

Verbatim transcript for clarity of document below.

Petition of the Magistrate & residents of Dunfermline to the Home Secretary,
The Rt. Hon. Sir George Grey Bart.

Date stamp Received June 7, 1851. Petition Ref: 7235 Presented by J. B. Smith M.P.

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

The Petition of the undersigned inhabitants of the
Parish of Dunfermline and neighbourhood

Humbly Sheweth.

That Alexander Black Senior, Miner, Townhill in the Parish of Dunfermline was on or about the twenty sixth day of September Eighteen Hundred and Fifty convicted of Mobbing and Rioting in Townhill aforesaid in the month of June last and thereafter sentenced to be imprisoned in the Prison of Perth for fifteen months. That the said Alexander Black has been placed and remained in the said jail from the period of conviction. He is upwards of fifty years of age and has a wife and two children dependent upon him for support.

That the Petitioners have long known the said Alexander Black and have always found him to be honest, industrious, and quite well disposed person (and they confidently believe that in committing the offence of which he was convicted he did so as through ignorance, not imagining that being present in the Mob and taking no active part in their actions he would be held guilty of all the acts the Mob committed.)

That no real injury was sustained to either person or property by the Mobbing and Rioting of which the said Alexander Black was found guilty.

That the Petitioners humbly submit that the ends of Justice have been fully satisfied by the confinement already undergone by the said Alexander Black and that more especially taking into account his former good character Her Majesty the Queen might most justifiably be recommended graciously to remit the further imprisonment of the said Alexander Black.

May it therefore please your Honour to recommend to her Most Gracious Majesty The Queen to remit the further imprisonment of the said Alexander Black and grant warrant for setting him at liberty.

There follows the signatures of 35 local dignitaries as follows: John Bonnar, (Magistrate), Wm. Kinnis, (Provost), Wm. Drummond (Writer, Dunfermline), Thomas Ireland (Iron Merchant), Alex Hughes (Merchant, Do), William McLaren (Draper), Robt. Alston (Jeweller), James Kinghorn?, James Shearer (Merchant, Dunfermline), Andw. Beveridge (Writer & Town Councillor), Thomas Buchanan (Shoemaker), John Robertson, (Brush Manufacturer), Jas. Walls (Baker, Dunfermline), H. F. Ball (Merchant,

Dunfermline), James Bain (Cooper), John McDonald, John Lee, (Grocer & Tobt.), Dunfermline, George Lauder, (Inventor), H. Douglas, M.D., (Dunfermline), David Lawrie (Soap Manufr. & Candlemaker), Robert Robertson (Draper), Charles Selby (Taylor), George Dempster (tobacco manufacturer), John Young (Brewer, Dunfermline), John Carmichael (Merchant, Dunfermline), Alexdr. Kennedy (Merchant, Do.), James Beveridge, Tobacco Manufacturer, Thos. Morrison (Burgh Treasurer), Robert Muir (Manager Wellwood Colliery). {Side panel} Thomas Spowart of Venturefair, James French (Minister, Dunfermline Abbey), Hugh Balfour (Minister of Dalgety & assisting as above, has residence, primarily, in this parish), Walter Brown of Colton, Writer to Her Majesty's Signet, William Henderson, Flesher, John Stenhouse, Dunfermline.

Petition
From
Inhabitants of Durfurnie
and neighbourhood

307
10

Alexander Black 50

Ferth Circuit Court

September 1850.

Robbing & Rioting

15 Months

Ferth

? Lord Justice Clerk per
deput

Sec^y of W. J. B. Smith M.P.

The release of the pris^r is
prayed in considⁿ of his
previous char^r: 8 months
imprison^t. & the destitution
of his wife & children.

Answer 1 July 1851