

Lib. J. R. The above and foregoing are true Copies of Originals in
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Richard Peters Secry.

p. 280 Sir

Your Excellencys Letter of the 19th of February last came to my hands on the last day of the Last month and having previous thereto on the 16th received a Letter from M^r William Hayward (herewith inclosed) relating to the murder Committed on the Body of William Outten Sub Sheriff to Benjamin Handy Sheriff of the County of Worcester, and also mentioning something of the proceedings of the Magistrates of Sussex County in consequence thereof on the 19th I sent Express a Letter to M^r Joseph Collins one of the Magistrates in the upper part of Worcester County (a Copy Whereof is herewith also inclosed) in pursuance to the proceedings Directed by that Letter, and in obedience to your Excellency I went up to Worcester County Court the 7th Instant and contined there till the 9th Inclusive taking of Depositions of many people in regard to that unhappy Affair: I have endeavoured from record and Depositions, to illustrate the Different points required, so far as in my power considering the Remoteness of the places from whence the Evidence was to be called. As to the proceedings by some of the Magistrates in Sussex County in regard to the Examinations and Depositions by them Taken touching this Fact, you will perceive Sir by M^r Haywards Letter they have been pretty Extraordinary and these I suppose were transmitted to the Governor of Pennsylvania

Their Court of Quarter Sessions happen'd to be setting at the Time this Fact was Committed and when Willey fled to Lewis Town and there the persons named in the inclosed List who were of Outtens Company (and one Andrew Collins Son of Andrew Collins who was not present) are all indicted as rioters by the Grand Jury, Where Willy the murderer was Admitted a Witness if not the principal one as I am informed to Support the Charge

As to Obtaining the minutes and proceedings upon their records relative to this Business, I have reason to believe it of Little purpose to Attempt.

I can but observe Sir that the source of these Evils have in a great measure taken their Rise since the Running the West Line; from the Surveyor of Sussex County Incroaching and making clandestine surveys within the ancient reputed Bounds of Maryland in these parts; and I have been told that even unjustifiable practices have been Lately used to Spirit up the people living to the Northward of that Line to refuse