

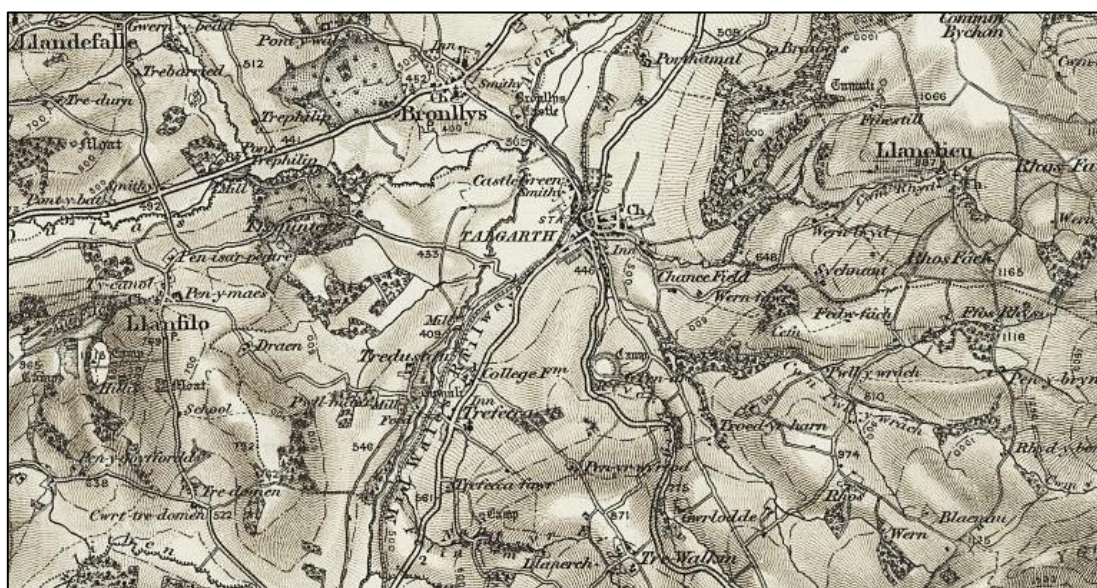
Ann Morgan

Date of Trial:	31 Aug 1816
Where Tried:	Brecon Great Session ¹
Crime:	Theft
Sentence:	7 years
Est YOB:	1788
Stated Age on Arrival:	30
Native Place:	Talgarth, County Brecon
Occupation:	Country Servant
Alias/AKA:	
Marital Status (UK):	
Children on Board:	
Surgeon's Remarks:	Inoffensive but very choleric
Assigned NSW or VDL	VDL

At Brecon Great Sessions, Margaret Morgan, Sarah Davis, and Mary Thomas, were sentenced to seven years transportation for stealing spirituous liquors from the shop of Mr. Edward Powell, of Brecon; and Ann Morgan received the same sentence for stealing wearing apparel at Porthamel, in the same county.

Thus was Ann Morgan's crime reported in the *Hereford Journal* of 18 September 1816.² A spinster, aged 27, and of Talgarth, she had appeared before the Brecon Great Session on 31 August 1816 to answer the charge brought by Margaret Price, also a spinster of Talgarth, of having stolen some clothing on 25 July 1816. In vain, Ann had pleaded not guilty and was sentenced to seven years transportation. At the same session she had also been charged on another offence also committed on 25 July – stealing a hempen bag from William Saunders, yeoman of Talgarth. The verdict in this case was 'No prosecution, convicted on another indict'.³

A small market town dating from at least the early 1300s, and situated at the foot of the Black Mountains, Talgarth has always been a centre for trade and commerce in livestock and agricultural produce, and famous for its horse fairs (up to the 19th century), and sheep markets.⁴



Talgarth⁵

Talgarth is nine miles from Brecon where, after her trial Ann, was held in the formidable County Gaol, as recorded in the Prisoner Register, and where she had to wait nearly a year before she was taken on board the *Friendship*.⁶

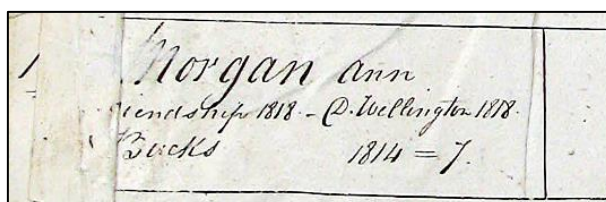


Brecon County Gaol⁷

Ann Morgan was one of three women who had been tried in Wales but the only one of the trio to be sent to Van Diemen's Land. Surgeon Peter Cosgreave described her as 'inoffensive, but very choleric' – whether he was referring to the state of her health or to an ill-temper is not clear. On arrival at Port Jackson on 14 January 1818, and having been mustered, Ann was transferred to Van Diemen's Land on board the *Duke of Wellington*, arriving at Hobart on 20 February. She was 30 years of age and a country servant by occupation.

She appears in the 1820 and 1821 convict lists as a servant to Simeon Lord, Esq., an emancipist and one of Sydney's leading merchants.⁸ An alternative listing for 1821 suggests that Ann was assigned to 'T Brammer'.⁹ I have found no record of a T Brammer, but perhaps the master was J. Brammer, in which case he may have been the James (aka Samuel) Brammer who, in November 1818, had married Mary Davis (alias Henroy), one of Ann's shipmates.¹⁰ 'Own benefit' is the notation on the 1822 listing for Ann Morgan, and for the following year she was listed as an invalid.¹¹ A Government Notice of 5 September 1823 announced that Ann Morgan had qualified for her certificate of freedom.¹² By this time she would have been in her mid-30s.

Ann Morgan was one of those convict women who was virtually 'invisible'. During her period of servitude she apparently did nothing to draw attention to herself and she certainly caused no concern to the authorities, as testified by her clean conduct record. Interestingly though, and an error repeated on some of her documentation, is that the trial place is given as Bucks rather than Brecon.¹³



Nothing further has been found for Ann Morgan in the online records for Van Diemen's Land or New South Wales unless she was the woman who sailed from Hobart on 20 January 1824 bound for England. On 9 January a Mrs. Ann Morgan notified the public that she was leaving the Colony and requested that all claims be presented.¹⁴ This Ann Morgan was included in the list published in the *Hobart Town Gazette* on 23 January of passengers who had embarked on the brig *Allies* passengers.¹⁵

**On the same day sailed the brig *Allies*,
 Captain Kirton, for England, with a
 full cargo of colonial produce, consist-
 ing chiefly of wool.—Passengers, Mr.
 William Parker, Mr. Charles Boucher,
 Mr. Allan M'Lean, Thomas Brennan,
 Ann Morgan, and Robert Grimes.**

Almost exactly five months later the *Allies* arrived at Gravesend.¹⁶

NOTES

¹ The Court of Great Sessions was formally established in 1543 by an Act of Parliament which divided Wales into 13 shires, of which 12 formed the circuits of the new courts. There were 4 circuits – Chester (comprising Flintshire, Denbighshire and Montgomeryshire); North Wales (Anglesey, Caernarfonshire and Merioneth); Brecon (Breconshire, Glamorgan, Radnorshire); Carmathen (Carmarthenshire, Cardiganshire, Pembrokeshire). The Sessions met twice a year in each county – around April/May and August/September – officially in English, but with extensive use of interpreters in recognition of the linguistic realities. “The Court of Great Sessions in Wales 1543-1830, EarlyModernWeb, Early Modern Resources, <http://www.earlymodernweb.org.uk/waleslaw/gfintro.htm>.

² *Hereford Journal*, 18 Sep 1816, p.3.

³ Crime and Punishment database, The National Library of Wales, https://crimeandpunishment.library.wales/index_s.htm.

⁴ About Talgarth, Visit Talgarth, <https://www.visittalgarth.co.uk>.

⁵ Talgarth, Welsh Tithe Maps – Places of Wales, The National Library of Wales, <https://places.library.wales/home>

⁶ Findmypast (FMP), England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935, Prison Registers.

⁷ Brecon Gaol, Law and Order, Powys, A Day in the Life, http://a-day-in-the-life.powys.org.uk/eng/law/el_brecgaol4.php.

⁸ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Settler and Convict Lists, 1787-1834, New South Wales, Female, 1820 and 1821.

⁹ Female Convicts Research Centre Inc. (FCRC), Female Convicts in Van Diemen's Land database, Convict ID: 3607.

¹⁰ Refer to BoF account of Mary Davis.

¹¹ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Settler and Convict Lists, 1787-1849, New South Wales Male and Female 1822. Ancestry, New South Wales and Tasmania, Australia Convict Musters, 1806-1849, Tasmania, List of convicts (incomplete) 1823.

¹² *The Hobart Town Gazette and Van Diemen's Land Advertiser*, 6 Sep 1823, p.1.

¹³ TAHO, Conduct Register, CON13/1/1 p140.

¹⁴ *The Hobart Town Gazette and Van Diemen's Land Advertiser*, 9 Jan 1824, p.3.

¹⁵ *The Hobart Town Gazette and Van Diemen's Land Advertiser*, 23 Jan 1824, p.2.

¹⁶ *Public Ledger and Daily Advertiser*, 23 Jun 1824, p.4.



SOURCES

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Online Newspapers

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TROVE

The Hobart Town Courier and Van Diemen's Land Gazette

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