

**Irish Transportation Record CRF 1840 T4 Joanna
Taylor Film 43**

To His Worship the Deputy Recorder
The Petition of Joanna Taylor of the city of Cork now
Convict at the City Gaol
Sheweth

That Petitioner was convicted on the seventh of December 1839 on her pleading guilty to a charge preferred against her by a woman names Ellen Dobber/n? for stealing a cloak value three shillings her property for which it pleased your worship to pass the sentence of seven years transportation.

Petitioner Humbly begs leave to Suggest to your worship that she desired from the court that this term of exile might be visited upon her there for which she feels utterly Sorry. And that she was stimulated to seek for so unhappy an alternative on the [sure?] of having herself removed from the misfortunes that Petitioner's ill-advising pictured could not fail of ultimately rendering her miserable and thus subjected Petitioner to apply for a term which if carried into effect would bring the [sources?] of a Father to a premature Grace and blast the good prospects her husband hopes to reap in the promised confession of her future amendment.

Petitioner therefore humbly craves that your worship's mercy commute that sentence and change to imprisonment the period of punishment of her offence for which Your worship Humble Petitioner as in duty she should ever pray.

I beg respectfully to join in the appeal of Memorialist to the clemency of His Worship – from the circumstance of this being the first offence against the right of property with which she has been charged - as well as from her youth and the penitent dispositions she has lately manifested.

Michael O Sullivan R.C. chaplain City Jail
David Ahern O.S.F.
Theobald Mathew Clk
B.T. Russell – St Mary's Church Pope's Quay

I beg very respectfully to recommend to his worship Johanna Taylor as xx one for whom he would intercede with His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant to heave her sentence commuted. There being many circumstances connected with her case which would render her an object worthy of his clemency.

William H. Neligan
Curate of St Mary's Shandon
Henry J. O'Brien LL D.
Curate of St Mary's Shandon
Sunday's Well
27th Jan^y 1840

Robert Bennett Esq^{re}

Johanna Taylor

Commute to 18 Months Imprisonment with hard labour 1
week [1 ditary?] every alternate month, provided her Husband will
engage to take her back at the expiration of her sentence

Discharged prepared & orders for removal – 18th Feb^y
1840

Mr Bennett ans^d D^o HTC

Envelope

Robert Bennett Esq^{re}

Deputy Recorder

Charlotte Quay

To Robert Bennett Esq^{re} Deputy Recorder

Sir,

Having heard that a Petition is to be presented to you Signed by some Clergymen and other respectable persons on behalf of one Johanna Taylor whom you sentenced to Transportation about two months since. in Justice to myself and my children I beg leave to state that this petition has been got up by her father Michael ^oBrien to whom I unfortunately got married after the death of my first husband; that two years since she was married to a very honest man, and I had to defray the expenses besides giving her a feather Bed and other property all which she in a very short time disposed of and then deserted her husband from whom she has been since living apart. Since then she committed numerous thefts which were hushed up by the fathers paying for the articles stolen, and to try if she could be reclaimed by any means her father and I sent her to a friends of mine in the Country/ She was there after leaving the Magdalen Asylum/ where she remained for ten days and in the absence of the family she broke open a room door, a cupboard and a large drawer and stole a parcel of clothes with which she absconded, went from Blarney, where she took them, to Middleton and disposed of them – for this she was not prosecuted as her father passed an I.O.U. for £3.10.1 the value of the articles stolen – On a former occasion her father sent her to a Brother of his in Limerick whom she also robbed – should your worship change your Sentence I and two good children which I have had by my first husband must inimitably beg, as she has several times threatened our lives and even at one time she has thrown a parcel of slacked lime into my Eyes for the purpose of making me blind – at another time having

threatened to burn the house about us her father had to have her sent to Bridewell.

Theses Sir are facts – she is incorrigible and should your worship commute her Sentence you will be sending a pest on Society and perhaps reserving her for a heavier and more ignominious punishment

I am Sir, your most obedient

Servant

Margaret Brien

Cork 7th February 1840

Sunday's Well

Tuesday

Dear Sir,

I trust that a sever attack of the Epidermis at present so very prevalent will be a sufficient excuse for my not replying to your letter on the receipt of it.

The circumstances which I think will make Johanna Taylor the object worthy of your clemency are her extreme youth, and it being her first offence against the laws – deprived of her mother in her early years – and her father being occupied with his trade. I fear she did not receive that instruction which would make her/better [.....] into salvation and also a [dutiful?] member of society- married also to a man as she states whom she did not like and who treated her with contempt and in short deserted [her?] she was thrown on the world for support she easily became a prey to those seducers - Her friends by way of reclaiming her committed her to prison for some slight offences where bad company and [soil?] communication nearly completed her [excise?] -

Her husband I understand is now desirous of taking her under his protection, and he is (I understand) an altered man. should Your Worship intercede for her and obtain xxxxxx commutation of her punishment she may become a useful wife and a source of consolation to her husband.

Your obedient

Servant

William H. Neligan

Rob. Bennett Esq^{re}

Mr. Connor written up the side

DH fil 13

H.T.C. 14th

Sir,

I beg leave to forward to you for the consideration of His Excellency The Lord Lieutenant a memorial which has been handed to me by the Father of a Convict, Johanna Taylor, who has been sent to Dublin under sentence of Transportation from then City of Cork.

This memorial was addressed to me or the presiding Judge of the Quarter Sessions Court in which the Convict was indicted for a Larceny and pleaded Guilty entreating to be transported as the only means of withdrawing her from bad company into which she had fallen: and it was represented at the same time that her father had on a former occasion sent her to the Bridewell of this city to punish her by means of holding her to jail to keep the Peace to him and his family. Of course that proceeding could not be pursued save to call upon her husband to interfere, but she had deserted him & he I believe had gone to Wales; she was discharged and then committed the offence for which she was indicted and in the state of vice and misery unto which she had fallen, she entreated to be transported. She had, I heard, been addicted to drink and was very violent when under its influence. She was sentenced to transportation and has been sent to Dublin. Her Father has, since, applied to me, handing me a Memorial to have the sentence mitigated. I told him that the case was entirely out of my control, when once the sentence was passed, and that he ought to have petitioned His Excellency The Lord Lieutenant.

But I said that as he had a memorial signed with recommendations, tho misdirected to me, I would forward it, as being a more expeditious course than preparing a new memorial to His Excellency, which would very probably be transmitted to me for a report. At the same time I distinctly told him I would not recommend it for a favourable consideration unless some good grounds could be laid before me; and I gave him a letter to the Curates of St Mary Shandon whose Certificate implied more knowledge of the circumstances favourable to the Convict. After a lapse of several days I received a letter from the Revd Mr Neligan, which I have the honor to transmit.

I was on the point of forwarding these papers when the step mother of the Convict called me with a letter, which I also beg leave to send. The poor woman seemed in great alarm from the violent disposition of Convict should she be sent back; however, the complaint of a step mother is suspicious.

No application had been made to me by the Convicts husband, but thinking it right to enquire into his circumstances I sent for the father, and he sent forward the Husband. He said he had been some months at work in Wales, seems a quite well disposed man, says he would wish to have her back, if she would stay with him. I asked him if he would become bound for her good behaviour, and he candidly acknowledged he could not be sure of her, but is willing to receive her and try to reclaim her. he is a mere labourer; he has no child here but has heard that she has had a child since she was sent to Dublin.

I beg leave to submit this entire case to His
Excellency's consideration.

I have the honor to be

Sir

your most obedient

humble servant

Robert Bennett

Deputy Recorder

City of Cork

Thomas Drummond Esqr^e

Chief Secretary's Office

Dublin Castle