

MEET MARY Devereux

Mary did not take kindly to authority; she was often charged with being insolent and disobedient.

When the constables burst into the room, the fifty year old Mary Devereux was sitting on a flat fruit basket close to the fire and holding 'a lump of white stuff in her lap'. Nearby were the moulds she used to make counterfeit shillings, and her accomplice – her 17-year-old daughter.

During the arrest, the daughter – Mary Devereux the Younger – pleaded for her mother to be spared. A plea that fell on deaf ears as both were sentenced to death. Sentences that were commuted to transportation for Life.

Mary Devereux the Elder arrived at Hobart in October 1831 aboard the *Mary (3)*. She did not arrive with Mary Devereux the Younger, yet she was not alone as she was accompanied by her 10-year-old daughter, Margaret.

Upon arrival, Margaret was taken to the Cascade Female Factory's Nursery Yard. She was later moved to the Orphan School in New Town and was not returned to her mother until November 1836.

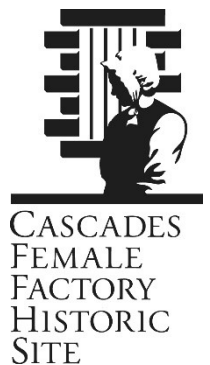
Mary was first sent to the George Town Female Factory for assignment. During her first year, three employers sent her back to the Factory for different offences, including 'grossly abusing her mistress & falsely accusing her of infidelity to her husband'.

When Mary was sent to the Cascades Female Factory the change in scenery did not help her behaviour. By January 1837, Mary had been sent to - and returned from - at least another ten households. Being insolent, disobedient, or drunk were the most common charges on Mary's record.



In 1838 Mary was finally granted her Ticket-of-Leave and could earn money for herself. How she managed to care for Margaret before this remains unknown.

Despite her Ticket, Mary was often sent to the Cascade Female Factory as she got older. Her age and temperament likely kept her unemployed and destitute. In 1849, she succumbed to illness, and was buried as a pauper in the Catholic Burial Ground.



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