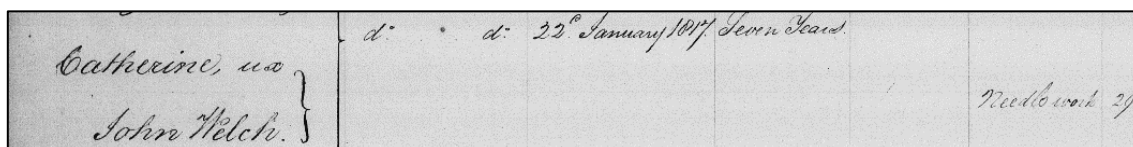




## Catherine Welch

Date of Trial:	22 January 1817
Where Tried:	Lancaster Quarter Session
Crime:	Larceny
Sentence:	7 years
Est YOB:	1789
Stated Age on Arrival:	29
Native Place:	
Occupation:	Needlework
Alias/AKA:	Catherine Welsh
Marital Status (UK):	Married – John Welch
Children on Board:	
Surgeon's Remarks:	<i>Quiet and Industrious</i>
Assigned NSW or VDL	

In respect of any documentation, Catherine Welch was an unremarkable woman. We know that she was found guilty at the Lancaster January quarter sessions of stealing lace from the assignees of J. Watts and that for this she was transported for seven years.<sup>1</sup>



Did she steal the lace for her own purposes, as a needlewoman, or was it for 'on-selling'? Was she also the Catherine Welch who had been found guilty of larceny at the April 1813 Lancaster assizes, for which six months imprisonment had been meted out?<sup>2</sup> We do know that when she departed England she was a married woman – the wife of John Welch. But there is no mention of any children, nor what may have become of Mr. Welch.

And finally, we know that, having been mustered on arrival, Catherine Welch was sent to the Liverpool district where, on 2 November 1820, at the age of thirty-two, she died in the Liverpool Hospital. The cause of death was given as 'fits'. She was buried at St Lukes Church of England on 3 November, with the Rev. Robert Cartwright officiating.<sup>3</sup>



## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> *Manchester Mercury*, 28 Jan 1817, p.4. Her name was given as Catherine Welsh in the newspaper account. Findmypast (FMP), Australia Convict Ships, 1786-1849, Lancashire England.

<sup>2</sup> Ancestry, England & Wales, Criminal Registers, 1791-1892, HO 27; Piece: 9; Page: 337.

<sup>3</sup> Ancestry, Anglican Church Diocese of Sydney; Sydney, New South Wales, Australia; Baptism, Burial, Confirmation, Marriage and composite registers in the Anglican Church Diocese of Sydney Archives.



## **SELECTED SOURCES**

### **Genealogy Websites**

#### Ancestry

England & Wales Criminal Registers, 1791-1892

Sydney, Australia, Anglican Parish Registers, 1814-2011

#### Findmypast

Australia Convict Ships, 1786-1849

England and Wales Crime and Punishment

### **Other Websites**

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

### **Online Newspapers**

#### British Newspapers (Findmypast)

Manchester Mercury

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