

**Irish Transportation Records, Daniel & Margaret Griffen, CRF 1841 G23 Film 44**

To His Excellency Earl Fortescue  
Lord Lieutenant General and General Governor of Ireland  
etc etc etc etc etc etc etc etc

The Memorial of the undersigned Magistrates, Clergymen and Gentlemen of the County of Limerick Humbly Sheweth

That Daniel Griffen and Wife were sentenced to seven years transportation at the last Assizes for the County of Limerick for having stolen goods in their possession.

That said Griffen and Wife were uniformly noted for industry, sobriety, honesty and good moral conduct, that being in the dealing line; they purchased said property in the way of business, that on first hearing of the robberies committed by the prosecutrix they were intimidated and denied having said articles but subsequently gave them up voluntarily to the police on the promise of being forgiven.

That the Prosecutrix, Margaret Moore, is a Woman of notoriously bad character, she admitting on the trial to have been implicated in several Burglaries in the Counties of Limerick, Clare and Kerry. That through her prosecution Four young and helpless children are deprived of their natural protectors and are cast and abandoned on the World.

May it therefore please Your Excellency, to take the case of this wretched couple and of their unprotected young children and Your Excellencys humane consideration, by commuting their sentences to imprisonment as to Your Excellency may seem fit and Memorislist will ever pray

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Thos Hogan P.P. [.....]	JH Bouchiar C.L.R [.....] Rathkeale	[.....] John Culhane
John Hamilton	Ewd [...] Vicar of Kilfegus [...]	Daniel O'Brien
Richd [LI.....]JP	Bernard MacMahon P.P. of Glin	Patrick O. F. Culh...
William O'Leary	Daniel Leahy ? L.C. Glin	[.....]

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*Mr Connor*

*W. [...] 21/41*

*Rec<sup>d</sup> 23[...] not returned .....for it 24th*

Dublin Aug 20.1841

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17<sup>th</sup> Inst. enclosing a Memorial from Daniel Griffen and his wife prisoners in the Gaol of the County of Limerick, and requesting me to acquaint you with the particulars of the case, for the information of His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, and with my opinion on whether there are any mitigating circumstances which would render the prisoners proper objects of mercy.

The Prisoners were convicted before me at the last Assize for the County of Limerick, upon two Indictments for receiving stolen goods. [It was found in evidence?], on the two trials that several Burglaries had been committed in the Counties of Clare and Limerick, by a large Gang of

persons resident in the City of Limerick, and of whom. Margaret Moore, the witness mentioned in the Memorial, was one, and that the property plundered was brought to the dwelling House of the Prisoners who live in the Town of Rathkeale. It was distinctly proved that the female Prisoner purchased several articles of Silver Plate, and a Diamond Ring, known to be worth £20, for a small sum of money, and that the articles (or some of them) were discovered in places of concealment, so that no doubt could be entertained as to the guilty knowledge of the Prisoners – I believe that a case was tried before Mr Justice Bull at Tralee, in which another offence of the same description as the subject of Trial. The result however I don't know. I had no doubt from the evidence laid before me that the residence of the prisoners was a well known and [.....] place for the disposal of goods stolen in different parts of the Country. After the conviction of the female Prisoner, her Counsel submitted that the Indictment had not been sustained in point of law, it having charged the stealing to be by persons unknown, whereas, the witness had named the [female?] concerned in the Burglary. That objection I have reserved for the consideration of the Judges. The Crown even then prepared to proceed with an Indictment against her for a second offence: but she appeared to be so ill, that her Trial on that Indictment was postponed.

I thought it impossible to avoid sentencing the Prisoners to Transportation, and I see nothing in the [crime itself?] of a mitigating nature, whatever claim the female Prisoners may have to mercy by reason of the state of her health, which was represented to me and appeared to me very distressing or Excellent character and given of both Prisoners at the Trials; I fear that the good characters which they bore enabled them to more effectually to commit the offences with which they were charged.

The witness Moore, certainly appeared to be a woman of very bad character, and to have been implemented in several Burglaries; but her testimony was lawfully corroborated as to leave in the mind of the Jury no doubt of the guilt of the Prisoners.

I have the Honor to be  
Sir  
Your most obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>  
Rich<sup>d</sup> W. Greene

N.H. MacDonald  
Esq

*Stamped Chief Secretary's Office Dublin*

*41 Aug 16*

*Written across Mr Connors W Henry 15/41*

[.....]

Aug 14 1841

My Dear Sir,

I have been requested to transmit the Enclosed Memorial on behalf of Daniel Griffen convicted at the last assizes for receiving stolen goods. I cannot say that I have any factual information respecting the case, but such strong assurances have been offered to the effect that Griffen was ignorant that no goods were stolen when he purchased them that I have not felt myself at liberty to refuse to transmit the memorial 7 beg to call your attention to the fact that it is signed by three Magistrates, two Protestant clergymen & three Roman Catholic clergymen who..... live in the immediate neighbourhood of the party convicted.

