

In 1754, Anne Jackson was tried in Inverness and found guilty of forgery for fabricating a letter from Angus McDonald, innkeeper at Laggan, to Alexander Fraser, merchant in Inverness. The sentence of the Court, was for Anne Jackson to be paraded through the streets, pilloried and banished to “one or other of his majesty’s plantations in America”.

“the said Anne Jackson to be carried back from the Barr to the Tolbooth of Inverness therein to remain until Friday the twenty seventh day of September instant, and upon that day to be taken forth of the said Tolbooth, having her hands tied behind her back with a rope, attended with the common executioner walking behind her, having the end of the rope in his hand, and having the label or paper pinned upon her breast, with this inscription in capital letters writ thereupon, “ANNE JACKSON AN INFAMOUS PERSON CONVICTED OF THE CRIME OF FORGERY”. To the market cross of Inverness upon the public street thereof, and immediately thereafter, upon the said Anne Jackson’s being brought there in manner and attended as above, The said Lords ordained and hereby ordain here to be put and stand upon the pillory at the said market cross from eleven o’clock forenoon of the said day, to twelve o’clock midday, and at that time to be carried back to the Tolbooth of Inverness and therein imprisoned to remain till an opportunity offers for transporting her to one or other of his majesty’s plantations in America to which place the Lords banished and hereby banish her, never to return to Scotland during all the days of her life”

Public showings and banishment were common punishments at this time, it wasn’t until later that prison sentences became the preferred method of punishment. Banishments could range in severity from banishment from a specific county or from the country as a whole and from life terms to periods of a few years.

Highland Archives hold both the arrest warrant for Anne Jackson, which details her crime and the sentence order appointing the magistrates of Inverness to ensure that the Pillory and banishment were executed.

(The portion of the transcript highlighted red is shown in the image)