

[425] Command was given to the Sheriffe that he cause to come here the Grand Inquest by him Sumoned which Said grand inquest being by their Names Called Came (Viz.)

Josias Towgood, foreman, Hugh Reyley, John Henry, William Ophet, Thomas Lucas, William Ray, John Cousens, John Browne, John Chittam, William Clacson, Phillip Trottershall, Charles Williams, Marine Devall, Daniell Davison, Nathaniel Wicham.

Who haveing taken the Oath of Grand Jurymen went out to Consider of what presentments Should come before them and after Some Small time returned with these presentments Following.

His Majesty v. John Simpson, George Frankling, Henry Merson
Prince Georges County Ss. June Court 1699.

The Jurors for our Sovereign Lord the King for the Body of Prince Georges County upon their Oaths doe present John Sampson, George Frankling, Henry Morson, Thomas Spore and John Rease the Second day of June in the year of our Lord 1699 att Lyons Creeke Hundred that is to Say att Charles Towne within the Jurisdiction of this Court With force and armes etc. One Black and White Bull Calfe to the Value of three hundred pounds of Tobacco and one blacke and White Cow Calfe to the Value of three Hundred pounds of Tobacco the Propper goods and Chattles of Charles Busey then and there found feloniously did Kill Steall take and Carry away contrary to an act of assembly in that case made and Provided etc. Joshua Cecell Clerke Indictments.

On the Back of the above bill was Endorced Billa Vera.

And now here at this day (to witt) the Twenty Seventh day of June 1699 the Same Court before the Justices of our Sovereign Lord the King att Charles Towne aforesaid Came the Said John Simpson, George Frankling, Henry Merson, Thomas Spore and John Rease all of them in Custody of the Sherriffe of Prince Georges County and being brought to barr in their propper persons Presently it is Demanded of the Said John Simpson, George Frankling, Henry Merson, Thomas Spore and John Rease how they would acquitt themselves of the Premisses imposed upon them.

And the Said Defendants George Frankling, John Simpson and Henry Merson by John Meriton their attorney by the Favour of this Court Especially admitted comes and defends the force and Injury when etc. and for Plea say that they are not Guilty in manner and forme as in the Indictment is Sett forth and thereof they putt themselves upon the Country. John Meriton for the Defendants.

Joshua Cecell allso for his Majesty.

Therefore it is commanded the Sheriffe that without delay hee Cause to come here twelve etc. by whome etc. and who neither etc. to recognize etc. because as well etc. and now here att this day that is to Say the 27th day of June Annoque Domini 1699 came As well Joshua Cecell for his Majesty as the Said George Frankling, John Simpson and Henry Merson by John Merryton their Attorney aforesaid and the Jurors thereon Impannelled being Called Likewise came (To witt)

William Lee, foreman, Thomas Swaringam, John Ramsey, Hugh Williams, William Hill, John Mills, Richard Groome, William Coghill, Phillip Lewis, John Wattkins, John Lenham, Jonathan Simons.

Who to Speake the Truth Concerning the Premisses being Elected tryed and Sworne doe Say upon their Oathes that the Said George Frankling, John Simpson and Henry Merson is Guilty of the Premisses aforesaid to them above in forme as by the Indictment aforesaid above Supposed against them.