

Jane Cook ID1338 per *America* 1831

Jane Cook

Somerset Quarter Sessions October 1830

Larceny

Transportation for Life

Gaol report – Convicted before

Series – HO 18

Piece Number – 219

In Van Diemen's Land

Presented by The Right Honourable H Labonchere

The prisoners daughter prays that in consideration of 18 years of banishment and her advanced years (72) she may be pardoned.

Free Pardon 11 July 1849

Letter to the Colonial Office 24th May 1848

Letter to Labonchere 25th May 1848

My Dear Sir

Will you have the [] to cause an inquiry to be made with regard to the case of Jane Cook (which I believe has been some time before you) and let me know the result which interest some of my [].

(By Keith: I have no idea who wrote it or who it is going to, the writing is unreadable).

To the Right Honourable Sir George Grey Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department.

The humble Petition of Mary Coles daughter of Jane Cook a convict in Hobart Town Van Diemen's Land who was sentenced to transportation for the term of her natural life from Taunton Sessions in the latter end of the year 1830 for stealing shoes from Mr Billings and Mr Norman off Taunton – Shoemakers.

Sheweth

That your humble Petitioner had lately heard from her mother Jane Cook who wishes again to return to her native land to spend the remainder of her days with your humble Petitioner.

That your Petitioner acting under the advice of the Prosecutors and several influential people in this town and prompted with the desire of seeing her aged mother restored to liberty to be able to solace and comfort her in her latter days humbly begs to submit her said mothers case to your consideration upon the following grounds, that her mother had been banished for nearly 18 years for stealing shoes and that her conduct since her transportation had been good her great age and the security of her sentence, will induce your Honour to submit the same to the clemency of that quarter from whence alone mercy can emanate and that her mother may be again restored to liberty and your petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray.

Mary Coles

South Street

Taunton.

Jane Cook

2nd Application – In Van Diemen's Land

Labonchere transmits a further application on the prisoners behalf. Reference was made to VDL reporting her character and conduct in May last and Labonchere was so informed at the time. It is not probable that any answer will be received until May next.

8th November 1848.

(By Keith: Using the same Petition as 1st Application)

We the undersigned inhabitants of Taunton earnestly and respectfully concur in the Petition given for a mitigation of the very severe sentence passed upon Jane Cook

William Norman – Prosecutor

James Cottle – Vicar St Marys Taunton

Frederick Smith – Incumbent Holy Trinity Taunton

Joseph Clarke – Gent

Henry Fowler – Gent

And a further 27 signatures.

Downing Street

5th July 1849

Sir

With reference to your letter of the 20th May 1848 I am directed by Earl Grey to transmit to you for the information of the Secretary of State for the Home Department the copy of a dispatch from the Lieutenant Governor of Van Diemen's Land containing a favourable report upon the character and conduct of Jane Cook a convict.

I am Sir

Your obedient servant

Herman Percival.
