

Caroline Hills ID5126 per *Emma Eugenia* 1851

Caroline Hill or Hills aged 17 or 19

Central Criminal Court December 1849, Robbery with others

10 years transportation, Gaol report – Not known

Series – HO 18, Piece Number 271

The prisoner is said to have borne a good character and to have been led astray by her associates and a commutation of her sentence is prayed for.

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

The Petition of Catherine Hill of No 13 Shards Square near the Canal Bridge Old Kent Road.

Humbly Sheweth

That your petitioner's daughter Catherine Hill was together with other parties tried and convicted at the Session of the Central Criminal Court held in the month of December last for felony and your Petitioner's daughter was in pursuance of such conviction sentenced to be transported beyond the Seas for the term of 10 years.

That your Petitioner's daughter is only 17 years of age and up to a very short period of the time of the unfortunate circumstances which caused her conviction and sentence of

transportation as before set forth resided under the roof of your Petitioner and conducted herself in a most exemplary manner and bore the character of an honest and industrious girl, your Petitioner having constantly instilled into the mind of her unfortunate daughter from her childhood the precepts of honesty and industry and your Petitioner is confident that she had been seduced from the Path of Rectitude by the evil [] of others who being deeply steeped in crime themselves are ever ready to make victims of those who have not sufficient strength of mind to withstand their evil persuasions and to whose previous advice your Petitioner's daughter owes her present degraded and unfortunate position but you Petitioner still hopes that although the morals of her child have become tainted they were not so far gone to preclude the possibility of her becoming reclaimed.

That your Petitioner and her family have always borne irreproachable characters and your Petitioner as also her family are in a state of the greatest misery and distress at the offence so committed by your Petitioner's daughter and fell most deeply the disgrace entailed upon your Petitioner and her family by your Petitioner's daughter having this severed from the Path of Rectitude but your Petitioner feeling for and sympathising with her unfortunate daughter (as it is the duty of every parent to do so) for the unfortunate situation in which she has plunged herself by her offence against the Laws by having allowed herself to become the dupe of others your Petitioner is induced by the advice of her friends to present this Petition to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Home Department in the earnest and sincere hope that if mercy can be shown to persons in the unfortunate position of your Petitioner's daughter that the

hand of mercy may be extended to her so that the sentence of transportation so passed upon her may not be carried out to its full extent your Petitioner (in the event of her appeal for mercy for her unfortunate daughter being successful) sincerely hoping that whatever punishment may be substituted in lieu thereof it will through the blessing of divine providence so act upon your Petitioners daughter that she may become reformed and eventually be a good honest and respected member of the family and society.

That your Petitioner has been informed that since the conviction of her daughter the woman Julia Collins (one of the parties convicted with her) has disclosed to your Petitioners daughter where the Prosecutors watch, chain and other articles were disposed of and which your petitioners daughter had communicated to him and your petitioner sincerely hopes that such disclosure will lead to the Prosecutor recovering his property and your Petitioner further states that her unfortunate daughter never knew what had become of such property until she was so informed of the woman Collins since her conviction as aforesaid your Petitioners daughter being entirely the dupe of the more guilty parties.

Your Petitioner therefore most humbly but earnestly prays the Right Honourable The Secretary of State for the Home Department to take the case of her unfortunate daughter into his merciful and serious consideration so that if any mitigating circumstances can be found therein that the Right Honourable Secretary may be pleased to recommend her Most Gracious majesty to cause such a commutation of the sentence of transportation so passed upon her daughter as

foresaid as Her Majesty may in her wisdom most graciously think fit, compatible with the ends of Justice so that at no very distant period she may be restored to your Petitioner and her family.

And your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray.

Catherine Hill

29th January 1850

We the undersigned most earnestly recommend the prayer of the above Petitioner to the merciful consideration of Her Majesty's Secretary of State:

John Furness – Clergyman

John Collins

William Rollfe

And 8 other signatures.
