

Jane Harris ID 267 per *Duchess of Northumberland* 1853

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General Bekely forwards a Petition praying a mitigation of the prisoners sentence on the grounds that she was driven into crime by the conduct of her husband and afflicted with an incurable disease

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20 Cross Street

Devonport

15<sup>th</sup> November 1857

Right Honourable Sir,

At the Devonport Sessions in August 1852 I had the misfortune to find my wife Jane Harris convicted of robbery and sentenced to ten years transportation.

Grave as I felt the charge against her to be and painful as was the position she had placed herself in, I still felt that as my wife and the mother of my children, I could not throw off my affection or interest in the future welfare and in consequence I have endeavoured from time to time to ascertain where she had been located and find that she was received at Millbank on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1852 her number there being 4455/3. She was sent to Hobart town in the *Duchess of Northumberland* on the 27<sup>th</sup> November her number being 103 and arrived there the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1853 and was living as a servant with Mr [Gurnsey], Sandy Bay Roads, Hobart Town in March 1854.

By the last letter I received I was informed that she expected to be pardoned and all convicts removed from the Colony but having no means to verify this report I have taken the liberty humbly to solicit

your Honour to inform me if there is any hopes of my wife's return to England and if so if you can inform me about what time I may expect her, or if not and she is to be removed, I humbly hope your Honourable Sir will kindly inform me where she is to be removed to.

Praying for the liberty I have taken

I am

Your most humble but afflicted servant

John Harris

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Cannot say

[HM]

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Mount Wise

Devonport

23<sup>rd</sup> August 1854

Sir John Yarde Buller presents his compliments to Lord Palmerston and begs to call his attention to the case of Jane Harris a convict at Hobart Town. The object is to obtain a Ticket of Leave for Jane Harris to accompany her present Master and Mistress who are about to leave Van Diemen's Land and Sir John hopes that upon inquiring Lord Palmerston will not find any reason for refusing Jane Harris the indulgence sought.

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Van Diemen's Land

Cannot in this case depart from the usual course

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29<sup>th</sup> August 1854

Sir John Yarde Buller applies for the grant of a Pardon to the convict in order that she may accompany her employers who are about to leave the Colony and wish to take her with them.

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12 James Street

Devonport

28 October 1852

Sir

I am the [ ] mother of Jane Harris who is now under the sentence of transportation for 10 years. Her first conviction and is confined in Millbank Prison, her number is 4455.

She is the wife of a Policeman in the Devonport Dockyard (nine words cannot be read) and the sympathy they felt for me. A Petition was forwarded to you a month since signed by the Mayor, the Ex Mayor, the Magistrates, the Prosecutor and many of the gentry belonging to this town and neighbourhood praying that my unfortunate daughter (ten words cannot be read) rather than be sent beyond the seas. I respectfully beg you to (five words cannot be read) which is almost (four words cannot be read). Servant.

Hannah Hutchings.

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Sir

I beg to forward for the information of the Right Honourable Mr Secretary Walpole my report of the case of Jane Harris, on whose

behalf a memorial has been presented praying that the state of her health she might be permitted to undergo her sentence at one of the permanent Establishments in this country.

As the memorialists neither [ ] the justice of the verdict nor the propriety of the sentence I content myself with stating that this was tried in conjunction with two daughters Louisa Ann Harris aged 9 and Elizabeth aged 15 . Louisa charged with stealing and Elizabeth and the Prisoner being charged with receiving the goods knowing them to have been stolen.

Elizabeth was acquitted and Louisa and her mother convicted on [ ] evidence . I made my inquiry and found that the Prisoner has long born a bad character and that she had engaged her children to steal, and received the produce of their robberies. I am convinced that the punishment ought to be a serious one , and it was desirable to separate the mother for a long period from her daughters.

I cannot of course express any opinion as to the [ ] of granting the prayers of the petitioners as that would depend on considerations which do not fall within my [pr.....] but I would beg to submit to Mr secretary Walpole that for the (seven words cannot be read} to return to Devonport .

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your obedient humble servant

Horatio Waddington Esq.

Temple

19<sup>th</sup> October 1852.

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Ordnance Office

Pall Mall



I Benjamin Allen the Prosecutor at the trial at which the said Jane Harris was convicted do humbly beg that the prayer of her mother may be granted.

Benjamin Allen

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The undersigned gentlemen of Devonport and its neighbourhood, knowing the said Hannah Hutchings to be a most respectable woman, and in no way instrumental to her daughter's crime, do join in her Petition, that her daughter may be permitted to undergo her sentence in the Establishments of the United Kingdom.

R E Knowling – Mayor

W Jeffery – Magistrate

John Ingle – magistrate

Timothy Cain – Magistrate

A Hudson – Magistrate

Robert Baker MA

William Williams Lieutenant RN Director of Police

J Briggs – Chaplain Royal Dockyard Devonport.

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Jane Harris aged 39

Devonport Borough Sessions August 1852

Larceny and receiving stolen goods

10 years transportation

Gaol Report – Not before conviction at Millbank

Series – HO 18

Piece Number 345