

**Petition of Thomas Fields CRF 1842 F17 (included information re Catherine & John Murray)**

Kingstown  
Jan<sup>y</sup> 13 1842

Sir, I had the honor of receiving your letter dated the 6<sup>th</sup> Inst enclosing a memorial of Thomas Field a Prisoner in the Gaol of the County of Meath and requesting my opinion whether the Pris<sup>r</sup> is a proper object of Mercy. In reply [here] by have to say that I do not think him a proper object of mercy – I enclose a report of the trial of the Pris<sup>r</sup> & have stated at the end my reasons for not thinking him an object of Mercy to which I [send? ....] to refer you.

I have the honor to be  
Sir  
Your Obedient Servant  
John Plunkett

E. Lucas  
Castle

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John Murray & Katherine Murray pleaded guilty (*written along the side*)

John Murray  
Katherine Murray  
Thomas Field

Indicted (at the Quarter Sessions held at Navan for the Co. of Meath on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 1842) for Larceny of the monies & property of Catherine Markey – on the 10<sup>th</sup> May 1842 at Lisnagreen.

1<sup>st</sup> Witness. Katherine Markey – states that on Tuesday night the 10<sup>th</sup> May 1842 after she had gone to bed her house was entered by some people – she felt her purse being taken off her neck – she told her little girl to take her purse from the man he had lighted a candle to search the house this man (does not identify) came back & threat'ned her loudly – amongst other things some Oatmeal, Tin can, Reticule, a basket, a knife 2 Spoons, little children's clothes (which they had worn the night before) some Rosin – woollen yarn [...] – Identifies Knife woollen yarn & Rosin saw them at Police Barracks.

Anne Markey – Identifies clothes

Terence Conolly – Police Constable – on the Morning of the 11<sup>th</sup> May before 4 o'clock saw the Prisoner Thomas Fields & Jn & Katherine Murray go into the house of one [Beilly/], witness took them into Custody, got on the Fields person The Knife – the Spoons & the Yarn Identified by Mrs Mackey, got the children's Clothes on Katherine Murray's person.

The Jury found Fields Guilty –

He was Indicted at the same Sessions with Tho<sup>s</sup> Fitzsimons & others for stealing Potatoes – but was not tried – he was also under Commitm<sup>t</sup> for trial at the ensuing Assizes for a Burglary & it appears from his Memorial that he was tried & convicted at the Assizes of this offence & Sentenced to Ten years Transportation – at the Quarter Sessions we sentenced him to 7 years Transportation.

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*Stamped Chief Secretary's Office*  
*date unclear*

To His Excellency, Earl De Grey, Lord Lieutenant General, and General Governor of Ireland, etc etc  
etc

The memorial of Thomas Field, at present a Prisoner in the Gaol of Trim, in the County of Meath,  
Laborer.

Humbly Sheweth,

That poor, unhappy Mem<sup>st</sup> lies at present in said Gaol, under sentence of Transportation, under the following very singular and distressing circumstances, Viz. He, with others, was arrested on the 11<sup>th</sup> of last May, on a charge of a petty Burglary, upon which occasion he was visited(sic), in prison, by Capt. Despard, Stipendiary Magistrate, to whom poor Mem<sup>st</sup> actuated by his fears, made disclosures, under a hope entertained by him, from the attentions paid him, of being accepted as a Queen's Evidence, but, Alas! that hope proved to be delusive, for his said disclosures were afterwards exhibited against himself, and the disclosures of another Approver preferred, the Said other Approver, John Murray, now, also, in said Gaol, under sentence of Transportation, being a Deserter from the 14<sup>th</sup> foot, as confessed by himself, and can be further proved by the testimony of an Individual in S<sup>d</sup> Trim Gaol, who had served in Said Regiment with Murray, as, also, by the brands of Desertion with which Murray's body is marked: which facts can be ascertained by examination at Said Gaol if so ordered by Your Excellency. For this offence poor Mem<sup>st</sup> was sentenced to Seven Years Transportation by the Barrister at Qu<sup>r</sup> Sessions. That secondly, Mem<sup>st</sup> has been sentenced to Transportation for Ten Years, at the present Assizes, for another petty Burglary: in both of which instances he has not been Sworn against by the person who had been robbed, nor by any person, in direct evidence, as nothing but Documents read by Capt. Despard appear<sup>d</sup> against him at trial, Documents dictated by sudden fear and delusive hope, for the truth of which Mem<sup>st</sup> respectfully refers even to Capt. Despard himself. Mem<sup>st</sup> pleaded not guilty at both trials.

Under which unique and anomalous mode of effecting convictions in Ireland poor Mem<sup>st</sup>, now languishing he most humbly implores Your Excellency's mercy, to cause an Investigation as to Your Excellency's clemency may seem meet; for which himself & his poor, helpless family will ever pray.

July 25<sup>th</sup> 1842

Thomas Fields

P.S. Mem<sup>st</sup> implores the favour of Your Excellency's gracious reply.

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Thomas Fields  
Larceny 7 yrs Tn  
Let the law take its course