

Sarah Wood ID2513, per *Aurora* 1851

Sarah Wood aged 33

Edinburgh 16<sup>th</sup> December 1850, 10 years transportation

Theft with others, Received into Mill Bank prison from Edinburgh 31<sup>st</sup>  
December 1851

Series – HO 18, Piece Number – 299

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The prisoner asserts her innocence and prays mitigation having never  
before been charged with an act of dishonesty.

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To the Right Honourable Sir George Grey Her Majesty's Principle  
Secretary of State for the Home Department.

The Petition of Sarah Wood. A prisoner in Mill Bank

Humbly Sheweth

That your Petitioner is not guilty of the crime laid to her charge but  
was brought under suspicion of the following circumstances:

James [ ] had been for more than 7 years in the employ of  
Messrs Hutchings and Brown {pastry} contractors London but in  
consequence of some disagreement with one of the Inspectors he  
left and went to Scotland expecting to improve his condition and  
your Petitioner having pass for his wife for many years accompanied  
him. On reaching Scotland they found wages very low and therefore  
prepared to return at the expiration of a month and a shop mate  
named James Sheppard took his passage in the same vessel and  
asked permission to put a jacket and waistcoat into your Petition's  
bundle .

It afterwards appeared that he had stolen these articles from a man named Thompson who insisted that he had lost money likewise. A Police Officer followed Sheppard onboard and apprehended him and finding the stolen property in your Petitioner's possession she with James [ ] were taken. She later immediately wrote to Messrs Hutchings and Brown who forwarded testimonials to their honesty and industry and seven pounds to procure counsel. These with other letter and money were placed by Mr Ewen Governor of the Gaol in the hands of Mr Ewen Attorney of [Allaway]. On the day of the trial this gentleman sent a counsellor to the Court but omitted to forward any of the letters or testimonials and your Petitioner being an entire stranger in the place and not having anyone to speak for her received the above sentence.

Your Petitioner persists that she is not guilty and begs to mention that she had not been in prison before she therefore humbly solicits your kind interference on her behalf and hopes you will be pleased to recommend her position and your Petitioner will ever pray.

The x mark of Sarah Wood

Witness – [ ]

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