

Sarah Halmarack ID 116892 per *Tasmania* 1844

The prisoner is said to be of imperfect intellect the offence is represented to be her first and mitigation is prayed for on account of the alleged improper conduct of the Prosecutor.

Refer to the Prison Inspector to report on the soundness of the intellect of the convict.

GG

5th February 1844

Broom and Stone

Stafford

22 January 1844

Sir

As committing Magistrate I have been requested top forward for your consideration the accompanying Petition in favour of Sarah Halmarack, the Petition is signed by many of the most respectable inhabitants in Stone and they will feel gratified by your favourable consideration of the case, the girl, I believe to be of very weak intellect.

I have the honour

Sir

To be your most obedient servant

Mr Bentley Taylor

Magistrate

County Prison

Stafford

29th January 1844

I certify that I have seen and examined Sarah Halmarack a convict under sentence of transportation in this Prison and that her state of mind is that of perfect soundness.

Robert Hughes

Surgeon to the Prison.

To the Right Honourable Sir James Graham Her Majesty's Principle Secretary of State for the Home Department.

The memorial; of the undersigned inhabitants of Stone and the surrounding district.

Humbly Sheweth

That your Memorialists have heard with great regret the very severe sentence passed last Quarter Sessions of the Peace held at Stafford upon Sarah Halmarack a native of Stone and an orphan under the following circumstances: It appears that she was indicted and convicted at the before mentioned Sessions of stealing from the person of Thomas Taylor (a Miller residing at Hoddershall near Stone) three sovereigns and was sentenced to ten years transportation. The Prosecutor being far advanced in life and the father of a family some of whom have attained their majority. That on Tuesday 26th December last past the Prosecutor was in the company with the convict at a Public House in Stone aforesaid, and

was seen to give her a half sovereign to procure change, he being at the time in a state of intoxication and that she went out of the House and obtained change which she correctly bought to him. That during her stay with him in this House and previously to the offence being committed she repeatedly wanted to leave but she was detained by the Prosecutor who insisted on her taking more ale.

That your Memorailists beg to observe, that the convict is a poor friendless orphan and that she is of a weakly constitution both in body and mind. That she has occasionally employed in binding shoes and in making smock frocks, but that her work has been so infrequent that it has been in the greatest difficulty she has obtained employment, although she has uniformly shown great anxiety so to do. That owing to these circumstances she has suffered great destitution and your memorialists fear had by such destitution been driven to Prostitution.

Your memorialists beg also to observe that this is her first offence and that she was never before in custody upon any charge whatever.

Under these circumstance and taking into consideration the highly [] and reprehensible conduct of the Prosecutor his age and station in society and the destitute and helpless condition of the convict a poor imbecile orphan , most humbly solicit your interference to prevent her being sent out of the country, and that you will be pleased to recommend Her majesty to commute her punishment to Imprisonment in the County Gaol or in the Penitentiary for such period as you think will be a sufficient punishment for her offence.

And your memorialists will ever pray.

Gibson Lucas – Incombent of Stone

Mr Bentley Taylor – Magistrate

And 23 other signatures.

Sarah Halmarack aged 27

Stafford Quarter Sessions January 1844

Stealing from the person

10 years transportation

Gaol Report – Not known

Series – HO 18

Piece Number – 128