

Elizabeth Watson ID1637 per *Angelina* 1844

Elizabeth Watson aged 32

Colchester Quarter Sessions September 1843

Larceny (2 indictments)

14 years transportation

Gaol Report – Character not known

Series – HO 18

Piece Number – 123

The prisoner represents her irrepeachable character and states that she was acquitted upon 4 out of 6 indictments that the evidence of a material witness at the trial varies in important particulars from his disposition before the Magistrates – that the sentence is unduly severe as compared with the punishment awarded at the same Session to more atrocious offences – that she is in a delicate state of health and that she is subject to attacks of mental aberration.

Refuse and transport

GG

To The Right Honourable Sir James Graham Her Majesty's Principle Secretary of State for the Home Department

The humble Petition of ELIZABETH WATSON – Dressmaker a single woman aged 40 now under sentence of transportation for 14 years lately confined in the gaol of the Borough of Colchester but now removed from thence and confined in the County House of Correction at Springfield in and for the County of Essex.

Sheweth

That your Petitioner for many years past has exercised and carried on in the Borough of Colchester aforesaid the trade or business of a Dressmaker and Milliner and a dealer in and seller of shawls, ribbons and articles of the like description for the purchase of which articles your Petitioner was in the habit of dealing with several of the linen drapers in the aforesaid Borough.

That at the Session held at the Castle of Colchester in the county aforesaid before the Recorder of the said Borough on the 28th September 1843 several bills of indictment were found by the Grand Jury against your Petitioner for larceny of ribbons a shawl alleged to have been committed by your Petitioner.

That three of the said indictments were preferred by James Nash of Colchester aforesaid two by Thomas Knight of the same place and the remaining one by William Griffin also of the said place.

That until the present accusations against your |Petitioner your Petitioner had borne and maintained an unimpeached and an unimpeachable character for honesty and integrity and was never tried or even charged or accused with the commission of any offence whatever and evidence to this effect was given by several respectable persons on your Petitioners trial.

Your Petitioner therefore most humbly yet sincerely prays that you will be please to take her case into your most serious and humane consideration and having done so will be please to advise Her Most Gracious Majesty to commute the said sentence in such a manner and to such an extent as may be consistent with an impartial and rational administration of the Law, and with Justice tempered and soften with mercy.

And your Petitioner will as in duty bound ever pray.

Elizabeth Watson

We the undersigned residents of Colchester from our knowledge of the circumstances of this case do declare that we think the Petitioner is a fit subject for the Royal Clemency.

Thomas Humphries

Matthew Hughes (Snr)

Thomas Bannister

And a further 49 signatures
