

Jane Liddell ID2404 per *Aurora* 1851

Jane Liddell aged 44

Northumberland Quarter Sessions – Hexham 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1850, Stealing a Shawl, 14 years transportation, Received into Millbank Prison from Morpeth 19<sup>th</sup> September 1850, Gaol Report – Once before convicted of felony

Series – HO 18, Piece Number – 295

-----  
The prisoner asserts that she is innocent and prays for a mitigation of her sentence.

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

The Petition of Jane Liddell a prisoner in the Millbank Prison.

Humbly Sheweth

That your Petitioner is not guilty of the crime laid before her charge. She has occasion to go into the Tyne Inn at North Shields and was shewn into a common sitting room, where no person other than the mother of the Mistress of the house. The next morning as your Petitioner was walking in the street she was taken into custody by one of the police, and charged with stealing an old shawl valued at one shilling from the above mentioned room. On the day of her trial a man who kept a cloths shop swore that your Petitioner was the person from whom he had bought the said shawl. Your petitioner protests that she never saw the shawl till it was produced in court.

Your Petitioner begs top state that she was left a widow with five children and being in distress, she was tempted to pledge four seal caps valued at four shillings the property of a neighbour intending to

redeem them as soon as she received her monthly allowance of sixteen shillings, which she received from a club to which her late husband had belonged. The caps were missed before your Petitioner could redeem them, and she suffered six months imprisonment for her offence. This was her first conviction.

Your Petitioner is the widow of the late John Rawson Smith Captain of the Bryson, North Shields. He was well known to Sir Charles Grey who has shewn her great kindness since the death of her husband.

Your Petitioner humbly solicits your kind consideration of the circumstances of her case, and that you would be pleased to recommend a mitigation of her sentence and she will ever pray.

Jane Liddell

Witness – A Maclesh

---