

Elizabeth Mary Jones ID1558 per *Angelina* 1844

Elizabeth Mary Jones aged 30

Central Criminal Court February 1844

Child Stealing

7 years transportation

Gaol report – Not Known

Series – HO 18

Piece Number – 128

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The prisoner details the circumstances under which she was induced to commit the offence – states that the condition of the child would have been better than if it had remained with its parents – and prays as it has been restored to them, that her sentence may be mitigated.

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Transport

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To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Petition of Elizabeth May Jones now a convict under sentence of transportation in your Majesty's Gaol of Newgate.

Most humbly Sheweth

That you Petitioner was tried before The Honourable Charles Ewan Law Recorder of London at the Criminal Court in the month of February 1844 for stealing an infant child of which offence your

Petitioner was convicted and sentenced to transportation for seven years.

That your Petitioner feels deep sorrow and contrition for the offence of which she is convicted but she well hopes that the circumstances under which she was prompted to commit the offence charged against her were such as to induce your Majesty so far to mitigate her sentence as to spare her from expatriation.

That your Petitioner is the victim of seduction and had reason to believe that after such seduction she would be come a mother in consequence of which her future prospects in life were blighted – the person who had thus brought shame upon her was the Captain of a Merchant Vessel who brought her from the Cape of Good Hope to England and finding she was pregnant he took lodgings for her and promised when the child was borne he would marry her.

That after living openly as a married woman for some time your Petitioner's seducer went to sea and after his departure your Petitioner miscarried and fearing that upon his return the disappointment would cause him to break rather than keep his promise your Petitioner took the step which brought her into her present melancholy position.

That although your Petitioner confesses her most grievous fault she knows that her own intention was to bring up nurture and protect the dear infant in a better station of life than that in which its parents could have placed it and inasmuch as the infant is now restored to its rightful parents and as the hardship and suffering and disappointment which your Petitioner endures and the loss of her reputation and character which never can be re-established are all great and severe punishments.

She humbly prays your most Gracious Majesty to take her case into consideration and so far mitigate the sentence passed upon her as to save her from being sent out of her native Country.

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