

Jane Garside ID 2175 per *Asia* 1847

Jane Garside aged 42

Chester Quarter Sessions – Knutsford January 1847

Larceny

7 years transportation

Gaol Report – Character bad.

Series – HO 18

Piece Number – 190

Refer to the Chairman of the Court.

GG

The Clergyman of this prisoner's parish states that the prisoner labours under bodily infirmities – that she has been ill treated by her husband – that she was in great destitution when she committed the offence and that the punishment is unduly severe.

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

The Memorial of The Reverend Lawrence [Wape] Parochial Minister of Hayfield

13th January 1847

Humbly Sheweth

That it has been represented to your [..... ship] that Jane Garside now a prisoner in Knutsford Gaol in the County of Chester, has been

sentenced at the last Sessions to seven years transportation for stealing an old shawl of very trifling value, not more, it is stated, than eight pence.

That the said Jane Garside has for several years been a poor afflicted creature, ill treated by her husband having a sickly and [] child to maintain and is very deaf. That she was driven to this petty theft by destitution, cold and weak and did not hear nor understand the proceedings taken against her and was unable to [] her situation or make any defence.

Your Memorialist humbly begs that you will be pleased to cause inquiries to be made into the case and should it appear as your Memorialist believe it will, that the punishment ordered in this case is totally disproportionate to the offence, you will be pleased to recommend to Her Majesty that the sentence be commuted for some shorter period of imprisonment in this Country and not to send this poor woman, whose first offence this is, out of this country into a distant land.

And your Memorialist will ever pray

Lawrence [Wape] MA Minister of Hayfield Derbyshire.

Statement by John Little

Special High Constable of Hyde Division of the County of Chester in the case of Jane Garside

Police Office

Hyde

21st January 1847

Sir

Jane Garside is a married woman had been married twice, her present husband is living at Ashton under Lyme is a sober,

industrious man.; Jane Garside is a drunk and other improper conduct he has been obliged to sell his goods and break up his house and go into lodgings. Three times within a few years past he had furnished a house and taken his wife to live where she might have had a comfortable house if she remained with her husband but through her irregular habits he was compelled to give up keeping house and go into lodgings. Her character is that of a drunken bad woman , her mode of obtaining a living for the last 15 to 18 months past had been tramping from town to town representing herself as a factory labourer in search of work calling herself Jane Williams obtaining lodgings, obtaining work for a few days then decamping stealing such articles as she could lay her hands on from her lodgings and obtaining goods by false pretence from such shopkeepers and Innkeepers as would give her credit to her false tales.

Jane Garside was committed to Knutsford Gaol on three charges , two of felony and one of obtaining eight gills of Rum by false pretences there were several other charges against her for obtaining goods by false representation, she was tried at the last Knutsford Sessions on the two charges of felony found guilty and transported for 7 years.

Jane Garside's maiden name was JANE HULL. Her mother has been convicted of felony, she has three brothers, two were transported for house breaking, the other was in the Hyde Lock Up some years past on a charge of uttering base coin, he broke out of the Lock Up and from that time up to the present had never been heard of by the authorities of this district.

Jane Garside has not fixed residence and had not been in this neighbourhood for years previous to October or November 1845.

Jane Garside's husband is of a very respectable honest family and if her conduct had been the same she might have had a comfortable home.

I have the honour to be Sir

Your very humble and obedient servant

Joseph Little

Special Hyde Constable.

The Chairman of the Quarter Sessions sends the evidence together with the Police Report respecting the prisoner and states that he sees no grounds for interfering with the verdict or sentence.

Oughtington Hall

22nd January 1847

Sir

I have the honour to receive your letter with the enclosures relating to the case of Jane Garside who was tried and sentenced to seven years transportation at the last Quarter Sessions held at Knutsford for the County of Chester.

Three bills of indictment were found against her by the Grand Jury being two for felony and one for obtaining items under false pretences. On the two former she was convicted, on the third no evidence was offered and she was acquitted accordingly She was defended by the Senior Counsel with the Knutsford Bar.

The Gaoler reports on that Jane Garside told him she is a woman and earned 15 shillings per week and her husband earned 23 shillings per week as an [overlocker].

The Gaoler also reports that she is a little deaf and that her conduct has been good in gaol.

I wrote to the Special High Constable of the Division of the County in which Hyde is situated for information as to the character, habits and mode of life of the prisoner and her place of residence. I have the honour to enclose you the reply to which I should wish to draw your attention.

From the statement and copy of the evidence taken on the trial of Jane Garside enclosed herewith I cannot see any grounds for [] the verdict of the Jury or the Justice of the sentence passed by the Court.

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your obedient humble servant

[Wilfred] [Mansford]

Chairman of the Chester Quarter Sessions
