

Mary McMichan - Research carried out by Ray Wooster

Available timeline for Mary McMichan in VDL

1840 17 Mar 1840 Edinburgh Trial, 16-year-old 7 years
transportation for theft (2nd)
1840 Navarino sails 5 Oct 1840
1841 17 Jan 1841 Convict ship Navarino arrives in Tasmania
1841 Allocated to Mr A Wilson of Hobart
1842 Marries Timothy
1845 VDL Convict register
1846 VDL Convict register returns
1845/6 VDL Convict Pardon, " about 5 years & 1/2 years of her 7-year
sentence having expired & only 3 very trivial offenses having been paid to
her charge in the Colony"
1848 Abandons Timothy Wooster for John Ryan (note this is a matter
of days after registration of births below)

After wading through, hundreds of scanned records, with Zero records for a
Wooster or McMeechan I think in all likelihood John Wooster is the son of
Timothy & Mary

Tasmania, Australia, Baptisms of Children of Convicted Women, 1833-1854
14 Recorded births to female convicts of the Navarino, between 1842 & 1849

James Smith		
7 Oct 1842	Navarino	Jane Smith
Andrew Blair		
7 Oct 1842	Navarino	Agnes Blair
Caroline Thomson		
17 Sep 1843	Navarino	Elizabeth Thomson
Maria King		
23 Jun 1844	Navarino	Elizabeth King
Mary Jane Stewart		
28 Jul 1844	Navarino	Mary Stewart
Henry Wrench		
26 Aug 1844	Navarino	Jane Wrench
Emma Wrench		
24 Apr 1848	Navarino	Jane Wrench
Robert Henry Turner		
5 Nov 1849	Navarino	Robert Turner, Ruth Turner
Glove Payne		
17 Sep 1843	Navarino	Jane Payne
James Partington		
25 Oct 1843	Navarino	Mary Ann Partington

Emma Stores
25 Feb 1843 Navarino Caroline Stores

Francis Harper Smith
20 Oct 1844 Navarino Elizabeth Smith

Caroline McKinsey
12 Sep 1845 Navarino Jane McKinsey

Anna Miles
24 Apr 1848 Navarino Ruth Miles

The number of "Fatherless" children of Transported females really stands out.

With these registrations, there are many cases of multiple children being registered on the same day, some aged 9 years

The names of female convicts & ex-convicts also identified the ship they were transported on

Not 1 child to a Mary McMeehan of the ship Navarino,

No recorded births for a mother names McMichan, Wooster

No recorded birth for an Amelia Jane with mother Mary transported on the Naverine

The only birth that comes close, note unknown Father

John McMeehan
in the Australia, Birth Index, 1788-1922

Australia, Birth Index, 1788-1922

Name: John McMeehan
Birth Date: 19 Apr 1848
Birth Place: Tasmania
Registration Year: 1848
Registration Place: Hobart, Tasmania, Australia
Father: U McMeehan (U means Unknown)
Mother: Mary McMeehan
Registration Number: 682

Note there is also a Margaret Recorded in Oct 1848 at the same location by a single mother Mary Meehan

The only Mary from the convict ship Navarino with a recorded birth

Mary Jane Stewart
in the Tasmania, Australia, Baptisms of Children of Convicted Women, 1833-1854

Tasmania, Australia, Baptisms of Children of Convicted Women, 1833-1854
Name: Mary Jane Stewart
Baptism Date: 1844
Mother Name: Mary Stewart

Ship: Navarino
Baptism Place: Tasmania, Australia
Born 20 July 1844

Sentenced at the same place as Mary McMichan & Transported on the same ship
& voyage

Conviction & Transportation
Sentence Severity

Sentence Severity
Sentenced to 7 years

Crime: -
Convicted at: Edinburgh Court of Justiciary
Sentence term: 7 years
Ship: Navarino
Departure date: 5th October, 1840
Arrival date: 17th January, 1841
Place of arrival Van Diemen's Land
Passenger manifest Travelled with 179 other convicts

A general search of VDL records shows but 1 child named Amelia born between
1833 & 1854

born 27 Feb 1843, Amelia Smith, daughter of Lydia Smith, convict of the
ship Atwick of Chester sentenced to 7 years arrived 23 Jan 1838

It seems we are not the only ones thinking this way

Mary Ann McMichan
1824-1860

10 Jan 1848

It is likely that *this* Mary Ann (w/ birth and death dates) is John Ryan
and Mary McMichan's daughter? The Mary Ann who died in Sydney 1853 was the
daughter of a blacksmith. Mary left the Wooster children in Hobart. But
Timothy says "three children"...

Death

19 Dec 1860 Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
Died of peritonitis, possibly as a result of being struck by husband John
Ryan who was committed for trial but not convicted.

Report on the inquest into Mary Ryan's death, The Argus, 28 Dec 1860
28 Dec 1860

THE INQUEST ON THE BODY OF MARY RYAN. (1860, December 28). The Argus
(Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1957), p. 5. Retrieved October 18, 2020,
from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article5696140>

Simon Dunstall originally shared this on 20 Oct 2020

Mary McMichan
in the Web: Scotland, High Court Criminal Indexes, 1790-1919

Name: Mary McMichan
Trial Age: 16

Birth Date: 1824
Role: Accused
Location of Committed Crime: Pirie's Close, Canongate, Edinburgh
Crime Committed: Theft, Habit and Repute
Trial Date: 17 Mar 1840
Trial Location: Midlothian, Scotland
Court House: Edinburgh
Verdict: Guilty
Sentence: Transportation - 7 Years
Notes: Previous Convictions: Theft - Edinburgh Police Court, 30 July 1839
Related Trial Papers: Jc26/1840/393
Related Precognitions: Ad14/40/421
URL: <https://www.scottishindexes.com/jcentry.aspx?jcid=1840393>

Mc Mary Michan
in the Tasmania, Australia, Convict Court and Selected Records, 1800-1899

Name: Mc Mary Michan
Date: 17 Mar 1840
Place: Tasmania, Australia
Record Type: Register
Ship: Navarino
Reference Number: CON22-1-4

<https://www.hawkesbury.net.au/claimaconvict/convictDetails.php?convictId=105253>

Details for the convict Mary McMichan (1841)
Convict Name: Mary McMichan
Trial Place: Edinburgh Court of Justiciary
Trial Date: 17 March 1840
Sentence: 7 years

Arrival Details
Ship: Navarino (1)
Arrival Year: 1841

Biographies

Mary was convicted in Edinburgh for theft and had previous convictions against her. At the time of her arrest she lived at Canongate and this is where she was last picked up by the police. She had stolen some clothes from houses in Canongate and High Street.

Mary was sentenced to 7 years transportation. She was a prisoner on the barque "Navarino" which set sail 12 Oct 1840. She arrived in Hobart Town Van Dieman's Land 14 Sept 1841. Mary was a only 4'10" tall with a fair complexion she was only 17 years old when she arrived. Sent to work for Master Samuel Hopkins as a servant but was often absent from his house with out permission which was recorded against her. She later went to work for Timothy Worster (Wooster) as a servant. After getting her Pardon she married him 14 March 1842 at St. Davids Church in Hobart Town. They had two children John born 1843 and Amelia Jane 1845 my Great Grandmother. Mary died at the age of 37 in 1861.

Submitted by Researcher (3742) on 2 December 2016

Disclaimer: The information has not been verified by Claim a Convict. As

this information is contributed, it is the responsibility of those who use the data to verify its accuracy.

Research notes

There are currently no research notes attached to this convict.

Sources

The National Archives (TNA) : HO 11/12, p.242

<https://www.femaleconvicts.org.au/docs/lists/1841Muster.pdf>

Van Diemen's Land Return of Male and Female Convicts shewing their distribution throughout the Colony on the 31st December 1841 (AJCP, HO 10/51)

1841`, assigned to Mr A Wilson of Hobart

Hobart Registry - Notices of Intention to Marry: Hobart. Civil Registration Records 1838-1848 | Hobart Town. Civil Registration Records 1838-1848

Australia, Tasmania, Civil Registration, 1803-1933

Marriage Date - 14 Mar 1842

Timothy Worster, aged 27, Licensed Dealer & Bachelor marries, Mary McMichan Convict

Australia, Tasmania, Civil Registration, 1803-1933

Amelia Jane Wooster Marriage to George Watson.

Amelia a spinster under 21 years, signed with an X George Occupation Smith age 21 years

Witnesses, Timothy Wooster & Caroline Wooster

Comments on the ship & conditions... <https://www.interesting-strangers.com/convict-9698-mary-harrington-1822-1896/>

General Remarks

Except for the cases detailed in the Journal, the Convicts enjoyed a very high state of health. This I must ascribe in a very great measure to the discipline maintained amongst them.

On joining the Navarino female convict ship, I found the prisoners in a very unsettled condition and one in a state of furious mania. I have not the slightest doubt, from the description given me by Mr Jeffrey, the surgeon whom I superseded, that the transition from the silent system pursued in the penitentiary at Millbank to now where all control of that kind of thing must necessarily cease when so many abandoned females are suddenly placed together in a ship, was the sole cause of their riotous behaviour, I trust that the Government on a mature reflection of the case, will cease to pursue the silent system, with those prisoners who are destined for the Colonies.

It was found necessary to remove the female with mania to the penitentiary; it induced several prisoners to pretend the same disease. For the first three weeks, three of the prisoners simulated mania in the hope of being sent back to the penitentiary, and even after the ship had sailed, they endeavored to keep up the character and committed the most abominable and filthy acts, that it was found necessary to have recourse to Corporal

Punishment. The night was the time chiefly chosen to commence howling and sing hymns and prayers to the great annoyance of the more quietly disposed. Much of this religious [...] was kept up by the daily visits of the Quaker ladies with whom I had several conversations on the subject, and I believe they were convinced that their religious labors were very much marred by the change the prisoners had experienced from the silent to what I may call the noisy system.

The ship left the Downs on the 12th of October 1840 and arrived at Hobart Town on the 17th of January, 1841. The weather during the voyage was particularly favorable, and the prisoners were daily on deck from 8 am until sunset. They bathed once a week in two divisions whilst the thermometer stood above 65deg, aired bedding daily, weather permitting. The prisons were washed, and [...] scraped daily. They washed clothes on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Dancing and innocent diversions were encouraged amongst them, and their time was fully occupied by the establishment of schools and distribution of the patchwork and knitting. Generally speaking, the convict's good health. My approach to Scurvy was carefully watched, checking their salt provisions and giving them preserved meat and oatmeal in lieu. Wine and lemonade were issued daily to all. The punishments made use of were cutting their hair off, putting them on bread and water, shutting them up in the box all night, and it would be better were there more than one of these boxes, putting them on the blacklist to do all the dirty work, stopping their sherbet of which they were very fond.

The prisoners were landed at Hobart Town on the 22nd January 1841.

J. Clarke M.D

Surgeon R.N