

**BRIDGET FITZSIMMONS - Irish Transportation Records CRF 1843 F5**

Stamped Chief Secretary's Office Dublin 43 April 15

Meath  
Summerhill 14 April/43

Have enquired into the circumstances remarked on by Mr Plunkett in his report on the annexed Memorial. It appears true that Constable Orr's evidence was misunderstood. It had reference to two distinct visits to Fitzsimmon's house. On the first occasion, he went to search for a quantity of Linen stolen from Pat Smith of Dunslaughlin- which he found in her possession, and arrested her; he also on this occasion found the gown in question, asked Bridget Fitzsimmons to whom it belonged. She explained that it was hers, & as it formed no part of the stolen property for which he was searching he left it in her box. Bridget Fitzsimmons was then committed to Trim Gaol.

In the course of a few days Constable Orr learned that a Mrs Lawless, who also resides in Dunslaughlin had been robbed & amongst the property lost a gown. He proceeded immediately to Fitzsimmon's house took the gown in question with other property and on Mrs Lawless identifying it as that stolen from her, least there should be any mistake, he took the gown to the gaol again showed it to Fitzsimmons & asked was it hers – she repeated that it was adding that she purchased it at Navan. It appears from information since obtained that Bridget Fitzsimmons was seen in Dunshaughlin at her brother's house the day before Mrs Lawless was robbed. Her brother committed several robberies in that neighbourhood, and no doubt can assert that Bridget & a gang who resided in her house at Jamestown about sixteen miles from Dunshaughlin were accessories to them all – either as parties concerned in the actual commission of the robberies or as receivers and disposers of the stolen property and how or on what grounds the jury acquitted her for receiving the property stolen from Smith was a matter of surprise to all who heard the trial, Since her Conviction and that of her confederates there has not been any offences in the neighbourhood.

George Despard

Edw<sup>d</sup> Lucas Esq<sup>re</sup>

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April 7 – 1843  
30 Upper Fitzwilliam

Sir. I had the honour of receiving at Dunshaughlin, pending the Quarter Sessions, your letter dated the 1<sup>st</sup> April 1843 enclosing the memorial of Bridget Fitzsimmons Prisoner in the Gaol of the County of Meath and requesting me to acquaint you with the particulars of the case and whether in my opinion there are any mitigating circumstances which would render her a proper object of mercy – and in reply I beg leave to say that I immediately communicated with the gaoler (Mr Smart) upon the matters of Enquiry suggested in the memorial of the Prisoner & find from the statement of Mr Smart that undoubtedly the Prisoner was in gaol at the time when Sergeant Orr of the Constabulary according to my notes of his Evidence stated she was in her Father's house & when he found in her box the stolen articles, which she then claimed as hers – I enclose a note of the evidence given in her trial – Sergeant Orr is an active intelligent officer and quite incapable of intentionally swearing what was untrue – I feel very much at a loss what recommendation to make in this case as I believe the Prisoner to be Guilty and a bad character her brother was transported and she was acquitted at the Trim October Sessions of another Larceny tho the evidence in my opinion warranted a conviction. I am sure if the Memorial, my note of the trial, & this letter were enclosed to Captain Geo. Despard the Resident Magistrate of the Coy Meath with directions to make enquiries of Sergeant Orr & such other enquiries as he thought fit a safe conclusion would probably be arrived at –

I have the honor to be  
Sir  
Your obedient servant  
John Plunkett

At the Quarter Sessions of the County of Meath held at Trim on 24<sup>th</sup> of October 1842 –  
Bridget Fitzsimmons was tried upon and Indictment for Receiving a frock & other articles of dress knowing them to have been theretofore stolen –

Anne Lawless deposed that these articles of dress and the frock were put out on a hedge at noon on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 1842 – she next saw them in the August following in the possession of Sergeant Orr of the Constabulary – she identified the frock at the trial by particular marks – The frock is her sisters Bridget Lawless

Bridget Lawless deposed that she put the frock out on the hedge & missed it the next day – she made the frock herself – she identified it on the trial –

James Orr, Police Sergeant deposed that he was stationed at Trim, that he found the frock in a box of Bridget Fitzsimmons in her fathers house in Jamestown – she claimed it as hers – he found it on 4<sup>th</sup> July – she said she bought it in Navan in a shop

The Prisoner was found guilty

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### The Petition

To His Excellency Earl De Grey Lord Lieutenant General, and General Governor of Ireland

The Memorial of Bridget Fitzsimmons a Prisoner under rule of Transportation at Grange Gorman

Humbly Sheweth,

That Memorialist was tried at the October Sessions in Trim before the Honorable John Plunket Assistant Barrister for the county of Meath for Larceny, and found guilty in consequence as Memorialist has since heard and believes of the Jury conceiving from the evidence that Memorialist was in her father's house, when a box containing the stolen property namely two gowns were found by the Police and that she acknowledged them to be hers whereas Memorialist has abundant proof that she was in Trim Gaol at the very time, on another charge of which she was acquitted.

Memorialist humbly implores your Excellency to refer to the Assistant Barrister who is now holding his Sessions in the County of Meath, for the truth of her statement, as he by examining the Police and officers of the Gaol he will find this statement true.

And Memorialist will ever pray

Bridget Fitzsimmons

27 March 1843

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Bridget Fitzsimmons  
Receiving Stolen Goods 7 years

Refer to Cap Despard as suggested by Mr Plunkett  
Ref<sup>d</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> Initials

Mr Despard's report annexed

The law must take its course  
April 17<sup>th</sup> 1843 Initials

1 Also ( ) 17<sup>th</sup>  
Gaoler informed do AWL