

Barges were to come up Wiccomico River on the night of the 28th 1781
Instant to attack the detachment from which he deserted. May 29

Whereupon the Court upon hearing the Evidences and upon mature deliberation adjudged that the said Brereton is not Guilty of the first and second charges or either of them as exhibited against him.

But the Court upon consideration of the Testimony are of opinion that the said John Brereton deserted the Company stationed at Lowes's Point to which he belonged and is Guilty under the second Article of the Sixth Section of an Act " Entitled An Act to establish rules and Articles for the Government of the draughts and other Militia of this State while in Service." And adjudge the said John Brereton to pay the Sum of Fifty Pounds and to serve four months in the Continental Army. The propriety of which proceedings and Judgment are humbly submitted to his Excellency Thomas Sim Lee Esq^r Governor of the State of Maryland for approbation.

By order. Esme Bayly, President

John Polk of Lawful age being sworn saith that when they took John Brereton he had a Cartridge Box sling to his side, and that the person with whom the said Brereton was, was the prisoner that made his escape; he this deponent does not know whether the said Brereton was posted as a Sentinel; he this deponent does not know whether the said Brereton was privy to the escape of the prisoner Bloodsworth; he this deponent heard the said Brereton say, that Bloodsworth the prisoner, told him, that the enemies Barges intended up on the night after he this deponent saw the said Brereton & the said Bloodsworth together. and further saith not.

Joshua Pollott of Lawful age be sworn, saith that the said John Brereton was not posted as a Sentinel. The prisoner Bloodsworth discovered that he was uneasy & desired that he might be permitted to step aside and ease himself, the said Brereton who was at that time standing by offered to go with the said Bloodsworth and did go with him, & this deponent was also a going, but some person near at hand, laughed & said that one man was enough to go with another to Shite: afterwards when this deponent found that the said Brereton & the prisoner Bloodsworth were both gone he fired an alarm; and this deponent saw two men, whom he supposed to be them, go off thro a thickett. This deponent never heard the said Brereton say any thing about the enemy. and further saith not.

Aquila Chittam of lawful age being sworn upon the Holy Evangels of Almighty God, saith, that on the evening of the 27th day of May he acted as Serjeant under Lieut. Ephraim Stevens and by order of Lieut Stevens af^d he posted Joshua Pollett as Sentinel at the door of the room where Bloodsworth the prisoner then was; in the evening he was alarmed by a report that Bloodsworth had escaped and John Brereton private at that time under the command of Lieu^t Stevens