

Margaret Lawrence

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Born: 10 Apr 1709 Shropshire, England

Married: (Mistress) Tobias Phillips

Died: 1739 Richmond, VA

Parents: Thomas Lawrence & Mary Peploe

"Margaret "Peggy" Lawrence, presumed fourth child of Thomas and Mary Peploe Lawrence (d.1729). Margaret was christened on 10 April 1709 at the nearby Battlefield Parish Church. As a young woman, about 19-20 years old, she was banished from Wem, in the County of Shropshire, England, because she left the Church of England for the Puritan Faith. "

Information from **Randolph Marchmont's web page, the primary source being "A Southern Branch of the Lawrence Family"** by William Pritchett.

MARGARET "Peggy" LAWRENCE (1709-c1739)* was born and Christened on April 10, 1709 at Battlefield, Shropshire Co., England and died in about 1739 at Richmond, Virginia.

Margaret Lawrence was indicted on a felony charge of thievery in London, England, on July 9, 1729. On February 25th, 1730, she was tried and convicted in the Hall of Justice of "Old Bailey" and, in her sentence, was given "His Majesty's royal mercy on condition of transportation to some parts of America for a spare of fourteen years." Margaret's transportation bond was issued March 9th, 1730.

Margaret was one of 106 prisoners from Newgate Prison who Jonathan Forward contracted to transport to Maryland on the "Patapscoe Merchant," Darby Lux, Captain, March 17th, 1730. On arrival in Baltimore, Maryland, 94 prisoners had survived. There, Tobias Phillips purchased Margaret's bond, entitling him to fourteen years of service. Margaret did not live out her bond, likely dying before 10 Sept, 1739 (date of Tobias Phillip's will, in which neither she nor her bond were mentioned.)

Margaret Lawrence arrived on the auction block in colonial Maryland in 1730. Having been indicted and convicted on a felony charge for theft in 1729, she was probably fortunate to have been banished to the colonies for 14 years. With 105 other prisoners, she was shipped from London in March of 1730 aboard a sailing ship named the "Patapscoe Merchant". She spent the remainder of her life as an indentured servant in Virginia, for Tobias Phillips, who upon her arrival in the American Colonies purchased her bond and she lived on his estate as his mistress and bore him two sons.

- Following are the Proceedings of the Old Bailey - Ref: t17290827-32 ~ Original Text (no corrections or editing has been applied).
- **Margaret Laurence**, of St. Andrew's Holborn, was indicted for that she, together with Esther Morgan, not taken, did feloniously steal a Gold Watch, Chain, and Seals, value 24 l. a Gold Snuff-Box, value 18 l. a Diamond Ear-ring, one Velvet Gown and Petticoat, and other Suits of silk Cloaths, and divers other

- wearing Apparel, Silk and Linen, as Head-Dress, Ruffles, Laces, &c. to the sum of 10 l. and 40 Guineas, the Goods of Martha Thorold, in the Dwelling-House of the said Martha Thorold, the 9th of July last.
- Madam Thorold depos'd, That the Prisoner had been her Servant, but had been gone from her about a Fortnight; and that she went out to pay a Visit about half an Hour after Five a-Clock in the afternoon, the 9th of July last, and returning Home about a half an Hour after Eight, could not get any Entrance; whereupon her Footman went round about, and got in the Back-way, where he found the Doors backwards all open, and opening the fore-Door, let her in, saying, Madam you are robb'd; that she going into her Rooms, found her Cabinet broken open, and the Drawers, &c. all thrown about the Room, and the Goods and Money mention'd in the indictment, gone, and finding her Servants, and examining them; Betty Loyd pretended to have been found, and that the Robbery was committed by two Persons, who they did believe were Men in Women's Cloths; and that the Servants did not own for a considerable time that they knew who the Persons were that had committed the Robbery.
- Elizabeth Loyd depos'd, That the Prisoner came about a Fortnight after she had left Madam Thorold's Service, along with Hester Morgan, to their House; that they ask'd them to stay all Night, which they did, and all the next Day, 'till her Mistress were gone out; after which, Margaret Laurence pull'd her into th Men's Room, telling her, She had her Mistress and thrown her down on the Bed, took off her Garters, and tied her Hands, &c. with her Garters, and then went and rifled the House; that they were busy in doing it
- for about 3 quarters of an Hour, and afterwards she say the go out at the Back-Door, having each of them a large Bundle under their Riding-Hoods; but she could not tell what was in them.
- Lucy Hart depos'd, That She being busy in getting up Mrs. Thorold's Head-cloaths, heard Betty Loyd shriek out, and presently the Prisoner and Hester Morgan came into the Room, and told her, They had a mind to rob Mrs. Thorold of her Money; that she desir'd them not to talk of any such thing; her Conscience would not let her consent to it; the the Prisoner replied, If Taylor and Weldon (two former Servants) had been there, they would have been glad of the Opportunity; that she not consenting, but crying out, Hester Morgan damn'd her, and threatened her, that if she made any Noise of Opposition, she would kill her; that they at first ty'd her, but afterwards let her loose again, and lock'd her up.
- Thomas Booth, the Constable, depos'd, That the Prisoner being apprehended, did at last own the Fact; that she had pawn'd a Pair of Stays a Gown and Petticoat of Mrs. Thorolds, and told them where Hester Morgan lodged, at one Forster's, a Shoemaker in Tash-Street; that he went thither, and Hester Morgan being gone out, he demanded the Key; but that not being deliver'd, he search'd the Room, but not finding them; after menacing the People of the House, was told, that the Goods had been carried to a Trunkmaker's in Holborn, which by Enquiry being found, they were inform'd that Morgan having bought a large Trunk the Things were put into it, and carried away by a Porter; the the Porter being found, he carried him to one Mr. Busby's, where it was found; but Hester Morgan was not there, not had they yet had an Opportunity of apprehending her.
- Mr. Busby depos'd, That she had known Hester Morgan several Years, and took her for an honest Person; that meeting with her, she said she was coming out of Place, and desir'd her to recommend her to a Lodging in an honest House, whereupon she told her she might lodge with her, and the Trunk and a Bundle was brought in: The Constable added, That the Prisoner being ask'd the reason whe she had robb'd Madam Thorold? she replied, That she did it not for Want, but for Spite, she having us'd her ill.
- Mr. Chambers, the Pawn-broker, depos'd, That having heard of Madam Thorold's being robb'd, and suspecting that the Stays, Gowns, &c. which the Prisoner had pawn'd to him, were Madam Thorold's, he went and acquainted her he had such Things, which she having own'd, they were produced in Court, own'd by the Prosecutor, and sworn to be pawn'd by the Prisoner.
- The Prisoner in her Defence pleaded, that she receiv'd those Cloaths from Hester Morgan, to pawn for her, who pretended that Madam Thorold had given them to her. She pleaded likewise, that Elizabeth Loyd

- desir'd her to take off her Garters, and bind her with them and likewise to Gag her, that her Mistress might have no Suspicion of her; that the Evidences, Loyd, Hart, and Morgan, had contriv'd the Robbery, and she had been sent to for Several times to commit it, and that they were all four to have gone down into Wales; and that she had note of the Things but the Gown, Petticoat and Stays before-mention'd, and knew but of 12 Guineas to have been taken by Morgan. The Fact being plainly prov'd, the Jury found her guilty of the Indictment. Death.
- At receiving Sentence, the Prisoner did not, as usual, plead her Belly, but begg'd of the Court to consider that she was a young Person, and threw herself upon the Mercy of the Court.