

Catherine Blunson ID 4554 per Emma Eugenia 1842

Prisoners father intercedes and requests she may be sent to the Penitentiary

Cambridge Town Goal

21st July 1841

Sir

In reply to yours received this morning I beg to inform you that CATHERINE BLUNSUM was tried on the 5th of this month and sentenced as you have heard to 7 years transportation she was undefended and being without money or friends and however greatly she may have offended yet I cannot help thinking (as a Parent myself) that she has been harshly neglected and forsaken by those on whom (spite of all her failing) surely she had some little claim. Her wardrobe is of a very indifferent description she having nothing more than is actually necessary for her cleanliness. I am very happy to bear testimony for which I have alone in my return to the Secretary of State, to her exemplary conduct during the period she has been with me, as to her feelings on the punishment awarded that may be more easily imagined than [described] and I assure you that the thought of her mother has rendered her the most poignant distress, her time is

occupied in washing and needlework, she is with two more servants under similar sentence and for similar offences. Her friends can see her any day between the hours of 10 and 4. I should not think she will leave Cambridge until after the Judges return to London from their respective Circuits and it is my opinion judging from former cases that they will all three leave England.

I shall be most happy to give you any further information if required at all events I will care that you shall be made acquainted with the time of her departure and destination.

Your obediently

John Edes

Mr Blunsum

c/o Rev. H C Chaplins

Ryhall

Near Stamford

Lincolnshire

11th August 1841

My Lord

I first crave forgiveness for thus presuming to address your Lordship.

It is with feelings of the greatest pain and anxiety that I feel myself under the necessity of addressing you Lordship on the present unhappy occasion, but My Lord, I have an unfortunate daughter confined on the Town Gaol at Cambridge, under sentence of 7 years transportation, for theft in her situation as Servant at a Public House in that place; My Lord, my daughter was only 21 years of age on the 28th . and I can faithfully assure your Lordship, she never was before a Magistrate, until the present time on any occasion whatever, and I am really apprehensive that she was drawn to commit the crime from absolute want; a Public House and in such a place as Cambridge, is not food schooling for female character, and I was totally unacquainted with her situation at the time, having left that neighbourhood about 18 months.

My Lord, I am sensible she deserves punishment, but pray My Lord in the midst of judgement, do remember mercy, and so far mitigate her sentenced, as to have her confined in the Penitentiary in the county, and spare my wife and myself the pangs of the thoughts of her being transported to any penal settlement abroad. My Lord, she has been well educated and the greatest care paid to her morals whilst under my care, but I fear evil communications have corrupted her, as it has done to others. I have enclosed a letter from the Governor of the Town Gaol speaking of her conduct while there, and I received another from him on Monday last authorising me to make use of the same, as I thought I might

be of service to her and saying also that the Chaplain of the Prison had forwarded to you a certificate of her recent exemplary conduct.

My Lord, I humbly take the liberty of enclosing you a letter from my daughter which show to you the good moral feeling which pervades her mind in respect to her little brother, a child 3 and half years of age, and I would to God that same feeling had always been predominant in her breast, it would have saved her from the awful and perilous fate which awaits her, and me from the agony of mind which I feel for having given life to such an unfortunate child.

Humbly hoping My Lord, that anything here penned will not be deemed offensive to your Lordship, but that my humble supplication may be mercifully and that my daughter may remain in this county and some day (which I hope will not be distant) be restored to that society which she has much offended, a reformed and truly virtuous character, is the first wish of my heart.

I have the honour to be

My Lord

Your Lordships very obliged and very humble and obedient servant

(signed)

William Boxer Blunsum

To the most noble:
The Marquis of Normanby
Principle Secretary of State

Cambridge Town Gaol

22nd July 1841

Dear Mother and Father

I received the enclosed letter this morning stating that you should say that I richly deserve the punishment I am sentenced to though you are the father of a family had you the feelings this gentleman has her you would not have tried to hurt my feelings more than they were hurt.

Mr EDIS kind enough to read the letter you wrote to him wishing him to send you word where my box and clothes are that you could get them you must think that I was going away naked therefore I shall take all with me as we are obliged to be comfortably clothed we can take anything we like with us.

I should like to see my sisters and brothers before I go it may be the last time, kiss my dear little William for me may he never come to this. Let them come as soon as they can, tell Charlotte if she got any black caps I will send her my white ones for them as we cannot wash them on the ship, I have plenty of clothes but no money.

I wrote to my brother last Sunday week but have had no answer. I have been asked some half dozen times where you was gone but I never told them because your feelings should not be hurt but did not mind hurting mine.

I remain your truly but unfortunate daughter

Catherine Blunsum

Catherine Blunsum aged 21

Cambridge Borough Sessions July 1841

Larceny by a Servant

7 years Transportation

Gaol Report – Character – Bad