

Mary Haywood per Nautilus 1838 - ID 9553

Baptism solemnised in the Parish of Eaton in the County of Leicester in the year 1821;

June 17th 1821

Mary daughter of

Joseph and Mary Haywood

Eaton

Labourer

The above is a true copy taken from the Parish Register of Eaton in the County of Leicester this 7th day of August 1837 by me ROBERT WALKER Vicar of Eaton

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

The humble Petition of MATTHIAS HAYWOOD of Shropton in the County of Leicester.

Right Honourable Sir,

My sister MARY HAYWOOD having been sentenced to transportation for life in July 1837 was conveyed to the colony of Van Diemens Land in the ship NAUTILUS the following spring; she is therefore unable to plead for herself. But Right Honourable Sir she was at the time very young - had borne till the commission of the crime for which she is suffering and unblemished character for honesty which all her family have maintained and moreover she was at that period an orphan with no earthly friend but myself.

I trust, Right Honourable Sir, think these circumstances at once excuse my application and recommend her care to your merciful consideration.

At the July Assizes in 1837 she was justly convicted of robbing her Master THOMAS KIRBY (an Innkeeper of Belgrave) of £23. I do not dispute the wisdom and justice of the rule which visits offences of that aggravated kind with a severity not applied to common felonies. But Right Honourable Sir, not only is there a wide range between 3 months imprisonment and transportation for life, but this was a first offence by a girl of previous unspoilt character - 16 years of age and moreover under circumstances of peculiar temptation. Her Mistress had a son, by a former husband living in her house, aged 18 years, for whom she was hoarding money unknown to her husband. This was left in a small box, without a lock, in a drawer which contained silver spoons; her Mistress often sent my sister to fetch these spoons; in one of these moments of temptation presented in the path of duty her

principles unfortunately gave way and she possessed herself of the hoard. A small part of it she spent and all the rest she restored to her Master except £10 of which she protested she had not taken.

She pleaded GUILTY to the indictment and the Law left no room for the Judge, the late Sir James Parke to exercise mercy- perhaps if the plea of GUILTY had not stopped the investigation of the particulars of the case, His Lordship might have suggested the [] of an application to the fountain of mercy, but nothing became known to the Judge except the agg[]tions circumstance on the face of the charge .

Taking then, Right Honourable Sir, into consideration the youth - the former exemplary character and the expressed contrition of my poor sister together with the punishment which she has already undergone, I would earnestly implore that you would be please to lay these facts before Her Majesty that she may be pleased to reduce her punishment. Should this Right Honourable Sir, be hopefully obtained by your merciful intercession I feel confident that my Sister could on her return to her nature land become a comfort to her sorrowful friends as well as a grateful and not disreputable subject to her Sovereign.

I trust Right Honourable Sir you will pardon this intrusion of your afflicted servant.
Matthias Haywood

I believe the foregoing statement to be correct, I Know the Petitioner to be a man of remarkably good character much respected by me and all his neighbours and I certify that I have seen the Register of the birth of his sister and that she was born 17 June 1821 and consequently she was 16 years of age at the time of committing the offence.

signed

Charles Meesham
Minister of Sproxton

Belvior Castle
27th December 1841

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit a Petition recommended by the officiating Minister of Sproxton a village in the neighbourhood, praying the remission of the punishment of transportation for LIFE to [] MARY HAYWOOD a girl only 16 years old was sentenced in the year 1837

[]

Sir James Graham

At the Summer Assizes holden at Leicester

[] the particular circumstances of the case [for] consider it worthy to be submitted to Her Majesty's [] [] this neighbourhood [] [look] for the most [] for the extension of the Royal Clemency.

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your very obedient humble servant

Charles

[Somerset Mansions]

I believe this statement to be correct. The convict behaved well until she committed the crime and I most earnestly pray for a mitigation of her sentence.

Thomas Kirby

I believe the statement to be true. I know the Petitioner to be a man of remarkably good character much respected by his neighbours. I have examined the Register of Births of his sister who was born 17th June 1821

Charles Needham

Curate of Sproxton

MARY HAYWOOD conduct in gaol and during her journey to the hulks was remarkably proper and when left she was in a very contrite humbled and affected spirit very [] that of the great majority of the females placed with her.

C Meeson

Governor of the gaol for the county of Leicester

16th May

Sailed in the NAUTILUS for Van Diemens Land. See entry of letter in Convicts Book to Mr Justice Parke.

(..... There are two letters that are unreadable)

Elwick Hall

Stockton upon Tees

20th August 1837

My Lord,

I send to you your Lordship the enclosed letter I have this morning received from Lord Charles Manners. I can give no account of; or can I inform your Lordship of any of the circumstances of the case. Because when the girl was arraigned she pleaded GUILTY so that thro' I had read the depositions, expecting a trial I have now no memory respecting them. All that I could act upon was the Indictment which charged her with robbing her master in his dwelling house to a considerable amount upwards of £5. Under these circumstances and having no discretion in such a case, (thro' some discretion is I see to be restored to the Judge on or after the 1st October) I could pass no other sentence than Transportation for LIFE I have no circumstances I can act by way of recommendation. But I think it right to transmit Lord Charles suggestion

To your Lordship,

As it may be in your power by some of your officers to make enquiries which I cannot as a Judge.

I have the honour to be My Lord

Your Lordship's most obedient and humble servant

J Parke

MARY HAYWOOD

LEICESTER 1837

STEALING FROM A DWELLING HOUSE

TRANSPORTATION FOR LIFE

SOURCE - HONE OFFICE CRIMINAL PETITIONS - SERIES 1

SERIES - HO 17

PIECE NUMBER - 116

ITEM NUMBER - WX 50

MARY HAYWOOD - AGED 21

LEICESTER SUMMER ASSIZES JULY 1837

TRANSPORTATION FOR LIFE