

To the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Home Department

The humble memorial of ANN SMITH and ANN HARRISON (her mother) prisoners confined in the Penitentiary and House of Correction who were convicted at the last Central Criminal Court of felony.

Sheweth

That your memorialist ANN HARRISON is the widow of a respectable Block and mast Maker late of North Shields where she brought up and maintained a large family in the greatest respectability and that she is now upwards of sixty years of age.

That on the death of your memorialists husband she became greatly reduced in circumstances and for some years past has gained a respectable living in the capacity of a Laundress.

That your memorialist was indicted for pledging a sheet of the trifling value of six shillings that your Memorialist did not know at the time she pledged them but they were the property of her daughter.

That previous to the unfortunate event (for which your memorialist is sentenced to one year imprisonment with hard labour) happening she had always borne the character of a respectable, honest and hard working woman and universally respected by all who knew her.

That since your memorialist imprisonment she has been at times unable to perform the work allotted to her, and has consequently been fined (that is to say) just on Bread and Water diet only.

That your memorialists health is in a very delicate state and has, since her imprisonment become more so, on account of her old age and not being used to laborious work, that she has frequent pains in her side and legs (a complaint she has been subject to for years) and it is feared she will not long survive, if Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen should not be pleased to mitigate her sentence.

That your Memorialist ANN SMITH is the daughter of the above named ANN HARRISON that she is a married woman her husband being already abroad.

That your Memorialist was charged at the last Central Criminal Court with having pawned various articles of property belonging to her employer (she being his Laundress) for which she was sentenced to be transported beyond the seas for seven years.

That the value of the property pledged by your Memorialist is of the trifling sum of £2.2s.6p.

That your Memorialist's husband had for three years (previous to her committing the crime for which she is sentenced as above) been out of employment and not

being able to obtain employ in this Country had determined to go abroad that being in very humble circumstances and not having money by then (owing to your Memorialist's husband having been so long out of employ) to fit him out for the voyage, your Memorialist unfortunately during the absence of her Master, pawned the articles for which she was tried and convicted for the purpose of procuring her husband necessaries for the voyage - that it was not done with a felonious intent but that on the contrary your Memorialist intended and would have redeemed all the property in a short time by her own industry, but for her Master coming to town unexpectedly and before she was in a situation to do so.

That your Memorialist's husband is still at sea, unconscious of his wife's awful situation and what will his feelings be when he seeks his home and finds his wife in a prison and likely to be sent out of her native country.

Your memorialists therefore most humbly pray your Lordship that you will be pleased to take into consideration the most unhappy situation and recommend them to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen that their respective sentences may be mitigated and that your memorialist ANN SMITH may not be transported beyond the seas and that your memorialist ANN HARRISON may not again be put to hard labour, or that your Lordship will be pleased to recommend your memorialists to the mercy and compassion of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen in such other way as to your Lordship shall seem meet.

And your memorialists will ever pray.

We have known the prisoners many years and believe them to be worthy of Her Majesty's clemency.

Samuel Lyles  
Richard Frederick Hartfield  
Thomas Anderson  
Joseph Chamberlain  
Robert Clarke  
And 12 other signatures

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I certify that I have known ANN SMITH for some years as a respectable woman and can speak of her good character before her late offence, and it being her first for which she is now confined in the General Penitentiary, I therefore recommend her to mercy.

R F Hartfield  
2 Clements Lane Passage  
Clements Inn

18th June 1838

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5 Yeates Court  
Casey Street  
Lincolns Inn  
31st May 1838

Madam

Having been requested to state what I know of ANN SMITH and ANN HARRISON (her mother) the former of which is doomed to the dreadful sentence of transportation for 7 years, I take the liberty to say that ANN SMITH has occupied an apartment in my house for upwards of 4 years and during that time has always (as far as my observation extended) conducted herself in an upright and becoming woman and I firmly believe the present to be a solitary instance of doing wrong by which she is doomed to so awful a sentence.

Trusting you will extend your powers and [intercede] to [abridge] her confinement.

I am Madam

Your most obedient servant

J Carver

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Carey Street  
Lincolns Inn  
June 1838

Honoured Sir,

I hope you will excuse the liberty I take in addressing you on behalf of ANN SMITH and ANN HARRISON (her mother) who were convicted at the last Old Bailey Sessions of felony when the former was sentenced to 7 years transportation and the latter to imprisonment for 1 year - I have known both of them for the period of 6 years and never heard of their being before guilty of a dishonest act, but have always considered them as hardworking and honest members of Society.

I beg to entreat that you will be pleased to use your endeavours on their behalf in ordering that their respective punishments in a measure may be mitigated and that the younger prisoner ANN SMITH may not be sent out of the country.

I am Sir

Your most obedient servant

S Lesley

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Having been [approached] by the friends of ANN SMITH who has been condemned seven years transportation and is now in the Penitentiary to state that I have known of her former character I can only say that she lived as House Maid at the Albion Club St James Street for about three years during which time I acted as Steward and manager I left the club in 1830 where she terminated after I left, I can say that during the time she lived with me her conduct had been irreproachable, I have had occasion to see her since and I always thought her a very honest and industrious woman, and I am surprised that such a misfortune has happened to her.

Alex Mansell  
18 Firth Street  
Soho Square.

ANN SMITH  
1838  
STEALING FROM HER EMPLOYER  
7 YEARS TRANSPORTATION  
SOURCE - HOME OFFICE CRIMINAL PETITIONS SERIES 1  
SERIES - HO 17  
PIECE NUMBER - 111  
ITEM NUMBER - VY 33

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ANN HARRISON - AGED 60  
ANN SMITH - AGED 29  
CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT MAY 1838  
HARRISON - RECEIVING STOLEN PROPERTY  
SMITH - STEALING FROM HER EMPLOYER  
HARRISON - ONE YEARS IMPRISONMENT  
SMITH - 7 YEARS TRANSPORTATION  
GAOL REPORT - SMITH - NOT KNOWN HERE