

Thomas. Rithard: Cary. Somerset. De Fenton. John. Gray. Thomas. Gordon. Roger.

Between. 12. The Comers who being legally summoned returned & sworn upon the holy
evangelists who having heard the fore said Indentment & proceeding as also heard & seen the
Waller & said Elizabeth Lawrence sworn & examined as also perused the said Elizabeth's
petition & Deposition wrote their Charge & gave sent forth in Order to return their verdict

the humble Petition & Complaint of Elizabeth. Lawrence to y^e our Court new sitting
your Petitioner humbly informeth your worps that being lately delivered of a Child as my
neighbours well knew did prevent my personable & voluntary appearance the last Court
to present my self before y^e worps & have given y^e a true account of my Condition which is
deplorable & Circumstanced & accompanied with my very great foolishness by being drawn
into and at last overcomen & prevailed with to act fornication with John. Dope, the product
whereof is a Child now with me, which Child was begotten on my body by him the said John
Dope as your Petitioner have long since publicly declared unto in James Court & in
Samuel. Hopkinds in the presence of the said John. Dope. And although when cited before the
said Justice I have declared the truth & wrote in then accusing the said John. Dope for
having carnall fellowship with me one time. yet being a shame of my self as now I am
and also to be, I with hold part of the truth, for I must needs confess to the said John. Dope
gained opportunities of me before that time I lay carnally with me, for which my great wickedness
is so Confounding & Acting. Your Worps Petitioner desires to be humbly sorry & to repent thereof
as one who hath grossly failed & transgressed agt the Law of God & Man & lays her self at
your Worps mercy, & most humbly prayeth y^e will extend y^e mercy & indulgence towards your
Petitioner, although altogether undeserving having no other excuse for my self. But the sd
John. Dope's unconstant, unwearied, pationate & violent allegations & temptations by which
I was made long opposition, I found my self at last a poor weak woman, and was by his strong
affaults & assaults overcome & led away as a fowle. I like wife informe y^e worps that I was
delivered in the up of means to have prevented this my unhappiness by many & frequent
Complaints to my Dam. John. Dope, & like wife to sd Hopkinds, who gave me good
Counsel & Advice. I pray y^e worps will favourably consider as an
Attenuation of my sin & punishment by reason of this report the said John. Dope for his abuse
by the said Hopkinds & give me as much as I may be helped by the said John. Dope at with the said Child
to be made & maintained as an orphan & provide for it by the said John. Dope. Petitioner shall as in
the said Court pray
Elizabeth. Lawrence