

Mary Ditchfield ID630 per *Elizabeth Henrietta* 1818

Series – HO 47

Piece – 14

Year 1817

Court – Stafford

Crime – Larceny in a dwelling house

Sentence – Death

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Mary Ditchfield

Date – 13 November 1817

Sentence – Transportation for Life

Series – HO 13

Piece Number – 31

Page Number 39

Whitehall 13th November 1817

To John Fenton Boughey Esq

Sir

Having received a report on the case of Mary Ditchfield the convict under the sentence of transportation in whose behalf you interest yourself, I am sorry to acquaint you that under all the circumstances I cannot consistently with my Public Duty recommend the prisoner to HRH The Prince Regent for any further extension of the Royal Mercy

I am

Sir

(signed) Sidmouth

Mary Ditchfield

Year – 1817

Date 12 th November 1817

Series – HO 47

Piece Number – 56

Item: Report of William Garrow on 1 individual petition (John Fenton Boughey) on behalf of Mary Ditchfield convicted of being part of a burglary at the “last” Stafford Assizes held in Stafford. Grounds for clemency: an honest and steady relation will take care of the prisoner; will use his endeavours to redeem her, the prisoner was seduced at the age of 16 years and had recently had a child whilst imprisoned; initial sentence; DEATH (an exemplary sentence), respited. Recommendation : already recommended for transportation for life, no further mercy

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Great George Street

Westminster

12 th November 1817

To: The Right Honourable Lord Viscount Sidmouth

My Lord

In obedience to the Command of His Royal Highness The Prince Regent signified by your Lordships letter of yesterday’s date I have the honour to report to your Lordship that:

Mary Ditchfield who was capitally convicted at the last Assizes at Stafford , was indicted with another woman and 3 men for burglary:

It appeared from the trial that these persons had made a journey from Newcastle to Uttoxeter accompanied by a horse and cart for the express purpose of attending a sort of fair to be held there called

The New Market, at which shopkeepers are much exposed to plunder, in order to steal.

It was the department of this prisoner Ditchfield to enter in the dusk of the evening, the shop of the Prosecutor and to engage the attention of the shop woman (his daughter) under the pretence of wishing to purchase a doll for her child of the price of four pence whilst one of the gang broke a piece of glass on an opposite side of the shop, by means of which the gang stole from the window ,watches to the value of one hundred pounds the produce of which was afterwards divided among them: after the robbery this prisoner passed the night with one of the male prisoners:

The case was proved in the most satisfactory manner, and the only doubt I entertained was whether I could properly discharge my duty to the Public without making an example by [ leaving ] one or more of the convicts for execution – they were respited and I presumed to recommend that they should all be transported for life – and upon reconsideration I do not see any ground upon which I could with propriety recommend any mitigation of that punishment.

I shall be ready to send your Lordship a full statement of the whole evidence if it shall be your pleasure to command it.

I have the honour to be

My Lord

Your Lordship's most obedient and very humble servant

W Garrow