

**IRISH TRANSPORTATION RECORD OF ELLEN HANLEY (VARIOUSLY HANLY) PER GREENLAW 1844**

**CRF-1840-H50**

**LARCENY – AGED 12 - STEALING ARTICLES OF PLATE, MEN’S APPAREL AND AN UMBRELLA – SENTENCED TO 7 YEARS TRANSPORTATION**

Sent to Richmond Penitentiary in Grange Gorman Lane Dublin in hope of being reformed. Petitions 16 October 1840, 26 February 1841 and 18 June 1842 in mitigation to be sent to Convent in Limerick were dismissed. Ellen was transported 7 March 1844 – CRF-1844-H12.

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To his Excellency the Right Honourable Lord Viscount Elrington, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

May it please Your Excellency,

We the undersigned, strongly recommend the case of Richard Hanley’s child to the merciful consideration of your Excellency, hoping that in addition to the extreme guilt of the culprit, the uniform good conduct of the father, which as a day policeman of St Michael’s Parish, has procured him the approbation of the Commissioner under whom he acts will plead with your Excellency, in mitigation of the punishment to which his unhappy child has been sentenced.

Limerick October 16<sup>th</sup> 1840

Thos McDonnell J.P.	Ingles Brothers
[?] N.E. O’Halloran	C O’Hare
Rob <sup>t</sup> Ingram	William Caulfield
J.G.P. McDonnell	Jas P Newsom
[?]J.P. City of Limerick	James Booker
Jas O’Brien	Z N Ledger
Edward Goodwin	Wm Bradshaw
RW Brereton } High Sheriff of City of Limerick	Tobias[?]
[?] } Commissioner of St Michael’s Parish	Hayden[?]
Edw <sup>d</sup> Korbett	Rob <sup>t</sup> [?]S Conway J.P.

[?]Hall Commissioner of St Michael’s Parish

George Morgan Goggin Commissioner of St Michael’s Parish

Michael[?] Commissioner of St Michael's Parish  
P Fogarty  
T Fogarty  
Patrick O'Gorman Commissioner of St Michael's  
Parish

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H 50 1840  
Ellen Hanly

Larceny 7 years Tr

Enquire whether there is any place in which this wasted child can be placed, for a chance of correction and in the meantime let the sentence be respected.

Plunkett

Some enquiry should be made as to the conduct of the Father.

*Initialled*

Report respecting the girl annexed.

Let the sentence continue respected and let the prisoner be removed according to the suggestion of the Inspector.

*Signature*

Another application is annexed 21 June 1842.

If her reception as proposed is guaranteed, let her be discharged.

Jun 22 *Initialled*

1842

[?illegible] James Alton's ans<sup>d</sup>

23<sup>rd</sup>

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*Stamped*

CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE

10 OCT 19

DUBLIN

To His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant General and General Governor for Ireland on the

The Memorial of Richard Hanley, a day policemen of the Parish of St Michael's in the City of Limerick.

Humbly Shewth

That Memorialist has a daughter named Ellen Hanley a child of only thirteen years of age – who at the late Sessions of Limerick was tried and found guilty of stealing an umbrella, and sentenced by the Recorder to seven years transportation.

That Memorialist cannot conceive how his unhappy child could have been led to the commission of this her first offence, unless as he firmly believes that she was instigated by some more experienced criminal who took a base advantage of her extreme youth and ignorance of the laws of her Country.

That Memorialist though shocked at this instance of depravity in his child, yet feels for her unhappy situation and all the anxiety of a parent, who only desires to having her restored to a proper sense of the duty which she owes to herself, her parents, and society at large.

That Memorialist actuated by the desire shrinks from contemplating the many dangers to which his child must be exposed from associating for seven years with none but convicted felons, and Memorialist therefore implores Your Excellency to take into consideration her extreme youth, and afford her some chance of being reclaimed from early guilt by so far altering her sentence, as that she may be confined in some Workhouse or Penitentiary in the Country, where she may have the advantage of useful instruction, which with the blessing of Divine Providence he trusts will have the effect of implanting in her breast a love of honest industry, and a detestation of everything approaching to a breach of the laws of God, and of her Country.

And Memorialist will pray.

Richard Hanley

Limerick 16<sup>th</sup> October 1840.

Being aware of the facts set forth in the above appeal it gives me great pleasure to join in the prayer of Memorialist, particularly as I am concerned that the reclaiming of one criminal would tend more to uphold the dignity of the laws, than the punishment of a thousand.

Temple Mungret

Limerick 16<sup>th</sup> October 1840

James Alton

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46 Lower Baggott

24<sup>th</sup> October 1840

*Stamped*

CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE

40 OCT 21

DUBLIN

Sir,

I have had the honour of receiving your letter of the 23<sup>rd</sup> inst. enclosing a Memorial from Richard Hanly, on behalf of his daughter, a prisoner of the City of Limerick Gaol, under sentence of transportation.

The prisoner was indicted in the last Michaelmas Sessions for stealing, not only the umbrella mentioned in the Memorial but sundry articles of plate, and men's wearing apparel etc- and to this indictment she persevered, after the usual caution in pleading guilty. Having endorsed her pleas to be recorded, I postponed passing sentence until I made enquiry respecting her. The result was that she was repeatedly brought before the Magistrates on similar charges, and was sent by them to the old Poor House instead of committing her for trial, in hopes that she might be reformed, but as it appeared that as soon as she was discharged, she resumed her old habits, and althoug[h] young, was considered an incorrigible thief, that was at last committed for trial and convicted.

There was strong reason to suppose, that her parents, if they did not connive of these thefts thus committed, took no measure to prevent them. At the time of trial, the witness who was supposed to attend for the prosecutor complained to the Court that the Memorialist, prisoner's Father, threatened her in such a manner, that she thought her life was in danger from coming forward as a witness, which she did most reluctantly; and on her securing to this effect, the Memorialist was put under a heavy Order of Bail to keep the peace towards this witness.

As there is no Penitentiary in Limerick for youthful delinquents, as I know his Excellency objects to let convicts from the Country be placed in the Dublin Penitentiaries, I thought it best for this girl, her parents and the community to sentence her to be transported for seven years.

I beg to state for his Excellency's information that in my opinion there wasn't any mitigating circumstances which would render His Honour a proper object of Mercy.

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your obedient Servant

Carew Smyth

NH MacDonald Esq.

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In reference to The Lord Chancellor's directions in the case of Ellen Hanly, I beg to submit for consideration that she should be sent to Grange Gorman Gaol, female Prison in Dublin, where all female convicts are collected for Embarkation with Instruction to Mrs Hawkins the Matron to retain her there and from time to time to report to His Excellency The Lord Lieutenant her conduct & what steps exist for her reformation:-

She will be well attended to in this excellent Prison, & should she resist the efforts of reform then she can finally be transported in the first female ship afterwards.

Dublin Castle

5 Nov 40

*Signature*

I. Gen<sup>l</sup> of Prisons & Sup<sup>t</sup> of Convicts

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Dublin Castle

23 June 1842

Sir,

The Lord Lieutenant has been pleased to mitigate the Sentence passed on  
Ellen Hanly  
Prisoner in the Gaol of Grange Gorman Lane Penitentiary and I am to signify His Excellency's  
desire, that the said Prisoner be discharged upon Mr Alton becoming a guarantor that she  
will be received into the Convent of Limerick.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant

C Lucas

NB It is requested that the Governor  
of the Gaol will acknowledge this Letter.

To the High Sheriff of the  
City of Dublin or his Sub-Sheriff

-----  
[COVER OF WRIT]]

18

**On Her Majesty's Service**

TO [illegible]

**THE HIGH SHERIFF OF THE CITY OF DUBLIN**

**OR HIS SUB-SHERIFF.**

**GAOL**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE**  
\_\_\_\_\_

[Right hand margin handwritten]

City Sheriff's Office  
33 Upper [address illegible] Limerick

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Sir,

I have just had a communication from Richard Hanly Day Policeman for Limerick respecting his daughter Ellen who is now confined in the Dublin Penitentiary.

I undertake to have her received into this Convent, if sent here. I understand from Hanly that he is too poor to send a person for her, or to pay her expenses. However I consider that it would be unsafe to have her liberated in Dublin, but if forwarded here she shall be particularly attended to, with the view of following up the excellent instructions which she received in the Penitentiary.

The Leniency of the Government in this case is most judicious and creditable and I doubt not wise his attending with the happiest effects.

I have the honour Sir,

To remain your obedient Servant

Gustavus Hamilton Esq  
[illegible]  
Dublin

James Alton  
Temple Mungret

[watermark back to front – FELLOWS 1840]

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*Stamped*

CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE

41 MAR 1[?]

DUBLIN

[W Connors written in left margin]

To His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland on the        day        .

The Memorial of the undersigned Richard Hanly, Day Policeman of Limerick.  
Humbly sheweth:

That Memorialist's daughter a girl now of twelve years of age having through the instigation of an evil disposed companion stolen an Umbrella was tried in August last before the Recorder of Limerick, at the Quarter Sessions, and having been found guilty was sentenced to Seven Years transportation.

The Memorialist thro' Your Excellency's clemency (for which Memorialist will have cause to bless), Your Excellency obtained a postponement of his daughter's sentence, and arguably to the former prayers of Memorialist, she has been suffered to remain an inmate of one of its Dublin Penitentiaries.

That Memorialist in praying for said postponement of his daughter's sentence, was not actuated by a desire for her liberation, but for an opportunity to be afforded her of perceiving the enormity of the crime and the danger of disregarding parental instruction, and listening to the instigation of designing persons.

The Memorialist does not now seek to liberation, on the contrary, Memorialist would never cease to regret such a circumstance, but having learned that a Convict Vessel is on the eve of sailing, and being painfully impressed with the almost certainty of the utter ruin of his unhappy child which would inevitably attend her intercourse as a Convict with more hardened criminals. Memorialist humbly entreats Your Excellency to spare the agonizing anticipations of a father's heart, and by allowing her to remain for any period that it may please Your Excellency in her present excellent Asylum, to afford her in consideration of her extreme youth the only chance of being reclaimed from perhaps a life of crime:- and of being eventually restored to Society with a mind regulated by their sound religious principals which are now to carefully being instilled by the humane and worthy Matron of the Richmond Penitentiary in which she now resides.

And Memorialist will pray  
Limerick 26<sup>th</sup> February 1841  
Richard Hanly

Having had a good opportunity of judging the character of the said Memorialist, I can with great pleasure commend his prayer to the merciful consideration of Government and state Cover to Writ on back hereof copy of letters having confirmed from the Priest Fr Murphy of Dublin to the Priest Fr D'Arcy, Priest of St Mary's Limerick [*illegible*]

Temple Mungret  
26 February 1841  
James Alton

H 50 1840

[black vertical stripe right of page hides some words]

Copy

Church Chapel

8 February 1841

Rev'd dear Sirs

The young female Hanly is at present in the Richmond Penitentiary under sentence of transportation from the Gaol of Limerick. Her youth, good conduct and the crime for which she has been sentenced her first have pleaded largely in her favour and caused her to be kept back when the other Convicts were shifted for Sydney – there is hope that by a proper application to Government her sentence might be commuted to a temporary imprisonment. You will please make this known to her poor father. I should have stated that she is not permitted to live with the other Convicts. Her friends should therefore take immediate measures for her liberation in which if necessary they may expect the assistance of the Church here.

Signed

The Rev<sup>d</sup> Fr D'Arcy  
St Michael's Limerick

Jno F Murphy

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46 Lower Baggot St  
5<sup>th</sup> March 1841

I have had the honour of receiving your letter of 4<sup>th</sup> Inst. enclosing the Application Memorials on behalf of Ellen Hanly.

I beg leave to refer you to my Report on this case made to the Lord's Justices, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1840, in which I felt it my painful duty to report most unfavourably of this prisoner.

In the course of several trials which took place since, it clearly appeared that the prisoner was intimately connected with as nefarious a gang of felons as ever infested the City of Limerick. By the activity and vigilance of our efficient police the gang has today nearly broken up.

As to the propriety of continuing this prisoner in this penitentiary, I cannot presume to offer an opinion to His Excellency but I respectfully submit to him as my decided opinion, that if there is probability that the Prisoner will return to Limerick when liberated, it would be much better both for herself and the community that then she must be transported at once.

I have the honour to be

Sir

Carew Smyth

NH MacDonald Esq [*Sign<sup>r</sup> appears bottom page 1 of 2 pages*]

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*Stamped*

CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE

[centre mark illegible]

DUBLIN

[W Connors written over text on left side]

Sir,

I beg to apprise you, that about two years since, a child, a native of this City (then under 13 years of age) was convicted of stealing an Umbrella and sentenced by the Recorder to 7 years transportation.

As a number of Gentlemen, who were acquainted with the circumstances, and good character of her Parents, considered with me, that it would be more for the advantage of society, to reclaim if possible so youthful an offender, I was requested to apply to the Government of the day, for a mitigation of her sentence to imprisonment in the Dublin Penitentiary.

I made the application under the conviction that the strict discipline, and useful course of instruction of that excellent establishment would have a happy effect in reforming her early bad habits. My application was granted and I have since carefully watched her progress and I am happy to say that on my last visit to the above institution, I received a most gratifying account of her improvement.

I therefore feel called upon to entreat that you will represent to His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, the benefit which she has received with the view of having her now discharged. My anxiety for her immediate liberation is very great, as a situation is now open for her in the Convent of Limerick into which her relations have had promise of her being received. It is I consider most important that advantage should be taken of so favourable an opportunity for preventing her from coming again among those evil minded associates, to whom she owed her early disgrace, and I therefore take the liberty of recommending her to the gracious consideration of His Excellency.

The girl's name is Ellen Hanly and she has been 2 years a charge on the Grange Gorman Lane Penitentiary.

With sentiments of respect, I have the honour having to subscribe myself your faithful and obedient Servant.

James Alton

Secretary for the St Michael's Parish

Temple Mungret Limerick

18 June 1842

E Lucas Esq