

Irish Transportation Record of **Peggy Crummer** per John Calvin 1847
CRF 1847 – C16 – Murder – Death Sentence commuted to Transportation for Life
(Tried with her husband **Samuel Crummer** who was hanged for the murder of his father Samuel
Crummer Snr.)

To His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant General and General Governor of
Ireland &c. &c. &c.

The Humble Memorial of **Samuel Crummer** and **Peggy Crummer** his wife, both of Lifford
Gaol in the County of Donegal

Humbly Sheweth

That your memorialists were convicted at the last assizes in Lifford before the
Hon^oble Baron Pennefather, of the Murder of **Samuel Crummer Snr.** wholly on
circumstantial Evidence, and are both under a Sentence to be executed on the 30th of April
instant.

Your memorialists were persuaded that no declaration of innocence by them after a
solemn trial by Jury could now avail them or have any weight with your Excellency, and they
therefore prefer casting themselves wholly on your Excellencys Clemency and Humbly
implore that their Sentence may be commuted to Transportation.

And your Memorialists as in Duty Bound Will Ever pray –

his
Samuel **X** Crummer
mark
her
Peggy **X** Crummer
mark

Lifford Gaol
22 Apr 1847

Mr Hitchins 26/4/47 Ans^d do AWC – Unfav^{ble} [crosswise]

Lifford
Apl 22/47

Sir,

I beg to state for the information of His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant that Mag^t
Crummer now under sentence of death at Lifford, on the 30 Inst. has for a length of time
before her trial, laboured under large glandular swellings at each side of her throat which I
have been obliged to open several times and are still of considerable size – arising from a
scrofulous throat.

Yr ob st
Wm Stewart M.D.
Phys. to Lifford Gaol

Mr Hitchins 24/4/47

Inf^d that His Exy has commuted the Sentence of Peggy Crummer to transportation for Life –
April 27th HH [crosswise]

Merrion Square
April 22, 1847

Sir,

I beg to state for the information of the Lord Lieutenant that at the last Assizes for the
county of Donegal **Samuel Crummer** and **Peggy Crummer** his wife were tried before me
for the murder of **Samuel Crummer** the elder, the father of the male prisoner.

The evidence was I may say entirely circumstantial. No other person having witnessed the actual homicide, but it was sufficient to convince the jury of the guilt of both prisoners, and they brought in their verdict. Accordingly I pronounced sentence of death on them and appointed Friday 30th April Instant for their execution.

I have not any reason to find fault with the verdict of the jury. I think they came to a proper conclusion as to the guilt of the prisoners and their crime was thereof a most revolting character. It is quite true also that the relation of wife affords her legal excuse for a crime like this but, though it do not, it is not easy to exclude altogether from one's mind the effects & bearings of that relationship and where no proof has been given, or could as in this case well have been given of immediate acts of violence of the wife, it may perhaps, without too great a bearing in favour of a female be intended, that the husband was the principal criminal and that she only gave that assistance, which in that class of life in which the prisoners were placed might & in some degree not uncommonly be given by a wife to her husband. The death in this case was occasioned according to the testimony of the surgeon by a heavy blow given by a blunt weapon on the back of the head of the deceased – which fractured his skull and caused instant death. This blow must in all human probability have been given by the male prisoner & though various other wounds were inflicted upon the unfortunate victim it could not be said with certainty that they were inflicted by the female, although there were circumstances here that she was assisting her husband in the homicide.

I have thought a good deal of the case & considering the age, sex & relation of the prisoner Peggy Crummer - I would venture to suggest to his Excellency that the ends of justice may be satisfied by allowing the extreme penalty of the laws to be undergone by the prisoner Samuel Crummer alone & by commuting the sentence as to Peggy Crummer to transportation for her life. I may inform his Excellency that the unfortunate woman has had since her imprisonment a child born in the course of the last summer & that on account of her pregnancy the trial was postponed from the Spring Assizes of the last year.

I have the honor to be
Sir
your obedient servant
Richard Pennefather

T.N. Redington Esq^{re} [*foot of page 1 of 4*]
Immediate Mr Hitchins April 22/47 [*crosswise*]

[*right of centre page*]

C 16 1847
**Samuel & Peggy
Crummer**

to be hanged } Murder
the 30th April

Baron Pennefather commands that in
the case of Samuel Crummer the law shall
take its course. But that the sentence
passed on Peggy Cummer be
commuted to Transportation for Life
April 22

[*left of centre page*]
In the case of Samuel Crummer
Let the law take its course

B

In the case of Peggy Crummer
Commute to transportation for life.

B.

- I Respice passed 23.
- II Baron P. Inf
- III [?] Sheriff do HH.

Lifford Gaol
25th April 1847

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, stating that His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, has been pleased to Respite the execution of the Sentence of Death, given against **Peggy Crummer**, a Prisoner in this Gaol, until further order.

I have the Honor to be Sir,
your Obed^t Humble Servant
Wm Fenton Governor

The right Hon^oble
The Chief Secretary
Dublin Castle

Death [? Apr 47] *[faded crosswise]*

Peggy Crummer

Receipt of Respite

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His Excellency cannot
further interfere in
this case.

Initials
26/4/47

Dublin Castle
26th April 1847

Sir,

I am directed by the Lord Lieutenant to desire that you will acquaint **Samuel Crummer**, a Prisoner under Sentence of Death in the Lifford Gaol that Your Excellency regrets that there is nothing to justify Him in making any alteration in the Sentence.

I am Sir your obedient servant
T.N. Redington

The Governor of the
Lifford Gaol

The Queen v Samuel Crummer and Peggy Crummer

To his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant General and General Governor
of Ireland &c. &c. &c.

The Humble Memorial of **William Wilson** of Raphoe in the County of Donegal
Attorney at Law.

Most Respectfully Sheweth

That your Memorialist was employed at last Lifford Assizes as an Att^{ny}
to defend the above named **Samuel & Peggy Crummer** who have been convicted before
the Honble Baron Pennefather of the murder of **Samuel Crummer Snr.**

Memorialist further Sheweth

That since the said trial Mess^{rs} Doherty and Lowry the prisoners
counsel who represented them on the trial have upon full consideration of the case
forwarded to her Majesty's Attorney General for Ireland a Certificate that in their opinion the
Judgment was erroneous and have applied to him to Grant his Fiat for a Writ of Error.

Memorialist begs to state that he has carefully concealed from the
Prisoners any intention of the present Memorial lest that hopes might be excited in their
mind, but your Memorialist conceives that where the lives of fellow Creatures are at Stake it
is his Duty to urge every legal objections & make every exertion in fav^r of the prisoners and
Trust your Excellency will pardon your Memorialists anxiety to the liberty He would take in
praying your Excellency to Order that the Execution which is fixed for Friday next the 30th
instant may be postponed until the objections raised by the previous Counsel and mentioned
in their Certificate to the Attorney General (to which Memorialist begs leave to refer) shall
have been argued.

And Memorialist as in Duty Bound will
Ever pray.
William Wilson

Raphoe
26th April 1847

Immediate

Mr Hitchins Has there not been a respite in this case? [*initialled*] April 27/47 [*crosswise*]

I have given this case the fullest consideration in my Power, And as in my judgment there is
no right in the law suggested in the Certificate of Counsel for the Prisoners I having felt
myself bound to refuse a fiat for a Writ of Error, And more particularly as I think the Decision
of the Court of Queen's Bench in the case of the Queen v [O'Brien] is an express Authority
on the Point.

Richard Baron
29th April 1847

I W. Wilson inf^d April 29-

II Private note to Governor [*crosswise and overstruck*]

Dublin Castle
April 29, 1847

Sir,

I am directed by the Lord Lieutenant to acknowledge the receipt of your Petition praying that a Respite might be issued for **Samuel Crummer**, to bring an Appeal from the decision at the last Assizes, and to acquaint you, that it appears, that no Writ of Error has been granted by the Attorney General as on the best consideration He has declined to issue his fiat thereon.

I am Sir your obedient Servant,

William Wilson Esq^r
Raphoe

County of Donegal
Lifford Lent Assizes 1847

A Return of all Prisoners Capitally convicted and whose
Sentences have been carried into Effect, or Commuted at these assizes – 1st May 1847

No.	Name	Age	Crime	When Tried	Before Whom Tried	Sentence	Remarks
1	Samuel Crummer	31	The murder of Samuel Crummer Snr	12 th March 1847	Hon ^o ble Baron Pennefather	To be Hanged on the 30 th April 1847 and his Body to be buried in the prescints of the Prison,-	Executed on the <u>30 of April 1847,</u>
2	Peggy Crummer	30	The murder of Samuel Crummer Snr	12 th March 1847	Hon ^o ble Baron Pennefather	To be hanged on the 30 th April 1847 and her Body to be buried in the prescints of the Prison-	The sentence commuted by order of His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant on the 24 th April 1847 <u>To transportation for Life</u>