

Mary Wilson

*People of London Town, Maryland**

On March 16, 1719, the London based stocking merchant John Baker invited Mary Wilson into his shop. She brought odd socks in, along with patterns, with the pretense that Baker might make her stockings to match. While he was occupied with the task, a servant of Baker's spotted her slipping stockings under her petticoats. He told the mistress of the house, who then searched her and found the stolen property. Convicted at the Old Bailey of shoplifting, Mary Wilson was sentenced to transportation.

**CONVICTED
that searching of her very narrowly found them under
her Flannel Petticoat behind. The Jury found her
Guilty to the value of 4 s. 10 d. Transportation.**

Detail from trial transcript: 8 April 1719[†]

Later that May, Mary was loaded onto the ship *Margaret*, under Captain William Greenwood along with over 120 other convicts.[‡] She, along with 24 of her unwilling fellow passengers, was purchased by the London Town based merchants Patrick Sympson and William Black.[§] It is possible that these servants were bought and held by the merchants in the hope of re-selling them to planters in the region, but her actual fate is unknown.

* As the research into colonial London Town's inhabitants is an ongoing process, the caveat is offered that additional information may be found at any time and that a correction of information might also occur at any time.

[†] "Mary Wilson, Theft > shoplifting, 8th April 1719," *The Proceedings of the Old Bailey: London's Central Criminal Court, 1674 to 1913*, Accessed 20 September 2014, <<http://www.oldbaileyonline.org/browse.jsp?id=t17190408-30-punish154&div=t17190408-30#highlight>>.

[‡] Peter Wilson Coldham, *The King's Passengers to Maryland & Virginia*, (Westminster MD: Family Line Publications, 1997), 4.

[§] Provincial Court Land Records, 1719-1723, Volume 721, Page 21. PL 5, 1719-1723, MSA SM 22-14.