, p.4. *Chester Courant*, 2 Jun 1812, p.2. Tintwistle, a township in the Peak District, the population of which in the early 19th century was mostly employed in the manufacture of cotton and woollen goods – Genuki, <https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/CHS/tintwistle#Description>.

<sup>10</sup> FMP, England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935, Correspondence and Warrants, 23/pp.131-132.

<sup>11</sup> Ancestry, UK, Prison Hulk Registers and Letter Books, 1802-1849, Retribution, Register, 1803-1836.

<sup>12</sup> Free Settler or Felon, Convict Ship Fortune 1813, [https://jenwillets.com/convict\\_ship\\_fortune\\_1813.htm](https://jenwillets.com/convict_ship_fortune_1813.htm).

<sup>13</sup> Biographical Database of Australia (BDA,) Biographical report for James Crossland. Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Settler and Convict Lists, 1787-1834, New South Wales, 1816 and 1817.

<sup>14</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales and Tasmania, Australia Convict Musters, 1806-1849, New South Wales, General Muster, 1822. BDA, Biographical report for Patrick Farrell.

<sup>15</sup> *Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, 29 Jan 1824, p.1. Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Certificates of Freedom, 1810-1814, 1827-1867, (NRS 12208), Registers of Certificates of Freedom, 4 Feb 1810-26 Aug 1814.

<sup>16</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales and Tasmania, Australian Convict Musters, 1806-1849, New South Wales, General Muster, A-L, 1825.

<sup>17</sup> *The Australian*, 7 Jun 1826, p.2. Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Certificates of Freedom, 1810-1814-1827-1867, (NRS 12208), Registers of Certificates of Freedom, 1 Dec 1823-Apr 1827, June 1828-Dec 1833.

<sup>18</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia Census (Australian Copy), (NRS 1273), 1828 Census: Householders' Returns, Parramatta.

<sup>19</sup> Ancestry, Australia, Death Index, 1787-1985. New South Wales Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages (NSW BDM), 857/1841 V1841857. Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, St. John's Parramatta, Burials, 1790-1986, Vol 04, 1839-1889.

<sup>20</sup> *Chester Courant*, 15 Oct 1816, p.3.



## SELECTED SOURCES

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Genuki, <https://www.genuki.org.uk/>  
New South Wales Registry of Births, Deaths, Marriages, <https://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au/>

### Online Newspapers

#### British Newspapers (Findmypast)

Chester Chronicle  
Chester Courant  
London Courier and Evening Gazette

#### TROVE

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The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser

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