

**Sarah Morris**, was born Sarah Smith, possibly in London. At age 25 she married John William Morris at Christ Church Spitalfields on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1825<sup>1</sup> and the following year their daughter, Jane, was born on 17<sup>th</sup> Jan 1826. Jane was baptised at age 3 at the Anglican Church of St John at Parramatta on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 1829.<sup>2</sup>



St John's Church, Parramatta. Image courtesy of the State Library of NSW. # SV1B/Parr/2.

Less than two years after their marriage Sarah was convicted on 26<sup>th</sup> Oct 1826 for "Theft from a specified place".<sup>3</sup>

The Old Bailey October session records the event: *Sarah Morris was indicted for stealing, on the 14th of July, 25 yards of linen cloth, value 2l. 10s., the goods of John Marter, in his dwelling-house.*

John Marter responded: *I am a linen-draper, and live on Holborn-hill. On the 14th of July, about a quarter to nine o'clock in the evening, the prisoner came to the shop to purchase a small quantity of muslin; I showed her several pieces; she bought a quarter of a yard, which came to 3d. - I saw her stoop down, which made me suspect her; I accused her of taking something off the counter; she said she had; she went to the further end of the shop, and produced this piece of linen cloth from under her gown; it measures 25 yards, and cost me 50s.; I have not measured it; she had not asked for anything but muslin. She was ill last Session, and not able to be tried.*

The police constable's testimony: *I am a constable. I took the prisoner into custody; she seemed much overcome, and implored forgiveness - she had 9d. in her pocket. I do not think she had any companions about.*

The verdict was GUILTY, age 27. Of stealing to the value of 39s only. Transported for Seven Years. This was after Sarah had already spent three months awaiting trial in Newgate Prison<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Pallot's Marriage Index for England: 1780 – 1837, Ancestry.com

<sup>2</sup> Australia, Births and Baptisms, 1792-1981, Ancestry.com

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/browse.jsp?id=t18261026-8-defend137&div=t18261026-8#highlight>

Several more months in prison followed, then the “Free Settler or Felon?” website quotes: The prisoners began to come on board the *Princess Charlotte* on 5<sup>th</sup> March 1827. On that day 40 women and four children were embarked from Newgate [Prison]. The four women who brought children with them on the voyage were Violet Lawson, **Sarah Morris**, Ellen Walks and Sophia Zealey.<sup>5</sup>

Sarah and Jane are listed on the Convict Indent. Sarah is recorded as being a Ribbon Weaver and Needlewoman, native place being Holland<sup>6</sup>. Unless she meant Holland Park in west London this would indicate that she came to London between 1799 and 1825.

With 91 women and children on board the *Princess Charlotte* departed from Woolwich on 31<sup>st</sup> Mar 1827, and took just over four months to arrive in Sydney Cove on 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct 1827. From here she and Jane were sent to the 1<sup>st</sup> Class section of the Parramatta Female Factory<sup>7</sup>. Within six months she was before the Court of General Sessions in Sydney due to being “absent from her service” and as punishment was sent to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Class section of the Factory for one month from 5<sup>th</sup> May 1828.

The 1828 Australian Census (Australian copy) shows Sarah as being aged 29 years, still living at the Parramatta Female Factory<sup>8</sup>, and the UK National Archives (TNA) copy<sup>9</sup> of Nov 1828 shows Sarah as working for a baker in King St, Sydney. Jane is listed as living at the Factory (Parramatta).

While still living at the Factory, two years later Sarah gave birth to a daughter, Mary Anne (my great-great-great-great grandmother). At Mary Anne’s baptism on 3<sup>rd</sup> Apr 1831 Sarah was listed as a single woman at the Factory<sup>10</sup>. Mary Anne’s father could have been former convict, Irishman John Usher, who arrived on the *Medina* in 1823. John and Sarah had applied to marry on 13<sup>th</sup> Aug 1831 but their application was refused by the Reverend Samuel Marsden as Sarah was known to be already married<sup>11</sup>. This refusal when Mary Ann was 18 months of age.

One month after Mary Anne’s baptism at Parramatta, in May 1831 Sarah arrived at Newcastle Gaol as “Monitress to the refractory women”<sup>12</sup>. From there she was admitted to Sydney Gaol in Oct 1831, and then back to Newcastle Gaol a month later in Nov 1831<sup>13</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> England & Wales, Criminal Registers, 1791-1892, Ancestry.com

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.jenwillets.com/convict\\_ship\\_princess\\_charlotte\\_1827.htm](http://www.jenwillets.com/convict_ship_princess_charlotte_1827.htm)

<sup>6</sup> State Archives NSW; Series: NRS 12188; Item: [4/4012]; Microfiche: 665

<sup>7</sup> New South Wales, Australia, Gaol Description and Entrance Books, 1818-1930, Ancestry.com

<sup>8</sup> 1828 New South Wales, Australia Census (Australian Copy), Ancestry.com

<sup>9</sup> 1828 New South Wales, Australia Census (TNA Copy), Ancestry.com

<sup>10</sup> New South Wales, Australia, St. John's Parramatta, Baptisms, 1790-1916, Ancestry.com

<sup>11</sup> New South Wales, Australia, Registers of Convicts' Applications to Marry, 1826-1851, Ancestry.com

<sup>12</sup> Archive Office of NSW, Reel 2722 1836- 1838. Newcastle Gaol Entrance Books

<sup>13</sup> New South Wales, Australia, Gaol Description and Entrance Books, 1818-1930, Ancestry.com

Two years later Sarah was granted her Certificate of Freedom<sup>14</sup>.

It<sup>14</sup> gives Sarah's details as following:

No.	33/1171
Date,	28 <sup>th</sup> October 1833
Prisoner's No.	27/1385
Name,	Sarah the Wife of Will <sup>m</sup> Morris
Ship,	P <sup>ss</sup> Charlotte [Princess Charlotte]
Master,	Stephenson
Year,	1827
Native Place,	Holland
Trade or Calling,	Ribbon Weaver
Offence,	St of Linen [Stealing of Linen]
Place of Trial,	London G.D. [London Gaol Delivery]
Date of Trial,	26 <sup>th</sup> October 1826
Sentence,	7 Years
Year of Birth,	1799
Height,	5 feet 2 inches
Complexion,	Fair freckled
Hair,	Brown
Eyes,	Dark Brown
General Remarks,	A small scar on the fore & middle fingers of the left hand

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<sup>14</sup> New South Wales Government. Butts of Certificates of Freedom. NRS 1165, 1166, 1167, 12208, 12210, reels 601, 602, 604, 982-1027. State Records Authority of New South Wales, Kingswood, New South Wales.

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 LIKELY TO CAUSE PAIN OR EMBARRASSMENT TO ANY LIVING PERSON

**CERTIFICATE OF FREEDOM.**

No. *27117*  
 Date, *26<sup>th</sup> October 1833*

Prisoner's No. — *271325*  
 Name, — *Sarah the wife of William*  
 Ship, — *St. Charlotte*  
 Master, — *Hepburn*  
 Year, — *1824*  
 Native Place, — *Holland*  
 Trade or Calling, — *Ribbon Weaver*  
 Offence, — *17 Linnen*  
 Place of Trial, — *London G.D.*  
 Date of Trial, — *26<sup>th</sup> October 1826*  
 Sentence, — *4 years*  
 Year of Birth, — *1799*  
 Height, — *5 feet 2 inches*  
 Complexion, — *fair speckled*  
 Hair, — *Brown*  
 Eyes, — *Dark Brown*  
 General Remarks, — *A small scar on the  
 fore & middle fingers of  
 the left hand*

Printed at the Gazette Office, by Horatio Wills.

A month later Sarah had applied to marry former convict, Samuel Bailey. He had arrived on the *Lord Eldon* in 1817<sup>15</sup>. He had arrived in Newcastle in 1820, for committing another crime once in the Colony. From there he was sent to Norfolk Island as a convict overseer. He had been in Parramatta or Sydney in Nov 1829, so he may have met Sarah then. He had a relationship with Ann Garraway, also of the Factory, producing a son, Samuel Bayly, who was born six months after Mary Anne.

<sup>15</sup> New South Wales, Australia, Convict Indents, 1788-1842, Ancestry.com

Samuel's Ticket of Leave was changed to from Parramatta to Maitland. By Dec 1833 he was living in Maitland, and he and Sarah applied to marry a few times before they were ultimately successful<sup>16</sup>.

In all of Sarah's previous applications to marry (both to John Usher and Samuel Bailey), she declared which ship she had arrived on. In the final application both Sarah and Samuel did not state which ships they came on, so the clerk could not use this information to cross-reference with their convict indents and realise that Sarah was already married to William Morris. Once this approval came through they were married at St Peters Anglican Church, East Maitland on 26 Dec 1836<sup>17</sup>. Mary Anne later married Charles John Brackenreg, and Jane married Robert Lorne Pattison<sup>17</sup>.

By the time Sarah and Samuel married they had a child, Elizabeth C Bailey<sup>18</sup> (1835 – 1914). Elizabeth married George Robert Brackenreg, a brother to Mary Anne's husband.

More children followed:

Samuel Joseph Bailey 1837 – 1838<sup>18</sup> – died as an infant, buried at Glebe Cemetery

Henry Bailey 1839 – 1895<sup>18</sup> – married Esther Mary Hogan

Caroline Grace Bailey 1841 – 1913<sup>18</sup> – married Charles Langford

Emily Phoebe Bailey 1844 – 1922<sup>18</sup> – married Thomas Gibson

Louisa Pattison Bailey 1849 – 1930<sup>18</sup> – married William Henry Atkinson

From 1840 - 1854 Samuel was the Licensee of the Cottage of Content Hotel in Banks St, East Maitland<sup>19</sup>. As well as caring for their large family Sarah would have been of immense help to Samuel in the operation of this business.

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<sup>16</sup> New South Wales, Australia, Registers of Convicts' Applications to Marry, 1826-1851, Ancestry.com

<sup>17</sup> Australia Marriage Index, 1788-1950, Ancestry.com

<sup>18</sup> New South Wales Births Deaths Marriages

<sup>19</sup> [http://www.jenwillets.com/cottage\\_of\\_content\\_east\\_maitland.htm](http://www.jenwillets.com/cottage_of_content_east_maitland.htm)





Bailey's "Cottage of Content" Hotel, cnr Banks St & Lawes St, East Maitland

Sarah died on 13<sup>th</sup> June 1860<sup>18</sup> at the Hotel, age 60. She was buried two days later at the Glebe Cemetery near St Peters Anglican Church, East Maitland. Sadly, no headstone marks the site of her grave.

