

Ann Smith aged 18

Ann Smith ID 11607 per St Vincent

The prisoner's parents attribute her delinquency to her having been scared at an early age and pray that her sentence may be commuted to Imprisonment

To the Right Honourable Sir George Grey Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department.

The Humble Petition of James and Ann Macguire

Sheweth

That your Petitioners are the parents of Ann Macguire alias Ann Smith a prisoner now under sentence of transportation for seven years passed at the Session House Maidstone Kent on 12th March 1849 and now in Millbank Prison.

Your humble Petitioners most earnestly pray the Right Honourable the Home Secretary to take into consideration the following extreme making circumstances with the prisoner's case.

Your Petitioners although in humble circumstances have endeavoured to instruct their daughter the prisoner, in paths

of virtue but your Petitioners lament that while in Woolwich where they resided eighteen years, the prisoner fell a pray to the willing wiles of an officer (who is still stationed at Woolwich and whose name will be communicated if required) who seduced her at the age of fourteen years, buy his enticements the prisoner quitted the home of your Petitioner home clandestinely and a search for her proved unavailing, soon abandoned by her deceiver, thus disgraced the deceived was ashamed to return to your sorrowing Petitioners and for subsistence resolved to that course of life in which such [] generally ends.

Your Petitioners while they deeply lament the gradual decline of the prisoner from the paths of integrity and virtue most humble [] the Right Honourable the Home Secretary to take into consideration not only the cause of deflection but likewise the youthful age of the prisoner, from whence its commencement may be noted and its progress traced and that it is her first felonious offence.

Also your petitioners humbly hope that the penitent behaviour and good conduct of the prisoner while lying in gaol will [] in her behalf, together with the extreme youthfulness of the prisoner when first abandoned to bad example as well as the assurance that your Petitioners will pledge themselves to receive her, and place her in a private Penitentiary in order that the public may not be endangered.

Your petitioners therefore most earnestly and beseechingly implore that the above named prisoner may be commuted to a shorter term of imprisonment and your Petitioners will as in duty ever pray.

James and Ann Macquire

Sandy Hill

Woolwich

29th May 1849

These gentlemen also recommend the humble petition to the merciful consideration of the Right Honourable Sir George Grey especially those at the end of the list:

William Breslaw – Rector Woolwich

Thomas Morgan – Church warden

George Imms – Churchwarden

And 48 more signatures

Plus

John Mercer – Major of Maidstone

J Bull – Governor

John Winter – Chaplain of the Gaol

Edward Guy – Gentleman

Augustus Peters – Surgeon Woolwich

Ann Smith aged 18

Kent Lent Assizes March 1849

Robbery

7 years transportation

Gaol Report – Several times in prison as a disorderly
prostitute

Series – HO 18

Piece Number – 253