

Irish Transportation Records Mary Meaghar (Maher on Irish Petition) CRF 1845 M17

Stamped Chief Secretary's Office date unclear.

Fitzwilliam St
May 4 1845

Sir,

The case of Mary Maher and two others was tried before me in the third of February last at the last assizes of Nenagh when sitting for Baron Lefroy.

I received from the Baron this day your letter inclosing the memorial to His Excellency of the said Mary Maher with a request to me to answer it. In consequence I transmit for his Excellency's information the copy of my notes on his trial. I also return herewith the said memorial and I have to remark thereon as follows – The three prisoners were I thought convicted on very clear evidence. They were I may say, taken in the fact, at a very late hour in the night.

Mary Maher the mother (who is the memorialist) appeared to be about forty or fifty, a very strong, masculine and robust woman, who was training the son a young man in early habits of crime. She personally threw a stone at one of the Stars (the prosecutors) as he came up which hit him on the head, and knocked him down, and appeared the most active of the party. The Stars lost 6 sheep that night no one appeared to give any of the Mahers a character nor did I see any alleviating circumstances in favour of Mary Maher.

I have the honor to remain

Sir,

Your obedient Serv^t
Edward Pennyfather

Edw^d Lucas Esq
etc

M 17 1845
Mary Maher
Judge's report annexed
3rd May AWL

John Maher
Stephen Maher
Mary Maher
July 3 1845 Stealing one sheep property of P. Star

Witness John Star son of P. Star of Tomlough

W's father called. W. came out from the house and went to Willplates bounds, came up saw John Mary and Stephen Maher. Mat Hayes was with witness. They, the Mahers, were calling up and skinning a sheep on part of the land.

Mat Hayes was first up, John Maher threw a stone. hit him in the breast. Mary Maher hit him with a stone on the head, knocked him down, was within a yard. When Mary Maher knocked him down they all ran away. Is positive they were all there. The boy is the woman's son. Knows no relationship between the rest.

The sheep was witness' father's.

x Mr Maher. It was about 1 or 2 o'clock at night. there were two stolen before then we had six. Never heard Dan Handy's sheep were stolen. Bidy Star was my aunt. She is dead. We had been asleep. My father, mother sister Mat Hayes a workman were in the house that night. The father was up many nights watching- a clump of turf was stolen a few nights before.

There is a commonage (right of pasturing animals on common land), the Mahers & witness commonage join, no dispute.

Mr Rolleston the landlord. It was a ram yearling.

Pat Star. Second of February was watching turf saw John Maher Stephen Maher Mary Maher. They took the six sheep. W. called his son and Hayes – Found one killed four were never got, one recovered. Is sure of the sheep found dead. Saw Hayes, he was cut in the head it was on the morning of the 3rd.

X Mr. Maher. It was neither dark nor light. They came in on the field. The kiln was between W. and them, less than half a quarter of a mile there is a turf road leading to the house. Supposes the bounds were further from the house than Mahers house. There was an agreement between W. and Maher about enclosing some of the bounds, he would not stop. Hayes is working for witness.

reads information pro [ut/wit.?)

about 1 o'clock saw the three come in the boy first and then the other two

know them saw them drive the sheep off the land.

Mathew Hayes workman to Pat Star. Late at night W. and Star went out to Wallplates saw three persons stooped over a sheep. Sheep dead. Stones thrown by John Maker, also by Mary Maher.

Stars mark was on the sheep same as rest of the sheep. Heard Paddy Star call out to his son to assist W. till his self should reach up – Shews the cut on his hat Mary Maher cut it with a stone. Showed it to the Police but did not think it necessary to send for a Doctor.

Can here close for crown

Mr Maher addressed the jury on behalf of the prisoners jury found them guilty and I sentenced them to transportation for ten years.

Edward Pennefather

May 3 1845

Image 6

Written along the side of letter W. Hitchens 30 Ap/45

To His Excellency Lord Heytesbury Lord Lieutenant General Governor of Ireland etc etc etc

The Memorial of Mary Maher a prisoner confined in Nenagh Gaol.

Humbly Sheweth

That Memorialist was convicted at the last Spring Assizes of Nenagh, before Baron Lefroy, with been convicted with her Son who is only 13 years of age and another person with Stealing a Sheep and sentenced to Ten Years Transportation.

That Memorialist is a feeble old woman, been over 60 years of Age, and of a very delicate constitution. She is in prison this long period back, and although been found Guilty by a Jury she is Innocent of the charge against her, her Son has being sent today for same offence. And from her State of health that she is in and old age if her Sentence is carried in to execution She will not Be able to Survive it.

That Memorialist most humbly hopes that Your Excellency will be most graciously pleased to take her bad health and old age into your humane consideration and extend your clemency to your unfortunate Memorialist and mitigate her punishment to being a period of Confinement, and the poor old creature Shall for the Short remnant of her days For Ever Pray.

Mary Maher

Nenagh Gaol

29th April 1845

Stamped Chief Secretary's Office 45 May 9
Written along the side of letter W. Hitchens
Please turn over

To His Excellency Lord Heytesbury Lord Lieutenant General Governor of Ireland etc etc etc
The Memorial of Mary Maher a prisoner confined in Nenagh Gaol.

Humbly Sheweth

That Memorialist has petitioned Your Excellency praying for a mitigation of her punishment which she received before Baron Lefroy, for being accessory to sheep stealing and Sentenced to ten years Transportation.

That Memorialist, considers it useless to vindicate herself to Your Excellency as there was appearance against her – but she solemnly protests she had no hand in the theft.

That Memorialist is still feeble and delicate and if removed she will not survive very long - and she has a good character up to this period which she hopes will be certified by her Clergy and Gentry of her neighbourhood.

And Memorialist humbly hopes and expects that Your Excellency will extend your clemency and mitigate her punishment to confinement she been old and feeble. And if the Sentence is put in place she will not survive. Mitigate Memorialist Sentence and she shall for ever pray.

Mary Maher

Nenagh gaol
8th May 1845

I have been acquainted with Mary Meagher for the last twenty years & I firmly believe she had no participation in the crime of Sheep Stealing for which she is under sentence of transportation. She is a poor widow nearly sixty years of age having ten children most of them helpless. Thus it is my anxious wish that every sheep stolen a evil doer might be transported – to that end I have given every assistance in my power to the police & authority here I think that clemency ought to be extended to this woman both on count of her age & I may truly say her religious conduct among a Den of thieves for that past twenty years. Given under my hand this 13th day of May 1845.

Thos Moylan p.p.
Castledownarra near Nenagh.
F. Gleeson c.c.
T. Noyes Portroe
John Real []