

Reference Bridget Carey -Irish Transportation CRF 1841 C88

Lawnstown
Dec 27th 1839
Portarlington

Sir,

I beg to state for the information of His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant that the petition of Bridget Carey which I have the honor to enclose is in my respect perfectly correct.

The potatoes were were(sic) stolen from me and as the crime of potato stealing had much increased in this neighbourhood lately I thought it my duty to prosecute but I had no idea when doing so that she would have been sentenced to transportation for so trifling an offence I concurred the [...] [...] would have been satisfied by a short imprisonment after her conviction and before the sentence as passed I made a representation to that effect to assistant Barrister and other Magistrates on the bench of [...] I was my recommendation – alas not attended to as she had been confined previously for a similar offence. Bridget Carey has now been confined for seven? Months and if His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant would be pleased to take her case into consideration I will feel most grateful

Should His Excellency deem it necessary to have her sentence carried into effect will her children be allowed to accompany her?

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your obedient Servant

Robert Moore Lieut. Col.

Thomas Drummond
Dublin Castle

On Her Majesty's Service
The Secretary of State
Dublin Castle
Dublin

Abbeytrix Quarter Sessions
January 2nd 1840

Sir,

I have had the honor of receiving your letter of the 31st December, enclosing the accompanying Memorial of Bridget Cary, and requesting me to report the particulars of her case, for the information of His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant.

The prisoner pleaded guilty to a larceny in stealing Potatoes. The information on which in such cases, the court acts, is not here, but can be had from the office at Maryborough if required.

I think, however, that I can, from recollection, give His Excellency the information he desires. The court on inquiry, found that the prisoner was an old offender – repeatedly convicted of similar offences, and one who was considered as a nuisance in the neighbourhood. – It appears too, that the offence of stealing potatoes as becoming very frequent, and was thought that the example, made at the beginning of winter, might operate as a protection to the poor industrious farmers, who are obliged to leave property of this description, much exposed during the long dark nights.

At the same time I should say for myself, and I do believe my brother magistrates would agree with me, that if the safety of the neighbourhood of Portarlington from further offences by the prisoner, could be spared, without carrying the sentence of Transportation into effect, it would be very desirable to remit it. And

perhaps, Lieut. Col. Moore, who has so humanely interfered, might be able to protect himself and his neighbours, in some way, in case the prisoner should be set at large among them – If he can ensure her future good conduct, on removal from that place, I should be rejoiced to hear of her libration; otherwise I fear the ends of justice would not be attained by it.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your very obedient Servant
John Schoales

Thomas Drummond Esq.

To His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant General and General Governor of Ireland etc. etc. etc.

The Humble Petition of Bridget Cary a Prisoner confined in the Gaol of Maryborough.

Humbly
Shewth

That your Excellency's most humble Petitioner was tried before his Worship the Barrister of Queen's County at Maryborough on the 28th October last for having been guilty of stealing Potatoes when his worship was pleased to sentence her to seven years Transportation.

Your Excellency's most humble Petitioner is a poor wretched and distressed woman with three helpless Infants the Eldest a Female not more than 9 years old the second a Boy about 4 years old and the youngest a Boy in or about 1 year and 4 months now if your Excellency's Petitioner be sent abroad her unfortunate wretched and distressed Orphans will be forced to starve having no person to give them food She therefore most humbly hopes your Excellency will be graciously pleased to take her into your humane consideration and grant her a mitigation of her sentence.

And in Duty
She will ever pray

Maryborough
27th Dec 1839

Harcourt Nov 11th 1841

Sir,

In reference to the Memorial of Bridget Carey I had the honor to inform you that the Prisoner having been indicted for stealing Turf the property of John D[...] pleaded guilty she so thereupon sentenced to 7 years Transportation. The severity of the sentence as caused by the circumstance of her being an old offender she having been already on a former occasion sentenced to Transportation which sentence was commuted.

I have the honor to be
Sir your ob^t. Servt.
Wm N? Barron

E. Lucas Esq
Sec. of St.

Bridget Carey
Stealing Turf 7 yrs tr
The law must take its course
[...]
Order [...] on the 20th Nov AWL