

Catherine Connor ID2150 per *Asia* 1847

Catherine Connor aged 22

Central Criminal Court September 1846

Stealing from the person

7 years transportation

Gaol report – Convicted before.

Series – HO 18

Piece Number – 188

The prisoner's mother prays for her detention in this country and promises to provide for her on her liberation.

To The Right Honourable Sir George Grey Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department.

The humble Petition of Catherine Connor.

Sheweth

That your Petitioner's daughter Catherine Connor was convicted at the Central Criminal Court in September 1846 charged by Edwin Walter a Corporal in Her Majesty's Royal Artillery with stealing from his person a purse containing five sovereigns , one half sovereign and two shillings and a sixpence the same being his property.

Your Lordship is humbly informed that the unfortunate convict Catherine Connor was from unforeseen circumstances was compelled to seek her living in a very bad way, for it was distress alone that drives her to such a dreadful situation and secondly to support her infant children. Your Petitioner will not endeavour to

decieve your Lordship , but humbly lays the truth before you in the hope that you will advise Our Gracious Queen to allow the unhappy convict to remain in this country, the sentence being seven years, during the time that she was in gaol of Newgate her conduct was good and your Petitioner is informed the same good conduct as been observed by her since she as been in the Mill Bank Prison. The unhappy young woman is now in a situation and the fright that her shawl got tangled in the ring of the purse and that it was unintentional in her part.

On these grounds coupled with the strong recommendations, your Petitioner hopes that your Lordship will think the convict an object worthy of being allowed to remain in this country.

And your Petitioner will as in duty bound ever pray.

Catherine Connor

Brooks Court

Vine Yard

Tooly Street

Your Petitioner further begs to inform your Lordship that the Prosecutor Edwin Walters by permission of Captain and Adjutant Forbes of the 9th Battalion Royal Artillery, forward a recommendation on behalf of the unfortunate convict.

Thomas Doyle DD

St George

Catholic Church

Lambeth

I hereby recommend the convict Catherine Connor named in the annexed Petition to the favour of the Crown on the following grounds:

I have known her from her infancy, her father Charles Connor was previous to his death a Private Soldier in the 23rd Regiment Foot, and was discharged after serving 10 years with a pension of 19d a day he has now been dead over 17 years and since that time the unhappy girl has been the chief support of her mother.

Edward Fage Cobham

Oil and Colour Merchant

Bow Lane

London

Frederick Dass – China Dealer

Thomas Hogg - Jeweller

Report on the case of Catherine Connor

The Recorder of London can discover no grounds for questioning the propriety of the sentence in this case.

72 Eaton place

11th December 1846

Sir

In compliance with the desire Secretary Sir George Grey has done mw the honour to express. I have pursued the enclosed application in behalf of Catherine Connor who was convicted at the Sessions holden for the Justification of the central Criminal Court in September last of stealing from the person and sentenced to seven years transportation. The case is reported in the Sessions paper No 1983. Pp 386.387. The prisoner was tried before Mr Bullock one of

the Commissioners of the Central Criminal Court and Judge of the Sheriffs Courts of the City of London. Considering the evidence given at the trial, and the fact of the prisoners previous conviction of felony in the month of May last, I entirely concur with Mr Bullock in the propriety of the sentence pronounced at the trail on a second conviction of felony.

Referring to the evidence of the witness Joseph Willy I think it must be inferred that the Larceny was premeditated and concerted between the prisoner and the man who came up upon a signal given and said " I have caught you". It would appear also by the evidence of Thomas O'Shaughnessy Police Constable that the man who came up was a person who cohabited with the prisoner.

William Lewis City Police Constable stated also, on producing the Certificate of the prisoner's conviction in May 1846 that he had her in custody four years ago for a felony in Monument Yard.

I cannot under these circumstances attach much weight to the Certificates of previous character transmitted to the Home Office in support of the Petition in the prisoner's behalf, nor can I discover any grounds for questioning the propriety of a sentence of transportation for the shortest term known to the Law.

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your most obedient servant

Charles Law

Recorder for London

The prisoner's mother addresses Prince Albert in her behalf, and the Prosecutor supports her Petition

Refer to the Recorder for his report on this case.

GG

To His Royal Highness Prince Albert

The Prosecutor in this case of Catherine Connor most humbly begs to recommend the prayer of the accompanying Petition to your Royal Highnesses favourable consideration.

Edwin Walters

Corporal

Royal Regiment of Artillery

To His Royal Highness Prince Albert KG

May it please your Royal Highness

The subscribe a poor and unhappy mother most humbly implores that in presuming to address Your Royal Highness and respectfully soliciting your Royal interest with your Royal Consort Her Most Sacred majesty the Queen – you known benevolence will forgive ---

Your Royal Highness I am the mother of Catherine Connor who was tried at the September Sessions held at the Central Criminal Court before the Honourable Mr law Recorder for London on a charge of stealing from the person of Corporal Edwin Walters of the Royal Artillery and for which offence my unhappy, unfortunate and miserable child was sentenced for the term of seven years transportation. My it please your Royal Highness of misery and anguish to a heart broken aged parent.

May I then again humbly crave your Royal Highness to intercede by a mitigation of punishment appealing to your Royal Highnesses feeling as a parent whose bosom is known to the dictator of mercy and that by your Royal request the unhappy and aged parent may have the

assistance of her child and in that hour when called – the Great Ruler of all – her prayers shall be offered for happiness of your Royal Highness and your sacred family – I will further presume on your [] in respect to the father of my child he having served Her Majesty in the 23rd Welsh Fusillers for the term of ten years with a character intitleing him to nine pence per diem since the death of my only protector my unfortunate child had been my only support

May it please

Your Royal Highness

Your devoted and humble servant

Catherine Connor

277 Mr Cobham

Oil Merchant

Napier Street

Daver Road

Surrey
