

Mary Anne Poole Irish Transportation Records CRF 1840 P14 Film 42

Note

Wicklow

Mary Anne Poole

Passing forged note – 7 yrs transp.

To His Excellency Lord Viscount Ebrington, Lord Lieutenant General and General Governor of
Ireland etc etc etc.

The petition of Mary Anne Poole a Prisoner in His Majesty's Gaol of Wicklow.
Most Humbly Sheweth

That at the last Quarter Sessions held at Bray in the County Of Wicklow on the Day of 24th day of June last, before the Worshipful George Tomb Esqre Assistant Barrister of the County of Wicklow, Petitioner was convicted of having passed in the Town of Bray, a forged draft for the sum of ten pounds fifteen shillings, and was sentenced to be transported for seven years.

That Petitioner had never been at Bray until after she had been arrested upon the charge above mentioned, and when the woman named (*gap*) Keoghoe to whom it was alleged the draft had been passed, saw her after her arrest she could not identify her as the guilty person. Afterwards however when one John Byrne Jaunting-Car Driver, for a reward of three pounds (as Petitioner must suppose) had been induced to give evidence against her, then (*gap*) Keoghoe ventured to do so also thus testifying not from her own knowledge or resolution, but pinning her faith upon the assertion of a man of one of the very basest classes in society and who was [supported?] to give, his testimony [attended?] by the hope of a reward, not from a regard to truth ,and justice.

That Petitioner who is a native of England has served as Lady's Maid in both Great Britain and Ireland, in the most respectable families having had the honor to serve the ladies of the Earl of Kinmont and Sir Richard Levinge, Baronet, from both of whom she can promise written testimonials of a very favourable description.

That Petitioner is of a respectable family, the members of which are plunged into the deepest of affliction by the misfortune in which she is involved, and Petitioner has a young child (a son) who if he shall live will by her banishment from home, and country, will be left destitute of the means of instruction, and support, and may be exposed to the contagion of bad example, and [that?] the Car Driver to whose disregard of the [*blotted words*] all her sufferings, his/he [.....] be brought to [.....] [face?] his eternal interests, to his thirst of filthy lucre.

That under feelings the most painful that can be described or considered Petitioner throws herself upon your Excellency's well known humanity and most humbly implores you to grant such remission or mitigation of the sentence that has been pronounced upon her, as [strong?] justice, and mercy shall [.....] meet and she [*indecipherable few words*].

Wicklow Gaol

26th August

Stamped Chief Secretary's Office Dublin 40 OCT 23

W Connor written along the side

Wicklow (at Sessions) Oct 22nd 1840

Sir

I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 12th Inst enclosing the memorial of Mary Anne Poole, a prisoner in the Gaol of the County of Wicklow, under sentence of transportation for 7 years, and desiring that I should acquaint you with the particulars of the case for the information of His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, and whether in my opinion that are any mitigating circumstances which would render the prisoner a proper object of mercy.

The Prisoner was tried at the last Bray Q^f Sessions on the 25th June, upon an Indictment charging her with having obtained money & goods under false pretences, viz, by representing herself as a servant of the Hon^{ble} Randall Plunkett & sent by him to purchase certain goods at the shop of And^w Kehoe of Bray & by passing to Mrs Kehoe a cheque or Draft purporting to be the cheque of Mr Plunkett on the Bank of Ireland for £10.15.0, which was a forgery – This Indictment was framed upon the stat. 9 Sec.4c.55 s.46 – There was a second Indictment for feloniously uttering/passing (one written above the other) the forged cheque, knowing it to be forged; but I put the Prosecutor to his election to proceed upon one or other of the Indictments, & he choose the former, In truth it was substantially the same offence.

The case was very clearly proved against the Prisoner by the evidence of Mrs Kehoe, the wife of a respectable shopkeeper at Bray, & by Mathew Byrne the Driver of a Jaunting Car. The substance of the evidence was that on the 24th April the prisoner came to Kehoe's shop, told Mrs Kehoe that she was sent by her master the Hon^{ble} Randall Plunkett, who at that time had a temporary residence about 2 miles from Bray, to purchase some Tea, Coffee, & Sugar, which she said the Plunkett's wished to be sent home immediately, as he was to have company in the evening, & she produced a cheque purporting to be Mr Plunkett's Draft on the Bank of Ireland for £10.15.0 which she said her master requested Mrs Kehoe to give cash for, taking out the price of the Tea Coffee & Sugar – Mrs Kehoe accordingly gave her one pound of Tea 2 pounds of Coffee, & 5 pounds of Lump Sugar, amounting to 15/6, and then gave her the balance of the cheque, £9.19.6 in Bank notes & silver. Finding that Mrs Kehoe could not send the purchased articles home to the Plunketts immediately, the Prisoner requested they would call her a Jaunting Car & said she would take them home herself. Mathew Byrne's car was accordingly called from the stand, and the Prisoner getting on the car with the articles she had purchased, desired him to drive her to Mr Plunkett's - as they were crossing the Bridge which leads from Bray, she requested of the Carman to take up one of her fellow servants in little Bray, & accordingly he stopped & took up a man at her desire – when they had proceeded a little further she told the Carman she had changed her mind & instead of going to Mr Plunkett's desired him to drive to Kingstown. He obeyed, set down the Prisoner & her companion in Kingstown upon the road, & was paid his fare.

The cheque was a forgery. Mr Plunkett was produced on the trial & proved that he knew nothing of the Prisoner, who had never been in his employment & was never sent by him to purchase groceries. As soon as Kehoe found that the cheque was a forgery he gave information to the police, who arrested the Prisoner in a House in S^o King St on the 2nd June.

Both Mrs Kehoe & the Carman swore most positively to the Prisoner's identity – neither of them had any doubt whatever. As the Prisoner had no counsel or attorney engaged, & as the offence was a serious one, I requested Mr Courtney, a professional man of considerable experience & skill to cross examine the witnesses and to make any point in her favour that occurred to him – He did, I believe all that could be done under the circumstances.

The Jury had no hesitation in finding her guilty, and I should think no person present at the trial could entertain a doubt that their verdict was correct – one of the magistrates who had taken the

Informations told me that the Prisoner was one of a gang who were committing extensive frauds of a similar kind in Dublin & the neighbourhood, & that some of her companions were to be tried at the Dublin Commission, for an offence of the same nature. I have made enquiry since I came here, & have been told that two of them were convicted & sentenced to transportation at the Commission, one of them the very man who was taken up by the Jaunting car driver at little Bray.

The Bench of Magistrates were unanimously of opinion that this was a proper case for transporting the Prisoner, an opinion in which I entirely concurred – after reading the enclosed memorial & reconsidering the case deliberately, I see no reason whatever to alter that opinion – of the Prisoners guilt I cannot entertain any doubt, and the fraud was perpetuated with a great deal of art & address – The only alternative punishment, viz, imprisonment, as far as I can judge has very little effect in deterring from crimes of this nature – after the best consideration I have been able to give the subject, I am unable to discover any mitigating circumstances in the case which would render the Prisoner a fit subject of mercy.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your very obd^t humble serv^t

Geo. Tomb

Assistant Barrister Co Wicklow

W.H. Macdonald Esqre

etc etc etc

Dublin Castle.