

Harriet Rowe aged 19

Devon Quarter Sessions – Exeter 1844

Stealing a handkerchief

7 years transportation

Gaol report – Character bad – convicted before

Series - HO18

Piece Number – 133

The prisoner's parents pray in consideration of her youth and the trivial nature of her offence, that she may not be sent out of the country

Transport

GG

1st Application

Plymouth

17th January 1844

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

The most humble Petition of Edward and Jane Rowe now residing at No 8 Bath Street in the Borough of Plymouth.

Sheweth

That your Petitioner's are the unfortunate parents of a still more unfortunate daughter Harriet Rowe who being accused of stealing a handkerchief valued at 4d at East Stonehouse was tried, convicted

and sentenced to be transported for the period of seven years at the last Sessions at Exeter.

That your Petitioner's daughter will only attain the age of sixteen years on Christmas Day 1844 and they trust that her youth and her inexperience in the ways of the Will not only be in her favour, but that it will be also a caution to her during her life, and hoping that she may yet become a useful and an honourable member of society.

The Petitioner's her parents venture most humbly to express to your Honour their most earnest, anxious hope that you will have the kindness to permit her to remain in her Native Country, and confirming her to the Penitentiary during the time of Her Majesty's pleasure for the period which will satisfy the justice of the case.

That your Petitioners beg leave most humbly and respectfully to solicit your Honour's attention to the case of their unfortunate daughter the smallness of her crime, her youth and the punishment she is sentenced to undergo into your most serious consideration and be pleased to comply with the humble solicitations on behalf of a beloved child.

Your Petitioner's therefore hope and trust that under all the circumstances as above stated, that their request may be complied with, which will be acknowledged with the utmost gratitude.

Your poor unfortunate Petitioners who as in duty bound will ever pray.

Edward and Jane Rowe

Recommended for mercy by:

Thomas Vallack – House Holder

James Cleallack – House Holder

And a further 25 signatures.