

**Irish Transportation Records Ann Dinning CRF 1841D6**

*Stamped Chief Secretary's Office, Dublin, 41 FEB 13*

Upper Fitzw<sup>m</sup> St  
February 11-1841

Sir, -- I beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 5<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup>. enclosing the Memorial of the Widow Dinning a Prisoner in the Gaol of the County of Meath under sentence of Transportation and requesting me to acquaint you with the particulars of the case and whether in my opinion there are any mitigating circumstances which in my opinion would render her a proper object of Mercy; and in reply beg leave to say that I do not think she is a proper object of Mercy – I enclose my notes of the trial & at the end of it have mentioned the reasons why I cannot recommend a mitigation of her sentence – I enclose the Memorial of the Prisoner – and

have the honor to be

Sir

Your obedient servant

John Plunkett

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At the Quarter Sessions at Navan 28<sup>th</sup> Decem<sup>r</sup> 1840

Anne Dinning was indicted in 2 Cases in one for receiving on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2 shirts & other things knowing them to have been stolen – the property of W<sup>m</sup> Flanagan in the 2<sup>nd</sup> for receiving on the same day 3 shirts and a Shawl knowing them to have been stolen the property of John McCormick –

John McCormick / proved that on the 18<sup>th</sup> December he lost 3 shirts and one Shawl his property- Mary McCormick / John McCormick's wife proved that the shirts and shawl were out on a Hedge at the back of the Garden & that she had put them out to dry there about 11 o'clock on the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup> that she missed them about dusk – she identified them when produced by Henry McCormick Police Constable (on the trial) she saw them the day after they were stolen at the Police Barrack – she knew them by several marks on them-

Anne Flanagan/ proved that her husband W<sup>m</sup> Flanagan lives about ¼ of a mile from John McCormicks house – on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December she put 2 shirts of her Husbands on a Bush to dry at 11 o'clock – she saw them there about an hour before Sunset & missed them shortly after at dusk – she saw them at Bridewell on the Monday following – she identified the articles when produced at the trial –

Henry McCormick/ Police Constable – proved that on the Evening of the 19<sup>th</sup> Decem<sup>r</sup> he found all these articles (Identified by Mrs McCormick & Mrs Flanagan) at Anne Dinnings at New Lane in Navan in her house – they were concealed in Straw – she removed them to the door and witness seeing something white asked her what they were, she said they were hers – witness told her to say nothing unless she chose –

Horatio Williams/ Clerk of the Petty Sessions at Navan produced the Examination of Anne Dinning duly made before the Magistrates in Petty Sessions & that it was truly read to her at the time – It was then read – in it she stated that she brought the shirts and shawl from 3 boys on Friday Ev<sup>g</sup> and that she knew well at the time she brought them that they were stolen –

The jury found her Guilty in both numbers & a full Bench of Magistrates sentenced her to 10 years transportation –

I find in my Crown Book the following memorandum of the reasons for inflicting this punishment, made at the time of passing the sentence – “It appeared on the trial of Andrew Moore” ( at the same Sessions)” for receiving stolen goods that she Anne Dinning had been in the habit of receiving stolen goods for one year and a half previously (which were stolen by persons named Luke Lynch and Patrick Doyle during that period in the Counties of Louth Meath & Dublin on) on a great many occasions & which were particularly stated on Oath, on the trial of Moore, by Patrick Doyle the approver in that case” –

The Navan Quarter Sessions at which Anne Dinning was tried were adjourned for a week and on my return to Navan to hold the adjourned Sessions the Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr Thompson and Mr Hamilton who have principally Interested themselves for Anne Dinning shewed me the Memorial,[...]. These forwarded to the Government & now before me, I explained to them the grounds on which the Bench acted in fixing the punishment & shewed them my note of the trial of Andrew Moore & the widow of the approver as to Anne Dinning – of which facts they were not aware - & I stated to them that I could not recommend the Prisoner to Mercy particularly as the Magistrates who joined in the sentence w<sup>d</sup> not support the prayer of the memorial but were strongly opposed to it –the names signed to the memorial are very respected but from the many enquiries I made at Navan after seeing the memorial I am confirmed in my opinion that tho’ her connexions, particularly her brothers, who do not live with her, are respectable & well conducted – the sentence with respect to her is a just one-

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*Written up the side Mr Connor [initials] 2 30/41*

To His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant General and General Governor of Ireland

We the Undersigned do most respectfully submit to your Excellency’s consideration and Mercy, the case of Widow Dinning convicted at the last Quarter Sessions of Navan for purchasing five shirts knowing the same to be stolen, and sentenced to ten years transportation. We do also most humbly beg to state the reasons for interfering in her behalf “ that it is the first offence of which she has ever been charged – a Widow with a helpless family – her connections respectable and industrious, for whom we feel most sincerely; and convinced that nothing but extreme poverty, without any means of subsistence from the dearth of employment, could have induced her to commit the crime for which she has been so heavily sentenced.

By your Excellency commuting the sentence to any period of confinement (as may seem adequate in your Excellency’s wisdom). We would, as in duty bound, ever pray-

We think it but justice to state that, were the circumstances fully developed to the Honb<sup>le</sup> John Plunkett before whom she was tried we consider him the last man in the world who would use his prerogative unjustly or unmercifully –

Robert Thompson Rector of the Parish of Navan

Matthew Kealy

Eugene O'Kelly P.P.

Patrick Kealy C.C Navan

Adam Hamilton

Michael Jones C.C. Navan

Thomas Horan

R.N. Hamilton Clk[....] Meath

J.C. Mitge?

James Ayburn

Charles Gregory

John Barry

Pat [.....]

Edward [.....]

Edward Brady

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Ann Dinning

Receiving stolen goods

10 y<sup>rs</sup> T<sup>n</sup>

Commute to 7 years

Nov 13

[....indecipherable...] and 19<sup>th</sup> HT.L.

Confirmed June 30 [*Initial*]

We certify that we have examined the [...] Constable whose experience was for the last ten years and he says he never knew of the Widow Dinning being ever charged or accused of any crime.

Robert Thompson Clk

R.Hamilton Clk

Portreeve. Navan

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June 26 '41

My dear Sir,

With respect to your communication regarding Anne Dinning, convicted & sentenced to transportation as a receiver. I beg to say that in my opinion to commute her sentence would have a very unjust affect, in as much as she has long been a notorious receiver of stolen goods, and since her conviction a man from whom I have received very valuable information has stated to me that her house was the [...] [...] of all the thieves of Navan & its vicinity, & that they are all now greatly puzzled for a receiver in her place as since her conviction they have had no safe place in Navan in which to deposit their plunder.

I remain respectfully

George Despard

The Honb<sup>le</sup> John Plunkett

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*Written up the side*

Mr Connor

Let the[...] be placed before His Excellency & let me know the result .

*signature unclear, June 2/41]*

My dear Sir

I have been requested to recommend to the favourable consideration of the Lord Lieutenant the case of the Widow Dinning now under sentence of transportation for seven years & convicted at the last Quarter Sessions of Navan of purchasing some shirts knowing them to be stolen. A memorial was drawn up in her favour & signed by many persons in the neighbourhood & the sentence was altered from 10 to 7 years. What is now sought would be a further mitigation to some definite term of imprisonment two or three years. The signatures of the magistrates & the clergy of both persuasions will attest how strongly they feel the justice of the application. I will be much obliged if you will call the attention of His Excellency to this Memorial. I remain

y<sup>r</sup> faithful serv<sup>t</sup>

Fingall

N.K. McDonald Esq<sup>re</sup>

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*Stamped Chief Secretary's Office Dublin 41 JUN 20*

*Written sideways across the top*

W. Connor

.Returned to Mr JWD. in reference to his minute of the 12<sup>th</sup> [...] HTC. 30<sup>th</sup>

Has the case been brought before the [...] [...] of [ *indecipherable* ] signature

It has been confirmed [...] the commuted sentence of 7 y<sup>rs</sup> T<sup>n</sup> should take effect – seek His Ex Minute of 30 June on back of case. H.T.C. (2<sup>nd</sup> July)

Navan June 20<sup>th</sup> 1841

Sir -, I beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 6<sup>th</sup> Inst. enclosing the application of Lord Fingall in behalf of Widow Dinning, a prisoner in the Gaol of the County of Meath in your letter stated to be under sentence of Imprisonment ( but I believe this is a mistake & that she is under sentence of transportation for 7 years) & requesting me to acquaint you with the particulars of the case and whether in my opinion there are any mitigating circumstances which would render her a proper object of Mercy –In my opinion there are no mitigating circumstances in this case which would render her a proper object of Mercy - for the particulars of the trial I w<sup>d</sup> beg leave to refer you to my former report on this case dated the 11<sup>th</sup> day of February last now lying in Mr Connors office in the Castle – since my arrival in this town where I am now holding the Quarter Sessions for the Coy of Meath I have consulted some of the Magistrates who are well acquainted with this case they agree in opinion with me – I beg leave to enclose a letter I have received in the subject from Captain G. Despard the Principal Magistrate as also the letter of Lord Fingall which was forwarded to me in your letter –

I have the honor to be Sir

Your Obedient Servant

John Plunkett