

Irish Transportation Record Catherine Ryan CRF1841 R5 Film 45

Stamped Chief Secretary's Office Dublin 41 Mar 16

W. Connor written up the side

Lodge
Littleton
16 March 1841

May it please your Excellency

I beg leave most respectfully to ask your Excellency's attention to a short statement of the following facts.

Sometime previous to the last quarter Sessions of Thurles a robbery was committed in a house in the town of Thurles belonging to people named Burke. For which offence three persons were charged one was the woman servant in the house, the others were a servant of mine and a relative of hers; if the woman's evidence was taken the others certainly would be convicted but the Attorney General directed otherwise, in consequence of which the Burke's prosecuted. Two bills were found against the unfortunate woman and she is now in Clonmel jail under sentence of transportation. on the part of the female I would most earnestly implore your Excellencys consideration, with a view of mitigating her punishment.

My servant who is also my illegitimate brother has since told me that she admitted him and his companion into the house, under an idea that their business was to contract a marriage between herself and him or his companion, and that they then sent her to bed and robbed the house. The girl is only twenty years old and has always bore a good character – from this man's connection with me (he is about quitting the country this Spring) I would place entire reliance on his statement and in support of my own character. I can refer your Excellency to half the Magistrates in the County – I now most respectfully and anxiously submit to your Excellencys consideration whether the case of one so very young, the law would not be avenged by changing the sentence to one somewhat lighter.

Having said so much and having apologised for intruding at all on your Excellency. I shall leave the matter to your Excellency feeling of humanity to deal with as you may think fit.

I have the honor to be My Lord
Your Excellency most humble Servant
Stephen R. Markham

Stamped Chief Secretary's Office Dublin 41 Mar 24

W. Connor written up the side

[..... ..]

23 March 1841

Sir

In reply to your favor of the 22 inst I beg leave to [assure?] [you?] that Catherine Ryan was tried at the last quarter session of Thurles and convicted of a conspiracy to rob the house of the man I mentioned. The facts (the true facts) of which I stated to his Excellency.

I have the honor to be sir
Your obed^t serv^t
Steph. R. Markham.

Stamped Chief Secretary's Office Dublin (date faded)

W. Connor written up the side

March 29th

1841

On the matter of Catherine Ryan

Sir,

With reference to the memorial on behalf of the prisoner named in the margin, I have the honor to state for the information of his Excellency that the prisoner was tried in [court/circuit?] before me of assisting with a robbery in the house of a man named Burke in the town of Thurles –

The prisoner was a servant maid in the house of Burke, and having remained up after the family had [retired?] to [bed?] she admitted one Markham and a person who was connected named Fahy who got into the shop, broke open a [...] and took some money etc - The prisoner admitted before the magistrate who took the attestation that she admitted the men, that one of them said on a former occasion that he would come some night for Burkes money, and although she denied having taken any part in breaking the [...], yet she went to bed after they declared their intention of committing the Robbery, and after they had commenced affecting it-

The jury very properly convicted her as an accomplice, & accordingly found her guilty – Being a domestic servant & having betrayed the confidence reposed in her, the court ordered the sentence of Transportation. Under these circumstances I am of opinion that she is not deserving of the clemency of the Crown

I have the honor to []

You very faithfully

J ? Howley/Hawley

N.H. Macdonald Esq.

Stamped Chief Secretary's Office Dublin 41 APR 6

W. Connor

County of Tipperary

Initials

In obedience to His Excellency's commands, as intimated on the annexed papers, I have the honor to state in addition to the information furnished by JW Howley which is an accurate report of the evidence elicited at the trial of Cath^e Ryan, that I consider there can be no doubt of the girls perfect knowledge of Markhams intentions to rob her masters house, and her participation in that robbery.

On the day of the robbery Markham was drinking in Burkes house, and on that occasion arranged with Cathe Ryan that she should admit him into the house after the family retired to bed on that night, he learned from her what money was in the house and stated his intentions of taking it, and she particularly mentioned to him where the money was to be found – It couldn't be true as stated by Mr Markham that she admitted Markham under an idea his business was to contract a marriage between herself and him or his companion – his companion being a boy of 15 or 16, and Markham being a married man, which she well knew, as also did Mr Markham, but the fact is they arranged to rob the house for the purpose of obtaining funds to enable them to go to America, this girl and Markham having for some time previous connections and intrigue - As an aggregation of this girls guilt, she took advantage of her masters absence, when there were none but unprotected females in the house to admit this man at the dead of night into this house to rob it, and there is no knowing what the consequences might have been had he been discovered in the act as he was armed with a pistol and in liquor, though Mr Markham is, as he now states perfectly aware of the guilt of his natural brother,

and was also though perfectly aware of it, and though he is aware that it was his own arms that were made use of on that occasion, He still retains that man as his domestic servant and endeavours to procure the pardon of his paramour.

As to Mr Markham himself I can only learn that his father was a respectable gentleman in the neighbourhood of Clonmel where he had some property - which he squandered, his son, a young man was left some property by an uncle in this neighbourhood where he has since married and has resided for some years, he has been selling from time to time part of what he got by his uncle and I believe his means are now trifling – I understand he has lately disposed of a small place he rented near Littleton and where he resided for the last two or three years, and is about to [terminate?] the neighbourhood of then Shannons.

Signature

Thurles 4th Apl 1841

R 5 1841

Catherine Ryan

Robbing House Tⁿ

Let the S.M. enquire privately into the circumstances stated by Mr Markham & let him also inform me who Mr M is

April 1^s *initials*

Ref^d to S.M. – 2nd April 1841

HTC

Report annexed 6 Apl

The law must take its course

Signature

I. Mr Howley

II. Mr Markham ans^d 10 Apl/41