

Catherine Clarke ID3237 per Cadet 1848

On Catherine Clarke aged 23

Leicester Borough Sessions March 1847

Receiving stolen goods

7 years transportation

Gaol report – Not known

Series – HO 18

Piece Number – 193

-----

The prisoner expresses contrition and states that this was her first offence and that she was led into it by bad company and prays for mitigation.

-----

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

The humble Petition of Catherine Clarke, Spinster a prisoner confined in Her Majesty's Gaol of the Borough of Leicester under the sentence of transportation.

Most humble Sheweth

That your Petitioner was tried before I Hildyard Esq, Recorder for the Borough of Leicester at the last Easter Sessions for taking away from the shop of the late Richard Hilley (deceased) Draper of market Place, Leicester a waistcoat piece the property of the said Richard Hilley or his Executors was found guilty and sentenced to seven years transportation.

That your Petitioner most humbly begs leave to state that this is the first offence, that she had been imprisoned for and that she should never have thought of committing the felony if not persuaded to do so by being led into the company of bad women.

That your Petitioner since her confinement in gaol had fully repented of her bad conduct in committing this offence against the Laws of her Country as is fully sensible that she ought to be punished for it.

That your petitioner most humbly implores that the Right Honourable the Secretary of State will be pleased to recommend to Her Most Gracious Majesty to mitigate her sentence from that of transportation to imprisonment for such a period as Her Most Gracious Majesty may be pleased to direct and that your Petitioner promises to use her utmost endeavour to make the best use of her time by penitence in order that at the end of her punishment she may become a good, upright, honest and useful member of society.

And your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever most humbly pray.

Catherine Clarke

-----

20<sup>th</sup> April 1847

We the undersigned inhabitants of the Borough of Leicester do most strongly recommend to the Right Honourable The Secretary of State to take into his consideration and recommend that the prayer of the Petitioner may be granted so that her sentence may be mitigated to that of imprisonment for a shorter period:

Thomas Bentley – Hosier

James Ratcliffe

William Steemson

James Goddard.

And a further 36 signatures

-----  
26<sup>th</sup> April

Leicester

This is to certify that Catherine Clarke has been in my employ that last five years and have entrusted her with money and goods and I have always found her to be a honest and industrious girl

Thomas Bentley

Hosier

Northampton Street

Leicester.

---