

¹⁷⁸¹
May 20 was absent at the same time. As to the second charge exhibited against the said Brereton, saith that the said Brereton was not a Sentinel at the time that Bloodsworth made his escape. and further saith not.

Martin Bowles of Lawful age being sworn saith that on the evening of the 29th day of May Lieut. Ephraim Stevens called upon the men under his command to turn out immediately and endeavour to retake Bloodsworth the prisoner who had made his escape and also to take John Brereton one of the men under his command who was missing at the same time; that this deponent accordingly turned out with the men, and after searching and not finding the prisoner & the said Brereton, the officer detached this deponent with William McClemmy John Polk & Thomas Caton to intercept the said Bloodsworth and John Brereton, accordingly they crossed Wicomico Creek and posted themselves by the side of the road near M^r Thomas Holbrook's plantation and in the night after the moon was down, they saw two men coming towards them, when they were within a few yards, they challenged & ordered the two men to surrender, immediately Bloodsworth halted and presented his piece at them and flashed, and this deponent & the others that were with him discharged their musquets, upon hearing some persons Jump over the ditch they went towards the place and said you infernal buggers surrender or we'll put you to death, upon which John Brereton cried out for Gods sake not to shoot him, and instantly arose out of a field of wheat, and came to them with his cartridge Box, they called upon him for the Bayonet, but he denied that he had it, and said that Bloodsworth snatched his musquet out of his hand at the time he went out with him, and said if he the said Brereton did not go with him, he would blow him through. After they travelled some distance Brereton confessed that he had the Bayonet, and it was where he lay, and said that he was afraid if he acknowledged that he had the Bayonet, they would put him to death. And further saith not

William McClemmy of Lawful age being sworn saith that John Brereton was not a Sentinel on duty at the time when Bloodsworth made his escape; this deponent being one of the detachment that was sent to intercept the prisoner & John Brereton who had left the said detachment, and in M^r Holbrook's lane he saw two men, whom he supposed to be the men he was in pursuit of, upon which he challenged 'em to surrender & one of 'em presented his piece & flashed, instantly this deponent & his party fired at the two men then in view, he heard one or both of 'em Jump over a ditch, immediately this deponent and one of his party went to the place and said if he did not come out, if he this deponent found him he would put him to death, upon which the said Brereton arose out of a Wheat field and surrendered himself, and confessed to this deponent that Bloodsworth had snatched his musquet from him, and that it was against his will he