

**Transcription of Petition Letter to The Right Hon. Sir George Grey
(letter of introduction and main petition letter) dated 17/01/1852 (received 19/01/1852) –
Petition No. 4**

Letter of Introduction (Thomas Godber) – Page 1

Eastwood
Nr Nottingham January 17 1852

To the Right Honourable Sir George Grey (illegible word could be “Bart” – short for Baronet)

Sir George

Herewith is the humble petition in favor of Samuel Wilcockson from certain householders and also from The Reverend John Hides of Greasley in who’s parish Wilcockson lived. Will you be pleased to give the subject of this petition your best consideration.

I have the honour to be your very obedient servant.

Thos. Godber

Main Petition Letter – Page 1

The petition of the undersigned being gentry, clergy & others in the Parish of Greasley & Eastwood in the County of Nottingham on behalf of Samuel Wilcockson now a convict in the Portland Convict Prison

Humbly (illegible word) for the above named Samuel Wilcockson was convicted at Nottingham on the 18th day of July 1849 and was sentenced to 15 years transportation for setting fire to a dwelling house.

Your petitioners respectfully beg a mitigation of this sentence and they have every reason to hope there are circumstances to lead to this result – it appears the Cottage in question was upon waste land for which no rent had been ever paid

Page 2

and that one of the witnesses on the trial who swore to the prisoner setting fire to the Cottage has a previous (illegible word) against the prisoner as can be proved having said “we’ll jail thee Samuel” and that the rest of the evidence was of a circumstantial nature and your petitioners have every reason to hope & believe that Wilcockson’s conduct since his imprisonment has been marked by truly good behaviour.

Your petitioners therefore hope that you will kindly recommend the prisoner for a Free Pardon or Mitigation and your Petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

NB: The letter is signed by “John Hides, vicar of Greasley, Nottm” plus 4 others on this page, including “Thomas Godber, Draper, Eastwood” (Thomas being the author of the letter of introduction).

Page 3

NB: this page contains the detail of a further 31 signatories.