

## **Catherine Cahill -Irish Transportation Records CRF 1843 C69**

### **Letter of Petition for clemency for Catherine Cahill – to The Lieutenant General & Governor General**

His Excellency Lieutenant General and General-Governor of Ireland

The humble and suppliant Memorial of John Cahill of the town of Athboy, Dealer, most humbly sheweth

That on or about the eight day of June last, my Brother-in-law, Owen Brady, his wife and four children, came to my house from the County of Cavan, apparently in a very low condition. I was out labouring at the same time for the Rev<sup>d</sup> R. Noble, Parish Vicar but my wife Catherine Cahill (the subject of this Memorial) not seeing her Brother or his family in her own house for upwards of seven years before this time entertained them and made them as comfortable as our humble means would afford her.

The next day, Brady's wife gave my Woman a Shawl and begged of her to sell it, or to pledge it for her, as they had no other means at the time to procure support for their family. In compliance with her sister-in-law's request, my Wife pledged the shawl for the value of two shillings and sixpence. Two days afterwards said Brady prevailed on his Sister (my Wife) to accompany him into Navan, to pawn some things he had in his Bundle. She always willing and very desirous to oblige her Brother went with him, and as a proof that she did not suspect the things, or clothes, he had in the Bundle were stolen, she pawned them in her own name! for Brady remained outside, whilst he sent her in to pledge the things for him. This my Lord is the sum and substance of her offence.

But to resume. The night after they were in Navan, we were all taken for those stolen goods and tried before the Assistant Barrister, Mr Murphy in Baileborough, County of Cavan. but, my Lord, in the presence of God, innocency was found in me. I was, of course, acquitted: which, I hope may be an extenuation of my Wife's offence. Brady and his Wife are sentenced to ten years transportation and, I believe, deservedly so, for he acknowledged their Guilt. My unfortunate wife got sentence for seven years to be transported from me, and her four young and helpless children; for being too compliant to her Brother and for doing what, in her ignorance, she thought no offence at all, but an act of kindness to a distressed relation

Now, My Lord, as common Father and Guardian of us all, I humbly beg, in the Name of our Lord God, the God of Mercy as well as Justice, that you will be charitably pleased to take my case into your immediate consideration; and restore my poor wife to her little helpless innocent children, from her present confinement in Grange Gorman, Dublin in company with Characters justly punished for their transgressions, and we shall as in Duty bound ever pray.

John Cahill and children

### **Letter of Petition for clemency for Catherine Cahill- to the Lord Justices**

To the Lord Justices

The humble and suppliant Memorial of John Cahill of the town of Athboy, Dealer, most humbly sheweth

That on or about the eight day of June last, my Brother-in-law, Owen Brady, his wife and four children, came to my house from the County of Cavan, apparently in a very low condition. I was out labouring at the same time for the Rev<sup>d</sup> R. Noble, Parish Vicar my wife Catherine Cahill not seeing her Brother or his family in her own house for upwards of seven years endeavoured to make them as comfortable as our humble means would afford her.

The next day, Brady's wife gave my Woman a Shawl and begged of her to sell it, or to pledge it for her, as they had no support for their family: In compliance with her sister-in-law's request, my Wife pledged the shawl for the value of two shillings and sixpence. Two days afterwards, said Brady, prevailed on his Sister (my Wife) to accompany or go with him into Navan, to pawn some things he had in his Bundle. She being willing and very anxious to oblige her Brother, went with him, and as a proof that she

did not suspect the things, or clothes, were stolen, she pawned them in her own name! For Brady did not go into the Pawn Office at all. This, my Lords, is the sum and substance of her offence.

The night after they were in Navan, we were all taken for these stolen goods and tried in Baileborough, County of Cavan, before the Assistant Barrister, Mr Murphy. Brady and his Wife are transported for ten years and, I believe, deservedly so, for he acknowledged that they were guilty. I was tried, but, before the Lord, innocency was found in me. I was therefore acquitted, which, I hope will be looked upon as an extenuation of my Wife's offence. My unfortunate wife was sentenced to be transported for seven years from me and her four young, helpless children for being compliant to her Brother and for doing what in her ignorance she thought no offence at all, but an act of kindness to her distressed relatives.

Now my Lord Justices, I pray you as Fathers, as Guardians and as Christians; yea, I humbly beg of [...] in the Name of our Lord God, the God of Justice and of Mercy, that you will be charitably pleased to take my case into your immediate consideration (as the Convicts will be soon leaving this country) and, that you will be pleased to release her; and send her to comfort her poor children: and we shall, all, old and young, whilst we live, as in duty bound, ever pray.

John Cahill and children

I believe the above statement to be correct.

Robert Noble  
Vicar of Athboy  
August 18 1842

#### Notes at the side of the letters

Catherine Cahill  
Stealing Apparel

The goods were stolen in Cavan and found in the County of Meath: we can't say (as at present informed) when they were stolen and when found. I think it would be satisfactory to hear from Mr Murphy, his report of the evidence.

J G A (?)  
9 Sept 42

Sept 24 1842

I think Mr Murphy should be applied to, to gain his report of the evidence.

J. G. A.

I have no doubt that the conclusion and sentence are right.

J

23 Sept 1842

I think the law should take its course J. G. A.

Gaoler informed do 24  
Another Mem<sup>l</sup> annexed 19 Oct  
Confirm  
[.....]  
Grange Gorman

I believe the above statement to be correct and the poor woman to have been used in her ignorance by her designing relatives

Robert Noble  
Vicar of Athboy  
August 18 1842

The Queen  
V  
John Cahill  
And  
Catherine Cahill  
His Wife

Dublin September 16  
1842

My Lord,

In compliance with your Lordship's request, I have the honor to transmit my report of the trial of Catherine Cahill, a convict under sentence of transportation.

The convict and her husband were both tried before me at the last sessions of Cavan, for having received into their possession knowing them to be stolen, various articles of wearing apparel, the property of Mr Samuel Jones. The principal in the felony, a man named Owen Brady had previously pleaded guilty and sentenced to transportation. He is brother to Catherine Cahill.

The first witness (Mr Samuel Jones) deposed, that on the night of the 29<sup>th</sup> May, last, His House had been broken open and that a shawl – a mantle – a coat and various other articles were carried away. The shawl and coat now produced, He positively identified as his property

John Carolin ( a constable) was next produced and stated that in consequence of some information He had received, He made search in the House where the Prisoners lodged at Athboy, for stolen property, and He there found a mantle ( which the Prosecutor identified as his property). The female Prisoner is sister to Owen Brady who has just pleaded guilty. Brady's wife claimed the articles as Her own – but Catherine Cahill acknowledged that she had pawned the coat at Mr Finnigan's pawn office.

John Martin – (the next witness). Stated that He was in the employment of Finnigan, the pawn broker, and that Catherine Cahill had pawned in the office and received 12 shillings for the coat now produced (and which was identified by the Prosecutor) She gave her name as Catherine Cahill, but stated her place of residence to be Rathmore.

Mr Shoulan?? Crawford (chief constable) then produced a shawl which He stated He had received from a man named Hall.

William Hall deposed that He had purchased this shawl now produced to Him on the last Saturday three weeks ago from the female Prisoner.

Upon the evidence the jury without hesitation found the female Prisoner guilty and acquitted her husband. It appeared to me to be a satisfactory verdict.

I have the honor to remain, my Lord, Your Lordships humble servant

P.M. Murphy  
Assistant Barrister for Cavan  
33 Baggst St

The Right Honorable  
Lord Elliot

Dublin September 6 1842

My Lord,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a Memorial from John Cahill respecting his Wife Catherine Cahill and have to state in reply –

That the convict was found guilty of having into her possession a quantity of wearing apparel which had been stolen by her Brother in a House into which He and some other thieves had broken at night. Both He and She and all her family - most infamous characters – Her Brother pleaded guilty and She, having been convicted upon very clear evidence and sentenced them both to transportation.

Her husband (the Memorialist) was represented to me at the trial to be a very decent man – but his Wife a most abandoned character – and I concurred with the magistrates at sessions in thinking that He was much better without Her & that public justice required She should undergo the punishment of transportation – and I know of no mitigating circumstances in the case.

I have the Honor to  
Remain my Lord  
P.M. Murphy  
Assistant Barrister for Cavan  
33 Bagg? St

The Right Hon  
(Lord Elliot)?