

## Chapter 5: Appendix

### Riot at New Town Farm

On Friday, 26 January 1844, nine women who had arrived on the *East London* on 21 September 1843 were involved in a riot at New Town Farm. They were about half way through serving their six months probation. The female convicts were:

- Mary Brady, police number 632, sentence 7 years
- Catherine Kemp, police number 230, sentence 7 years
- Catherine Shaw, police number 585, sentence 10 years
- Mary Dooley, police number 397, sentence 7 years
- Eliza Moran, police number 475, sentence 7 years
- Mary Connell, police number 600, sentence 7 years
- Ellen Cronon (or Cronin), police number 599, sentence 7 years
- Mary Hannon, police number 506, sentence 7 years
- Mary Ann (or Margaret) Smith, police number 563, sentence 7 years, tried at Chester

They were charged by Dr Bowden, Superintendent, with insubordination in resisting in a turbulent manner and with violence opposing the lawfully constituted authorities on 26 January 1844 at New Town Farm Station. All pleaded not guilty except for Catherine Kemp, Ellen Cronon and Margaret Smith. The evidence given at the hearing was as follows (reference AOT, AC 480/1/1).

Mr George Hestell sworn states, I am one of the free warders who accompanied Dr Bowden the Suptt of the female Penitentiary from England in the ship Woodbridge for the purpose of taking charge of females placed under Dr. Bowden's management. I was directed by Dr. Bowden to take charge of the New Town Station as male Warder, but Miss Carr is the responsible person as Assistant. I have been at the station from the 10th of January instant and the whole of the women have known me as male Warder there. I have assisted in mastering them and in their general management. The whole of them know that I am placed as one of the officers in charge. In the forenoon of yesterday it was reported to me that Catherine Kemp had absconded. I immediately left the stores and went into the day room and found the women in a state of excitement and disorder. I found Kemp in the room the generality of the women in that room were in a state of mutiny and making a great uproar. I spoke to Kemp I called to her three or four times to come with me and she refused I called to the Constable to take her into custody. The Constable came and endeavored to take her. She resisted in being taken by the Constable. Mary Connell and Mary Ann Smith assisted Kemp in resisting the Constable. Miss Carr came into the room before the Constable and I left, and altho' Kemp would not allow herself to be taken into custody I persuaded her to be quiet, which she did for some time. There were in that room at that time the major part of the women. I left the room and went to other duties the women appearing to be a little quelled and not so riotous as at first, but still without having affected the object in taking Kemp into custody. I about ten minutes afterwards one of the cooks named Edwards reported to me that two of the women were making their escape. Connell and another woman were the two, and while these two women were in the bush having left the station, another row took place among the women in consequence of Mr District Constable Eskdale who had been sent for, coming to take Kemp into custody. Moran Dooley, Cronon & Smith were prominent on this occasion assisting in the resistance offered to the district Constable. Mary Dooley had a shovel in her possession with which she threatened to split my head open, I saw the District Constable's face it was bleeding from a woman. It was not so wounded before he went in the room among the women. Miss Carr the principal female officer in my presence attempted to get the women quiet by advising them not to resist but they refused to attend to her after being spoken to and warned by Miss Carr they continue in their riotous behaviour the sashes and windows in the day room were broken by the women during the riot. I cannot say whether any of the nine women present took an active part in breaking the windows excepting Kemp but the whole of them were in the riotous crowd. I saw Kemp with a piece of board

in her hand about four feet long smashing the windows. During my absence outside the station the bread store was broken into and through the interstices of the paling I saw the women in the bread store. The bread is under my charge and there is the quantity of about fifty four loaves missing in consequence of the store being so broken into, the Watch Box which is placed inside the yard was also broken in pieces during the time I was absent from the yard. Mr Eskdale had two or three Constables to assist him but was unable to take them into custody. In consequence of the open and riotous conduct of the women we were obliged to go away from them and leave them in possession of the yard, the door leading into which was fastened on the inside by the women. We were therefore obliged to send off to Hobart Town for more assistance and the women were in a turbulent and disorderly state yesterday when the Principal Superintendent came to the Station.

Xd by Brady

You left your bed about half past ten and I saw you in the yard when the disturbance first commenced after the Constable came I saw you exciting the other women against the English women. I was outside at this time and saw you distinctly through the palings.

Xd by Dooley

I saw you one of the most active among the women excepting Kemp and I saw you trying to rescue Kemp from the District Constable.

Xd by Connell

After you were brought back from the Bush I distinctly saw her smashing the windows and throwing about pots and plates.

Miss Eliza Carr sworn states, I am the Principal female officer in charge under Dr. Bowden at the female station and the females now present are under my orders. Yesterday at the station there was a riot among the women they generally refused to obey my orders. Kemp in particular, it was in consequence of her riotous behaviour that I desired her to sit down, which she did for a short time and she afterwards became as tumultuous as before. The major part of the women openly resisted my authority. I cannot particularise any of the women now present excepting Kemp and Connell they were two of the worst in the tumult their conduct being calculated to excite others to a disturbance. None of the women offered me any personal violence but Connell was very impudent. During the time of the riotous conduct of the women yesterday I was in the day room I was present there when the windows were broken, they were broken by the women throwing pannicans and various other missiles. I saw Kemp standing on the forms and tables and throwing pannicans and plates. I saw the District Constable on his arrival at the station and he then had no wound on his face but after he had been among the women his face was bleeding. I did not hear of any actual bad language made use of, with the exception of Kemp. She made use of very bad words, words which I do not like to repeat and which no female of common decency ought to hear. From their riotous conduct I lost all authority over them and Moran, Dooley & Brady were worse than the others during the day.

Xd by Moran

I spoke to you several times and you set me at defiance and so did Kemp and Dooley after the Constables came.

Xd by Brady

I saw you exciting others by your conduct and manner.

Miss Mary Wills Stroud sworn states, I am one of the female officers under Dr. Bowden in the New town Station. The women at the station yesterday were very riotous, they disobeyed the orders which were given to them, the major part of the women were in an open state of mutiny. I perceived the whole of these women excepting Cronan in the riot and tumult and as busy as any of the rest of them Kemp was worse than any of them. She struck me in the face with a tin plate and gave me this injury on my mouth Kemp striking me was a consequence of her resistance to the Constable and my going up to her to endeavour to persuade her to go with the constable. I was present when Mr Eskdale the District Constable wished to take Kemp into custody and she openly resisted him. Mr Eskdale was wounded on the face and the wound was caused by some of the women. In consequence of the violent conduct of the women the officers of the station were obliged to go outside excepting Miss Carr and I was obliged to go outside for my personal safety. Kemp in particular threatened to take my life. All the women now present excepting Cronan were forward in the riot. I saw Brady in the yard among the other women after the Constables came I saw the windows smashed in by the women but I cannot particularize and particular woman there was such a riot and confusion at the time. During the time

the Constable was there I beckoned to Hannon to come away she called me very bad names and said she would do for me, and this could be heard by the other women. After the women commenced the riot I know the bread store was broken into.

Mr Joseph Eskdale sworn states, I am District Constable at New Town, I was called on duty to the female Establishment at New Town yesterday in consequence of the disturbance which had taken place on the station. When I got there I found the women very noisy. I went with Mr Heskitt among the women and he pointed out Kemp. He stated that one of the female officers had been struck by Kemp and he directed her to be taken into custody. I attempted to take her into custody and she resisted, the whole of the women now present I recognise as assisting in that tumult when I was prevented taking Kemp into custody, particularly Smith, Cronan and Dooley they were more riotous than the rest and were the principals one that first came to the rescue of Kemp. It was in the execution of my duty yesterday among these women that I received this wound in my face. I cannot particularize the woman that wounded me because there were a great many round at the time but I believe it to have been done by a stone. I recalled that Smith & Cronan were among the women round about me at the time of my receiving the wound and I recollect seeing Dooley with a shovel in her hand which she flourished round her head threatening to strike the first that came near her. I could not do my duty in taking Kemp into custody in consequence of the women's violent conduct fearing some further personal violence would take place. A large body of Constables were eventually obliged to be sent for. I saw the windows broken and identify Kemp as being principally concerned. I saw her strike two blows at the windows with a stick. The riotous conduct of the women continued about half an hour after my arrival.

Xd by Connell

I am not quite certain that you were not of the prominent ones, on reflection I do not recollect seeing her in the riot. I am quite confident as to all the rest.

George Ross Constable sworn states, I accompanied Mr Eskdale on duty yesterday to the New Town Station when we got there the women were kicking up a row, it was a riot. I went inside the station. I took hold of Kemp and took her outside and several of the other women surrounded me. Mary Dooley had a spade in her hand and she struck at me but missed me. I got this black eye among the women from a stone after we came out having been regularly stoned out they set too & broke the windows. I did hear some woman call out don't throw stones but I don't know whether it was Hannon or not.

Ellen Cronan states in her defence she was scolding and talking as well as any other but did not take any weapon.

The rest of the prisoners state they have nothing to say in their defence.

Sentences: Catherine Kemp & Mary Dooley – their existing sentences of transportation extended for two years with a recommendation that they be moved from the Establishment and placed on probation in the Female House of Correction; Mary Connell & Eliza Moran – their existing sentences of transportation extended for one year with the same recommendation as above; Mary Ann Smith, Mary Hannon & Catherine Shaw – each to be placed six months to hard labor with a recommendation that they serve such period in the separate working rooms in the female House of Correction; Ellen Cronan & Mary Brady – each to be placed ten days solitary confinement.

**Source: Female Convicts Research Centre; Convict Institutions, Probation Stations, New Town Farm.**

ANN LEE

**Anne Lee Irish Transportation Records CRF 1843 L15 Film 52**

*W Connor 24 Ap<sup>l</sup> 43 noted along the side*

10 [..... St James? ]

April 22 1843

Sir,

I have had the honor to receive from you the enclosed Memorial from O Lee, and a request to inform you for the information of his Excellency, with the particulars of her case.

The Prisoner was tried at the last Monaghan Quarter Sessions, upon a charge of stealing from the Pocket of the Prosecutrix in the market of Monaghan, nine pence; the case on the part of the Crown was very clearly & satisfactorily proved, in fact the prisoner was seen removing the money from the pocket of the Prosecutrix. The Jury without any doubt or hesitation found the Prisoner Guilty, and previous to passing Sentence, I inquired from the Governor of the Gaol, & the Police, whether the Prisoner had ever before been charged & convicted of a similar offence, and having been informed that she had, and is a very hardened & old offender (although young in years) with the entire [ ] of the magistrates present; I passed the sentence of transportation for 7 years on the Prisoner, and I regret to say, I am obliged to state that in my opinion there are not any mitigating circumstances which would the Prisoner a proper object of mercy.

I have the honor  
To be Sir  
Your most ob<sup>t</sup> serv<sup>t</sup>  
James Major  
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*W Connor 21 Apl/43 noted along the side*

To His Excellency Earl De Grey  
Lt. General and General Governor of Ireland

The Humble Petition of Honora Lee, otherwise "Ony Lee" Humbly Sheweth,  
That your petitioner has petitioned your Excellency on the 12<sup>th</sup> Inst. praying, your Excellencys Clemency as a prisoner under Sentence of Transportation.

Your petitioner Humbly implores your Excellency will be Graciously pleased to mitigate the Sentence, and your Petitioner will leave Ireland for America.

Your petitioner being only Eighteen years of Age, and having means to take her to America with the assistance of her Relatives, who are now ashamed to acknowledge petit<sup>t</sup> hoping your Excellency will take petitioners case into your humane Consideration and petitioner will ever pray.

Ony Lee  
Monaghan Gaol  
21 April 1843

We whose names are hereunto subscribed do certify that we have known the late Cornelius Lee of Curraboc(*Corraback or Corragho?*) and his wife Rose McKiernan both natives of this County Cavan.

That they have always borne an Honest, Industrious, Upright and Irreproachable Character, unimpeached in any respect until the period of their decease.

That such they have been, notwithstanding they were the Parents of the Ill fated young Female Honorah Lee, at present under Sentence of Transportation since the late general Quarter Sessions of Monaghan.

I know the Parents of Memorialist since I entered this Parish as C. C. and therefore certify their moral Conduct to be Irr.....able

Patrick Hill  
C.C.  
Lavy (*Lavey*)

From my knowledge of the Rev<sup>d</sup> Pat<sup>k</sup> Hill Roman Catholic Clergyman of Lavy parish I [am persuaded?] that he w<sup>d</sup> not have signed the above Certificate if had not been deserved.

I.L. Dickson Vicar of Lavy

Lavy C [...]  
April 18<sup>th</sup> 1843.

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*File Name*

L 15 1843

Anne lee

Stealing 7 yrs t<sup>n</sup>

The law must take its course

Ap<sup>l</sup> 25/ 1843 initials

*Envelope*

His Excellency Earl De Grey

Lord Lieutenant Ireland

Castle

Dublin

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*Stamped Chief Secretary's Office Dublin 43 Ap<sup>l</sup> 26*

*W Connor noted along the side.*

Monaghan

24<sup>th</sup> April 1843

Sir

With respect to the petition of Anne Lee referred for my report, I have the Honor to state for the information of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, that the allegations contained in it, as to the circumstances of her Trial, are untrue, as when arraigned she appeared perfectly sober, and I repeatedly informed her that she might postpone her Trial but she declined doing do – with reference to the statement as to her name I beg to refer to the enclosed Report of the Governor of Monaghan Gaol, to whom I applied on that point as she had been three times before in his Custody.

I have the honor

To be

Sir

Your Ob<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

*Signature*

Clerk of the peace

Co<sup>y</sup> Monaghan

To Edward Lucas Esq<sup>re</sup>

etc etc etc

Dublin Castle

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Dr Sir, In Answer to the other [... I beg Leave to state for the information of the Clark of the peace that the prisoner thereon nam<sup>d</sup> viz Anne Lee always was committed and answered to the Name of Anne Lee which was three or four times But her Present [lawer?] wanted to change the name Thinking it may Be the means of Having her Sentence Mitigated, But a Worse Character has Never Came across me during my time of being Governor of this Gaol which is 20 years.

I am Sir

Your Ob<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

Jn Rowland Gov<sup>t</sup>

of the gaol

of Monaghan

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John Rowland Esq<sup>re</sup>  
Gov<sup>r</sup> Prison  
Monaghan

Monaghan  
17<sup>th</sup> April

Dear Sir

You will have the goodness to say for the information of the Clerk of the peace, by what Christian Name the prisoner convicted & sentenced to Transportation at the last Quarter Sessions of this town as "Anne Lee" has been committed for Trial, and whether she answered to this or what other name at anytime while in your Custody

Yours truly  
? Mitchell

Mr J<sup>n</sup> Rowland

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*Stamped Chief Secretary's Office Dublin 43 Apl 26*  
*W Connor 12 Apl/43 noted along the side*

To His Excellency Earl De Grey  
Lt. General and General Governor of Ireland

The Humble Petition of Honora Lee, a prisoner in the gaol of Monaghan under Sentence of 7 years transportation.

Humbly Sheweth

That your petitioner was arrested after one o'clock, and transported before four o'clock the same day; and your petitioner in a state of consciousness at the time petitioner was put on trial, as your petitioner was quite tipsy being under the influence of whiskey which was perceived by Several persons in Court and particularly by one of the Grand Jury - Mr Wm Quinn of Rooskey Barracks Monaghan who is well known to the Clerk of the peace, otherwise your petitioner would have the assistance of a professional man to defend her, or would have postponed her trial to next assizes.

Your petitioner prays your Excellencys Clemency under the circumstances and the [privilege?] of the British Laws [*blotted word*] of not posting a prisoner on trial while in a state of intoxication.

Your petitioner was in the market of Monaghan on the same day when Head Constable Brady threatened to send petitioner over the water before night, and while petitioner was on trial Said Constable Brady was Buzing to the Clerk of the peace against petitioner who conveyed the impression to the Barrister. Your petitioner was taken on Suspicion only as a woman said she was told that her pocket was picked, and your petitioner having Eight pence in Copper the woman said one of her pence was like one petitioners having been Blue Moulded, your petitioner got the change of a Shilling in a shop where Whiskey, Herrings & Rosen is sold and the Shop Keepers of Monaghan coppers are General Blue Moulded, Viz James Ross, David Horner & John O'Hanlon, could certify. Your petitioner has Six acres of land at 2//6 per acre at Ca. cher (Camlier?) near Stradone in the County of Cavan which petitioner was going to sell this season and leave the country for America.

Your petitioner was prosecuted and persecuted by Constable Brady with his representations that petitioner believes that barrister transported her on his impression and not for the charge laid against petitioner.

Your petitioner also begs leave to state that the Bills were found against Anne Lee and not against Ony Lee, which is her name.

Under all the circumstances your petitioner Humbly prays your Excellency will be graciously pleased to mitigate the sentence and your petitioner will go to America and in Duty to ever pray.

Ony Lee  
12<sup>th</sup> April 1843

**Bendigo Advertiser 24 June 1856**

An Old Hand.—Ann Hart was charged by the police, with having been found drunk and using obscene language in a public place in the vicinity of Commissioner's Gully. The apprehending constable; stated, that he had to tie her down to a wheelbarrow and bring her to the watch-house. The unfortunate woman, who has only been out of gaol she weeks, promised to take the pledge for two years, if his Worship would only be good enough to let her go this time. The Bench gave her one more opportunity of becoming a respectable woman and discharged her on payment of one shilling.

**Bendigo Advertiser 8 February 1857**

Ann Hart, for a similar display of the beauties of the Queen's English, was also fined £5 or fourteen days.

**Bendigo Advertiser 17 March 1857**

Drunkards.—Ann Hart, commonly known as "drunken old Mother Hart," was brought up as an inveterate offender, and as sent to gaol for six months.

**Bendigo Advertiser 1 October 1857**

Incurables.—Ann Hart was charged with being drunk and using obscene language. The lady it appears had just "done" six months at Melbourne for some conduct which had brought her under the notice of the magistracy; and on her expressing contrition, and promising amendment in future, the Bench dealt leniently with her, and inflicted a fine of 40s. or three days' imprisonment for the drunkenness, and £5 or fourteen days' imprisonment for the obscenity.

**Bendigo Advertiser 20 October 1857**

The Softer Sex.—Mrs. Ann Hart (a lady, unfortunately for herself, too well known to the police and the Bench) was charged with disorderly conduct and making use of "language of a most obscene nature. She was fined 20s. for the first, and £5 (with the option of an equivalent of imprisonment) for the second offence; and a caution was administered, that her next appearance would be attended, with unpleasant results, as she would then most certainly be dealt with under the Vagrant Act.

**Bendigo Advertiser 12 June 1865**

ASSAULT.

Wm Kerr was placed in the dock charged with unlawfully and maliciously wounding Ann Hart, there was also an indictment for a common assault. Mr

Helm appeared for the prisoner.

Ann Hart stated that on 5<sup>th</sup> Inst., about nine o'clock in the evening, she was sitting in Marv Laffin's tent, Sheepshead Gully, when the prisoner came in. Some drink was sent for, and after a while prisoner said he had never known a Hobartown woman live with a man eleven or thirteen years Witness got excited, and said she did, for she had lived with her husband for thirteen years before he

died. Prisoner called her a dammed liar, and she replied that he was another, whereupon he struck her over the temple.

Mr Helm cross-examined her, and endeavoured to show that she had fallen while drunk, and struck her head against something,

Robert Stevenson, a mate of prisoner's, who was cohabiting with the prosecutor, said the blow was only a slight one.

Dr Boyd gave evidence that the temporal artery had been cut, and that it might have been done by a quartz stone, the end of a pipe stalk, or by falling against the chimney.

Constable Dobson gave evidence of the arrest of the prisoner on the 12th May.

Mr Helm addressed the jury for the defence.

The jury found prisoner guilty and His Honor sentenced him to one months imprisonment.

### **Bendigo Advertiser 15 July 1868**

Death in the Hospital.—A woman named Ann Hart, aged forty-five years, who has been an out-patient at the hospital for some months past, was admitted to that institution on Monday, and died shortly after her admittance from disease of the chest