

**Irish Transportation Record Catherine Ritchie CRF 1841 R14 Film 45**

*Stamped Chief Secretary's Office Dublin (date faded)*

11 Up Fitzwm St

June 3 – 41

Sir

In reply to your letter of the 1<sup>st</sup> Inst accompanying a memorial on behalf of Catherine Ritchie – I have the honor to acquaint you for the information of his Excellency that I can add nothing to the statement of the Stipendiary Magistrate which is annexed to the memorial in question

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your obed<sup>t</sup> humble serv<sup>t</sup>

John Gibson

Norman Macdonald

\*\*\*\*\*

To His Excellency The Lord Lieutenant of Ireland etc etc etc

The Memorial of Marg<sup>t</sup> Ritchie of Belfast; and aged widow and a cripple in favour of our daughter now under sentence of Transportation for the period of Seven Years.

Most Humbly Sheweth

That your memorialist is an aged widow of upwards of seventy, and has been a cripple for the last four years, and a daughter named Catherine Ritchie who was memorialists only support; some short time previous to the General Sessions held in Belfast in April last, by John Gibson Esquire the Assistant barrister for the County of Antrim, the said Catherine Ritchie labouring under the influence of ardent spirits, went into the yard of James Cavanagh [who? ..... ] a house for the sale of spirituous drink, at the hour of midday and was caught in the act, taking from his premises two wooden cans (value about one shilling)/ or what purpose your memorialist does not know.

That the said Catherine Ritchie being in a state of [inebriation?] and could not properly account what she intended to do with the cans, or for what purpose she was taking them away, it was supposed by Cavanagh that her intention was to steal them, and consequently had her arrested, and she was accordingly found guilty at the Sessions I have alluded to, and received the sentence of Seven Years Transportation;

That your memorialist cannot find language sufficient to convey to your Excellency the great grief and [sorrow?] she has felt since the announcement of the Sentence upon her unfortunate daughter, deprived as memorialist is in her crippled and melancholy situation, and the only consolation left to memorialist is in anticipating your Excellency's Humane consideration, to the supplications of the poor destitute Widow in the hope that Your Excellency will store your memorialist her only child.

Ah, your Excellency I implore you the feelings and laments of the destitute Widow, and the youth of the delinquent who is forced thus from her humble home, and in your gracious clemency restore her to memorialist once more, when she will inculcate by every means that can be devised the principals of Religion and morality, which must, and will be the holy means to prevent a recurrence of any illegal act, and restore to your grateful memorialist the peace of mind her absence has created; and that the almighty in his infinite mercy may prolong Your Excellency's existence, is the sincere but Humble prayer of your memorialist.

Ritchie

This I know to be true

5 Signatures

Belfast 19<sup>th</sup> May 1841

The Stipendiary Magistrate is requested to ascertain whether the signatures are genuine  
Dublin Castle  
26 May 1841

*Envelope*  
To His Excellency  
The Lord Lieutenant  
Dublin Castle

*File cover*  
R 14 1841  
Catherine Ritchie  
Robbery 7 yrs T<sup>n</sup>  
Refer to the A.B.  
May 30 *initials*  
The law must take its course  
i. A.B. ans<sup>d</sup> 5<sup>th</sup>  
ii. gov. ans<sup>d</sup> 29  
*initials*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Stamped Chief Secretary's Office Dublin 41 May 30*  
County of Antrim

Belfast  
28 May 41

Sir

In compliance with the noting on the annexed memorial I have the honor to report that on enquiring I have ascertained the signatures to be genuine – O'Reilly is a vender of old clothes with whom Margt Ritchie lodges, Cunningham & Canavan keep spirit shops, & Findlay is a small grocer – Jas. Canavan is the person from whom the water cans were stolen although named Cavanagh in the memorial.

Marg<sup>t</sup> Ritchie is a cripple begs about the streets, she has one daughter who is well conducted & earns her bread by selling freestone, but Catherine is a very abandoned character as may be seen from the annexed extract from the Police Books.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most ob<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

Walter Molony

R. U.

N.H. Macdonald.

turn over

\*\*\*\*\*

Catherine Ritchie

1838 Dec<sup>r</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Charged at Petty Sessions with stealing a coat & committed – Sentenced at Q<sup>f</sup> Sessions in following Jan<sup>y</sup> to 3 months impris<sup>t</sup>

1839 March 5<sup>th</sup> Charged at Petty Sessions with stealing a gown & several other articles – committed – Tried at April Sessions & acquitted

1839 July 4<sup>th</sup> Charged at Petty Sessions with stealing a table cloth, Discharge as there was not sufficient proof to send the case to trial

1839 Aug<sup>t</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> Charged at Petty Sessions with stealing an umbrella, committed – Sentenced at Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> Sessions to 6 months impris<sup>t</sup>

1840 April 24<sup>th</sup> Charged at Petty Sessions with stealing a shawl – committed - Tried at July Q<sup>f</sup> Sessions and acquitted

1840 Aug<sup>t</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> Charged at Petty Sessions with stealing a cloak, committed- Sentenced at Oct Q<sup>f</sup> Sessions to 1 weeks impris<sup>t</sup>

1841 March 24<sup>th</sup> Charged at Petty Sessions with stealing a ladle, Discharged as there was not sufficient proof to send the case to trial

1841 March 25<sup>th</sup> Charged at petty Sessions with stealing two water cans, committed – Sentenced at April Q<sup>f</sup> Sessions to 7 years transportation.