

**Who was Maud Braund?
Branch ?
Michael Braund, Canberra**

We first learn of Maud Braund when, in 1893, in the City Police Court in Brisbane, she is charged with being a neglected child and is sent to the Industrial school for five years.¹ Born in 1884, Maud is only nine years old when sentenced.

Industrial schools were set up in Australia to provide basic education and industrial training for children who were not necessarily orphans but who subsisted in poverty or whose parents did not provide for them. While neglected children were sent to Industrial schools, children who were deemed to have committed an offence were usually sent to reformatory schools.²

In 1902, Maud appears in Court for using bad language.³ Watch-house bail is forfeited.⁴ She is fined two days' imprisonment or £2.⁵ Maud is in trouble again in the following year, this time for being found drinking on licenced premises on a Sunday. Along with her drinking companion, Lizzie Smith, Maud (reported as Maude in the newspaper report) is given a nominal fine of 5/- with 4/6 costs for drinking at the Oriental Hotel. The instructing Crown Solicitor requests only nominal fines to act as a deterrent to the pair and to the public.⁶

In 1905, Maud, now aged 21 and "a strong-looking young woman", appears once more in the City Police Court, this time on a charge of stealing 16s 6d from Samuel Marshall. Maud is remanded to appear on a future date.⁷ Before

Evidence for the prosecution was given by Constable M'Carthy, Samuel Marshall, a dealer, residing at Bulimba, Henry Pape, labourer, residing at Upper Edward street, and was to the effect that at about 11.15 p.m. on 19th January Marshall met the accused in the vicinity of the Oriental Hotel, Albert street. Responding to a suggestion made by the accused, whom witness had known for some time previously, he took her into the Oriental Hotel and treated her to a drink. When in the hotel accused, after hearing from Marshall that he had some money on his person, put her hand into one of his pockets and took therefrom a bag containing 16s. 6d. Upon emerging from the hotel complainant asked accused to hand him back his money. Accused replied, "I would not take you down, Sam. You are a married man." But, striking at him, rushed into an adjacent residence. She was under the influence of drink at the time. Pope deposed to having seen the money in question on complainant in town earlier in the evening.

The details of Maud's theft charge

¹ *The Telegraph (Brisbane)* 11 April 1893, page 4.

² *Forgotten Australians: A report on Australians who experienced institutional or out-of-home care as Children.* Chapter 2 - Institutional care in Australia. Commonwealth of Australia 2004.

³ *The Telegraph (Brisbane)* 1 March 1902, page 2.

⁴ In Australia, individuals under temporary arrest are held in the watch-house: usually a cell at the police station.

⁵ *Queensland Police Gazette* February 1902 page 163.

⁶ *The Telegraph (Brisbane)* 30 September 1903, page 2.

⁷ *The Telegraph (Brisbane)* 20 January 1905, page 5.

the court again three days later, on bail for £10, Maud, this time described as a “well-dressed young woman on remand”, is fined 10s and is ordered to make restitution of 16s 6d, in default 7 days.⁸

Maud is fined again, for using bad language, only three months later, the misdemeanour costing her 40s, with 14 days to pay.⁹ In more trouble, in the same year, with one Anne Tierney, Maud pleads guilty to creating a disturbance in a public thoroughfare. Both are fined 10s, in default three days’ imprisonment.¹⁰ Another appearance in the City Police Court, in January 1911, sees Maud charged 10s for loitering.¹¹

Probably the pinnacle of Maud’s confrontation with the legal system of Queensland occurs in May 1912 in what might be called the Train Affair. It is an eye-catching introductory paragraph:^{12 13}

Train admits to having lived with Maudie Braund in Princess Street, North Brisbane, for two years during which time Maudie “might have given him a bob¹⁴ or two”. Maudie, “who looked a somewhat battered battler of about 30 years of age” had complained to police that John Train had hit her and taken a shilling, even though she had kept him in money, clothes, board and lodging. Without actually saying so, the *Truth* article suggests that Maudie Braund was a prostitute. Train is charged with living off immoral earnings.

THE SEAMY SIDE.

Train's Tribulations.

“LIVING WITH MOTHER NOW.”

Defendant Discharged.

John Train is a young man not yet 20 years of age, who alleged that he made a living by dealing in fruit, but, as there were other circumstances, the authorities took a hand in Train's affairs, and he was called upon to answer a charge brought against him in the City Police Court, before Mr. Morris, P.M., on May 17, under the Health Act, to the effect that he, being a male person, between January 1, 1912, and May, 1912, knowingly lived on the wages of sin.

The eye-catching headline announcing the Train Affair

⁸ *The Telegraph (Brisbane)* 23 January 1905, page 5.

⁹ *The Telegraph (Brisbane)* 26 April 1905, page 5.

¹⁰ *The Telegraph (Brisbane)* 1 November 1905, page 2.

¹¹ *The Telegraph (Brisbane)* 16 January 1911, page 2.

¹² *Truth (Brisbane)* 19 May 1912, page 2.

¹³ According to Wikipedia, the Sydney *Truth*, founded in 1890, claimed to be "The organ of radical democracy and Australian National Independence" and advocated "a republican Commonwealth created by the will of the whole people". The Brisbane *Truth*, a subsidiary of the Sydney newspaper, was founded in 1900. In reality, it was mainly a scandal sheet, exhibited by its eye-catching headlines. The Sydney *Truth*, and its subsidiaries, was replaced by the *Sunday Mirror* in 1958.

¹⁴ A shilling.

Later that same month (May 1912), another eye-catching headline appears:¹⁵

TRADUCING TRAIN.
Brands Brunette Braund
With Theft.
AND THE P.M. RUBS IT OUT.

The headline tells the story: a maligned John Train accuses Maud Braund, a brunette, with theft, but the Police Magistrate throws the case out of court. John Train accuses Maud (also called Maudie) of stealing a ring worth 6s. The Police Magistrate, Colonel R.A. Moore, is not impressed with Train:

Despite the seemingly fraught relationship between Maud and John Train, they are still together in 1915. According to the Australian Electoral Rolls for North Brisbane, John Train is living at 75 Princess Street, Petrie Terrace. So is Maud Calvert. *Who is Maud Calvert?*

According to *The Queensland Police Gazette* of 1915,¹⁶ Maud Braund is the *alias* of Maud Calvert. At the initial committal, Maud appears as Maud Calvert, *alias* Braund (*Gazette*, page 513), and at the second hearing Maud is Maud Calvert, *alias* Maud Braund (*Gazette*, page 571). Two entries in *The Telegraph* (Brisbane)¹⁷ describe how Maud Calvert has assaulted John Train, causing grievous bodily harm. More specifically, Maud has severed John's artery requiring his despatch to hospital.



Maudie Braund, as she appears in the *The Seamy Side*.

This was the case for the prosecution, and the Police Magistrate, in dealing with the accused, characterised Train as a despicable individual, who because he had a tiff with the accused had gone to the police and charged her with stealing. During his experience on the Bench, he had never heard a more miserable charge brought before him, and he had never heard of a case in which a man appeared in such a wretched light. Train was an able-bodied man, and should be ashamed of his actions. He had lived with the accused for four or five months after the time that he alleged she stole the ring, and then he accused her of it. He advised Train to go straight, and not perambulate himself along a zig-zag line in life, and then discharged the accused.

The Police Magistrate discharges Maud

¹⁵ *Truth* (Brisbane) 26 May 1912, page 5.

¹⁶ *Queensland Police Gazette* 28 August 1915, page 513 and 20 September, page 571.

¹⁷ *The Telegraph* (Brisbane) 14 August 1915, page 17; 21 August, page 30.

Maud is remanded until 27 August, on bail for £40 and two sureties of £20 “if she can find them”. Train is described as being “in a bad way”. A later newspaper report describes how Maud hit John over the head with a sauce bottle because he would not give her any money.¹⁸ At the hearing on 27 August, the case against Maud, reduced to one of bodily harm, is not proceeded with and she is discharged.¹⁹ The *Truth* newspaper explains that the Crown Prosecutor offered no evidence.²⁰ A further appearance for Maud in the City Police Court occurs in May 1916 when she is fined 10s, in default of 3 days, for loitering.²¹

This court appearance marks the last entry for Maud. I can find no further trace of Maud Braund, Maud Calvert or John Train.

So, who *was* Maud Braund?

We know a little about Maud from the *Police Gazette* records and from the Brisbane *Truth* descriptions: 5' 4" tall, medium make, sallow complexion, fair hair, blue eyes, “minus two front teeth upper row” and “face all over small marks” (*Queensland Police Gazette*) and “a strong-looking young woman” and brunette (*Truth*). But these descriptions don't tell us who she was. Born around 1884, Maud lived a turbulent life, from early neglect to prostitution. A Maud Braund was born in 1893 in Brisbane to William Emanuel Braund and Elizabeth Robertson (branch 4), but the baby died in 1894. No other Maud Braunds of this vintage can be found. It is clear from the account above that Maud Braund also went by the name Maud Calvert and it is only Maud Calvert's name that appears after the discovery of the *alias* in 1915. Maud Braund has no further mention. No Maud Calvert can be found in the Australian births, marriages and deaths, however.

It is probable that Maud Calvert changed her name to Braund. A possible explanation lies in the *Telegraph* report of 20 April 1893²², in which Maud and a Charles Frederick Braund²³ both were remanded after being charged with being neglected children. Perhaps Maud chose the same name as Charles to keep her own family name (Calvert?) out of the newspaper? On the other hand, if she was a neglected child then she may not have been bothered about her true name. Perhaps she gave the name Braund on a whim? Most likely we shall never know. To all intents and purposes, the Maud Braund featured in this story never existed.

Acknowledgement: Simon Braund of Brisbane for his help in searching the Police Gazettes in the State Library of Queensland.

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¹⁸ *The Telegraph (Brisbane)* 28 August 1915, page 18.

¹⁹ *Queensland Police Gazette* 20 September, page 571.

²⁰ *Truth (Brisbane)* 26 September 1915, page 5.

²¹ *The Telegraph (Brisbane)* 18 May 1916, page 4.

²² *The Telegraph (Brisbane)* 20 April 1893, page 4.

²³ Most likely the son of William James Braund and Catherine Blewitt (branch 2).