

Ann Baker ID 8024 per *Margaret* 1843

To Sir James Graham Secretary of State for the Home Department.

The humble Petition of Ann Baker wife of William Henry Baker of the City of Worcester – glove cutter who was convicted at the last Sessions of the Peace for the said City of Worcester of stealing a quantity of bacon of the value of 2/- and who was convicted of a former offence and sentenced to six weeks imprisonment before John Buckle Esq. Recorder.

The humble Petition of William Henry Baker

Sheweth

That your Petitioner is quite sensible of the disgrace she has cast upon herself and an honest and industrious husband in committing the offence for which she had been convicted and is suffering much both mentally and bodily from the sting and remorse of conscience which is naturally experienced by a truly sorrowful and repentant mind.

That your petitioner has caused thru' her misconduct 4 small children to be depraved and bereft of the natural and necessary services of their mother who is also now far advanced in a state of pregnancy which greatly adds to her affliction and the punishment which she is now undergoing.

That your Petitioner will ever hereafter endeavour by walking in the path of honesty and rectitude to regain that character which she had now unfortunately forfeited.

Your Petitioner therefore most humbly and penitently pray as well on her own behalf as on the behalf of her hapless infant children a commutation of her sentence and particularly that she may not be sent out of this country. That you may be pleased to take her case into your consideration and exercise such share of clemency and mercy towards her as to you may appear proper and the end of Justice satisfied.

That your Petitioner William Henry baker is an honest and industrious man and worked hard for his bread. That he had been in his present employers service Mr John Redgrave of the City of Worcester a Glove manufacturer upwards of 8 years. That your Petitioner having lost the services of his wife, and 4 small children the duties of their mother has rendered your Petitioner less able to support them by reason of extra expense being incurred in paying other persons to take care of them, the eldest being 9 and the youngest only 2 years of age, but which duties cannot and are not performed like that of a mother.

Your Petitioner therefore do hope and most humbly and earnestly prays that you will be pleased to consider and as far as to you may seem just to grant the prayer of the Petition of his unfortunate wife and commute the sentence passed upon

her to such a period of imprisonment as to you in your wisdom may seem meet and proper.

And your Petitioner will ever pray.

We whose names are here unto subscribed the Clergy, Gentry and inhabitants of the City of Worcester do believe that the above named Petitioner William Henry Baker to be an honest and industrious man. That we pity the situation in which himself and small family are now placed that under such circumstances. We do consider the above Petition worthy the attention of the State.

B Davies – Minister of the Church

Henry Harris – Prosecutor

Thomas Barnsley

John Davies – Rector of St Clements Church Worcester

And 10 other signatures.

15th September 1842

To the Right Honourable Sir James Graham

Sir

We beg to request a commutation of the sentence passed on Ann Baker at our last Midsummer Sessions of transportation

for seven years to confinement in the Millbank Penitentiary at the time of her conviction she was the mother of four children and she has given birth to another this month. The Governor reports favourably of her conduct in the Gaol and she appears to have felt deeply the enormity of her offence and the anguish of mind she has brought upon her indignant husband , who is evidently sinking under the prospect of separation, and therefore humbly implores the clemency of the Crown may be extended to his wretched wife by permitting her to remain in this country, the poor man feels he cannot long survive her removal from it, and the orphanage of his unoffending children consequent thereon completely overpowers him, he hopes and believes the discipline of the Penitentiary will work an effectual reformation in his unhappy wife, and that she will thereby have an opportunity of retrieving in some measure her forfeited character and be enabled to perform a mothers duty to her offspring.

After careful inquiry we can bear testimony to the excellent character of the husband for honesty, sobriety and industry; and we are of opinion that if the sentence of transportation is carried out he will inevitably sink under the pressure of his feelings for these reason and believing his hopes of the convicts reformation are not entirely groundless we venture to recommend the case to your favourable consideration, a recommendation in which we believe the Recorder will readily acquiesce.

We have the honour to remain

Sir

Your most obedient servants

Edward Evans

M Pierpoint

Visiting magistrates of the County City and Borough Gaol

Ann Baker aged 34

Worcester City Sessions July 1842

Stealing bacon

7 years transportation

Series – HO 18

Piece Number - 85

Gaol Report – A common thief of drunken habits, convicted before and 3 times charged with a felony but forgiven.

Husband prays on account of her 4 children she may not be sent abroad.

Transport – GG
