

Brief Instructions to the severall Sherriffs of the Province, Lib. H. D.
what sort of Returns to make vpon Proclamations & Ord^{rs} of
Councill &c^a issued.

Instructions to the Sherriffs &c^a 1: If any Proclamation is sent you, you are to signify in short that you have published or caused to be published (in such & such places within your County) such a proclamation touching such a thing bearing such a Date which s^d proclamation you shall (after publication) either keepe or rather deliver the same vnto the Clerk of the County Court for to Enter vpon Record, by reason all persons may have Resort thereto vpon occasion.

2: If any Ord^r of Councill comes to you commanding you to do any Matter whatsoever, make Return in a piece of paper that by Vertue of an Ord^r of Councill, of such a Date, touching such a thing you have done so & so, pursuant to the subject matter the same treats off or Commands; let it be what it will; and in all these cases you are not required to Return the Ord^{rs} themselves back again for they are all Enter'd in the Office here, and may be of speciall vse to be kept by you for satisfaction of persons therein any wayes concern'd.

3: You are Required to make a distinct Return to every Ord^r of Councill & Proclamation in a seperate piece of paper by it self; to the end the Returns of the severall Sherriffs touching every individuall Ord^r may be filed apart & so easily distinguished, what Sherriffs have made due Returns and who have not. p. 261

4: Let some Answer & Return be made to every Proclamation, Ord^r of Councill or other Matter sent you from that Board, whether the same be commanded or not, which will be a Vindication to you that such an order &c^a has been served or executed by you, if in case any person should happen to be prosecuted for contempt of the Same &c^a

5^{thly} You are Required (when you surrender vp your Sherriffs place to a succeeding Sherriff) for to deliver vp these Instructions among other Writings which by Indenture you are obliged by Law to do.

ffeb^{ry} 26th 1696

The information of Tho: Whitton of Cæcill County (touching Cornelius Comegys & Amos Nichols) taken before his Ex^{ncy} the Govern^r who then was pleased to Ord^r as it is hereby Ordered that the s^d Whitton Enter into Recognizance to prosecute &c^a vpon the s^d information, and th^t M^r Attorney Gen^{ll} make proceedings therein accordingly.

Signed p Ord^r
H Denton C of Concl