

would stand his Class for him he would Give me fifteen Hundred Pounds & a sute of Clothes which if I stood the Draft and Came of Clear after that they took the Liberty Ether for a thousand pounds or a hogshead of Bacco to sell me as a Slave But Being a freeman I think I ought to have the Liberty to Dispose of my self and moreover they never have paid me the hole of my money within five hundred pounds & the Cloths this is the real Truth of my Confindment so I hope your Excellency will Consider my Case and Befriend me with the hand of Charity & I shall Be for Ever Bound to pray for your Excellency Goodness and remain your most Humble & Duty full Servant to Command

[P. S.] Haveing a wife & three small Children in Great Distress

[Ridley & Pringle, Baltimore to His Excellency Thomas Sim Lee Esq^r]

May 22
[Indorsed
"Ridley and
Pringle with
a letter of
the 15th from
Mr.
Holker"]

Should your Hon^{ble} Board be pleas'd to comply with the requisition made in the letter we have the honor to inclose, we beg that your Excellency will order the Permit to be forwarded as soon as convenient being very desirous to embrace the present favourable opportunity of transporting the Provision. (See page 243)

[Henry Gray, Charles County, To his Excellency Thomas Simm Lee Esquire]

May 23

The petition of Henry Gray of Durham Parish and Charles County now humbly sheweth That a presentment was made against him by the Grand Jury for the Body of Charles by which he was charged with having assaulted a certain Benedictor Davis upon which Presentment at last November term he Submitted to the Court who imposed a Fine of twenty Pounds State Money upon him. Your Petitioner conscious of his harmless intentions was astonished to hear his conduct grossly misrepresented in Testimony which charged him with having behaved rudely and indecently to the said Benedictor Davis—And as she received no injury and as your petitioner has very little to Subsist on other than the profit arising from his rare industrious Labours Your Petitioner was greived to find that the Court have imposed a fine which your petitioner most humbly hopes your Excellency will think immoderate and unreasonable and grant him such releif as your Excellency in mercy shall think proper and your petitioner shall ever pray

Charles County May 1781

We the Subscribers Neighbours and acquaintances of the within Mentioned Henry Gray do certify that he hath allways been esteemed a modest wellbehaved young man and in every other respect has sustained a reputable honest Character and we never heard of his having been Guilty of or Charged with any misdemeanour except the within mentioned assault and have the greatest reason to beleive