

Isabella Grant ID5117 per *Emma Eugenia* 1851

Isabella Grant or Harper aged 38

Aberdeen Circuit Court April 1850

Larceny

10 years transportation

Gaol report – 4 times before convicted and 5 times for Breach of the Peace.

Series – HO 18

Piece Number 276

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It is represented that the prisoner in consequence of an injury to the head received some years ago, is at times [ ] responsible for her action, that her previous convictions were for a very trivial offence and that she is generally industrious and well conducted. A commutation of her sentence is prayed for.

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Aberdeen

27<sup>th</sup> April 1850

Sir George

I beg permission to lay before you the accompanying Petition to be submitted to Her Majesty for a commutation of the sentence pronounced at the last Aberdeen Circuit against

Isabella Grant or Harper, a poor woman who is not altogether of sane mind from a severe injury in the head she met with some years ago, as can be instructed by Medical Testimony if required.

I have the honour to be

Sir George

Your most obedient and humble servant

William Paterson

Advocate

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Unto the Queen's Most Gracious Majesty

May it please Your Majesty

At the Spring Circuit held at Aberdeen upon the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> instant, Isabella Grant or Harper a widow aged 38 was accused of theft of a cheese, and on conviction was sentenced by the Lords of Justice then present to ten years transportation.

This poor woman some years ago met with an accident by which she fell down a flight of stairs, thereby fracturing her skull, and injuring her brain, so that at times she is not mistress of her actions, though she is generally industrious as a needlewoman and had been the almost sole support of an aged mother, who is also a destitute widow.

She was also accused of being habit and repute a thief, but this is inconsistent with her habits, as well known to us the subscribers, and the only other charge against her was that

on one occasion several years ago, having gone into a shop to purchase a piece of soap not exceeding two pence in value, and a dispute having arisen as to whether she had paid the price or not, she believing she had, whilst the shopman alleged the contrary she was apprehended and convicted in the Police Court on his evidence – but in neither case either the cheese or the soap carried off from their owners.

In these circumstances we the subscribers do humbly conceive that a sentence of ten years transportation that has now been pronounced against her is greatly over [ ] to her offence and would humbly beseech Your Majesty in this instance to exercise your undoubted prerogative of mercy by either granting a free pardon to this unfortunate woman, or at least a commutation of her sentence, as will allow her aged and widowed mother to hope of living to see her restored to her.

And your majesty's humble Petitioners shall ever pray.

William Matthews - Junior Minister

George Adam

William Anderson

And a further 26 signatures.

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I know nothing of what is stated in the preceding Petition and therefore decline to certify anything beyond my belief that the mother of the culprit is as far as I know an[ .....able] character

J Mackintosh

Senior Minister

Unto Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen of Great Britain and  
England

The Petition of Widow Jean Grant

No 61 Santandard Street

Aberdeen

23<sup>rd</sup> June 1850

May it please your Gracious majesty having a daughter transported from this city in the month of April last for the period of ten years she previous to the act for which she was convicted bore a [            ] character it was far attempting to take a cheese from a counter as was sworn to. I enclose to your Most Gracious Majesty a medical Gentleman's Certificate of her disability and a Reverand Gentleman's Certificate as she was the company and past support of a widow aged mother your Majesty by granting a reduction of her sentence Isabella Grant now in Mill Bank Prison you shall and Consort and Royal family have the forever prayers o9f a widow aged disconslet mother.

Widow Jean Grant

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(By Keith there are two more applications using the same format)

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I certify that about ten years ago I attended Isabella Grant , now Widow Harper when she suffered the effects of a severe

injury of the head, and which I think wants most likely leave the usual bad results of confusion and loss of memory and occasional loss of intellect.

A Macpherson MD

24<sup>th</sup> June 1850

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