

Irish Transportation Records, Mary McVeagh, Tasmania 1845, CRF1844 Mc51

Stamped Chief Secretary's Office Dublin date indistinct

[W.Hitchens?]

Ref^d to Assist. Barrister

Nov 2/44

To his Excellency Lord Heytesbury, Lord Lieutenant General and General Governor of Ireland etc etc

The humble Petition of Mary McVeagh formerly of Courain, but now a Prisoner confined in the Jail of Armagh under sentence of Transportation for seven years.

The petition begs to state to your Excellency that she was tried at the Quarter Sessions at Lurgan on the 3rd of Nov^r 1844 for 2 shirts alleged to be stolen from Mr William Carrick of Foy, the shirts was not got in possession of Petitioner but was found rooked up on a hedge at Mr Carrick House.

Petitioner is a Bessomaker (maker of twig brooms) and is in the habit of carrying Bessoms through the country for the purpose of making sale of them. The daughter of Mr Carrick coming out to look after her cloaths and finding the two shirts rooked up on the hedge and the Petitioner being near the place gave the alarm, and stated that Petitioner was about to steal them, in consequence of which the Petitioner was tried, convicted and Sentenced to seven years Transportation.

Petitioner Humbly prays that your Excellency will look into her deplorable case and cause a mitigation of her Sentence as she is an old woman of nearly 80 years of age and a widow and mother of 8 children, 3 sons and 5 daughters, 2 of her sons in the army but one of them was drowned about about 4 years past.

Should your Excellency be pleased to grant a mitigation of the Sentence Petitioner as in duty Bound will ever pray.

Mary McVeigh
Armagh Jail

Presenter
Wm Carrick of Foy
Thos [Si.....]
Donal Butter

Stamped Chief Secretary's Office Dublin date indistinct.

10 [C...] Rd
15 Nov 1844

My Lord,

I have had the Honor of receiving your Letter of the 12th Inst. enclosing the memorial of Mary Ann McVeigh & desiring to know the Particulars of her case.

The Prisoner was tried before me at the last Lurgan Sessions for stealing two shirts the property of Wm Carrick.

Mary Ann Carrick swore that she saw the Prisoner in the orchard, that there were there amongst other cloaks, two shirts of Wm Carrick, that w^{ts} followed the Prisoner & saw her throw down a Bundle, & go away that witness got within 15 or 20 yards of the Prisoner when she threw down the Bundle, that she saw her Face, that it was between 10 & 12 in the Day when the occurrence took place, that w^{ts} saw the Bundle in the Prisoners hands before she threw it down, that when she threw it down, she ran off, that w^{ts} then examined the Bundle & found that it contained

two shirts the Property of her Father Wm Carrick, that they were on the grass drying in the orchard & that The Prisoner had no Business to be there, w^{ts} produced the shirts & identified them.

On his cross examination she swore [... that she had particular marks on the shirts & would know them any where to be her Fathers that she saw the Prisoner near the place where the cloaks were on the grass. There was no servant there, that there was nothing in the Bundle but the two shirts, that nothing was identified but the two shirts, the maid Servant was not there, she was pulling Flax.

The 2nd witness was George Carrick who swore that he was on the Flax Field & that the maid Servant was there, that he had seen the Prisoner at about 10 or 12 & that she was then in his Fathers House.

For the Prisoner

Betty Kelly was produced, but she c^d not depose to any Thing connected with the Transaction. The jury found the Prisoner Guilty & in consequence of the exceedingly bad character given to the Prisoner by the Chief Constable & some of the other Police, stationed near her Residence the Bench decreed that another Enquiry should be made about her & I enclosed a Letter from the Gov^r of County Down Gaol to Head Constable Guthrie marked No 1 from whence it appears that she had been (previous to her last conviction) tried 3 times for Larceny & had been twice convicted. Her House was recorded by Mr Hill the C. Constable as a Receptacle for thieves & when a Robbery was committed was the one usually searched first.

With respect to her age, which is stated in her memorial to be 80, I wrote to the Governor of the Gaol [re?] the Subject & I send you his answer marked No 2 stating that it to be 58. She does not look more.

Under the foregoing circumstances the magistrates on the Bench sentenced the Prisoner to 7 years Transportation & I concurred in this sentence.

I have the Honor
to be My Lord
Your Servant
Edward Tickell

No 1

Sergeant Guthrie

Letter & answer of the Gov of the Co Down gaol

Lurgan 4th Nov^r 1844

Sir,

I am directed by the magistrates in Lurgan Quarter Sessions to request you to inform me on receipt here of if a woman named Mary McVeigh was confined in Down gaol for any period during the last three or four years, charged with stealing, and if more than once, please to state how often and the crimes whom with charged and the number of times convicted – she is now about 55 years of age, tall & thin faced, and wants some of her own teeth in front.

Your answer is requested by return of post.

I am Sir
Your ob^t Servant
Edw^d Guthrie
H^d Constable

The Gov^r of Down Gaol

Mary McVey – 49 years

5 feet 4 inches – dark complexion, Brown hair, stout made, a small mark on right cheek, from Dromore. Description taken on first committal

1st offence Stealing Ducks

April 1839 G^l imp^d two Cal^r months- hard labour.

2nd offence – Committed by the name of Mary Lavery

April 1840 Stealing a Bed Quilt & 30 hanks of yarn

Not Guilty

3rd offence – Stealing Fowl

Feb^r 1841 Guilty Imprisoned 12 Cal^r months hard labour

Discharged 8th April 1842

Signature

Gov Down Gaol

Nov^r 5th 1844

No 2

Governor of the Gaol of Armagh Gaol Letter.

Amagh Gaol
14th Nov^r 1844

Sir,

In reply to your inquiries Relative to the age of Mary McVeagh, a prisoner under sentence of Transportation, I beg to inform you she is 58 years and such she is entered on the Gaol Book, and the Return I sent to the Inspector general's Office.

I am

Sir

Your most Ob^t. Servant

John Turner Gov^r

Edw^d Tickell Esq^{re}

etc etc etc

Law must take its place

Nov 18th 1844 Heytsbury

W.[] 18 Nov 1844

Gaoler d^o

Mary McVeagh

Larceny – 7 yrs trans.

Report of assist. Barrister is annexed

Nov 16/44