

Ann Saunders per America 1831 ID 1430

ANN SAUNDERS

SOMERSET 1830

STEALING 10 PIECES OF PRINTED COTTON

14 YEARS TRANSPORTATION

SOURCE - HOME OFFICE CRIMINAL PETITIONS - SERIES 1

SERIES - HO 17

PIECE NUMBER - 123

ITEM NUMBER - YO 23

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ANN SAUNDERS

SOMERSET QUARTER SESSIONS JULY 1830

14 YEARS TRANSPORTATION

TRANSMITTED BY Mr NASH DAVIS M.P.

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Bristol August 6th 1830

My Dear Sir,

I am requested to lay the enclosed Petition of ANN SAUNDERS before Sir Robert Peel for his favorable consideration.

I have the honor to be obedient servant

very faithfully

Robert Davis

The reply may be sent to No 38 as normal. My election close here yesterday

J March Phillips Esq

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PETITION OF ANN SAUNDERS A CONVICT IN ILCHESTER GAOL AUGUST

4TH 11830

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To His most Gracious and Excellent Majesty William the Fourth King of the United Kingdom and Ireland.

The petition of ANN SAUNDERS Widow of the late Thomas, Laundress of the City of Bristol Basket Maker and Licenced Hawker. Now a convict in your Majesty's gaol at Ilchester in the county of Somerset.

Humbly Sheweth

That your Majesty's Petitioner was on Saturday the twenty ninth day of May 1830 apprehended in the Parish of Taunton in the county of Somerset and committed to gaol charged on the oath of sundry persons with having on that same day stolen four pieces of printed cotton the property of William Newton, one piece of Chinte print the property of Richard William Atton and one piece of ribbon the property of John Stephens all in the parish of Taunton aforesaid, for which your Petitioner was indicted and convicted on the twelfth day of July 1830 at the General Quarter Sessions held at Bridgewater in the county aforesaid and sentenced to transportation for fourteen years.

That your Majesty's Petitioner is now in the twenty eighth year of her age, was left a widow together with two infant children by her husband Thomas Saunders Basket Maker and Licenced Hawker, about two years since and your Petitioner having no other means of supporting herself and infant children continued to carry on the same employ, travelling to different towns with goods as an Hawker.

That your Petitioner being in Taunton on Saturday the twenty ninth day of May 1830 met a woman carrying a bundle who had dealt with her late husband , but whose name was unknown to your Petitioner. The same woman desired your Petitioner to take care of the bundle as she had some business in the town of Taunton and did not like to carry it with her, your Petitioner accordingly held the bundle thinking the woman would soon return, some time having elapsed and the woman not returned your Petitioner took the bundle to a Washerwoman that had some aprons to wash for her and desired the said Washerwoman to allow her to leave the bundle at her house until the evening when she would call for it or send the person to whom it belonged, your Petitioner not seeing the person that gave her the bundle called in the evening the said Washerwomans when she was apprehended by a Constable and committed to prisdon for having the same in her possession no person whatever accused your Petitioner of stealing the same. Nothwithstanding your Petitioner was convicted and sentenced to be transported for fourteen years, but your Petitioner solemnly declares she has no knowledge whatever that the contents of the said bundle was stolen neither has your Petitioner ever been accused of any crime or her

character in any way impeached through life.

Your Majesty's Petitioner therefore most humbly begs your Majesty will be most graciously pleased to consider her distressing case and restore your Petitioner to her infant children or mitigate her sentence in such manner as your Majesty in Royal wisdom may think fit.

And your Majesty's Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray.

Ann Saunders

4th August 1830

Recommended to Your Majesty's most gracious clemency by the undersigned:

Alexander Vaughan Colston

Richard Cocks Eyre

William Bodman

Hester Bateman

William Carter

James Adams

Plus another 36 signatures.