

Irish Transportation Records CRF 1843 B39 Film 50 Hannah Black & Ally Nodwell Stamped
Chief Secretary's Office Dublin 43 SEP 5
W. Connor written along the side.

L^r Mount Rd.
4 Sept 1843

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of 1st inst. enclosing by command of the Lord Justices the memorial of Hannah Black and Ally Nodwell, prisoners in the jail of Co. Tyrone.

The prisoners convicted at the last Dungannon Q^r Sessions for having knowingly received a piece of cloth stolen from the shop of a cloth merchant in Cookstown on the 8th April last, the market day of Cookstown.

The prisoners were seen to come into a field near the town on the afternoon of that day in company with a man, one of the prisoners carrying a bundle – having made some arrangement of the contents of this bundle they left the field & separated – From the suspicion thus [evicted?] pursuit was made, the prisoner Nodwell was overtaken & part of the cloth found on her person, under her arm inside her cloak. The other prisoner Black had gone into the house of a man named Millar, who observing a bundle in her apron inquired what it contained, when she said it was a piece of cloth given to her by a man to keep for him – but on being charged with having stolen it she threw it down & ran away – but was immediately pursued & arrested.

The shopman who identified the cloth by its quality of the invoice mark on its selvage, defered(sic) that the piece had been entire when exposed for sale in the shop about an hour before the prisoners were apprehended, & that the length of the entire piece corresponded with that of three pieces into which it was found cut on the person of the prisoners.

After conviction a document was laid before the Court purporting to be a certificate from the Governor of Carrickfergus jail, that two females whose description compared with the appearance of the prisoners, had been twice convicted of larceny at Carrickfergus & sentenced to [several?] terms of imprisonment – I therefore directed the attendance of the Governor of Carrickfergus jail, who with the matron attended at Dungannon & identified both prisoners as the persons so convicted, tho' under different names.

The prisoner Black is returned in the Calendar aged 28 years, & the prisoner Nodwell aged 30 years. I observe that the memorial of the prisoner Black purports to be signed by the Incumbent of the Chapel of the Woods, and to contain her marriage certificate, and if its statement be true that her present condition has been occasioned by the desertion & misconduct of her husband, to which she also ascribes her former convictions, She may perhaps be deceived by their Excellencies an object of mercy.

Neither xxxxxx prisoners produced any testimony to character at the trial at Dungannon, and I beg therefore to state unless the statement on behalf of the prisoner Black be true & be considered a mitigating circumstance on her behalf that in my opinion there are not any circumstances in the case of either of the prisoners which would render them proper objects of mercy.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient Serv^t

Rich^d Nunn

E.Lucas Esqre

W. Connor 29 Aug/43 written along the side

To

His Excellency the most Noble Earl degray Lord Lieut General and General Governor of Ireland
The petition of Hanna Black

Most Humbly and Respectfully Sheweth

That petitioner took trial at the Late General Quarter Sessions of the peace held at Dungannon in the County of Tyrone Before R.A.Nunn Esq^{re} Barrister at law and a respectable Jury for having in possession at Cookstown in Said County about five yards of Cloth which was handed to petitioner a few minutes before by a person named William Rogers as petitioner was Informed and believes that petitioner having no means to fee Counsel or Attorney Submitted and Received the awful Sentence of Seven years transportation. That what led to this Sentence By the Learned Barrister were as follows about twelve months ago petitioners Husband Eloped with another woman to the Town of Ballymoney in the County of Antrim and left with petitioner 6 small helpless Children. Being [.....] to follow him and on my arrival meeting my Husband and his new Wife She having three yards of Cotton that he Brought for her and words and [.....] Ensuing She to obtain her Ends Swore Examinations against me for abuse and taking from her by force the Cotton above stated took trial at Carrickfergus Assizes found Guilty and from the nature of the Case received the Sentence of a few weeks Confinement. My Husband and his new Wife used every[effort?] at trial which Led the Learned Chairman to Change his Sentence from that of Confinement to transportation. That petitioner at trial was nine miles from her native place of residence and moneyless and deficient of Gentlemen to Give Character most Humbly Begg leave to Inclose(sic) my marriage lines which is the Chief Cause of all my misfortunes. I further beg leave to refer for Character since Confined to the Local Inspector the Rev^d Mr Samuel George Rogers and Alexander Campbell Esq^{re} Governor of Armagh Gaol

Offers this appeal in the humble hope that Your Most Noble Excellency will be Graciously pleased to Commiserate By Mitigating Said [relucting?] Sentence of Transportation to Confinement in any of her Majesty's prisons In Ireland or in any other way that to your most Noble Excellency may seem meet And in duty bound will fervently Ever Pray

Hanna Black

Omagh Gaol

14 August 1843

Church Wardens } John Ferguson, George Orr

I believe that "Petitioner" is deeply afflicted; and her Family are in great distress

Signature

Incumbent

Of

The Chapel of the Woods

Signatures Patrick Greene & Martin Hillman say he has knownd the bearer [.....aly] years and (*rest of sentence indecipherable*)

Henry [.....] of Derry – *indecipherable*

Alexander [.... ley] knows the bearer Hany Black 14 years [] very good *indecipherable*

Phillip O'Neill of Ballymaguigan begs to let her out of Grange for she was [mierly ronged?].

John Wilson Ballymaguigan is Hana Blacks Lanlord and he never knew any thing to her before

George Wilson Ballymaguigan has never knew anything left to her before in his []

Edward Davis of Dearrygarve

Hugh Davis of Dearrygarve *The above section difficult to read & decipher the faded and cramped writing*

W. Connor 29 Aug/43 (written along the side)

To

His Excellency the most Noble Earl Degray Lord Lieut General and General Governor of Ireland

The petition of Ally Nodwell

Most Humbly and Respectfully Sheweth

That petitioner took trial at the Late General Quarter Sessions of the peace held at Dungannon in the County of Tyrone Before for having at the market at Cookstown in Said County four yards of Cloth handed to petitioner by a man named William Rogers as petitioner is Informed and believes and it seems of a defamed Character and seeing petitioner and unfortunate Hannah Black to fit his purpose handed us the Cloth and in a few minutes apprehended and Committed to the Bridewell of Dungannon and tryed Before a respectable Jury wherein R.A. Nunn was Chairman that petitioner Being destitute of friends and a widow several years Being left at the death of my husband five poor helpless Children and moneyless not able to fee Counsel or Attorney submitted and Sentenced to 7 years Transportation. That at the passing of petitioners Sentence the Learned Barrister held out to petitioner hope of a Mitigation of Sentence.

That petitioner feels the Greatest penitence for the Crime She had Committed although Innocently led into it and Solemnly promises never more to be deluded into error by any persons.

That petitioner is now upwards of fifty years and the unfortunate mother of five Children being now cast on the World.

Offers this appeal in the humble hope that your Most Nobel Excellency will be Graciously pleased to Commiserate By Mitigating Said Sentence of transportation to Confinement in any of her Majestys prisons in Ireland as to Your Most Noble Excellency may seem meet. And in duty bound will ever pray.

Ally Nodwell

Widow

Omagh Gaol

13th August 1843

Indecipherable sentence

B 39 1843

Hannah Black

Ally Nodwell

We think the law s^d take its course

Signature

8th Sept 1843

Signature

I think the law should take its course

John []

Sept 14 1843

Ass. Barr, ans^d

Envelope

To His Excellency the Most Noble

Earl de Gray

Lord Lieut. General & General Governor

of Ireland

Castle Dublin