

Elizabeth Davies ID 5734 per *Gilbert Henderson* 1840

Elizabeth Davies aged 40

Liverpool Sessions October 1839

Stealing from the person

10 years transportation

Gaol report – In prison before

Series – HO 18

Piece Number – 9

Embarked on the *Gilbert Henderson* for transportation to Van
Diemens Land

19 Mount Street

Liverpool

28th November 1839

May it please your Lordship

I have been requested to transmit to your Lordship the enclosed memorial praying for the commutation of the sentence lately passed upon one Elizabeth Davies. This person is the daughter of Ellen Jones an aged widow who had for many years been a consistent and I firmly believe a pious member of the Welsh Calvinistic Methodist connexion assembling for Divine Worship in Bedford Street Chapel, where I have the privilege to officiate as Assistant Minister, and for her sake I would earnestly but respectfully entreat your Lordship to comply with the prayer of the Memorial. I have known but little of the convict during the last few years but after a minute investigation

I find that her character for honesty had never been doubted and that until the disagreement took place between her and her husband, which ended in his entire desertion of her, her conduct in all other respects was irreproachable. Her friends do not wish to conceal that after leaving the Workhouse where her husband insisted upon placing her (which took place a few months ago) her conduct had become less regular but not a word of suspicion was ever heard as to her honesty, so that it was with no little surprise we learned that so heavy a punishment had been awarded her for the offence with which she was charged at the last Liverpool Borough Sessions. This however is partly explained, I think, by the circumstances of her brutal husband having sent in a letter at the time of trial speaking in the most unfavourable terms of her character, and her friends having abstained from any interference in her behalf with the hope that a slight punishment might have a salutary effect upon her.

Humbly soliciting your Lordship's pardon for trespassing so long on your time, and again most respectfully entreating your favourable attention to the accompanying Memorial.

I remain My Lord

Your Lordship's most obedient humble servant

John Roberts.

To the Most Noble the Marquis of Normanby Secretary of State for the Home department.

The Memorial of the Undersigned Householdors of the Borough of Liverpool in the County of Lancaster.

Humbly Sheweth

That Elizabeth Davies aged 42 years or thereabouts was tried and convicted at the Liverpool Borough Sessions (October 1839) for feloniously stealing from one James Bartington a Silver Watch and

was sentenced to be transported beyond the seas for the term of ten years.

That the said Elizabeth Davies has lost the use of one eye and is otherwise in a very weak bodily state of health, principally occasioned by the desertion of her husband who had for some time past been living in a state of concubinage, leaving her entirely destitute.

That your Memorialists most of whom have been acquainted with the said Elizabeth Davies for many years, have reason to believe that she was driven to the committal of the above named offence by the destitution in which the treatment of her husband had placed her, prior to which she bore an irreproachable character for honesty and general good conduct.

Your Memorialists therefore humbly entreat that your Lordship will take the case into consideration and that you may be pleased to commute the sentence from transportation beyond the seas, to such an imprisonment in this country as to your Lordship may seem meet.

And your Memorialists will ever pray.

Henry Rees – Minister

Richard Williams – Minister

Richard Price – Elder

John Roberts And a further 10 signatures.
