

Elizabeth Woods ID10885 per *Royal Admiral* 1842

Elizabeth Woods aged 30

Liverpool Quarter Sessions December 1841

Receiving stolen goods

7 years transportation

Series – HO 18

Piece Number – 69

Gaol Report – Character not known

The prisoner denies guilty knowledge and several persons represent her good character.

Refuse

GG

Exchange Court

Liverpool

10th January 1842

Sir

I have the honour of enclosing a Petition on behalf of Elizabeth Woods the Petition is signed by the prisoner in the presence of the Matron of the Borough Gaol of this place. The Petition you will perceive is signed by a large number of friends among them, I assure you, there is great respectability there is not the slightest doubt whatever of there being some great mistake with respect to her defence on her trial at the Sessions. I must however you will be

pleased to inquire into the case and that consistently with your duty, you may be enabled to advise Her Majesty to mitigate the sentence passed upon her by the Recorder.

I have the honour

Sir

To be your obedient and humble servant.

James [Aherne]

To The Right Honourable Sir James Graham MP.

The humble Petition of Elizabeth Woods now a prisoner confined in the Borough Gaol in the County of Lancaster under sentence of transportation for felony.

Sheweth

That your memorialist is by trade a Furniture Broker and thirty years old.

That on or about the 2nd December instant the prisoner was taken into custody being 12 days before the then ensuing Sessions on the charge of having bought and received a coffee canister and coffee, from three children aged 14 years each she knowing it to have been stolen.

That 2 days afterwards she was committed for trial by the Borough Magistrates the truth is: That on the 2nd December three children came into her shop and offered for sale a coffee canister which your memorialist fairly bought and paid for having first enquired of one of them how she came by it who told her, that her mother had sent her with it.

That your Memorialist notwithstanding all this was on her trial found "Guilty".

That your memorialist was so convinced of her innocence and an acquittal by the Jury that her defence counsel was neglected.

That your memorialist solemnly and sincerely declares her innocence and ignorance of the crime and of her never having participated in the slightest degree, in the receipt of stolen good and entirely throws herself with these proofs of her innocence on your Lordship's impartiality with the sincere hope that your Lordship will look seriously into her case with at least a view to a commutation of punishment and for which she will ever pray.

The mark x of Elizabeth Woods

Witness to the signature:

Martha Cowdrey

Matron

To The Right Honourable Sir James Graham MP

In the matter of ELIZABETH WOODS prisoner convicted of felony at the Liverpool December Sessions 1841

We the undersigned being neighbours of the said ELIZASBETH WOODS residing in Standish Street in Liverpool aforesaid do hereby certify that we have known her for as period of 5 years and upwards during which time we have always found her to be an honest industrious sober steady and charitable character earning for herself a creditable livelihood and also out of her means supporting several of her orphan brothers and sisters.

Robert Hadden – Her Landlord

John East – Baker

John Dearly – Book Keeper

William Thompson

And a further 83 signatures
