

Mary Rogers ID 11293 per Sir Robert Seppings

May it please your Majesty

We the undersigned inhabitants of the Parish of Smethcote in the County of Salop humbly venture to lay before your Majesty the case of MARY ROGERS, who is now lying in Shrewsbury Gaol, under the sentence of DEATH for the murder of her illegitimate child. For some years the aged and industrious father of this wretched woman had, with part of his family lived in the above named Parish, and we cannot bear to witness his anguish, yet not do the little which lies in our power to alleviate it. Her guilt the prisoner has confessed to, attributing the dreadful crime to despair of paying for the support of her child out of a small wages she was receiving. All that we presume to ask your Majesty is that if possible her life may be spared, and she herself by your Majesty's clemency have more time allowed to implore forgiveness from her God – and your Petitioners as in duty bound will every pray.

Robert Buddicorn – Rector of Smethcote

William Rogers – Farmer

William Hill – Carpenter and Joiner

And 60 more signatures.

This is to certify that MARY ROGERS now lying under the sentence of Death in the County Gaol at Shrewsbury lived as a servant to my wife about five years ago for sixteen months. She was remarkably kind to the children under her care and particularly so to the live stock which she also tended.

We have never had a servant that suited us better in these aspects.

Signed

Timothy Smith – Farmer

Dudgeley in the Parish of Church Stretton

8th August 1851

To the Right Honourable Sir G Grey Secretary of State for the Home Department.

MARY ROGERS who now lies in Shrewsbury Gaol under the sentence of Death lived with me a short time ago as an under servant, her conduct was good- she was honest and hard working. Her general manner exhibited a simplicity which repeatedly seemed bordering on []. Her parents are hard working, sober people and generally respected by their neighbours, who humbly pray that Her Majesty's mercy may be extended to the unhappy culprit.

I have the honour to remain

Sir

Your obedient servant

William Hughes

Minister of Cardington

Stapleton (near Shrewsbury)

8th August 1851

This is to certify that MARY ROGERS now lying under the sentence of Death in the County Gaol lived with me for some time as a servant. She was very kind to my little girl of which she had charge, and also the live stock which she attended to.

Signed

Mary Allen

To the Right Honourable Sir George Grey Chief Secretary of State for the Home Department.

The undersigned memorial of the inhabitants of Church Stretton and neighbourhoods in the County of Salop.

Richard Wilding – Surgeon

Charles Mott – Surgeon

Richard Harnes – Registrar of Birth and Deaths

John Lucas – Tailor

And 232 more signatures from Church Stretton and 42 more
from Shrewsbury

Mary Rogers

Salop Quarter Assizes 31st July 1851

Murder (of her illegitimate child by drowning)

Death

Transportation for Life

Series HO18

Piece Number 312

Dorrington

Near Shrewsbury

7th August 1851

To The Right Honourable Sir George Grey

Sir

Permit me to state that MARY ROGERS now lying under sentence of death in the gaol of this county came to reside with me as a Nurse to my children when about 13 years old. She lived in my service for about 2 years and after 12 months absence returned to me for another year.

She was a well conducted girl and particularly kind to the children. I cannot [] for the commission of the crime for which she is to suffer.

I am Sir

Yours respectfully

Thomas Eason

To The Right Honourable Sir G Grey Secretary of State for the Home Department

The memorial of the undersigned inhabitants of Shrewsbury

Respectfully Sheweth

That your memorialists learn with sorrow that one MARY ROGERS nor lies under the sentence of death in Shrewsbury Gaol for the murder of her illegitimate child.

Your Memorialists anticipate with deep regret the demoralizing effects of a public execution on the population of this neighbourhood.

Your memorialists beg leave further to submit that in the present instance the unhappy convict has borne an excellent character previous to the commission of the offence for which she is condemned to suffer and has been particularly distinguished for humanity and kindness.

Your memorialists therefore pray that you will be pleased to command that the sentence may in this case be commuted.

And your memorialists will ever pray.

John Smith

A Allbutt – barrister at Law

Edward Elsurance – gent

G Sandford Corser – Solicitor

John Rober Humphries – Surgeon

And 39 other signatures

Shrewsbury

Saturday 2nd August 1851

The Queen V MARY ROGERS for the murder of EDWIN
ROGERS

Maria Lucas

I am the wife of George Lucas of Newington in Wistanslow
the prisoner came in my service 5 December 1850 2 months

after I observed she seemed pregnant she then remained until 19th April. She went to Mrs Evans at Round House about 3 miles off (to be confined). She returned to my service on 22nd may I engaged her for a year from that day. When she came to be engaged she had her child, she seemed very fond of the child. She took the child back and returned on the Thursday after and remained till 24th June, during that time she went to see the child and gave money to pay for nursing, on the 23rd she asked leave to go, I declined that evening I told her she might go next day I gave her money to pay for nursing 4 shillings.

She left between 12 and 1, she returned between 9 and 10 , and she remained until apprehended the next day.

She was kind and humane girl and most excellent servant. I had no knowledge she was in the family way at first and kindly took her back. She brought the child to my house it is near Shetford Bridge and the Craven Arms near the New Inn.

Jane Evans

I am the wife of John Evans and I live at the Round House. She did not take any of the child's things except those it had on. She left the clothes with me I was with Mr Evans for an hour after she left. It was a nice fat child when I gave it to the prisoner it was very nice very fat, I was taken to Wilstone to Mr Lindorf to see a child. On the 27th 3 days after it was

naked it was the same child she took from me, there was private marks 2 red patches on each hip and one on the throat and one on the cheek.

I took it to be Baptised is was baptised EDWIN ROGERS.

(A full grown child nice and fat and 9 weeks old. I saw the clothes when I saw the child they were a black shawl was not among some, when it went from me the child had a black shawl a large shawl. A little woollen thing for a bonnet, I put on a cap and hat and wrapped a shawl round it not over the head, I saw the cap and hat besides the shawl.)

Salop County Gaol

13th August 1851

Sir

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter signifying the Queens command that the execution of the sentence of Death passed upon MARY ROGERS be respited until further notice.

I am

Sir

Your most obedient and humble servant

John Shepherd

Governor

Langnor Hall

Shrewsbury

12th August 1851

Sir

I have been requested to transmit through you , the accompanying Petitions to Her Majesty on behalf of MARY ROGERS a convict now lying in Shrewsbury Gaol under the sentence of death for the murder of her illegitimate child. I have consented to be the medium of communicating this appeal to Her Majesty in consequence of the feeling generally entertained in their neighbourhood by a large number of respectable inhabitants on behalf of the unhappy woman and also my personal knowledge of her father an old man, a labourer of very good character and who with together with other members of his family are much respected in their situation of life.

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your most obedient and humble servant

[Panton] Corbett.
