

being unable to defend himself from a Lameness in his feet  
declared if Barnes persisted in beating him, he would cut  
him with a penknife which he <sup>then</sup> held in his hand, and on  
Barnes's attacking him again and closing, he made a stroke  
at him to give him a slight wound in order to deter the  
said Barnes from a repetition of the assault, but the knife  
unfortunately entered the lower part of his Belly which let  
out his intestines, and on the Tuesday following he died -  
the Jurors of the said Inquisition being of Opinion that the  
said Wells killed Barnes in his own defence, and two of  
the Justices of the said County having certified that the  
Petitioner has always supported a fair Character, and that  
they verily believe there did not exist any malice or ill will  
previous to the accident - I have therefore thought proper  
to order and direct that all Proceedings at Law against  
the said Richard Wells for or concerning the said offence  
do cease and determine, and that no further Prosecution  
be had or carried on against the said Richard Wells for  
or concerning the same -

To Luther a Martin Esq Attorney General  
or the Prosecutor of the Criminal  
Pleas in Star Chamber Court } W. Smallwood

Annapolis 3 April 1786.

Whereas it appears by the Petition of  
Manson Barnes of Charles County aged about fifteen years,  
that at a Just Court 1785 held for said County he was presented  
for "Feloniouly Stealing and carrying away Tobacco the property of  
Leonard Gements, which Tobacco was received seized, and claimed