

**Martha Osborne ID 11272 per Sir Robert Seppings 1852**

Martha Osborne aged 33

Somerset Quarter Sessions – Wells 25<sup>th</sup> March 1851

Larceny

7 years transportation

Gaol Report – In prison once before convicted of felony

Received into Millbank from Taunton on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1851

Series – HO 18

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The prisoner says she found the article by the road side, and that the character of her family was misinterpreted to the Judge. She prays for a mitigation of her sentence.

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

The Petition of Martha Osborne a prisoner in Millbank Prison.

Humbly Sheweth

That your petitioner is not guilty of stealing the article laid before her charge but obtained it in the following manner. She had occasion to go from Roundham where she resided to Crewkerne, about a mile distance to purchase some colas and on her way she observed some children at play and a

pound weight lying near them. On her return the children had left the place, but the pound weight was lying where she first saw it. She did not know the children and therefore could not ascertain to whom it belonged. She took the weight and in a few days sold it for four pence. Your Petitioner does not think that she would have received the sentence of transportation if the late Governor of Taunton Prison had not made a mistake in regard to the character of her family. Several individuals of a family of the same name, but in no near related having been very troublesome.

Your Petition humble solicits your kind consideration of the circumstances of her case and that you would be pleased to recommend a mitigation of her sentence and she will ever pray.

The mark of Martha Osborne

Witness – A Macleash

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