

Mary Blackmore per Edward 1834 - ID 3885

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Guildhall

Bath

25th September 1833

Sir,

In reply to your letter directing me to make enquiries respecting the character of MARY BLACKMORE (wife of GEORGE BLACKMORE) who was convicted at the last assizes of receiving stolen goods and was sentenced to 14 years transportation. I beg to inform you that I have first made enquiry of Mrs BLIGH wife of Mr BLIGH [Fruiterer] of Bath who has known MARY BLACKMORE for many years, she gives her an excellent character, and says she lived six years as servant in the situation from whence she left to be married to her present husband, Mrs BLIGH's note I beg to enclose.

THOMAS RIDLEY a Guide at the Baths has also known her upwards of 17 years and speaks equally well of her. I have also made further enquiry of JAMES BENDY and JOSEPH PLUCKNETT Constables living in the same Parish where MARY BLACKMORE, her husband and children have lived where the latter are still residing, and both say they have always considered MARY BLACKMORE during the ten years they have known her to be an honest hard working woman, perfectly sober and a good mother to her children, there are seven children now living at home the youngest being 15 months old only, the eldest a boy of 16 of whom Mrs BLIGH makes mention in her note.

With respect to the husband, he has been living for the last 17 years with Messrs COLLETT and FALKNER Spirit Merchants and Bankers of Bath, Mr FALKNER speaks exceedingly well of him - he also has been in the Bath City Police for the last 15 years, he is in both of these situations at the present time.

I am Sir

Yours truly

William Humphrey

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Argyle Street

Bath

25th September 1833

Sir,

My knowledge of Mrs BLACKMORE arose through her daughter's living servant with me . I always considered her a good and fond mother, very clean and never in a single instance heard or saw her intoxicated neither to my knowledge had she ever offended the laws, until convicted of the present charge and for which she is now

suffering. I have been to see her children, seven of them at home the eldest boy just apprenticed after getting up at six in the morning until 7 at night he stays up till 12 or 1 in the morning to wash and clean for his little brothers and sisters what I have stated is from charity and is the truth.

Mrs BLACKMORE is no acquaintance of mine further than above stated.

I am Sir

Your very respectfully

H Bligh

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Ilchester Gaol

27th September 1833

Dear Sir,

I beg to enclose the answers I have received from Bath respecting the character of MARY BLACKMORE a transport in this gaol.

And am Dear Sir

Your very respectfully

William Hardy

To

J H Capper Esq

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Norwich

11 October

Dear Lamb,

I cant make any report about the case of Mrs BLACKMORE til I return to town next week when I will look at my notes and give you my opinion about her. My present impression is that it was a bad case of receiving which I think is a hard offence.

Believe me

Your faithfully

[ E M]Haldison

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Whitehall

8th October 1833

Sir,

I am directed by Viscount Melbourne to transmit for your perusal, the enclosed Petition and other documents in favour of MARY BLACKMORE who was convicted

before you at the last Assizes for the County of Somerset of receiving stolen goods and sentenced to fourteen years transportation. I am to request that you with favour his Lordship with your observations and opinion on the case.

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your most humble and obedient servant

G Lamb

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9 Park Crescent

5th November 1833

Dear Phillips

I sent you the papers in this case The circumstances as appearing on my notes of the trial were simply that MARY BLACKMORE was the receiver of goods which her daughter, a child of tender years, had stolen from her Mistress, and that she had so received them with full knowledge of the felony.

I thought the crime a bad one and deserving to be marked with severe punishment and therefore impressed the punishment of transportation for the years.

If Lord Melborne takes a more lenient view of the case I can have [ ] other feeling than satisfaction that Mrs BLACKMORE meets with a more favourable judge. But at present I think I see no reason to alter my opinion although I greatly respect the suffering which her punishment will cause to her innocent husband and family.

I am yours

E [Alderman]

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To the Right Honourable Lord Viscount Melbourne His Majesty's Principle Secretary of State for the Home Department.

The humble Petition of MARY BLACKMORE wife of GEORGE BLACKMORE of the city of Bath now a prisoner confined in His Majesty's gaol at Ilchester in the County of Somerset. Under sentence of transportation for 14 years.

Sheweth

That your Petitioner was convicted at the Somerset Assizes held at Bridgewater on the 6th August last before Sir E H ALDVISION Knight one of His Majesty's Judges for knowing receiving stolen goods, from her daughter ANNE BLACKMORE (aged fourteen) the property of Mr HENRY HACKMAN of the City of Bath her dresser to the amount of Ten Shillings and for which offence your Petitioner was sentenced to be transported for fourteen years and your Petitioners daughter was sentenced to three months imprisonment.

Your Petitioner humble submits the following circumstances to your Lordships notice which if substantiated she prays may be received in mitigation of the heavy sentence passed upon your Petitioner and that your Lordship will be pleased to recommend your Petitioners case to the merciful consideration of His Most Gracious Majesty.

First

That your petitioner never was committed or ever suspected of any offence against the Laws of her country until the above transaction.

Second

That the goods before mentioned were brought home by her daughter who was a servant in the house of Mr Stock[ ] employ who told her that her Mistress had given them to her.

Third

That your petitioner is the wife of GEORGE BLACKMORE of the City of Bath who has been in the employ of Messrs Collett and Falkners of the said city wine merchant for the last seventeen years and upwards as a Porter and by whom he has a family of eight small children, the eldest being the girl above mentioned aged Fourteen years, the youngest aged about twelve months.. That your petitioner hitherto was employed in conducting the domestic concerns of herself and family and was supported from the earnings of her husband, and her character until the above unfortunate occurrence was above suspicion. That your petitioner humble hopes your Lordship will be pleased to recommend her deplorable case to the merciful; consideration of His Most Gracious Majesty so as to mitigate her sentence as your Lordship acting under the advice of His Most Gracious Majesty's Privy Counsel may be please to recommend.

Your Petitioner begs leave to submit the following respectable names hereunder written, being resident Tradesmen and Housekeepers of the City of Bath in confirmation of the above.

And your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray.

Henry Stockman

Elizabeth Bligh

James Bishop

Robert Tohill

And another 12 signatures.

MARY BLACKMORE

SOMERSET 1833

RECEIVING ARTICLES OF WEARING APPAREL KNOWING THEM TO HAVE BEEN STOLEN

14 YEARS TRANSPORTATION  
SOURCE - HOME OFFICE CRIMINAL PETITIONS - SERIES 1  
SERIES - HO 17  
PIECE NUMBER - 79  
ITEM NUMBER - MS 8

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MARY BLACKMORE - AGED 36  
SOMERSET ASSIZES AUGUST 1833  
RECEIVING STOLEN ARTICLES  
CHARACTER - GOOD - CONNECTIONS RESPECTABLE  
MARRIED WITH 8 CHILDREN