

**Harriet Martin per Tory 1845 – Stealing Worsted, sentenced to 14 years transportation**

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To the Right Honorable Sir James R.G. Graham Baronet. Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department.

The Petition of **Harriet Martin** aged 40 years a Prisoner in Millbank Prison who was received on the 27 August last having been convicted at the Birmingham Sessions on the 19<sup>th</sup> of July last of stealing 20 yards of Worsteds and sentenced to 14 years Transportation.

Humbly sheweth that your petitioner is the wife of David Martin, and that her husband, herself and their eldest son had for the last 12 months been in the employ of Mr James Morton, Button Manufacturer, Birmingham, and that her husband and son still continue in it.

She begs to state that she received the worsted from Jemima Collins a forewoman in the employ of Mr Morton, and that she paid her eighteen-pence for it, and was not aware at the time that she was doing wrong in receiving it. Having much sickness and distress in her family she pledged the worsted for three shillings instead of having it made up into a dress for one of her children for which it was intended.

Your petitioner humbly solicits your kind consideration of the circumstances of her case and that you would be pleased for the sake of her husband and children to recommend a mitigation of her sentence and your petitioner will ever pray &c &c.

The Mark **X** of Harriet Martin

Witness A Maclesh

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To the Right Honourable Sir James Graham, "Secretary of State for the Home Department",

The Humble Petition of **David Martin**, of No 2, Court, G<sup>t</sup> Hampton Street, Birmingham, **Sheweth**, -

That Your Petitioner is the unhappy Husband of **Harriet Martin**, now a Prisoner at Millbank, and who was convicted at the July Sessions held for the Peace, in the year 1844, of having taken from the premises of a Mr Moreton, of Great Hampton Street, aforesaid five yards of lasting, for which the Sentence of Banishment for the period of 14 years was passed against her.

That, although the Prisoner now is in such as a degrading situation, yet her family testify she never did before misconduct herself, that she never was previously before a Magistrate on any occasion, and that her former character would ever bear the most minute investigation never having before brought the least stigma upon it.

That, Your Petitioner who is left with six children is in great distress, they being all young, and two of them are now incapable of moving from their beds, the youngest three years of age having unfortunately broken its leg, and another only five years of age, lies in a dreadful state with a broken thigh, his case is truly pitiable, as they cannot be attended to as though their mother was with them, nor has he the means of paying persons to wait upon them, having no other means of support than what he procures by his industrious exertions.

That, a Mr Moreton the Prosecutor, and who resides in Great Hampton Street Birmingham, certifies by his signature hereto that owing to the unhappy and unfortunate state of your Petitioner's Family, and the former very good character of the Prisoner, it is his most earnest though humble request, that your Honour will be pleased to

take the Prisoner's case into your humane consideration, by condescending to recommend hereto Mercy,

That, the Prisoner, and your Petitioner have been known by many persons of respectability in Birmingham a considerable time, who sympathize with them in their present distressing situation, and who by their signatures hereto, certify they believe the Prisoner's general character to have been honest and trustworthy.

That, Your Petitioner is almost weighed down with grief, and Terror, at the situation of his unfortunate Wife.

No 2, Court, G <sup>t</sup>	And, therefore humbly, though earnestly Prays that
Hampton Street	your Honour will be pleased to look upon the Prisoner's case
Birmingham	with consideration and so far mitigate the Prisoner's Sentence
Oct 28 <sup>th</sup> 1844	as to continue her in her Native Country, so as to afford your
	Petitioner the sustaining and comforting hope that she will not
	be separated therefrom, nor from her almost broken-hearted
	husband and family,
	And your Petitioner will ever pray.

May it please Your Honour,

We whose names are hereunto subscribed, declare our belief in the allegation contained in the above Petition, and, therefore most earnestly hope, that through your Honour's kind interposition, Mercy, may be extended to the unfortunate Prisoner, and, that the prayer of the Petitioner may be accordingly granted.

James Morton, Great Hampton Street, Florentine Button Maker

Rev<sup>d</sup> J. A. James, Carr's Lane, Minister of Carr's Lane Chapel

Rev<sup>d</sup> Chas Garbett, Hockley, Curate of St Georges

D Mallin, Great Charles Street, Brass Founder

William Potts, Easy Row, Brass Founder

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**Harriet Martin 40**

Birmingham Sess

July 1844

Stg Worsted

14 years Trans<sup>n</sup>

Gaol Rep<sup>t</sup> Twice before

convicted

*initials*

The Pris<sup>r</sup> alleges that she

was unconscious of doing

wrong, & prays for mitigation

on account of her family

Answ<sup>d</sup> 16 Nov 1844  
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