

Newgate Condemned Cells  
10th November 1826

To the Right Honourable Mr Peel

Honourable Sir,

Permit your humble servants undersigned to request your benevolent attention to the following brief statement of their case and truly destitute condition being at a distance of 200 miles (Manchester) from their friends and having no one to interest themselves on their behalf, being under sentence of DEATH in the County of Middlesex, having also entrusted a Petitioner to a professional friend for signatures and the same having been misplaced and your unfortunate servants being by such loss left in a destitute condition thereby.

Your much humble servants JOHNSON and ELIZABETH ALLENDER, are man and wife as they have certificate to prove, but the female has on this accession given in her maiden name, the other prisoner ANN ALLENDER being her mother far advanced in years- whom JOHNSON and WIFE went down from London to visit on the day of the robbery and were suspected in consideration of being seen down there and all three were in the following day taken in custody, on evidence further than that of a Pawnbroker was addressed, and he could only swear that JOHNSON was alike the man who pledged the watch that was stolen, he not being able to swear to him, this fact and that of the watch not being produced and nothing being found on either of the prisoners would have caused an acquittal had your humble Petitioner (JOHNSON) employers have come forward, but they unfortunately did not come forward until after the conclusion of the trial.

Right Honourable Sir, your most humble servants did not plead anything further than the mere facts of their case, they much humble conceiving that a case has not been made out against them especially the female convicts in this instance, and your much humble servant WILLIAM JOHNSON conceives that a very slight case is made out against him, and none against his wife and her aged mother - and for the whole, himself and them pleaded most earnestly his innocence and theirs of the same, and that if such a robbery was committed at the time neither himself, his wife, or her mother participated in the same.

That your very humble servant, feeling the extreme misery and wretchedness of their situation do most earnestly crave your powerful intercession with His Majesty in order to our lives being spared and such further mercy being extended as to your superior wisdom may seem meet, assuring your Right Humble Sir, that this is the first time of your humble servants being charged with crime - being by trade a Smiths Apprentice to Mr Jonathan Peel Engineer at Manchester and Bowling in

Yorkshire - since in employment of Mr Pearse Engineer at Greenwich and Mr Pearson near the London Docks also an Engineer - and have a good character from each of these Gentlemen.

Your most humble servants beg your kind consideration assuring you that they feel truly wretched and have no friends to intercede or do anything for them excepting the kind interposition of the Worthy Governor Mr Morten who it is hoped will speak as to your Petitioners deep contrition and general good conduct in the gaol - praying therefore most anxiously for the sake of the female prisoner more especially and craving that at least mercy may be extended to them being decidedly innocent of the crime - as in your

Most dutiful and Most obedient and ever grateful and humble servant

William Johnson

Ann Allender aged 57

Elizabeth Allender aged 30

ELIZABETH ALLENDER

OLD BAILEY 1826

HOUSEBREAKING

SOURCE - HOME OFFICE CRIMINAL PETITIONS SERIES 1

SERIES - HO17

PIECE NUMBER - 117

ITEM NUMBER - XL 37

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WILLIAM JOHNSON

ELIZABETH ALLENDER

ALLEN ALLENDER

OLD BAILEY SEPTEMBER SESSIONS 1826

HOUSE BREAKING IN THE DAY TIME