

Irish Transportation Record of Mary O'Hear per Arabian 1847
CRF 1846-O2 – Larceny – Stealing £58 and a watch - Sentenced to 7 Years Transportation.
Tried with Susan Plunkett per Arabian 1847 and Mary Burke per Waverley 1847.

18 Harcourt St

18 April 1846

Sir,

I have the Honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 17th Instant, inclosing the Petition presented to the Lord Lieutenant on behalf of **Mary O'Hear** a prisoner in the gaol of Downpatrick.

I beg to say, that I am of opinion the Prisoner is not a proper object of mercy. She, **Susan Plunkett, Mary Burke** and **John O'Neil** were charged with stealing £58 from **Isaac McKenzie Harrison**, and were all four convicted of that offence at the last Newry Sessions, and sentenced to be transported for seven years. The four Prisoners are persons of the worst character type. The women are prostitutes, & the man their companion: he assists in their Robberies, & gets share of the plunder. Harrison the Prosecutor formerly belonged to Newry, he was absent from that Town for 23 years, he returned to it on the Evening of the 6th March, he came to look for a son of his, to give him some money & a Watch. Having taken some refreshment, when it was nearly dark, Harrison came out to the door of his Inn, and asked, whether any one could tell him where **John Harrison**, his son, lived: two of the female Prisoners Plunkett & Burke undertook to show him. They led him into a small Entry, and took him into a small House in it, near the door of it, as he entered, he saw the male prisoner O'Neil. When he entered the House the door was shut behind him, & he then saw for the first time Mary O'Hear, she was the only other person in addition to himself & Plunkett and Burke in the House. There was no candle lighting, no light save what the fire gave. The women insisted on Harrison giving them a treat, he gave 1s, and O'Hear was let out, she returned with whiskey, the women drunk of it. At last Harrison lay down on some straw with Susan Plunkett, she picked his Pocket book, which contained £58 in Bank of Ireland Notes one of them a £50 note, out of his breast Pocket, and then started off, he went after her, O'Hear met him, and Burke shut the door, & then she & O'Hear caught hold of Harrison to prevent him from following Plunkett. They insisted he had lost nothing, but O'Hear said she would go out & look: she did go out, & very quickly returned with Harrison's Pocket-book, it had been torn open & was missed of all its contents.

The Police were informed of the Robbery, they searched the Town of Newry for Susan Plunkett, and O'Neil, but in vain. They had gone off together to Belfast. On the Evening of Tuesday the 10th March O'Neil bought in Belfast in the shop of one McKenna a quantity of goods, and he paid for them with a £50 Bank of Ireland Note, which Harrison identified as having been in his pocket Book. On the next day Wednesday the 11th March Armstrong one of the Newry Police reached Belfast, in the Evening of that day he went to the quay from where the Steam Packets sail; he found the Sea King just on the point of sailing, and on board of same he found the Prisoners O'Neil and Susan Plunkett. O'Neil had a purse containing £23 concealed on his person, and Susan Plunkett had a basket containing a quantity of women's new wearing apparel.

Where full & very satisfactory Proof of the above facts the four Prisoners viz: Susan Plunkett, Mary Burke, Mary O'Hear, and John O'Neil were all convicted. Each of these persons had been before charged with Larceny at least twice. I am not sure whether Mary O'Hear had been convicted, but every one of the others had.

I have the Honor to be,

Sir

Your obedient servant,

Theo Jones [*Assistant Barrister*]

To Richard Pennefather Esq^r
Law must take its course.
Mr Hitchins Apr 20/46
April 22nd 1846 Heytesbury
Ass infd do HH [4 lines crosswise page 1 of 6]

To His Excellency Baron Heytesbury Lord Lieutenant
General and General Governor of all Ireland &c. &c. &c.

The humble petition of **Mary O'Hare** at present in Downpatrick Jail.
Most humbly Sheweth,

That petitioner (who is the daughter of poor but honest and Industrious parents being seduced some time time [*duplicated*] ago, to leave her Fathers house went to a place in High Street Newry where prosecutor came in company with two girls named **Susan Plunket & Mary Burke** and when petitioner was out for Liquor prosecutor said he had been robbed, although afterwards Sworn against convicted and Transported by the Assistant Barrister at the last Quarter Sessions holden in Newry. that she is now penitent for her disobedience towards her poor old and wretched Father who are nearly in a state of mental derangement in consequence of their childs unfortunate fate that she never in her life before offended against the laws of her country and finally though now under Sentence of Transportation. She most solemnly declares in the presence of the Almighty God that she is innocent thereof.

Petitioner most humbly prays that your Excellency may compassionate herself and poor parents heartbroken situation and vouchsafe of your innate goodness of soul charity and benevolence to grant her by your High prerogative of mercy or a mitigation of her Severe Sentence to any specified term of local confinement, that may be pleasing to your Excellency. And your Excellency's humble petitioner who as in duty bound will ever pray.

Mary O'Hare
Isaac McKenzie Harrison prosecutor
[6 signatures illegible]
Mr Hitchins Apr ?/46 [crosswise page 1 of 2]

O 2 46
O'Hear Mary
O'Neill John & Others
Robbery – 7yrs transpn
Report of Assistant Barrister annexed
April 21
His Excellency Baron Heytesbury
Lord Lieutenant General & General Governor
of all Ireland &c. &c. &c.
Castle Dublin
[Sea]
[above 5 lines upside down]
