

Catherine Barry ID 5709 per *Gilbert Henderson* 1840

No 2 Montrose Street

Glasgow

November 1839

My Lord

Being earnestly requested, by the friends here of the poor unfortunate young orphan girl Catherine Barrie, whose case is submitted to your Lordship's consideration in the enclosed Petition to your Lordship. I having not only seen, the original holograph letter, therein referred to, but being also personally perfectly cognizant of the truth of the main historical facts, stated in the Petition and this orphans relations here, being so very poor as to be quite unable to bear any [] of agency either here or in London, I having drawn and written the Petition gratuitously from a feeling of sincere commiseration and respect for the case. I have humbly to beg your Lordship's pardon for sending the enclosed papers, direct to you Lordship, in an official manner, without the intervention of any expenses or any Agent in London.

My. I then, most respectfully beg of your Lordship, to have the goodness, and condescension, to allow any of your Under Clerks, to drop me a few line her, informing of the result of

the application, when it may suit, with your Lordship's own
concise [] returning, if your Lordship please, the
accompanying original holograph letter from the Honourable
Keith Stewart.

I have the honour to be

My Lord

Your Lordship's most obedient and very humble servant

Alex Barry

Writer.

Answer and enclosure returned

20th November 1839

Petition for Catherine Barrie - 1839

15th November 1839

Unto the Right Honourable Her Majesty's Principle Secretary
of State for the Home Department

The humble Petition of Catherine Barrie lately residing in Ayr
and at present prisoner in the Jail at Ayr.

Respectfully Sheweth

That the Petitioner is a poor helpless, unfortunate, young orphan girl of only about 18 years of age whose father, Robert Barrie sometime sailor in Glasgow, a regular bred sailor was drowned in the River Clyde at Renfrew Ferry near Glasgow upwards of 18 years ago, by a fatal accident or fall from the deck of a small vessel into the said river of which vessel he at the time was acting Master, whilst in progress of going down that river to a distant part of the Highlands of Scotland in the prosecution of his lawful employment.

That after the very unfortunate death of her lamented father when the Petitioner was so young, as only about 10 years of age, she was necessitated to go, into low menial service in various parts of the country to earn her bread, but having no proper Guardian to direct her conduct in life, she about two years ago left Glasgow and went to the town of Ayr in quest of some further employment there as a maid servant, where she unfortunately fell into bad company.

That the Petitioner now confesses with much shame, sorrow and regret that being so very young and inexperienced in the world she unluckly got acquainted with some improper females in the town of Ayr, certain of whom were immediately apprehended along with herself, on a charge of theft or robbery and the Petitioner having been lately tried at the last Circuit Court of Justiciary at Ayr along with her unfortunate companions she was as being “art and part” with other sentenced ten years transportation beyond the seas.

That at the Petitioner's trial it did NOT appear that she had had any hand in the crime so charged against her, ALL that was proved against her was the mere fact of her being SEEN in the company of this actively engaged in the crime charged, who were all banished to 14 years. She was convicted SOLELY on the grounds, in Law, of being "art and Part" and the Petitioner on account of her extreme youth and the other peculiar circumstances which evidently appeared in her favour in the case, was strongly recommended to the mercy of the Crown by the Jury who sat upon her trial.

That the Petitioner most respectfully begs leave farther to state as circumstances which it is humbly hoped will weigh greatly in her favour in the view of now obtaining a commutation or mitigation of her punishment through the Royal Clemency that besides her departed father having been as above mentioned himself a regular bred seaman from the port of Clyde s can be shewn on reference to John Thomas Aston Esq. of the respectable house of Messrs John Thomas Alston Company merchants No 294 Saint Vincent Street Glasgow her father owners to whom reference is now respectfully made, if necessary, the Petitioner Grandfather the late David Barrie sometime Hair dress in Glasgow was for a considerable period also a Seaman onboard of the three following Man of War: namely – The Berwick, Princess Amelia and Cambridge and not only faithfully served the present Majesty's Royal Ancestors as a seaman during the American War but was most honourably discharged from the Public

Service from the end of that War as in fully instructed by an Holograph letter of date 12th February 1787 under the hand of The Honourable Admiral Keith Stewart Commander of said three ships, addressed to the Petitioner's said grandfather certifying expressly his excellent good character and services, onboard of the said three Man of War ships, which holograph letter is now herewith produced and respectfully referred to.

That in these very particular circumstances especially considering the Petitioner's extreme youth, the very unfortunate death of her late father, her destitute and forlorn situation in early life, by having been thus thrown upon the world at such an very early age as ten years without any proper guardian to get her into any lawful or honest employment for her daily support or the fact of her being only seen in the company with the other persons chiefly accused on her trial and she having defacto been convicted only on the technical ground in law of being "art and part" her being earnestly recommended to the mercy of the Crown by the Jury who tried her case, and above all, the Petitioner's grandfather's good behaviour and public service in defence, of his King and Country proved by the Holograph letter from the Honourable Admiral Keith Stewart now produced with this Petition to your Lordship , and in short from the whole other favourable circumstances and mollifying features of the Petitioner's unfortunate history and case. She humbly but most earnestly hopes that your Lordship will consider it consistent with your public duty to

recommend her distressing case for consideration to the Royal Mercy as after craved.

May it therefore please your Lordship to take the whole premises into your mature consideration and after obtaining such a report of the case, above stated from the Honourable High Court of Justiciary at Edinburgh, shall seem proper, to recommend the Petitioner's case as a fit one for the intervention of Her Majesty's Royal Clemency, and for the sovereign exercise of such mercy or other commutation of punishment as to your Lordship in Her Majesty's Royal pleasure may appear suitable to the Petitioner unfortunate case under all the favourable circumstances of it before referred to consistently with the ends of Public Justice.

And your Petitioner in duty bound will ever pray.

C Barrie

Catherine Barrie/Barry aged 20

Ayr Circuit Court September 1839

Robbery

10 years transportation

Gaol report – Not known – Prostitute

Series – HO18

Piece Number – 6

Embarked in the Gilbert Henderson for VDL
