

IRISH TRANSPORTATION RECORD of MARGARET BUTLER (with 2 children) per  
TASMANIA 1845  
CRF 1845 – B14 – Film 56  
Larceny – Stealing Potatoes – Sentenced to 7 Years Transportation – Tried with Esther  
Burges, Mary Burges and Mary Griffen

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To The Most Noble The Earl of Heytesbury Lord Lieutenant General and General Governor  
of Ireland &c. &c. &c.

The petition of **Margaret Butler**  
A Convict in Carlow Gaol.

Most Humbly Sheweth

That your petitioner was tried at the last Quarter Sessions of Tullow before  
Henry Hutton Esq<sup>r</sup> Assistant Barrister for stealing a few potatoes and sentenced to seven  
years Transportation.

Petitioner begs most humbly to state that she was left a widow with six  
fatherless children who have been dependant on the bounty of an humane and charitable  
public for support, hardship alone induced her and the tears of her wretched orphans  
compelled her to do what she was sentenced to leave her country for.

Petitioner now throws herself on the mercy and clemency of your Excellency  
that you would be graciously pleased to commute her sentence to any length of  
imprisonment - but oh in pity to her orphans - do not send her from them, as they would be  
thrown friendless outcasts on the world, your Excellency will see by the undersigned  
signatures that poverty alone drove her to do what she has done.

Petitioner once more craves the clemency of your Excellency's prerogative on  
her favour - and the Hands of her orphans shall be uplifted in prayer.

And your petitioner as in duty bound  
will ever Pray

From Margaret Butler a convict in Carlow Gaol

Carlow April 16, 1845

W Hitchens 17 Ap<sup>l</sup> /45 [*crosswise page 1 of 3*]

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To His Excellency Lord Heytesbury  
Lord Lieutenant General  
& General Governor of Ireland &c. &c.  
Castle Dublin

Seal  
Carlow Gaol  
AP16 1845

Seal  
5A  
AP17  
45  
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*Stamped* CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE [*faded*]

18 Gardiner Place  
18<sup>th</sup> April 1845

Sir,

In answer to your letter of the 17<sup>th</sup> inst<sup>l</sup> I have the honor to transmit herewith for the  
information of His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant a Report of the trial of **Margaret Butler**

together with the Memorial of the Prisoner and to state that I am not aware of any mitigating circumstances which would render the Prisoner a proper object of mercy.

I have the honor to be  
Sir  
Your obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>  
H Hutton  
Assist. Bar. D<sup>n</sup> Castle

Edw Lucas Esq  
Under Secretary

W Hitchins  
Law must take its course  
April 21<sup>st</sup> 1845 – Heytesbury  
Ass.Barr. do  
Gaoler do AWC [5 lines crosswise and overstruck]

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Edw<sup>d</sup> Lucas Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Under Secretary  
Dublin Castle

H Hutton  
Assist.Bar  
D<sup>n</sup> Castle

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B            14            1845

**Margaret Butler**  
Larceny of Potatoes  
Seven years  
Asst. Bar<sup>r</sup> report annexed  
19<sup>th</sup> April AWC  
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Tullow Easter Quarter Sessions 1845  
Thursday 3<sup>d</sup> April

Esther Burgess, Mary Burgess, Margaret Butler & Mary Griffin were indicted for stealing a barrel of potatoes of Rich<sup>d</sup> Carr at Tullowland on 4 Feb<sup>y</sup> last.

Rich<sup>d</sup> Carr sworn - lives at Tullow. On 4<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> witness lost some potatoes from a pit at Tullowland on the land of W<sup>m</sup> Byrne – witness visited them ¼ after six o'clock in the evening. The Pit was then safe – he visited the Pit again at about ½ past 7 o'clock & found that about a barrel had been taken out. There were 4 kinds of potatoes in the pit – Russenden – cups, Pink-eyes, - Lumpers & Devonshires and an odd white cup thro' the others. On the same night about 9 o'clock witness found potatoes with the Police corresponding with these which witness had lost. Those with the Police consisted of the 5 kinds of witness' Pits.

John Roddy Constable sworn – was questioned in Tullow on the night of the 4<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> last – was on the Dublin road – witness concealed himself from about six o'clock to eight in the evening on the Dublin road – witness saw the four Prisoners on the Dublin road about 8 o'clock. Each of them had a bag of Potatoes on her back. They were coming towards Tullow from the direction of Carr's pit. Witness arrested them. On arresting them Prisoner Mary Griffin was in the act of spilling potatoes out of the bag when witness prevented her. She also ran away till she was stopped. Mary Burgess also attempted to run away till she was prevented. Carr afterwards identified the potatoes. The Prisoners were all bare footed.

Witness got a pair of shoes in the barrack which were claimed by Esther Burgess. The 5 nails in the shoe exactly corresponded with the track close by Carr's pit. Witness also found a mark of fresh clay on the hands & clothes of all the Prisoners. Where he first saw the prisoners is about 40 or 50 perches from Carr's Pit. The prisoners told witness they had gathered the potatoes about thro' the country.

The Jury found all Prisoners guilty. The Governor of the Gaol reported that all the Prisoners had been convicted several times before of stealing potatoes. That is to say Esther Burgess three times & each of the other Prisoners twice - and that the Matron of the Gaol reported Margaret Butler & Mary Griffin as desperate characters & very ill conducted in gaol.

The Court sentenced all the Prisoners to be transported for seven years.

H.H.

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