

**Irish transportation Records Mary Ann McChristal CRF 1841 Mc81 (includes Sarah Jane Johnston))**

To The Worshipful the Assistant Barrister for the County of Armagh

The Petition of Richard McChristal of Armagh

Humbly Shewth,

That at the late Quarter Sessions in Lurgan before Your Worship, the daughter of Pett<sup>r</sup> was tried and found guilty of stealing wearing apparel the property of a person named Fox in Portadown and sentenced by Your Worship to seven years transportation.

Pett<sup>r</sup> will attempt to palliate her conduct as she had been out of sight of Pett<sup>r</sup> for the three months previous but prior to this transaction his daughter has never been guilty of one improper act to subject her to punishment: Pett<sup>r</sup> ascribes the present to her having unhappily given into bad company from want of experience more than any evil propensity to commit crime.

Pett<sup>r</sup> has heard & believes that her first transgression was the abandonment of virtue at the instigation of the Prosecutor, who is too notorious for such conduct, and in the absence of his wife & want of money supplied the very articles in question: but be this true or false Pett<sup>r</sup> does not offer it as any palliation of her crime, but Pett<sup>r</sup> was very angry at her having committed said act, otherwise upon her trial he could have produced a proper Character of her former good conduct and one of the Prosecutor that would not have been very creditable to him indeed.

Pett<sup>r</sup> begs to state that although a poor man he has ever endeavoured to maintain an upright Character & has reared a family of six children spotless until? the foresaid transaction, himself and wife are now advanced in years and notwithstanding the misconduct of his daughter if deprived of her [*illegible*] means of hurrying them out of this world and thereby depriving three other offspring of the assistance & support.

Pett<sup>r</sup> most humbly prays that Your Worship will take this his Petition to your humane consideration and mitigate the punishment of his Daughter to any term of imprisonment Your Worship may think proper, when under the blessing of Providence Pett<sup>r</sup> will be enabled to guarantee her future good conduct through life.

And in duty bound

Will ever pray

Richard McChristal

The parents of Mary Ann McChristal the person referred to in the foregoing petition are decent humble people and would fully appreciate and be grateful for any [.....] mercy in the mitigation of their daughters punishment, and we second their case for favourable consideration.

Wm Raton

Edward Disney

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Mary Ann McChristal

Robbery – 7 yrs Tr<sup>n</sup>

The law must take its course

*Initials*

Order prepar<sup>d</sup> do AWL

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*Stamped Chief Secretary's Office Dublin*

*W. Connor written up the side.*

To His Excellency, The Lord Lieutenant General and General Governor of Ireland  
The Petition of Richard McChristal of Armagh  
Most Humbly Shewth,

That Your Excellency Pett<sup>r</sup> has a daughter Mary Ann McCristal who was tried and convicted at the last Lurgan Sessions before the Assistant Barrister for stealing some property of a person in Portadown and was in consequence sentenced to be transported for seven years.

Pett<sup>r</sup> prays your Excellency excuse for enlarging in detail part of the circumstances arising from this prosecution and further Pett<sup>r</sup> has taken the liberty of enclosing to Your Excellency a Petition forwarded to the Assistant Barrister and signed by Mr Patton The Rev Mr Disney and the Rev Mr Jones Chaplain to the Lord Primate. that Petition and signatures fully set forth the prayer of the present to your Excellency but as aforesaid he would take liberty of adding that during the trial Mr Boomer a very Respectable Attorney stated to the Barrister the infamous Character of Fox the Prosecutor who assented as he said he had a sufficient specimen of him at Lurgan Sessions.

As stated in the former Pett<sup>r</sup> alluded to that he was angry at his daughters impropriety and misconduct he did not use those exertions he otherwise would have done. Nor would he now trouble Your Excellency was he not [fully?] convinced that under God a thorough reformation has taken place no doubt arising from her suffering and a dread of the stated? Punishment. Pett<sup>r</sup> would hope that the Character attached & the enclosed Pett<sup>n</sup> will be a sufficient guarantee that if his daughter is [of?]t to him for her future guidance he will be a faithfull guardian of her conduct and he also takes the liberty of enclosing the Assistant Barristers reply to Mr Patten in consequence of the Petition.

Pett<sup>r</sup> now most humbly prays that Your Excellency will humanely restore and not deprive the afflicted Parents of this their Child subject however to any punishment by imprisonment Your Excellency shall deem meet.

And in Duty bound  
Will Ever pray  
Richard McChhrystal

The parents of Mary Ann McChristal the person referred to in the foregoing petition are decent honest people and would fully appreciate and be grateful for any act of mercy in the mitigation of their Daughters sentence and we recommend respectfully their case for favourable consideration

W Raton J.P.

Edward Disney  
Curate of Armagh & Chaplain of the Gaol

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The Undersecretary  
Castle  
Dublin  
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No 4 Statement of John Fox

In the matter of McCristal and Johnston who were convicted at the Lurgan October Sessions for 1841 for stealing 1 Table cloth 2 gowns 1 pair of Boots and 1 Handkerchief the goods of John Fox.

I John Fox of Portadown do hereby most solemnly declare that the above mentioned articles were not given by me to the prisoners above named – nor was I privy in any way to the making open of any Box Chest or drawers containing the same – nor with my knowledge consent or concurrence were said articles removed from my house – dated at Portadown this 21 October 1841

John Fox

Present

William Joyce

John Skilington

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Portadown 21 Oct 1841

Dear Sir

I Rec<sup>d</sup> yours this morning enclosing a letter from Dr Kidd which I now return, I call on Mr J. Skillington who went with me to Fox, Enclose you his Statement Fox has a good property in this Town ground Rent, and therefore could not be in that Distress for money that he would pawn his goods nor do I think it likely that he would do so, from every enquiry I have made I think that there can be no doubt but that Fox's house was Entered by the kitchen window and the Chest Broken open & goods stolen.

Fox is not allways the Drunken Character he appears before you at Lurgan no doubt but he is loose profligate fellow But still it is not likely that he would Break open his own Chest and gave away his wife's Clothes – I have call<sup>d</sup> in a good many of the most Respectable Inhabitants of this Town on the subject of your Communication and I find them one and all [.....ingly] opposed to the Prisoners being again let loose on the Town

And am

Your very obd<sup>t</sup> St

William Joyce

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*Envelope*

Edward Tickle

Assistant Barrister

Armagh

*Written across it* No 3

Mr Joyce

*Initials*

Acknowldge Recp<sup>t</sup> of the Inclosed

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Armagh  
October 20, 1841

Dear Sir

I have taken a good deal of pains, and I think have succeeded in ferreting out a good deal of the particulars connected with the case of the two women McCrystal and Johnston now in our Jail and under sentence of Transportation, for robbing a person of the name of Fox in or near Portadown-

I believe there is no doubt whatever that they are both Prostitutes, and indeed, I know (from her being formerly in this Jail for a breach of the peace) that McCrystal has been for some time on the Pave, but I verily believe, that however unjustifiable as have been the means by which they came in possession of Fox's property, they did not obtain them by Robbery.

It appears that this Fox is a most drunken dissolute abandon'd character, that during his unfortunate wife's absence at Warrenpoint he had theses two wretched Women, and sometimes others, along with them in his House for a considerable time, I believe a week or two – when he kept them locked up and fed them – whenever they demanded money and that he had not any at hand to supply them, he gave them some furniture or wearing apparel of his wife's as a pledge which he occasionally redeemed when he had money to do so, and that he did so with the other woman or women that he had in his house – that he was generally so drunk that he forgot what he had given to them and we may very readily suppose they were not over scrupulous in returning to him all that he had given in pledge when he produced money to redeem them-

It appears that this wretched Servant of Satan (Fox) during the time these Women were inmates of his house seduced the female servant of a man named Thatford or Tedford or Telford of Portadown and brought her also to his house- her master after some days discovered the circumstance and having traced her to Fox's house, attempted (I believe) to force an Entrance to rescue her from this Den of Infamy, Fox having in the hurry lost the key of the back door of his house, and not wishing that the Women should be discover'd in it forced them to go out of a back window into the yard and the over the wall of this yard out of his premises – this will account for the traces of breaking in over the wall and in thro' the window to which the Police Constable bore Evidence and they say that several of the neighbours saw them go out in this way over the wall; among others a man named – Sannderson? – Fox himself broke open his wife's box, in order to procure the articles which he gave these and other women, - on one occasion he gave a women called \_\_\_\_\_ (*blank*) some articles which from his being quite drunk at the time he altogether forgot, until McCrystal afterwards reminded him of it when he gave her some money to get them back, she applied to the woman who gave he a pawn brokers ticket for the articles, and McCrystal went and got them for him –

I shall not attempt to offer an opinion, but feel that I merely fulfil a duty in putting you in possession of these facts

I remain dear sir  
Very faithfully your's  
W. Kidd

Ed Tickle Esq  
Etc etc etc

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The Manor House  
Tandragee

My dear Sir

Immediately on receipt of your letter of the 17<sup>th</sup> inst. I went to Portadown, and Inquired particularly, from Messes Paul, Skillington, Joyce and Carleton, four of your Grand Jury, at Lurgan Sessions, into the facts respecting the case of Jane Johnston, and Ann Chrystal, and they are unanimously of opinion, that a more righteous sentence, could not have been pronounced, than that of Transportation upon these two persons; they are the very worst of characters, and the Brother of Johnston, has already been sent abroad for robbery; altho' the Husband of the prosecutor is a loose and dissolute fellow, yet they are of opinion, he did not give his property or that of his wife away, in the quantity it appears these [parties provided?] themselves of, but firmly believe that while they were in his premises, they helped themselves out of his wife's Box with clothes china etc etc

The Jury having been satisfied of their guilt; with the badness of their previous characters and induces these Gentlemen to hope that the sentence pronounced be carried into effect, and I for one of the Bench fully concur in that opinion that, it is a case, to carry it to the full sentence of the Law [under all the *indecipherable*.....] Should you still wish to see Fox, he can be [.....] Arrange by a line directed to Wm Joyce, Portadown [*Undecipherable- blackened film*] On Thursday, for a few days, and will only be at Market Hill Sessions, there was an application for Licence from Tandragee ( I am happy to say) one ..... in the Country; abroad } f.....d (Gough) [..] Harden, will satisfy the Bench ..... when still d.....d

I remain

My dear Sir,

Very faithfully yours

Charles Hunt J.P.

19<sup>th</sup> Oct 1841

*Postscript undecipherable*

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10 Clare St 2? Nov 1841

Sir,

I have had the Honor of receiving your letter of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Inst. & its Questions relative to Mary Anne McCrystal. I beg leave to state that the Prisoner was tried at the last Lurgan Sessions along with another of the name of Sarah Anne Johnston for stealing sundry articles, the Property of John Fox. The 1<sup>st</sup> witness was Caroline Fox, the Wife of nam'd John who swore that on going to Warren Point in August last, she left these articles, with others, in a Chest which stood in her Husband's House & which she locked, that she continued absent from Portadown where she & her Husband lived, for about a month her Husband did not accompany her, & that on her return in September she perceived that the Chest had been forced open & the articles ment'd in the Indictment & others, taken out of it. That shortly after missing them she saw them again in the Possession of Sergeant Rogers of the Constabulary.

Sergeant Rogers – was then produced who swore that on the 8 September he met the two Prisoners in Portadown, carrying a Bundle & that suspecting them he asked them what they had in it, they replied that the Goods which they were carrying were their own that he then examined the Bundle & finding several articles in it (& amongst others the Goods mentioned in the Indictment) he arrested them, & immediately in Consequence of Information which he received, went to John

Foxs House (who as at time absent) 1st examined it. He found the Door locked, but the Window was open, there were [traces?] & appearances, as if Persons had got over the wall of the yard & had entered the Room thro the Window & had again got away over the Wall of the yard by means of a Wheel Barrow which as laid against it. That on going into the House, he found that the Chest had been forced open, & ~~xxxx~~ was empty – The articles mentioned in the Ind<sup>t</sup>, viz, a Table Cloath 2 Gowns a pair of ~~xxxxx~~ Boots, & a Handkerchief, were then produced by him & were identified by the 1<sup>st</sup> Witness.

John Fox was then produced, but in consequence of his appearing to be intoxicated I refused to allow him to give Evidence.

The Prisoners were then asked had they any Witnesses to produce either to Characters or otherwise but none such were produced. I told the Jury that John Fox, from his appearance in Court, could not be a respectable man, that in the absence of his Wife, if he had him in the Habit of having Intercourse with Prostitutes & of bringing them into his House, he might perhaps as it had been alleged by one of the P<sup>rs</sup> ~~xxxxx~~ have given to some of them the articles in Question, that the Prisoners had lost in consequence of his Drunkenness, any benefit which might have been derived from a cross examination of him on this Point, that I was honour bound to tell them, that the Circumstances detailed by the Serg<sup>t</sup> of the Police in his Evidence as before stated afforded some Evidence that the House had been entered thro the Window, & that the Marks in the yard being recent, the Chest in which the articles were, having also appeared to have been found open, it was a Question for them the Jury to say whither ~~xxxxx~~ the Prisoners in whose possession the articles were found ~~who~~ had so entered the House broken open the Box & [...] taken the articles I [advised?] them however if they had ~~xxx~~ any doubts of this Fact, arising from the Character of John Fox or otherwise to acquit the P<sup>rs</sup> – They found them Guilty – Mr Hunt, one of the Magistrates on the Bench, stated to it that in consequence of the very bad Characters of the P<sup>rs</sup> he had been desired by several of the most respectable Inhabitants of Portadown to urge that sentence of Transportation s.<sup>d</sup> be pronounced & the Prisoners were sentenced to 7 yrs Transportation.

On the next day another woman Sarah Brown was had for stealing several other articles viz 2 China Bowls 2 Plates 2 Aprons a Bolster & 2 Ships which were also in the P Chest, but on its appearing that she had informed Mrs Fox (before she was accused) of her having these article & of her having got them from the P. M. A. McCrystal, she the P. Sarah Brown was acquitted. On this Day also John Fox did not appear & I understood that he was intoxicated. Not having been able to see him whilst at Lurgan, I wrote to Mr Hunt from Armagh to beg of him, to see & examine Fox as if I found that he stated he had given away the articles, I sh<sup>d</sup> at once have applied to his Excellency in favour of the Prisoners. I beg leave to enclose Mr Hunt's answer marked No. 1.

In consequence of his not having seen Fox I wrote to Mr Joyce, a respectable Resident in Portadown & referred to, by Mr Hunt – I sent to Mr Joyce a Letter which I received from Doctor Kidd, Physician [*words above?*] to the Gaol Of Armagh no in convegnance of asking him to find out as much about the Prisoners as could be discovered there, (this Letter marked No. 2. ( I send herewith) & I requested Mr Joyce's along with one or two others of his Neighbours to see Fox, & I will enclose Mr Joyce's answer marked No. 3. & a declaration made by Fox viz marked No 4 I also enclose a Letter marked No 5 which I received from Col Blacker who resides near Portadown, written as he states at the Request of several respectable Inhabitants of that Town & Neighbourhood .-

Having thus stated as fully as possible the Facts which bear against the Prisoners, I am bound to mention in her favour, that she did not appear ever to have been convicted before, that she is a

young Woman, & that she has Parents, who are described by the exceedingly respectable Gentlemen who have signed the memorials as honest & industrious, a Fact deserving of Consideration in the ~~xxx~~ Case of all female young Prisoners as it seems that in the event of them coming out of Gaol after a sentence of Imprisonment, it is probable they n<sup>d</sup> have an asylum to resort to. I have only further to add., that if it had not been for the Characters given to the Prisoners, the Bench would probably have acted on the Rule it usually adopted in Cases of Larceny, not to transport for the first offence –

I have the Honor to be Sir  
Yr obt humble Servant  
Ed Tickell

To  
E. Lucas Esq  
Etc etc

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20 March 1842

Sir,  
I have the Honor to forward a Memorial sent to me for [... ..] & unacquainted with the person, on whose behalf the application is made, and ignorant of the circumstances of the Case- except as set forth in the memorial. I can only call your attention to it, as strongly recommended to me, by person who I would be glad to save if is my power

I have the Honor  
To remain  
Your very ob<sup>t</sup>  
Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>  
*Signature*  
40 Chesham Place

The R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup>  
Sir James Graham Bt  
etc etc etc

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20 April 1842

Sir,

I am directed by Secretary Sir James Graham to transmit to you, the enclosed Petition on behalf of Mary Ann McChristal, a convict under Sentence of transportation in the Gaol of Armagh;

And I am to request you to submit the same to the consideration of the Lord Lieutenant, and acquaint Col. Verner MP with the result thereof.

I am

Sir

Your most obedient

Humble Servant

*Signature*[JM.....

E. Lucas Esq  
etc etc etc

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To the Right Honourable Sir James Graham Bart Home Secretary etc etc etc

The Petition of Mary Anne McChristal

Humbly prayeth,

That

You will be Graciously pleased to present the enclose Petition to her Majesty on behalf of Pett<sup>r</sup>.

Petitioner most humbly state to you Honour that her aged Father applied to the Assistant Barrister who tried Pett<sup>r</sup> & said application was signed by the Sovereign of this City the Chaplain of the Gaol & several respectable Inhabitants of Armagh as to the quiet & peaceable conduct of Pett<sup>r</sup> said Father who being so vexed at the conduct of Pett<sup>r</sup> in this transgression did not assist in defending her at her trial but left her to her fate in reply to said application the Barrister regretted it was not his power to mitigate the sentence of Pett<sup>r</sup> but referred to the Lord Lieutenant to whom a similar application was made without effect the Barrister was led to express his regret in consequence of the conduct of the Prosecutor at the trial & also of his Character being notoriously known to be the seducer & destroyer of unhappy persons so situated as Pett<sup>r</sup> now is.

Pett<sup>r</sup> wants humbly state that until this unfortunate period no charge could be left to Pett<sup>r</sup> and unhappily falling into the company of the Prosecutor John Fox he to screen his misconduct impeached & prosecuted Pett<sup>r</sup> with taking some wearing apparel & hence the sentence against her Pettr.

Pett<sup>r</sup> further begs to state that since the period of her trial that from a previous uninterrupted state of good health, she has never had one hour of good health on the contrary she been confined in the Hospital of the County Gaol of Armagh & can appeal to the several officers of the prison for her uniform good conduct during her imprisonment & also the Protestant Chaplain thereof not alone in dread of her unhappy situation but her unfeigned sorrow & contrition for having transgressed the Laws of her Country & offended her Saviour & her God adding the painful feeling of being the unhappy instrument of bringing the Gray hairs of two fond Parents with sorry to the Grave.

Pett<sup>r</sup> would fondly indulge the hope that her Majesty the Queen would be graciously pleased to mitigate the sentence of Pett<sup>r</sup> to any period of imprisonment which



will enable Pett<sup>r</sup> to spend at home the remainder of her life in Piety & Virtue. in her behalf I as in Duty bound will Ever pray-----

Armagh Gaol 20<sup>th</sup> February 1843

Mary Ann McChristal

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To the Queens Most Gracious Majesty

May it please Your Majesty

The Petition of Mary Ann McChristal of the County of Armagh and now a prisoner under sentence of transportation in the Gaol of said County

Most Humbly Sheweth

That in the month of October last the Pett<sup>r</sup> was tried & convicted before the Assistant Barrister of said County for having Intently taken some wearing apparel the property of her prosecutor and received the above sentence which is on the eve of being carried into execution.

Pett<sup>r</sup> will not presumptuously trouble Your Most Gracious Majesty with language in extenuation of her crime haveing fell into error and at this early age of nineteen years and her prosecutor the sole cause thereof.

Pett<sup>r</sup> Humbly states that since her confinement she has been in the Hospital of the prison and in no wise does she expect to arrive at her destination. her misfortune will ultimately, which nearly already has, prove to be the desolation & premature end of two fond & inoffensive Parents.

Petitioner implorres Your Majesty to be so Gracious as to order a mitigation of her sentence imploring the blessings of the King of Kings on your Royal Head & your most Gracious offspring in this life and an eternal Crown of Glory hereafter and in Duty bound your unfortunate Subject will Ever pray-

Mary Ann McChristal

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My Dear Sir

I have no Power to vary the Sentence on McChrystal. It is the Lord Lt who now can alone do so. The Memorial therefore should have addressed & forwarded to him.- Will you have the kindness to notify this to the poor Father

Y<sup>rs</sup> truly

Ed Tickell

10 Clare St  
2 Nov 1841

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Carrick Oct. 21./41

My Dear Sir I have been applied to by a number of most respectable persons, chiefly Fathers & masters of families in or about Portadown to exert any little influence I may happen to possess to ensure the transportation of two females sentenced to it at the late Lurgan Sessions. There's few men if any, hold money in higher esteem than I do, & to condone the wishes of my neighbours I feel I am really & truly advocating it. So the wretched beings it will be the height of mercy to remove them from a life of profligacy & consequent misery; discipline, advice, change of association, & tho being deprived of spirits etc may under God, effect a change beneficial alike to soul & body. It will be mercy to that banditti of whom they were in some degree the leaders, to be shown what they may expect as the result of continued crime – above all it will be a merciful Boon to the people of Portadown to remove from among them a walking pestilence in every point of view, was it not for the great respectability of those who have spoken to me on the subject I could hardly have credited the horrifying details of the state to which I understand these Ladies in an especial manner, having been the means of reducing the town of Portadown already have they been indicted as prisoners & the bill proved against has thus found Leaving the County without hesitation, but by “the glorious uncertainty of the Law” they have escap'd till now, at length an opportunity as fairly afforded for ridding the place of them, & I do [correctly?] hope, on merciful grounds as above [c.....ed] that nothing may prevent the law from taking its course

Allow me to remain

Yours faithfully

Wm Blacker