

## Eliza Baskerville – Irish Transportation Records CRF 1842 B6

Postmark: Chief Secretary's Office Dublin, (?)MAR 23  
"W Connor" in margin

To His Excellency the Right Honourable the Earl De Grey Lord Lieutenant General and General Governor of Ireland etc etc etc

The most humble Petition of Eliza Baskerville a Convict confined in the Gaol of Athy  
Most Humbly  
Sheweth

That your Excellencys most humble Petitioner is now confined in the Gaol of Athy under Sentence of Transportation. She was tried before the Lord Chief Justice Dogherty at Naas in the County of Kildare Judge of Assize of the Home Circuit for having committed Fraud in the Changing of a Note when by the evidence that appeared before the Court his Lordship was pleased to pass the Sentence of Seven years transportation.

Petitioner been now about Sixteen or Seventeen years of age and never been guilty of any crime against the Law before this and although she has been prosecuted only by a Child She forgives her Prosecutrix but by the inability through poverty of her been able to procure a professional person to plead for and not understanding how to make any defence against the charge that had been brought against her the above Sentence was passed upon Petitioner She therefore now throws her wretched and distressed case before Your Excellency she been left without a mother these seven or eight years with Two Sisters and a Brother younger than Petitioner and a Father about fifty years old, hoping that Your Excellency will in your most humane and gracious mercy take her into your most humane consideration and give directions that her Sentence may be mitigated to any length of confinement that your Excellency may think proper in any Gaol in Ireland and not at this time of her life have her banished from her Native Land and Friends as the terror she has suffered since her sentence was passed along with the confinement that she has undergone will be a warning to her for the remainder of her life. Your Excellency's gracious Answer and directions duly attended by.

Athy Gaol  
Kildare  
*print.....]*

And as Duty bound your[. *Some words lost in dark*

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"W Connor 7<sup>th</sup> July 1842" inserted in margin

To His Excellency the Earl De Grey Lord Lieutenant General and General Governor of Ireland

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The Memorial of Eliza Baskerville

Most Humbly Shews,

That Memorialist was convicted of Larceny al last March Assizes at Naas, and sentenced to Seven years Transportation, which Sentence Memorialist most humbly begs to say that she feels to be very severe.

That Memorialist is now confined in the Athy Gaol and in consequence of her youth and inexperience in life has been plunged into the present melancholy state.-

This with her good conduct during her imprisonment, Memorialist most humbly hopes will be taken into consideration by your Excellency, and grant mitigation of her Sentence from Transportation to Imprisonment. And Memorialist as in duty bound will forever pray etc etc etc

7<sup>th</sup> July 1842

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I certify that Eliza Baskerville has conducted herself in the most [.....]tionable manner during her imprisonment in this Gaol. Dated this 7<sup>th</sup> day of July 1842

Date – 13-6-42 noted in margin

To  
His Excellency The Earl De Grey Lord Lieutenant General and General Governor of Ireland etc -

We the undersigned High Sherriff Foremen and Grand Jurors of the County of Kildare do join in the prayer of the enclosed petition as after investigation of the facts of the case we consider that the ends of Justice will be satisfied if a modification of punishment or commutation of the sentence should thro' your Excellency's kind and humane consideration be extended to this unfortunate prisoner.

*List of signatures*

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Ely Place Dublin  
March 26<sup>th</sup> 1842

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> transmitting the memorial of Eliza Baskerville – requesting me to state the particulars of the case for the information of the Lord Lieutenant & requesting me to say whether in my opinion there are any mitigating circumstances which would render the prisoner a proper object of mercy – in reply I beg to state that Eliza Baskerville was indicted for having stolen certain Bank Notes the property of W<sup>m</sup> Sawyer – in appeared in evidence that Mr Sawyer had gone to America leaving his wife & family at Athy in the County of Kildare –

The Prisoner a very young & respectable looking person was their servant – Mrs Sawyer died, and on the morning of her funeral the Prisoner told her elder child a little girl of about Eleven years of age, that she would do well to change the Bank Notes which were in her Mothers Drawers, for that if she did not, they would curl and wear away and that then the little Girl & the Prisoner would be left to beg. Thus impressed the little girl gave the Prisoner the ten pound note and requested her to get silver for it - She brought her back ten Shillings in silver telling her that it was a ten Shilling & not a ten pound note which she had given her – in a few days after the funeral the Prisoner told the little girl that she was foolish not to get the remaining notes changed and she then gave her a five Pound note for the purpose of getting it changed - The Prisoner brought her back five Shillings telling her that that which she had given her was a Five Shilling & not a five Pound note – in some hours after the little girl told her that she had ascertained that there were no Bank Notes for shillings and she demanded the difference The Prisoner thereupon gave her four Pounds fifteen shillings being the balance of the note last changed, but she would not give her the balance of the ten Pound note but told the little girl never to mention it again for that her Mother's Spirit had appeared to The Prisoner the night before & told her to tell her daughter if ever she spoke of the subject, she would haunt her and scar her.

I sentenced the Prisoner to be transported for seven years – thinking that the entire transaction shewed great baseness ingratitude & artifice in that it was an offence committed in a moment, but one that must have been premeditated and carried on with great coolness.

The prisoner is a young and very interesting looking person & some character which was produced shews that she had previously conducted herself well in former services

I have fully stated the facts of the case and if The Lord Lieut should think that the end of justice may be attained by commutation of the sentence to imprisonment with hard labour & solitary confinement for a portion of the time I can see no objection to further merciful commutation.

I am Sir  
Y<sup>r</sup> very Faithful  
John Doherty

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Eliza Baskerville  
Stealing Bank Notes 7 years  
The Law must take its course  
*Signature*

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1842 [.....] 31<sup>st</sup> H.?  
Petitioners Memorial dismissed ( *Remainder of writing indecipherable* )