

**Irish Transportation Records John & Cecilia Higgins CRF 1843 H63**

Stamp: CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE DUBLIN, DATE: indiscipherable  
Mr Connor written up the side of letter

[Empress?] Grove Temple[...] Nov..21<sup>st</sup> 43

Sir

I have just had the honour of receiving your note of yesterday's date with the petition of John & Cecilia Higgins, uncorroborated by any voucher.

What weight may be attached in the judgement of His Excellency, to the case he makes for himself & his alleged wife, supposing the statement to be true, I am at a loss to say; but with regard to the female petitioner, I have only to state that she had been twice before convicted of larceny, & once as I believe in company with her supposed husband; and on the last occasion, was sentenced to an imprisonment of considerable length. In this last instance, she pleaded guilty, so that I am unable to give any particulars of this case.- But I am enabled generally; to say that for frequent and I may add habitual theft, there has seldom appeared a subject more incorrigible (by lighter punishment) or more fitted to abide the extreme one of transportation I have honour to be Sir – your obe<sup>t</sup> servant

W H. Ellis Ass<sup>t</sup> Bar. W. Meath

E Lucas Esq<sup>r</sup>

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To His Excellency Earl De Gray Lord Lieutenant General and General Governor of Ireland etc etc etc

The Humble petition of John Higgins finisher of the Law Humbly Sheweth that petitioners - Wife was tied at the Last Quarter Sessions at Mullingar before the Honourable W<sup>m</sup> Henry Ellis – and convicted on a charge of felony namely close of wearing aperil and Sentenced Transportation for seven years} { poor petitioner Humbly implores Excellencys clemency and mercy to commute His poor Wifes Sentence to Imprisonment for any limited period your Excellencys clemency may direct)} {poor petitioner further states that for the last Sixteen years he proved himself useful to Government and the Several Sherrifs on cerkit as publick Executioner} during that long and painful period petitioners poor unfortunate – Wife was his kind and constant companion - under Such Circumstances petitioner most Humbly implores your Excellencys Merciful consideration whereas his poor unfortunate Wife is Brandid through his degrading ciation and is an unfit subject to be with convicts under those Greivous circumstances poor petitioner most Humbly begs your Excellencys Merciful protection for his poor Wife to order any Mitigation your Excellencys clemency may dictate petitioner will be most thankful for any change of punishment even to Serve the present Sentence where She now remains petitioner refers Your Excellency to the Governor of Mullingar Gaol to Testify the forgoing Statement true and by so doing petitioner together with the poor Wife is in duty bound will ever pray for your Excellencys temporal and eternal welfare

John & Cecilia Higgins

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To His Excellency Earl de Grey Lord Lieutenant General and General Governor of Ireland

Dublin Castle

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1843

Cecilia Higgins  
Felony, = 7 yrs T<sup>n</sup>

The law must take its course

*Initials indiscipherable*

Date 43

*Initials indiscipherable*

(?) and 27<sup>th</sup>

Gaoler infor<sup>d</sup> etc AWL

Petitioner Totally depends on the kind exertions of the Honourable Gentlemen Secretarys in presenting his unfortunat wife's awful Sircumstances and will feel for ever thankful for any change of punishment for his poor helpless wife and is in ... *Remainder of statement is indecipherable.*