

Ann Smith ID11958 per *Tasmania* 1844

Ann Smith aged 29

Liverpool Sessions February 1844, Larceny, 7 years transportation

Gaol report – 4 times before convicted.

Series – HO 18,

Piece Number – 145

The prisoner declares her innocence of the offence.

To Sir James Graham Her Majesty's Principle Secretary of State for
the Home Department

The Petition of Ann Smith aged 29 years a prisoner received into
Millbank Prison on 14th March having been convicted at the Liverpool
Sessions of the 5th February 1844 of Larceny and sentenced to 7
years transportation.

Humbly Sheweth

That your Petitioner is the daughter of sober decent people and
widow of the late John Smith. Her father Richard Walker worked for
16 years for Mr Fawcett , Iron Founder of Liverpool, her husband was
frequently out of employ but while her parents lived she had a
comfortable home. On their death her brother claimed the furniture
and she was with her husband and little boy removed to a furnished
room, about 18 months ago her husband died suddenly leaving her
in bad health and great poverty without common necessaries or a
single article of furniture to depose of. In this condition she applied
to the Parish Authorities in Liverpool for relief but found she could

not be assisted unless she produced a medical certificate to testify that she was unfit to be removed to her husband's Parish (Great Barrow Chester). She then became a patient at the North Dispensary Liverpool and was attended by Dr. Beard and Dr Midnight who frequently gave her a note to the relieving officer of which means herself and child were barely preserved from starvation 6 months subsequent to her husband's death she was confined with a still born infant and 17 days later after applied to the Parish for further help but was told as she was able to [work/walk] she must seek assistance from her husband's parish. She would have been glad to do so but there being no land conveyances provided she was expected to go on foot and to this she felt herself utterly []. She therefore remained in Liverpool two days longer on the 3rd morning Ann Bates a woman who sat with her when her husband died came in and on witnessing her weak and destitute condition persuaded her to go with her telling her she would obtain for her a present supply accordingly they went out together and when they arrived at the Custom House Ann Bates went in and after a few minutes, returned with a set of scissors which she hastily delivered to your Petitioner and then ran away, before she had time to move from the spot a Clerk came out and seeing the property in her possession immediately apprehended her.

Your Petitioner humbly solicits your kind consideration of the circumstances of her case and trusts you will be pleased to recommend a mitigation of her sentence and your Petitioner will ever pray.

The mark x of Ann Smith

Witness – Caroline []
