

Isabella Dewar ID8625 per *Mary* 1831

Isabella Dewar aged 22

Edinburgh High Court July 1844

Assault and Robbery

14 years transportation

Gaol Report -6 times in prison before

Series – Ho 18

Piece Number – 141

The prisoner's father alleges that there was no direct proof against her, and that she took no part in the offence, although present with those who committed it.

12th September 1844

Unto the Right Honourable The Secretary of State for the Home Department.

The Petition of Robert Dewar – Mason of 13 Cair Street Edinburgh.

Humbly Sheweth

That the Petitioner has resided in Edinburgh for above 20 years and had during that period wrought to the same Master, Mr Stark – Builder and a Member of the Town Council. He had brought up his family in decency and

respectability according to his circumstances, but unfortunately his daughter Isabella Dewar having got lately into irregular and loose habits and had company [] one night in the end of May last induced along with a girl named Sarah Wallace to enter an irregular house in Goosieside Place Edinburgh kept by Mrs Mary Moore in company with a man named John Armstrong - Gamekeeper, Peebles where they were treated with some liquor. That Mrs Moore and her daughter Gorgina were also in the house at the same time. That soon after they had gone into the house, Armstrong having been previously worse of liquor from going about drinking all day, a scuffle arose during which the man was struck and [killed] by a poker and robbed of some silver, after a while the Petitioner's daughter washed the blood off Armstrong's face. That the Police being called in they were all taken to the office where after examination they were committed for trial and indicted for assault and robbery and being habit and repute thieves. That they all 3 stood trial before the High Court of Justiciary in July last and having pleaded NOT GUILTY a verdict of GUILTY was found against the Petitioner's daughter and Wallace, while it was found NOT PROVEN against Munro chiefly over the evidence of her said daughter, in consequence the 2 former received sentence of transportation for 14 years, while the latter was set to liberty.

That the Petitioner's daughter formally asserted her innocence of any criminal act in the matter in question, tho' she could not and did not deny that she was in company with Armstrong and Wallace at the time, but no money was ever found on her person.

That the grounds upon which this Petitioner is respectfully submitted to your serious consideration is that she Mrs Munro assaulted deliberately and soberly in the presence of 2 competent witnesses in the house of Mrs Lambert, also the Petitioner's daughter, that she alone struck Armstrong and her own daughter was the only one who took the money off him and tore his coat. The parties who heard her make this stement are Mrs Hughes , wife of Peter Hughes – Porter in Edinburgh and Mrs Law , wife of Robert Law – Shoemaker in Glasgow as well as the said Mrs Lambert.

From that candid and marked confession it is evident that the Petitioner' daughter had received an unjust sentence and ought in Law and Justice to have got free, there being no **direct** proof of any criminal act against her, but it is humbly hoped that it is not yet too late altho' she is on the eve of being sent off from this, to do her that justice and fair play which she deserves, and it is therefore anxiously and respectfully craved that you will without any delay order such investigation into her case and the above facts as justice and humanity requires and protect us.

And your Petitioner will ever pray

Robert Dewar.

Signet Library

Edinburgh

12th September 1844

Sir

I beg you will do me and my client the Petitioner, the favour of persuing the enclosed petition and Certificates and doing you best, as far as the Justice of the case demands, in favour of the poor girl.

The favour of your answer in due course to the above address, care of Mr David Arnot will oblige.

Your humble servant

Robert Dunlop.

Edinburgh

September 1844

Certificate in favour of Isabella Dewar

We the undersigned have known the parents of the bearer, for a series of years, and have to state that to the best of our knowledge, they have ever acted as conscientious parents in discharge of their duties, in training up a numerous family with the greatest credit to themselves with the exception of this unfortunate girl – Isabella – and who is the cause of the writing of this document. She was, while under her fathers roof, and preceptors tuition and in situations of domestic servitude of virtuous and steady habits, at last to her great misfortune by listening to evil example suffered herself to be led astray and for which she is now suffering in this – to her parents – for distant land - .

May the Lord be her guide and protector and her p[arents pray that she may put it into the hearts of all those who have

charge over her, to be kind and lenient and of a forgiving spirit towards her faults which is also the wish of:

William Stark – 48 London Street – Builder.