

Elizabeth Jones ID 5720 per *Jane* 1833

Elizabeth Jones aged 21

Kent Assizes December 1832

Stealing from the person

Transportation for life

Gaol Report – Notoriously bad – convicted before and several terms of imprisonment

Series – HO 18

Piece Number – 10

In V.D.L

The prisoner's mother applies for a mitigation of her sentence in consequence of having received a letter from her daughter urging her to do so, but no other grounds are stated for the application.

5th December 1839

Dartford Kent

The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council

May it please your Majesty

The very humble Petition of Jane Jones of No 2 Kings Court grove Lane Deptford in the county of Kent a widow.

Most humble and respectfully Sheweth

That your Petitioner hath 7 children six of whom are now living with and supported by her daily labours, being 4 girls and 2 boys. That she hath resided 15 years in Deptford where is now employed as a Laundress , without any blemish whatever upon her character.

That her third daughter Elizabeth Jones was put out to service at the age of 15 years where she remained as a Nursery Nurse and Maid for 9 months and then returned home and continued to nurse her younger brothers and sisters, after which she had another place, and unfortunately took to bad ways and was tried at Maidstone and convicted of a trifling offence and sentenced to three months imprisonment and in December 1832, she was again tried for stealing 8s.6d. from a Mr Allen at Deptford convicted and sentenced to the heavy punishment of transportation for life and was in the same month sent off as a convict to Hobart Town where she now remains.

That in the month of march last year your Petitioner received a letter from her said daughter dated Hobart Town 8th October 1838, a copy of which she humbly takes leave to submit to your Majesty's perusal and merciful consideration of her har4d, heavy and at present unaltered punishment during her life:

Hobart Town

8th October 1838

My Dear Mother.

I take the pleasure of writing to you these few lines, hoping to find you, and all the family in good health, as it leaves me at present, thank God for it. Time has not weaken my love for you, and my dear brothers and sisters, it is stronger than ever, and my prayers morning and evening are for your health and happiness. Although I have been a long lost child, I hope with the blessing of God to see you all once more if it pleases the Almighty I live so long, as I hope and trust in His Blessed Name he will spare me for with him there is nothing impossible, if I put my trust in him, for the Blessed Saviour says “

Come unto me all ye that are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest” for he is able to seek and to save that which is lost, so my Dear Mother where there is life there is hope. I am very happy in mind to think you are all well. I have wrote home several times and never received an answer before, which made me think you had forgotten me altogether, and you cannot think how enjoyed I was when I received your kind letter, to find you were alive and well, for my thoughts are about you night and day. Dear Mother, if you were to get a Petition drawn out and my Prosecutor and some more gentlemen to sign it and take it to the Secretary of State’s Office, there is no doubt , but what you might get my time mitigated. If we believe ourselves in the course of 4 years, a 7 years person gets a Ticket of Leave to go in any part in the Country with a pass, and hire in any place, and get wages, £10 a years is the common wages, and some more, it depends on the situation you undertake and a 14 years person has 6 years and a Life person has 8 years to serve before they obtain any indulgence.

You know the day of my Transportation was December 1832 so that I have already served 7 years this month. Please to tell me where to direct my letter as I don’t know properly. If you go to my Prosecutor, he lives in Church Street Deptford by the Tide Mill. So my Dear Mother, I conclude with my blessing and the blessing of God attend you all, and I remain your loving child.

Till death

Elizabeth Jones

That as she hath now served 7 years of her long term, and maintained a good character in every respect, she still had to remain another year before she becomes entitled to any mitigation whatever, and after that she must earn her bread, how can she, under every disadvantage and whether in sickness or in health

Your Petitioner therefore most humbly and fervently prays that your Majesty will be graciously pleased to take her hard case into your

merciful consideration and so reduce her heavy sentence that she may return to the arms of her mother and brothers and sisters

And they will ever pray

Jane Jones

5th December 1839

Deptford

We whose names are here to subscribe do certify that we have known Jane Jones in the annexed Petition named and described for several years, and have always found her to be an honest sober and industrious woman, and attentive to the moral and religious duties of her large and fatherless family and we most respectfully pray leave to express our hopes that the prayer of her Petition may be granted.

George Allen – Prosecutor

Edward Bayley

George Forden

Thomas Machin

William Males
