

Irish Transportation Record of Catherine Riley per Tasmania 1845
CRF 1845 – R6
Larceny – Stealing Clothes - Sentenced to 7 Years Transportation

Stamped CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE DUBLIN 45 FEB 8
Mem. tell the Major [*overstruck stamp*]

Dublin
Feby 8th 1845

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 7th Ins^t accompanied by the Memorial of **Catherine Reilly**, herewith returned, and in observance to the order of Preference thereon, beg leave to submit, that I am unacquainted with any circumstances in the case of Memorialist, which would render her an object of mercy further than is referred to in the recommendation of the Inspector.

In the case for which she was sentenced to transportation she had been received as a pauper thro Charity by her prosecutor and having got her supper and a night's lodging amongst the poor but hospitable and decent family she contrived about midnight to gather up and carry off a large Bundle consisting of all the Clothes of all the family and left them without raiment for going to Chapel next morning, being Sunday.

There was also another Indictment found against her for another Larceny which I did not think it necessary to try because 2 Sessions before that sentence had 6 months imprisonment for another a 3rd Larceny and would then have transported her but for a reference made to some protective aid which she had given in some meditated attack on the Governor of the Gaol of Mayo. I believe it is true as she states that she long personated the character of a man and married a woman and I think it very probable as she states that she may have committed another Larceny on the person that she calls her Mother in Law. Submitting the above for the consideration of his Excellency.

I have the honor to be Sir
Your most obedient
Humble servant
John Hanbery

E Lucas Esq
&c. &c. &c.
Dublin Castle

Law must take its course
Feb^y 12th 1845 – Heytesbury

Gaoler infor^d do
AWC

Mr Finlay
done do WH

Mr Hitchins [*4 lines crosswise*]

Stamped CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE DUBLIN

Having lately Inspected the Gaol of Roscommon & found a very universal opinion amongst the Officers & Chaplains in favour of the Memorialist **Catherine Riley**, sentenced to Transportation, & confined in that Gaol, I promised to submit the memorial for consideration.

I would submit for favourable consideration, that her peculiar case, may be referred to J Findlay Esq the Presiding Barrister for that Co^y for his opinion how far a commuted Sentence might be extended towards her.

Dublin Castle
6th Feb^y 1845 -

J Palmer [*Major James Palmer*]
Inspe^ct of Prisons

Mr Hitchins
Ref^d to Mr Finlay
Feb 7/HH

To His Excellency Lord Heytesbury Lord Lieutenant
General and General Governor of Ireland

The Memorial of **Catherine Reily** of Bing[h]amstown-erris, in the County of Mayo now a
prisoner in the County Gaol of Roscommon.

Most Humbly Sheweth,

That Memorialist was tried at the last Oct^r Sessions of Boyle for a petty Larceny
and sentenced by John Finlay Esq. LLD the then Presiding Barrister, for said offence to
Seven years transportation.

That Memorialist always lived in the most industrious manner to procure a
livelyhood, for the more effective procuring of which, she assumed the habit and apparel
of a man, servant boys, being entitled to receive more wages than a female servant.
That she lived eight years in a Carmans Stage at Ballaghaderreen in this County,
having the care of eight Horses daily, for which office she received £4-- a year and her
chance that while in said situation she was compelled to marry another girl with whom
she lived three years, the girl being perfectly aware that Memorialist was a female, the
mother at length discovered her, when she was obliged to escape, bringing with her at
the time some wearing apparel the property of her Mother in law for which she was
afterwards taken, and tried as above stated.

That Memorialist was subsequently (to being detected) in the town of Castlebar
in a house when the Governor of Castlebar Gaol (where Memorialist had an opportunity
of [obscuring?]) came running in, saying that seven or eight fellows were in pursuit to
murder him for inflicting gaol punishment, as by the Act required on a previous
occasion, that your Memorialist put the Governor under her cloths and while there the
fellows came into the house and thoroughly searched it for him, by means of which she
saved his life from the murderous attack.

That your Memorialist trusts there may be some features in the above statement
as may ground a mitigation of her sentence.

That Memorialist humbly hopes your Excellency will take her case into your
excellency's humane consideration and if it may to reduce her sentence to some period
of imprisonment.

And Memorialist will as in duty bound ever pray.

Cathrine Reily

R 6 1845
Catherine Reily
Larceny 7 yrs transpⁿ
Report of Assistant
Barrister is annexed
Feb 11/.
