

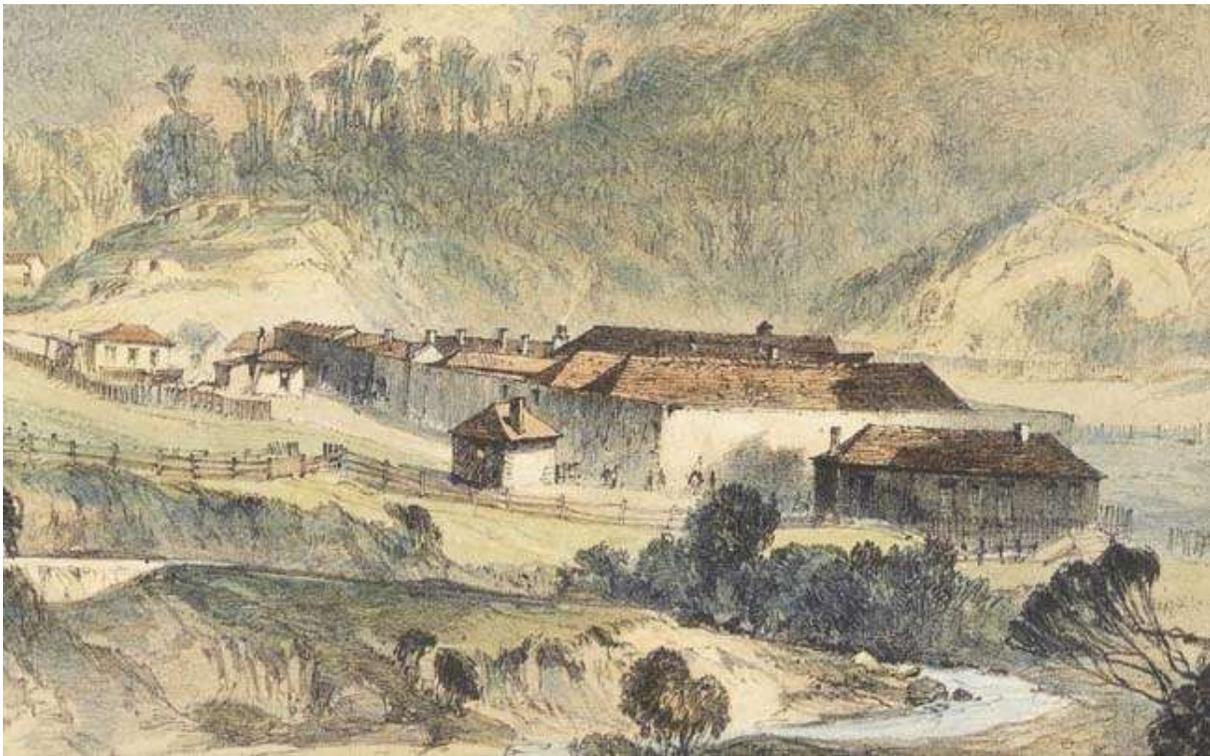
# Cascades May 1847

By Maureen Mann

## Introduction

*When the opportunity came to write a piece about the Cascades Female Factory, I was interested in discovering some statistics. This proved more difficult to write about than I expected, as it effectively turned into lists of numbers. Very few statistics were kept at the time, giving modern researchers few historic records to use, apart from the women's conduct records. There appear to be no entry and exit details, nor information on day-to-day life inside the Factory. While working on my regular FCRC database project, I had already come across several very interesting women. I found I could link them all to Cascades during a single month – May 1847. It would have been possible to choose another month in another year and discover other interesting lives. Serendipity.*

Maureen Mann



**Cascades Female Factory (c.1844)**

On 1 May 1847, **Henrietta Beresford** appeared before Police Magistrate Thomas Mason for being absent without leave, and was sentenced to three months with hard labour at Cascades. This was her second VDL conduct offence since her arrival in the colony in 1845, the first being in December 1846. Henrietta Beresford was born in Waterford in about 1820 and transported on *Tasmania* for stealing muslin from a hawker in Limerick. She had a total of eleven conduct offences in VDL, the last being in 1882 for obscene language when her conduct record states that she was in Torquay (now Devonport) "as Morton", serving three months hard labour. How did she become Henrietta Morton? Her first marriage was in 1853 to John Lenny or Linny in Evandale. He died in 1856. In 1857, she married Elijah Harvey, a shepherd, in Swansea. This was followed by a marriage to Keeling Richardson in Avoca in 1858, when her name was recorded as Henrietta Linnet. However, Elijah Harvey was still alive, and in 1859 she was charged with bigamy, but she denied having married Harvey. The jury returned a verdict of not guilty of the charge and it has to be assumed that both Harvey and Richardson refused to accept her as their wife. Harvey remarried in 1863. In 1860 there is a marriage in Launceston of a Henrietta Linnow to William Coombe. No firm death has been found for

Coombe(s). In 1878 Henrietta was back at the altar, this time as Henrietta Coombs, marrying John George Morton, a 54-year-old bachelor labourer. She gave her age as 48 which is slightly out assuming this trail of marriages is correct. No children were found from any of these marriages and no further reference was found to Henrietta after her 1882 offence.



Thomas Mason (1800-1888) Magistrate

In front of a magistrate that same day, and later sent to Cascades, were four others.

**Ann Nowlan**, a farm or country servant, born in Down, arrived on *Greenlaw* in 1844 and had been tried at Carlow, Ireland, for perjury. She accused a man of raping her. She was illiterate, single and had one child who also travelled on the *Greenlaw*. For her May 1847 offence, the third of three colonial offences she was ordered one month's hard labour for using threatening language. She had previously twice been absent without leave. Ann Nowlan went on to marry John Pickett and had six more children before dying at Emu Bay, Tasmania, in 1876.

**Mary Ann Hodder**, born in Bristol England, was transported for stealing a quilt. She was a 31-year-old housemaid and cook, a widow with three children none of whom were on board, when she arrived on *Sea Queen* in 1846. Her May 1847 charge was her only colonial offence when she overstayed her pass while still in Brickfields, and was sentenced to two months hard labour in Cascades. She married John Firley or Forley, had no children and probably died in 1860.

**Mary Whealan** also a widow, stole clothes in her native Kilkenny, was sentenced to seven years' transportation and arrived on the *Phoebe* 1845 accompanied by only one of her four children. She described herself as a 36-year-old housemaid who could also wash. Her May 1847 offence was her third, this time for misconduct in overstaying her pass, while at Brickfields. She had to serve three months' hard labour. Mary Whelan had three further offences, all for drunkenness. She married Austen Savage in 1847 but no further trace has been found for her after her 1851 freedom.

**Esther Acres** received the first of her eight colonial sentences that day. She too was in Brickfields and was charged with misconduct by behaving in a disrespectful way. For this she served six weeks hard labour. Esther had been born in Tipperary but was transported from Kings County for stealing a cloak. She was single and had one child with her on board the *Arabian* (1847) with her. She was 23 or 25, a housemaid who also could wash. She had seven more colonial offences for disobedience, theft and absence. She and John Brook(e)s had permission to marry in 1851 but no registration has been found, though a daughter was born to them about 1854 in Victoria. There was no further trace of Esther Acres after this birth.

These five women arrived at Cascades and joined an unknown number of others already there: the authorities of the time did not keep such statistics that allow modern researchers to know how many convicts were at the factory at any specific given time. Over the course of May 1847, they were joined for some or all of the time by women from a total of thirty-one ships. The longest resident of the colony, amongst all those convicted in May 1847, was **Mary Burke**, aged in her fifties, from the *Borneo* which arrived in 1828. She had a total of 33 VDL conduct offences including being re-transported in 1837, and several two-year extensions. She was sent to Cascades 13 May 1847 for one of her regular offences, being absent without leave, this time for sixteen days leading to a sentence of six months. Her last sentence, in November 1848 was two-years for theft, during which time she died.

**Mary Burke** was not the only woman that month with more than thirty total colonial convictions. **Mary Walker** [32], **Jane Grady** [34], and **Mary Hill** [31], were well known by the magistrates. Mary Hill had two convictions during May 1847: 17<sup>th</sup> she received seven days solitary confinement for being out after hours and 31<sup>st</sup>, having been found in a brothel in bed with a man, she lost her ticket of leave and received two months hard labour. Mary Walker arrived on the *Royal Admiral* in 1842. In 1847 she was charged with being absent for 42 days and received six months hard labour. Jane Grady, from the *Emma Eugenia*, 1844, appeared for one of her regular drunk offences, this time combined with being out after hours and was sentenced to three months hard labour. **Sarah Ingram** also had the dubious honour of having two offences during the month: the 14<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup>, the latter being misconduct in the House of Correction.

The largest number of admissions during the month (61%) was for women with less than ten total colonial offences. Of these only five had a single offence, including absent without leave, overstaying her pass, a man in bed and the more unusual, stealing a china basin for which she received twelve months hard labour. Eight women had only two offences total. The next biggest group (25%) had between eleven and twenty colonial offences. Only 14% of the May 1847 entrants had more than 21 colonial offences. Absent without leave, and related terms such as out after hours or absence was the most common reason for being convicted. There were 52 women charged with this. The next most common offence was drunk and/or disorderly: 27 women. Misconduct – not usually defined – was the reason 20 women were accused. These were followed by theft (10), being in bed with a man or in a brothel (8), use of language or insolence (5), disobedience (3). Assault and disrespect each had one offender.

The severity of the sentences varied quite considerably and from a modern perspective the magistrates do not seem to have been consistent. It must be assumed that it was in part dependent on the magistrate's mood and how the session had progressed, as well as the convict's presentation, attitude and demeanour. Thomas Mason heard the offences for at least 92 of the women sent to Cascades in May 1847. According to the *Australian Dictionary of Biography online*, Thomas Mason was at times a harsh magistrate. Of those who entered Cascades during May 1847, the punishments ranged from four hours solitary to twelve months hard labour. The most common punishment given out to 42 women this month was three months hard labour. There were equal numbers who received six, four, two and one month sentences (eighteen or nineteen for each). These account for 90% of the month's entrants. Some punishments specified that part of the time (usually half the sentence) was to be spent in the separate cells or in solitary. Two women also lost their Ticket of Leave as well as serving their extra imprisonment. Ten women were given varying solitary confinement sentences of between four hours and ten days. Eight received sentences of between one and eight days without solitary confinement. Other magistrates included Algernon Burdett Jones (ABJ) who was based at Glenorchy but who heard the specialised cases and later went on to be colonial coroner, Robert Wyndham Fenwick (RWF) at Hamilton and Augustus Eardley Wilmot (AEW) at New Norfolk.

In 1847, the police magistrate heard cases every day of the week, apart from Sundays. Those coming from areas other than Hobart may have arrived on Sundays as they had to rely on transport to get them to Cascades. The busiest court day was 13 May 1847 when 10 female convicts were charged, closely followed by 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> which each had nine convictions. There were three days during the month with only one court appearance recorded: 8<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.

There were a relatively few women from this cohort who were back during the final years of Cascades, 1851-56. All female prisoners at that time were kept at one location. Cascades was under new management with labour re-organised and punishments introduced for minor breaking of the rules. The aim was to improve behaviour. The punishment book shows that there were “harsh punishments for minor offences; and that many women broke the rules”. Eleven of the May 1847 women were back in Cascades during the Punishment Book era. Their offences ranged from disorderly conduct, not leaving her berth, disobeying regulations, loud talking and not performing her task at wool picking. The punishments from this time included being admonished, days on bread and water, punishment dress, strict separation from other convicts and having her credit stopped.



**Hobart Town**

As is to be expected, the native place of the women was dependent on relatively recent ship arrivals, and the ships' port of origin. Sixty of the women were born in England (47%), 46 in Ireland (37.5%), fourteen from Scotland (11%), two from Wales and one from America. Eighty-two of the women were convicted in England (64% of the month's admissions), 25 in Ireland (20%), Scotland fifteen (11%) and Wales one. Several had no recorded native place. These figures reflect the general proportions of native place and place of conviction across the whole of the FCRC database, indicating that this month was representative of any one time in the convict period.

When one looks at marital status at the time of transportation, the figures are less clear. Sometimes there was conflicting information between that given in “Stated this offence” in the conduct record and what was recorded in the indent. Among the May 1847 women, there were nearly three times as many single women as were married and four times as many single women as widows. 42 of the women sent to Cascades in May 1847 admitted to having pre-transportation children, only some of whom came to VDL with them. Research has so far only shown that 36 of the women had post-transportation children, although marriage records in VDL have been found for 93 of them. There were several Permission-to-Marry approvals for women but for whom no marriage was found. This could be explained by missing registers, poorly recorded names when recording was dependent on the name as heard, or celebrants who simply forgot to record the event. Others may have entered common-law relationships, and as a result changed their names, but these connections are very difficult to trace. Deaths (both possible and confirmed) have been found for 58 women, just over half the total May 1847 admissions. All the figures reflect how easy it was during the nineteenth century, when ID was not a regular requirement, for people to change their name and

therefore become untraceable. During 1847, only two of these women had children which have been recorded on their conduct record. They were **Mary Clinch**, transported to NSW in 1834 and re-transported to VDL in 1846. On 14 May 1847, seven days after her absence without leave, she had twins and their births are only recorded in her conduct record: CON40/2 image 247. **Catherine Wickham** convicted 26<sup>th</sup> May, the fourteenth of sixteen offences, received a sentence of six months hard labour, and 31 October 1847, was delivered of a son, John.

Twenty of the May 1847 admissions were teenagers when they arrived in VDL, the youngest being only fifteen. The greatest majority, about 60%, were in their twenties. The oldest woman on arrival from this convicted group was **Agnes Dogherty** nee Coyle, who was sixty when she arrived in 1841 on *Rajah*, but she was amongst the first of this group to die in 1849. **Catherine McKenzie**, born in Derry but convicted in Edinburgh was 54 with five children left behind, on arrival in the *Sea Queen* in 1846. No death has been traced for her.

Now, to look at some other individuals from this group. **Ann Dunn** from Clerkenwell, was convicted at the Old Bailey 2 January 1843 for stealing cloaks from children and transported on the *Woodbridge* the same year. The online transcriptions only include evidence from the two girls involved. She had seven colonial convictions, between June 1845 and January 1849 including 3 May 1847, and was free by servitude in January 1853. In September 1853 she married James Doolin/Doolan, a plasterer, in Fingal Tasmania. No children have been found but her death is recorded in 1870.

**Anestatia Eustes**, born City Road (perhaps London (CON41), perhaps Bristol), was tried in Bristol 6 January 1843 for stealing shawls. She arrived on the *Tasmania* 1844, when conflicting evidence is recorded whether she was single or married. The indent names her husband as Henry. She only had two offences recorded. The 5 May 1847 one was for being absent without leave for which she served one month had labour; the second in December 1848, for feloniously receiving stolen property, was dismissed. In October 1849 she married Samuel Edward Withers, then a constable. Her first child born in 1847 was illegitimate and died aged six weeks. Two more children were born in Tasmania before the family moved to Victoria where by 1867 another seven children were born in the Sandhurst district. Two books – *Eureka* by Peter Fitzsimons and *Anastasia Woman of Eureka: A Tribute to Anastasia Withers, The Threads of Time* by Vivienne R Worthington – suggest that she was one of three women who sewed the Eureka flag. This is feasible given that she said she was a dressmaker on arrival in VDL. Samuel Edward Withers died in 1883 when his wife was named as Anestatia formerly Splain. This name was also given for the last two births. Her family, according to the death certificate informant, believed that she had married in London in about 1841 and she had been in Victoria for 18 years only.



**Jemima English**, born and tried in Edinburgh in 1845, and transported per *Lloyds* in 1845 was still only seventeen when she was admitted to Cascades for the second and last time to serve three months hard labour for being absent without leave, 7 May 1847. In March 1848 she married Henry Shepherd (varying spellings) in Hamilton Tasmania and she went on to have ten children, most registered in Victoria. No definite departure record has been found though a Henry Shepherd per Circassian (no convict of this name on this ship), Mrs Shepherd and one child left Launceston for Melbourne 11 May 1852. Sometime after 1872 when the last child's birth was registered in Victoria, they left for Deniliquin, NSW. The family settled at Four Post, about four miles up the Edward River. Henry Sheppard died in 1897 and Jemima in 1912 and there is an extensive family grave area in the local cemetery.



Deniliquin Cemetery, NSW

**Amelia Hughes** was a 19-year-old house maid when she was transported from Liverpool on *Emma Eugenia* in 1844, arriving April, for stealing a pair of boots. On board was her fifteen-month-old daughter Charlotte, who died August 1844. Her 11 May 1847 offence was for being absent without leave receiving two months hard labour. By then she had had another daughter, Ellen and was to have Agnes in 1848. In 1850, Alice Ann was born, but died in 1853. None of these children born in VDL had a named father. No VDL marriage has been found, but from 1854 until 1866 Amelia and a William Glover had five children. He was variously a splitter or labourer and the family moved around the colony. No further trace has been found of either her or her children.

**Sarah Jane Marrow**, from Antrim and only twenty, received ten years' transportation for stealing money and arrived on the *Tasmania* in 1845. She only had the one conduct offence, dated 25 May, for having a man in her bed for an immoral purpose and for which she received a sentence of two months hard labour. One must assume it was not her husband, Timothy Walker, whom she had married in Hamilton at the end of April 1847. They had daughters in Campbell Town and Bagdad before moving to Longford by 1853 where she died of influenza, aged 26. Timothy Walker gained notoriety in 1886 for murdering his then-partner. He was hanged in January 1887 by Solomon Blay.

**Sarah Jobson** was the youngest of this cohort of women when she was transported for fifteen years from Chelmsford for setting fire to a stack of straw, and arrived per *Lloyds* in 1845. Her first colonial offence, 21 May 1847 was being 'absent and being in the bath with a free man for an improper purpose' and went to Cascades for six months hard labour. She had two further entries in her conduct record one of which was discharged. In 1852 she married John Housego who died in 1864; then in 1866, as a widow, William Bransom. No children have been found from either marriage though Sarah had a son who died aged three months, in 1849. Sarah died in the Parsonage at Deloraine in September 1900 aged about seventy.

Further genealogical information may give future researchers more information about these women and the many others who were convicted during May 1847 and sent to Cascades.

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- B. <http://www.femaleconvicts.org.au/docs/lists/Magistrates.pdf>
- C. Chapter 11. The final years of the Cascades Female Factory

- D. *The Independent (Deniliquin, NSW : 1901 - 1946) Friday 15 November 1912* p 2
  - E. *The Cornwall Chronicle (Launceston, Tas. : 1835 - 1880) Saturday 8 January 1859* p 4
  - F. LINC conduct records
  - G. *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 19 December 2017), memorial page for Jemima *English* Shepherd (1830–Nov 1912), Find A Grave Memorial no. [138450960](#), citing Deniliquin Cemetery,
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- G F. Pike, 'Mason, Thomas (1800–1888)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/mason-thomas-2436/text3243>, published first in hardcopy 1967, accessed online 19 December 2017.