

Irish Transportation Records, Bridget Nolan CRF 1848 N3

Lord Auckland 1849

Immediate

Referred to County Inspector as to the convict's character & circumstances.

[M N? 21/3/48]

Ely Place
March the 18th
1848

Sir

In reply to your letter of the 18th Inst transmitting a memorial on behalf of Bridget Nolan under sentence of death in the Gaol of Maryboro', I beg to forward a full & accurate note of the evidence on her trial so as to enable The Lord Lieutenant to form an opinion as to how far the convict is an object of mercy.

I am Sir
Your faithful & ob^t
John Doherty

T. Redington Esq^{re}
&c &c &c

Queens County

Bridget Nolan – Indicted for the Wilful Murder of Margaret Nolan on the 7th December by choking (sic) suffocating and strangling.

Anne Byrne – Keeps a Lodging house in Carlow, knows the prisoner. She lodged with Witness, she had a child, a healthy child, a girl, observed the child feeding, it was not willing to take its food, about six o'clock in the evening of the 7th of December last, Prisoner went out and said she was going to the Doctor. Witness said the child was not sick and did not require the Doctor. Prisoner said it did. She returned in two hours without her child. Witness asked where the child was, Prisoner said she left it with a woman in Tullow Street, that the child as sick, so ill that the woman would not let it come back in the cold. Prisoner then went to get her things to go away but Witness and her husband locked her up and sent for the Police – Witness saw that child at the Inquest at Graigue - knew it. it had the same cap and frock. never heard any names for the child – it was turned of a month old.

Cross Ex^d. It was a fine healthy child – it was throwing up its food – the food was so insipid the child would not take it. The Prisoner had been about a fortnight in Witness's house, she brought the Baby about a fortnight old with her, never saw the Prisoner unsteady in her manner. Witness heard she was in a Situation in the Lunatic Asylum and that she had had a misfortune with a married man who ~~was~~ also held a Situation in the same Asylum.

Henrietta Colclough. Sworn. Was lodging in the House of the last Witness. Prisoner was lodging in the same house, saw her the day she left the house, saw the child with its mother, it left the house with its mother about four o'clock. Witness went out soon after. Prisoner went towards the Post Office. She stopped at the Police Station. She went towards the Potato Market, she then went down Water lane and over Graigue Bridge towards the Queens County. Prisoner had the child at six o'clock, Witness heard the church clock strike – prisoner went down into a lane opposite Graigue Church, the child stopped crying. When the Prisoner came up out of the Lane she then had the child, saw her come as far as Graigue Police Barrack. She had the child all this time – saw her afterwards at the Lodging in

about two hours after. She had not the child with her then. Witness was at the Inquest and saw the Prisoner's child there.

Stephen Lark. P.C. Sworn. Knows the Prisoner – found the child in a field near Graigue Church. Prisoner said the child died in convulsions in her arms and that she buried it without a coffin in that place.

Cross Ex^d. Prisoner seemed very much fretted at this time. he always considered her a humane girl when he knew her about two years ago, there was great distress at the time of this occurrence, many poor people were unable to procure coffins.

John Lowther P.C. Sworn. Prisoner was given into his charge about 7 or 8 o'clock on the evening of the 7th Dec^r by the first witness Anne Byrne. He cautioned her & arrested her. She stated she left the child at a lodging house at Graigue, when near Graigue she said, there is no use in going any further, I have thrown the child into the river, she came to a certain part of the river and said I threw it in there. She said that the child was born about six weeks before at Leighlin Bridge, that it was christened Margaret Nolan by the Rev Fr Sinnott

Cross Ex^d. It was the Queens County side she pointed out the place.

Ebenezer Bolton M.D. Sworn. I examined the body on the 10th of December of a female child called Margaret Nolan, there was the impression of something tight round the neck. The death appeared to have been produced by suffocation, by strangulation, ~~from the External mark suffocation~~ External pressure sufficient to have caused it, the child appeared to have been exceedingly healthy.

John Doherty

Maryboro' Gaol March 17/48

To His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant General and Governor General of Ireland-
The Petition of Bridget Nolan a Prisoner in this Gaol of Maryboro' under sentence of Death
Most Humbly Sheweth,

That your Memorialist was tried at Lent Assizes 1848 before the Hon^l Chief Justice Dougherty for the Murder of her infant child six weeks old, and sentenced to die on the 20th of April next.

Your Memorialist was a Caretaker of Lunatics in the Asylum in Carlow and being Subject to Epileptic fits was not in the possession of her senses at certain times and was too easily seduced by a fellow caretaker in the same ward with herself under promise of Marriage gave way to his solicitations and was delivered of an infant child and while labouring under one of those fits of weakness of mind committed the dreadful act for which she is sentenced to die.

That your Memorialist was not sensible of the awful situation she was in before her trial and made no Exertions to get Evidence brought forward to prove the facts she has stated, which could have been proved by the Carlow Constabulary and also the Governor and Matron of this Gaol can prove that after she was found guilty she did not know what was going on.

Your Memorialist bows with submission to the Sentence of the Law and declares most solemnly she was not aware of the awfulness of the crime she had committed until she was told it in the Gaol after trial.

Your Memorialist begs for the sake of Jesus Christ that your Excellency will extend Mercy and order that the Sentence of Death may not be executed on her and your Memorialist will ever pray

Queens Co.

N 3 1848

Bridget Nolan
Murder

To, The Right Honorable, Lord Chief Justice Doherty,
The Humble Petition of Bridget Nolan, a Prisoner under Sentence of Death, in Maryborough Gaol.

Most Humbly Sheweth,

That your Lordships petitioner was tried on the 7th Instant before your Lordship at the Assizes of Maryborough, for the Murder of petitioner's Infant child - was convicted, and sentenced to be Executed.

Your Lordships petitioner all through life supported an unimpeachable character never has been the slightest blemish on it – (which is testified by the annexed certificate, signed by several highly respectable individuals) – until the late ever to be deplored, and melancholy transaction for which petitioner feels the most painful regret – and petitioner would never be guilty of such a melancholy act – but petitioner perceiving the great disgrace she had plunged herself into, and being in great destitution, Petitioner reflections deprived her of reason; and in moments of Insanity, petitioner committed what she deplores – and what brings petitioner to an untimely end.

Your Lordships petitioner feels the Justice of her sentence, and would meet her fate with resignation, but petitioner conceives if her life was prolonged, she would endeavour to atone and make retribution to Almighty God in the best manner she could for such a hateful crime. Petitioner therefore implores that your Lordship will be graciously pleased to commute her sentence from Death, to Transportation for any term of years your Lordship may deem proper.

And petitioner will feel bound to Pray etc etc

Bridget Nolan
Petitioner

Maryborough Gaol
11th March 1848

We the undersigned Magistrates, Gentlemen and Inhabitants of Carlow County Certify that the annexed petitioner Bridget Nolan has always been a proper well behaved honest young woman, we never could hear she was guilty of the slightest misdemeanour, nor crime of any kind until this one she has been lately tried for - her friends are honest people.

Carlow 11th March 1848
Shewbridge Connor M.D.
Dr Herring Cooper
Mr Herring Cooper
Thomas O'Meara M.B. Hons Med Scholar Lond:

I have known Bridget Nolan from a child until the perpetration of the crime in question. I have never heard anything to her disadvantage but the contrary.

Thos. Haughton J.P. 11th March 1848

I concur in the above *signature* M.D.& J.P.

We the undersigned recommend the petition of Bridget Nolan to the merciful consideration of his Excellency.

R. Clayton Browne JP
H [Brown?]
R. Haly R.C. Bishop.

N 3 1848
Bridget Nolan

To be executed on the 20th April - murder
Notes of trial annexed March 26 Commute to transportation for life
Order issued [] 29/3/48 ? L. [Jn?] Haighton – H.H.

Immediate

Queens County
Maryborough 9 A.M.
March 22nd 1848

In the absence of the Sub-Inspector on leave, you are requested to inquire and report as to the character and circumstances of the unfortunate creature, Bridget Nolan, who is the subject of the accompanying documents.

Send me your reply by express.

Thomas H. []
Co. Inspector

Head -Constable Nicholls
Carlow – Graigue

Maryborough
March 23rd 48

The annexed submitted – I understand the wretched woman has undergone dreadful mental agony since her conviction. Once or twice it was reported she was dead.

Thos H.. []
Co. Inspector

The Under Secretary

Immediate

Queens County

Graigue Carlow,
22nd March 1848

In compliance with your order, I beg to state that I have made particular inquiry, as to the character and circumstances of Bridget Nolan, the unfortunate creature, who is the subject of the accompanying documents and I find her conduct up to the melancholy event was irreproachable. Her family although humble are respectable well conducted people, and I believe all stated in her Petition to be perfectly true.

In the absence of the Sub Inspector on leave
William Nicholls
2nd Head Const.

Written across the letter. Immediate

Referred to County Inspector as to the Convicts character & circumstances W.R. 21/3/48

Carlow 18 March 1848
To His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant

My Lord,

The friends of the unhappy subject of the accompanying memorial, who are very respectable well conducted people, in humble life, have requested me to forward it to you, & I take the liberty of stating that the unfortunate woman until this event took place was for some years esteemed as one of the best female servants in our district Lunatic Asylum. Trusting to your Excellency's favourable consideration of the case.

I have the honour to remain
Your ob^t Servant
Sam^l Haughton

To His Excellency The Earl of Clarendon
Lord Lieutenant General and General Governor of Ireland.

The Humble Petition of Bridget Nolan a Prisoner under Sentence of death in Maryborough Gaol,
Most Humbly and respectfully Sheweth,

That Petitioner was tried at the last Assizes held in Maryborough on the seventh instant before the Right Honorable Lord Chief Justice Doherty for the murder of Petitioner's infant child was convicted and sentenced to be hanged on the Twentieth day of April next.

That Petitioner was a Servant or Nurse tender in the Carlow Lunatic Asylum and was seduced by one of the Keepers a fellow servant and being Pregnant by him Petitioner lost her Situation and after her confinement was in the greatest destitution being deserted by her relatives, friends and acquaintances who all refused to afford Petitioner the smallest relief or shelter driven to despair by reflecting on the impropriety of her conduct and feeling herself (who was once possessed of good and kind relatives and friends) a wretched and deserted outcast on Society and apprehending that there was nothing for her but Starvation and Shame Petitioner's mind became quite unsettled and in a fit of desperation Petitioner destroyed the child and concealed it in a field but on being questioned about it at once admitted the dreadful act committed Petitioner not knowing at the time the crime she was guilty of nor what she was doing.

That up to the period of this most deplorable circumstance Petitioner supported an honest upright and virtuous character as will appear to your Excellency by the Certificate of the Several Clergymen, Magistrates and Gentlemen of the County of Carlow and Queens County hereunto annexed.

Petitioner most Humbly and respectfully implores Your Excellency to take Petitioner's most deplorable and unhappy state and case into your Excellency's humane consideration and be graciously pleased to commute Petitioner's sentence, from death to Transportation for any term your Excellency may think proper and thereby give Petitioner an opportunity of repenting of the Grievous Sin she has committed and trusting to God through the merits of her Saviour to obtain Mercy for the great Sin Petitioner has committed.

And Petitioner will ever Pray
Bridget Nolan

Maryborough Gaol
March 1848

We the undersigned Clergymen, Magistrates and Gentlemen of the County Carlow and Queens County Certify that Bridget Nolan now under sentence of Death in the Gaol at Maryborough was Servant at the Carlow Lunatic Asylum and previous to the unfortunate transaction for which she has been sentenced to suffer the extreme penalty of the Law was always a well conducted proper young woman and believe that at the time she committed the melancholy act for which she was found Guilty she did it in a moment of desperation brought on by the unfortunate state she was reduced to and we most respectfully beg leave to recommend her case to the merciful consideration of His Excellency.

R Clayton [Browne??] D.L. J.P. Governor- the Lunatic Asylum
RD Bernard D.D. Dean of Leighlin Governor of Carlow Dist [] A[]

Thos T. V....	Governor of ditto
Th Haughton J.P.	Governor of Do Do
J M.D. J.P.	Governor of Do Do
Saml Haughton	Do Do Do
[] J. P.	Do Do Do
James Maher P.P. of Graigue	Do Do Do
F. Haly D.D.	Do Do Do
Matt ^w Esmond White M.D. J.P.	Medial Officer of Do Do
Shewbridge Connor M.D.	Physician Co Carlow Fever Hospital
Thomas O'Meara M.B.	Univ: Med: Scholar Lond: M R.C. S. England
Dawson Massy	Vicar of Killeshin
John Walsh	C.C. of Killeshin
John D. Wyer	R.C.C. of Killeshin
John Dempsey	R.C.C. of Carlow
Paul McCarthy	C.C. oof Carlow
Geo. F. Hume []	A.D. Carlow
J Sisson Cooper []	curate of Carlow
J. Nolan J.P.	
Saml Elliot J.P.	County of Carlow
Hny Watters J.P.	
Horace Rochford J.P. & D L	Co Carlow
W C.. Cooper P.P. DL	Queens County
Robert Finall	Queens County
[] M.D.	
Thomas Singleton	[Baginats?] town
A. []	Graigue Queens County
D. Herring Cooper	Barn Carlow
Thomas Norris [Gale?]	Ashfield Hall
Peter Gale	Ashfield Hall
Paul J. Cullen	General Medical Practitioner Carlow
[] McMahan	Carlow
Nicholas Morgan	Carlow
[] Pope J.P.	Carlow
Thios H. P....	Carlow
Lavinia Parsons	Matron of the Carlow Asylum

Maryborough Gaol
March 26 1848

Sir,

Your letter of the 24 inst conveying His Excellency's order of Commutation of sentence passed on Bridget Nolan a prisoner in this Gaol to transportation for life has this day been received, and the same has been communicated to her.

I am Sir
Your obedient Servant
Auh^d Wilson

Governor
T.N. Redington Esqre.