

Sarah Brown aged 16 per Majestic 1838

Warwick Lent Assizes April 1838

Stealing from the person

14 years transportation

Series – HO 18

Piece Number – 190

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In Van Diemen's Land

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The Mayor of Birmingham transmits a Petition from the prisoner's parents who state that she had married since her arrival in the Colony and has two children. That she holds a Conditional Pardon and that she is anxious to return to this country on account of her husband's children on these grounds a Free Pardon is prayed for.

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To The Right Honourable Sir George Grey

Secretary of State.

Sir

I have the honour of transmitting to you the Petition of William and Maria Brown in favour of their daughter Sarah Brown at present undergoing a sentence of transportation , together with some documents in support of the Petition. Though I have no personal knowledge of the circumstances urged in favour of a mitigation of the sentence, I am sufficiently acquainted with the respectability of some of the parties subscribing to the Petition of September 17<sup>th</sup> 1838 to have intire confidence in the truth of their allegations and to feel myself justified in laying the case before you for your consideration.

I have the Honour to be

Sir

Your Most obedient servant

Robert [Martineau]

Mayor.

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To The Right Honourable Sir George Grey Secretary of State for the Home Department.

The humble Petition of WILLIAM BROWN and MARIA BROWN of No 15 Court Thorp Street in the Borough of Birmingham in the County of Warwick.

Sheweth

That your Petitioners are the unhappy parents of Sarah Brown, who at the early age of 16 years was convicted at Warwick Lent Assizes for 1838 for having in her possession seven sovereigns, the property of one William Wood, the Prosecutor, who stated that he had lost a sum of that amount whilst in company with another young woman of the name of Elizabeth Jones, the person who actually robbed him.

That the prisoner though so young was for this offence sentenced to 14 years transportation.

That in the year 1838 the Petition hereunto annexed was prepared signed and intended to be presented to the then Secretary of State for the Home Department and in such Petition all the facts and circumstances of the case are fully set forth, to which document your Petitioners now humbly and respectfully beg leave to refer you.

That the prisoner was transferred in the year 1838 and has served about 8 years and had now about 6 years to serve of the term of transportation.

That she had married in the Colony to one Charles Kerlake of the ship "Majestic" of Launceston and has two children.

That she has during her servitude conducted herself most creditably in the Colony and on the 17<sup>th</sup> April last the Lieutenant Governor General was pleased to recommend her for a conditional pardon and she is now become very anxious to return to England on account of her husband and children.

That in humble testimony of their own respectability your Petitioners mention to you Sir, the simple but strong fact that they have been tenants of one Landlady for 23 years, and that your Petitioner William Brown has been in the employ of one Master for 30 years as the annexed Certificates will testify.

That if you Sir, would deign to pursue the annexed letter from their daughter and her husband your Petitioners venture to think that a [tone] and spirit pervade it which will give you a fair and genuine specimen of the creditable feelings of the writers.

Your Petitioners therefore moist humbly pray and implore you to take their daughter's case into your merciful consideration to remember that she was almost a child when she was convicted and sentenced to an unusually long term of transportation, that she was led into the Prosecutor's companion, that the Prosecutor himself to a certain extant exonerates her ; that her conduct in the Colony had been favourably noticed by the Governor General and that she had married respectfully and had a young family: add to these consideration the advanced aged of her parents your Petitioners, and the probability if pardon is delayed of their never seeing her again – and your Petitioners venture to hope that they have not Partitioned you in vain.

And your Petitioner will ever pray.

The mark x of William Brown

Maria Brown.

We the undersigned inhabitants of Birmingham believe the above to be a case worthy of the merciful consideration of the Home Secretary:

Robert Martineau – Mayor of Birmingham

R Spooner

George Millard

John Edward Wharton – Curate of St Martin's Birmingham

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