

Mary Govier, Sir Charles Forbes 1827

Mary Govier aged 34

Somerset Lent Assizes 1826

Stealing from a dwelling house.

14 years transportation – Commuted Sentence.

Series – HO 17

Piece Number – 76

Item Number – OL 41

Refuse

To the Right Honourable His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department.

The humble Petition of the undersigned inhabitants of the town of Taunton in the County of Somerset.

Sheweth

That Mary Govier late of Taunton aforesaid singlewoman was at the last General Gaol Delivery held for this County convicted of felony and sentenced to transportation for 14 years.

That your petitioners have known the said Mary Govier for many years past and believe that previously to the commission of the crime of which she was convicted she was a person of good character and had never been charged with any offence.

Your Petitioners therefore most humbly pray that you will take the case of the said Mary Govier into consideration and be pleased to order that the punishment of the said Mary Govier be commuted to

imprisonment in the County or grant such other relief as in your wisdom shall seem meet.

T Clotworthy

James White

John Willcock

And a further 89 signatures.

To The Right Honourable Robert Peel His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department.

The humble Petition of Mary Govier late of Taunton in the County of Somerset – spinster – aged 34 year now a prisoner under sentence of transportation for 14 years in His Majesty's Gaol at Ilchester.

Sheweth

That your Petitioner was apprehended and committed to Wilton Gaol on Monday 27th March last for stealing money from Mt Thomas Colworthy of Taunton – Ironmonger – with whom she lived as a servant and that on the Wednesday following it being the Assizes Week at Taunton your Petitioner was tried and convicted.

That the native place of your Petitioner is Wiveliscombe, eleven miles from Taunton where her father and mother reside.

That your Petitioner had borne before her being charged with this offence an unimpeached character, but that in consequence of her being tried so shortly after her commitment she was unable to procure the evidence of her former Masters and those who had previously known her to speak to her character on her trial.

That your Petitioner is now in a very bad state of health and if her present sentence is carried into effect and she be transported beyond the seas, she verily believes she shall not survive the voyage.

That your Petitioner has conducted herself in an orderly and honest manner during the time of her imprisonment in Ilchester Gaol to which she believes the Keeper thereof would bear testimony.

Your Petitioner therefore humbly prays that you will be pleased to take her unfortunate case into your consideration and to alter her sentence of transportation to imprisonment in the Penitentiary or elsewhere in the Kingdom where your Petitioner may have an opportunity of shewing by her future conduct that she is truly repentant for the crime of which she had been convicted.

And your Petitioner as in duty will ever pray.

(signed) Mary Govier.

We the undersigned and others with whom the Petitioner Mary Govier lived or who have been acquainted with her character do hereby certify that we believe the above Petition to be true.

T Clotworth

W Kingsbury

H Lipham

And a further 24 signatures
