

The tenth Day of August Anno Dom^o seventeen hundred twenty & six at Saint Pauls Parish afd in Kent County afd within the Jurisdiction of this Court did Commit Fornication with a certain person to the Jurors afd unknown and did permit the same unknown person then and there to have Carnall knowledge of her body and to begett there and there a bastard Child on the body of her the same Mary to the high Displeasure of Almighty God to the evil Example of all others in such Case Offending Contrary to the peace of the said Lord Proprietors good Order and Government and against the form of the Act of Assembly in that Case made and provided — Francis Clerk read —
 Just

On the back of the proceeding Indictment was Endorsed as follows viz^t

True bill Samuel Grooms Foreman —

And the afd Mary Sheppard in her proper person comes and saith that she cannot deny the Indictment, so as afd against her brought nor but that she is Guilty of the premises above upon her Imposed as by the afd Indictment it is alleged and thereupon submits to the Court —
 Therefore it is Considered by the Justices here to wit at the Court house in the Town of Chester in Kent County afd this twenty first Day of March Anno Dom^o seventeen hundred twenty and six that the afd Mary Sheppard pay the sum of six hundred pounds of Tobacco as a fine for her afd Offense of Committing fornication as also that she pay the sum of one hundred and twenty pounds of Tobacco Costs accruing on the premises afd to the Officers of this Court —
 J^r Smith

Ordered that the afd Mary Sheppard give Security for her fine ~~and~~ above specified —

Thereupon William Elms of Kent County Planter comes into Court and assumes to pay the fine of the afd Mary Sheppard ~~and~~ ~~in the~~ Judgment afd specified and thereupon the same Mary is therefrom Discharged —

Ordered that the said Mary Sheppard serve her said Master William Elms at the Expiration of her present Servitude the space of four Months for trouble and Disgrace in bringing to bed —

Ordered that the afd William Elms be allowed in Next Levy two hundred pounds of Tobacco for keeping the said Mary Sheppard's Child and also Sixty pounds of Tobacco if month for keeping the said Child till next November Court —