

Margaret Fraser ID1713 per *Anna Maria* 1851

Margaret Fraser aged 20

Glasgow Circuit Court April 1851, Theft by housebreaking

7 years transportation

Series – HO 18, Piece Number – 303

The prisoner says that the actual perpetrator of the crime was admitted as approver. She [] her own innocence of any intentional offence and prays a merciful consideration of her case on the grounds of her unimpeachable previous character.

Mr Hastie MP forwards the enclosed Petition in which it is prayed that the prisoner may not be sent out of the country.

30th July 1851

Unto the Right Honourable Sir George Grey Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department.

The Petition of Margaret Fraser formally residing in Glasgow now a prisoner in Millbank Prison.

Very Humbly Sheweth

That your Petitioner was tried before the Lords of Justiciary at the Assizes held in Glasgow in the month of May last, and being convicted, of the crime of housebreaking and theft, was by the learned Judge Lord Cockburn sentenced to transportation beyond the seas for the period of seven years and your petition believes that it is intended that said sentence shall be carried out and into full effect, she having been removed from the Prison of Glasgow where

she had been detained from the month on January last to Millbank Prison to prepare for transportation beyond the seas.

That your Petitioner is very desirous of fulfilling her sentence to the extent it may be considered necessary in the country instead of being sent abroad. That your petition was never previously accused of any crime or offence whatever, and she can confidently appeal to the Authorities in Glasgow where she had been a Domestic servant, for seven years, on this head. Although charged with housebreaking it appeared clearly on the trial and from the declaration of John Milloy and Janet Robertson or Milloy charged along with her, and who admitted their guilt to the fullest extent that your petitioner had not entered the premises although they alleged that she had subsequently received part of the stolen property. That your Petitioner regrets having had anything to do with it. That she was unanimously recommended by the Jury who tried her, to the merciful consideration of the Judge. That while in prison your Petitioner gave birth to a child which is at present with her, and the father of this child, had promised to marry your Petitioner whenever she is liberated. That your Petitioner is enable to refer you to the annexed certificate of the Chaplain of the prison in Glasgow where she was detained upwards of five months as to her conduct when there, and she humbly refers to the Governor of the said prison on said subject, who will report, when required. In the whole circumstances the Petitioner prays that it may please you to direct that the sentence of transportation beyond the seas before mentioned passed against the Petitioner may not be carried into effect by transportation. That she may remain and be allowed to remain in this country to fulfil the said sentence or do other ways as to you shall seem proper, and your Petitioner shall ever pray.

For Margaret Fraser

John Renwick – Prosecutor

Glasgow.

Prison of Glasgow

30th July 1851

During the time Margaret Fraser was incarcerated in this Establishment she conducted herself with such propriety [the next 6 words cannot be read] as to impress my mind with the hope she will get, under providence become a respected member of society.

John [Reid]

Chaplain
