

Hannah Barber (ID 4896) and Harriet Barber (ID 4897) per *Emma Eugenia* 1846

To The Right Honourable Sir James R G Graham Her majesty's Principle Secretary of State for the Home Department.

The Petition of HANNAH BARBER a prisoner in Millbank Prison.

Humbly Sheweth

That your Petitioner is entirely innocent of the crime she is charged with. She recently left her situation in consequence of her health as Mrs Falconer who she lived with upward of three years in the capacity of Ladies Maid as she was about to dispose of her house to go abroad she went to Northampton as her sister HARRIET BARBER who had been to see her uncle in confectioner at Kingston appointed to meet her there the following day to accompany her home she was recommended to a person she knew nothing of to stop the night the morning following she asked the person of the house to go with her to meet her sister and as they past Mr Spencer's shop she went in to purchase a pair of boots the person followed her during the time she was looking at some boots and speaking to Mr Spencer the person with her purloined four pairs of boots after they had left the shop and met with her sister the person dropped a pair of boots in the street and said she bought them in the market and was a going to change them after that put them in her basket and asked HANNAH BARBER to carry it whilst she walked on to dispatch a letter. HANNAH BARBER said her sister would have nothing to carry immediately after. She had given it to her Mr SPENCER apprehended her and asked her if she had taken a pair of boots in a mistakes and where her basket was HARRIET BARBER given up her basket to Mr SPENCER he opened the basket which contained four pairs of boots and other articles which she said belong to a friend of hers. He said to HARRIET BARBER you must return with me, to my shop also she willing went knowing she had nothing wrong HANNAH BARBER said if her sister went she would follow her Mr SPENCER called in two Policemen , they said send them all to custody HANNAH BARBER being very much exhausted said if you will let me go I will give you £5 they replied thats enough you must go with [] will do our part toward sending you out of the country. Mr SPENCER has acknowledged to be sorry for what he had don e and offered to sign a Petition in behalf of the sisters since he had made inquiries and find they bore a good character and between living in Gentleman's families and not been in the habit of changing their situation soften but have lived in them three or four years the Ladies whom they lived with are not acquainted with this sad event or thus no doubt but what they would of written in behalf of the sisters it being their first offence.

Your Petitioner humbly solicits your kind consideration of the circumstances of her case, and that you would be pleased to recommend a mitigation of the sentence and your petitioner will ever pray.

Hannah Barber

To The Right Honourable Sir James Graham Her Majesty's Principle Secretary of State for the Home Department

The humble petition of ELIZABETH DOWNING of [] in the county of Northampton mother of HARRIETT BARBER and HANNAH BARBER who are now under sentence of transportation .

Sheweth

That your petitioners daughters HARRIETT BARBER and HANNAH BARBER at the last Borough Sessions for the town of Northampton was indicted for felony by one WILLIAM SPENCER the prosecutor was convicted and sentenced to seven years transportation.

That your petitioner said daughters have been servants at respectable places in the town and county of Northampton and up to the present changes was never guilty or even suspected of a dishonest act.

That your said petitioners daughters the said HARRIETT BARBER and HANNAH BARBER having lived in the Borough and County of Northampton for years past and bore exceptional characters for honesty and sobriety and industry which said masters and Mistresses of their own free will have signed and affixed their names to the memorial herewith acc[] trusting that a mitigation will be granted to the two poor girls.

That your petitioner also humbly submits to your Honour the accompanying memorial in favour of your Petitioners daughters signed by respectable persons to whom they was well known and greatly respected. And also by the Prosecutor on the Bill of Indicments.

Your Petitioner therefore humbly prays our Honour will be pleased to recommend to the clemency of Her Most gracious Majesty the unfortunate situation your petitioners said daughters and that your Honour will be pleased further to recommend to the Royal Clemency a mitigation of the severe sentence passed upon your petitioners unfortunate daughters.

And your petitioner will ever pray.

November 1845

The Mark of ELIZABETH DOWNING

Mother of HARRIETT and HANNAH BARBER.

Mitigation is prayed for on the ground that the punishment is severe and that the character of the prisoners is good.

The Right Honourable Sir James Graham Her Majesty's Principle Secretary of State for the Home Department.

The memorial of the undersigned inhabitants of the town and county of Northampton.

Sheweth

That your memorialists have heard with great regret that at the last Borough Sessions for the town of Northampton that HARRIET BARBER and HANNAH BARBER late servants was convicted of receiving articles knowing them to have been stolen from the Prosecutor WILLIAM SPENCER and sentenced to seven years transportation. That your memorialists humbly submit to your Honour that if even the said HARRIET and HANNAH BARBER were guilty of the crime inferred to them your memorialists conceive that the sentence passed upon them was more than adequate to the offence committed.

Your memorialists therefore feel justified in recommending the case of the said HARRIET and HANNAH BARBER to the Royal Clemency feeling assured that a more lenient punishment will fully answer the purpose of Justice. And your memorialists humbly hope that your Honour will be placed to take into consideration the severity of the sentence passed upon the prisoners and that your Honour will be further pleased to recommend a mitigation of such sentence.

And your memorialists will ever pray

November 1845

William Spencer

Thomas Greens – Servant

Plus 46 other signatures

Hannah Barber aged 20

20th October 1845 Northampton Sessions

Stealing shoes and other articles

7 years transportation

Series – HO 18

Source – Home Office Criminal Petitions – Series II

Piece – 166

Harriet Barber aged 26

Hannah Barber aged 20

Northampton Borough Sessions 20th October 1845

Larceny

7 years transportation

Gaol report – Character Good

Series – HO 18

Source – Home Office Criminal Petitions – Series II

Piece Number – 166

Temple 16th January 1846

Sir

I have the honour to transmit to you in compliance with the letter of Mr Undersecretary Phillipps a report of the cases of Hannah and Harriet BARBER tried before me at the Northampton Sessions on the 20th October last. The prisoners were charged together on 5 indictments for larceny Hannah BARBER pleaded GUILTY to 4 of the indictments and was found GUILTY by the Jury on the 5th

Harriet pleaded NOT GUILTY to all the indictments and was found GUILTY by the Jury upon two, and was acquitted (after trials) upon one other and was acquitted upon the remaining two as no evidence having been offered on the part of the Prosecutor.

1st Case

Stealing on the 3rd September 1845 3 hair brushes the property of William BERWICK.

2nd Case

Stealing on 3 September 1845 4 pairs of women's half boots the property of William SPENCER

3rd Case

Stealing on the 3rd September 1845 two feathers valued at 7 shillings the property of Harriet WALTON

4th Case

Stealing on the 9 August 1845 one bonnet the property of Henry JONES

5th Case

Stealing on the 27th August 1845 3 straw bonnets the property of George ALLEN.

I sentenced both prisoners to transportation for 7 years, under the circumstances I felt that I could not with any due regard to public example avoid passing a sentence of transportation. I did this however with great reluctance as the prisoners appeared to have been quite respectable up to the time when as appeared in the charges they entered upon this course of thieving and I am not aware of there being any ground for suspecting that they had resorted to it before the committing of the offences charged in the indictments, and I shall therefore be happy to find that it is considered a case to which Her Majesty's mercy may with propriety be extended.

I have the honour

Sir

Your most obedient and humble servant

M Clarke

Recorder of Northampton

To The Right Honourable Secretary Sir James Graham MP