

To the Right Honourable Lord Lenman, Lord Chief Justice of His Majesty's Court of Kings Bench

The humble Memorial of us the undersigned inhabitants of Shipston upon Stour in the County of Worcester

Sheweth

That your Memorialists having heard with grief and concern of the conviction and sentence of transportation for fourteen years of MARGARET SMITH at the last Assizes for the County of Worcester for having stolen some trifling property from her Master The Reverend William Evans and having reason to believe from your Lordships remarks in passing sentence upon the prisoner that you had been misinformed with the regard to the confidence placed in the unfortunate woman and therefore inflicted so severe a punishment.

We your Lordship's humble Petitioners beg leave to aspire you that we have known the prisoner for six years that during such time she has conducted herself in an exemplary manner carefully watching over her Masters interest assisting in, and at time entirely managing all his household and other affairs and in the numerous situations of Cook, Housemaid and Dairy Maid employing herself as occasion required and carefully to the best of our knowledge managed his house and we firmly believe that she was confidentially trusted by her Master but that the commonest articles were even kept from her, who in name only was his Housekeeper.

All the circumstances being made known to your Lordship for the truth of which we pledge ourselves to vouch. We do most humbly beg that the ends of Justice will be obtained by a more lenient sentence and servants deterred from prying into their Masters secrets which we believe was the women's sole object in purloining and obtaining keys of her Masters drawers, that your Lordship will reconsider this case and cause such other sentence to be passed upon her, as in your Lordship's judgement will be adequate to the real offence.

And your Memorialists as in duty bound will ever pray.

James Harting - Church Warden - Shipston

Edward Phillips - Overseer

Danial Hemmings - Farmer

And 37 other signatures

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To the Kings Most Excellent Majesty

The Petition of MARGARET SMITH a Prisoner on the County Gaol of Worcester

May it please your Majesty  
Most humbly Sheweth

That your Petitioner at the Assizes held at Worcester for the County of Worcester on the 23rd day of July in the present year 1835 was tried and convicted for stealing some trifling property from The reverend William Evans of Shipton upon Sour in the said county of Worcester for which offence she was sentenced to be transported for fourteen years.

That your Petitioner at all time previous to the commission of the above offence had borne the most unblemished character she never having committed any crime whatever that required the correction of Justice. She from the interference and recommendation of the undersigned reputable persons on her behalf and also these subscribed to the annexed Memorial implore that your most excellent Majesty will be graciously pleased in tender compassion to your unfortunate prisoner to take into your royal consideration the distress of mind of your truly penitent and disconsolate Petitioner.

Your Petitioner therefore humbly and most earnestly prays that your most gracious and excellent Majesty will be graciously please in consideration of her former good character and the favourable circumstances attending her case to extend your royal merciful goodness to her by a mitigation of her sentence of transportation to some shorter period of confinement in the Penitentiary House of Correction at Millbank London or such other place in England as to your most gracious and most excellent Majesty shall seem meet.

And your petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray.

Margaret Smith

We the undersigned from the very good character of the above named prisoner at all time previous and up to the commission of her present offence do humbly and most fervently implore your most gracious Majesty's mercy and commiseration on her behalf.

Edward Phillips Overseer  
William Wilson - stone mason  
And another 36 signatures

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MARGARET SMITH  
WORCHESTER 1835  
STEALING FROM HER EMPLOYER  
14 YEARS TRANSPORTATION

SOURCE - HOME OFFICE CRIMINAL PETITIONS - SERIES 1

SERIES - HO 17

PIECE NUMBER - 105

ITEM NUMBER - TV 42

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MARGARET SMITH - AGED 43

WORCHESTER SUMMER ASSIZES JULY 1835

STEALING FROM HER EMPLOYER

14 YEARS TRANSPORTATION

GAOL REPORT - CONSIDERED HONEST BEFORE THIS CONVICTION