

Mary Ann Sommerville ID13241 per *Woodbridge* 1843

Mary Ann Sommerville aged 25

Central Criminal Court January 1843

Assault with the intent to rob

15 years transportation

Gaol report – 3 times before in prison

Series – HO 18

Piece Number – 100

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The prisoner's father asserts that his daughter although a Prostitute bore a good character for honesty that she had no previous associations with the man convicted with her and that one of the witnesses for the Prosecution was influence by malicious motives.

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Refuse and transport

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

The humble Petition of Thomas Walker of No 7 Haddon Street, Regent Street in the City of Westminster – Boot Maker on the behalf of his daughter MARY ANN WALKER now a prisoner in Her Majesty's Gaol of Newgate (under the name of MARY ANN SOMERVILLE) under sentence of transportation for 15 years.

Most Humbly Sheweth

That your Petitioner's daughter was convicted on the 5<sup>th</sup> January before the Honourable Mr Baron Gurney at the Sessions of the

Central Criminal Court in the name of MARY ANN SOMERVILLE with having in conjunction with one WILLAIM BAILEY committed an assault with intent to rob upon one RICHARD JOHN PHILLIPS and on that occasion received sentence of transportation for fifteen years.

That your Petitioner's daughter who is now 25 years of age was seduced away from her home by the acts of a woman who kept a House of Ill Fame near the Strand at the early age of fifteen and your Petitioner although he preserved in making every inquiry and search was unable to find out any clue to her residence till some length of time afterwards and not until her mind had become so far depraved by the [licentious] examples she had met with in the House of this woman that no persuasion could induce her to quit the life of prostitution she was leading or to return to your Petitioner's protection.

That although your Petitioner's daughter had been upon the Town so long yet was she never known to commit any Act of Dishonesty but with that exception (her loss of modesty) up to the present time had borne an excellent character for honesty as will be seen by the numerous respectable persons who have signed this Memorial who will also state the respectability of character of your Petitioner as an honest hard working man – These persons will also bear testimony to the truth some having known her from childhood.

That your Petitioner's daughter previously to the time of this occurrence knew nothing of the prisoner BAILEY whom she had just met with but a few minutes before and had no idea of any intention of his(BAILEY's) striking the Prosecutor much less of robbing him and your Petitioner from information he has since obtained had ascertained that the female witness MARY ANN WATSON who is the only material witness against the female prisoner had lived some time before with the prisoner BAILEY as his wife and therefore your Petitioner most humbly suggests that she might have been actuated at the moment during SOMERVILLE with her[ paramous]by jealousy and under such influence made the statement which was from fear would not afterwards contradict.

That should your Honour see fit to procure from Her Most Gracious Majesty any mitigation of his unfortunate daughters very serious punishment he your petitioner will immediately receive her home and forgetting all her former misconduct endeavour to reclaim her by kind treatment.

Your Petitioner therefore most humbly prays your Honour to take a favourable view of all the circumstances of his daughter's case and on account of her youth and former character for honesty you may be pleased to advise Her Most Gracious Majesty to order a commutation of some portion of his daughter sentence and that she may be allowed to remain in this country.

And your Petitioner as in duty will ever pray.

Thomas Walker.

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Gilbert Goably

James Tricky

Ralph Burn

And a further 10 signatures

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2<sup>nd</sup> Application

The Earl of Strathmore applies for a favourable consideration of this case and for the removal of the prisoner to the Penitentiary on the grounds that she is the daughter of one of his tenants who is a respectable man – that she was seduced by a French Nobleman by whom she was abandoned and thrown into the street – and that although a prostitute her honesty had not before been questioned.

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60 St Johnswood Terrace

17<sup>th</sup> February 1843

Sir

Excuse my troubling you on the present subject but really out of a tenancy of near 1500 in such a parish as Shadwell. I am incessantly beset with Petitions for an application to you in criminal convictions.

The present case is that of MARY ANN WALKER prosecuted and convicted under the name of MARY ANN SOMERVILLE.; Her family are tenants of mine as was her father many years , who is a very industrious respectable mechanic.

Upon enquiring I find that she was seduced by a French Count who took her abroad and brought her back to this country leaving her on the streets.

That she has been on the streets, is I find undesirable but I also find that her honesty had never been impeached and her present conviction was in consequence of her being in bad company.

I have now to request your merciful interpretation in her favour and commute her present sentence of transportation to confinement in the Penitentiary which should you [                      ] I trust will save a wretched young woman from downright destitution.

I have the honour to remain

Sir

Your humble and obedient servant

Stathmore

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