

March Court 1726

Ordered by the Court here that a Warrant be issued immediately against James Watson at his Lordships Suit which was accordingly done and returned by the Sheriff of the County of Kent

His Lordship
 Margaret Murray
 The Jurors for the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietor of the County of Kent upon their oath do present that Margaret Murray late of St. Pauls Parish in the County of Kent the Servant of Henry Culley the birth Day of August Anno Domini Seventeen hundred and twenty six at the Parish of in the County of Kent within the Jurisdiction of this Court did commit Fornication with a certain person to the Jurors unknown and did permit the same unknown person then and there to have carnal Knowledge of her Body and to beget upon and bear a bastard Child in the Body of her the same Margaret to the high Displeasure of Almighty God to the Example of all others in such Cases offending Contrary to the Statute of the said Lord Proprietor that now is his good Husband Government and against the Statute of the Act of Assembly in that behalf made and provided
 J. George Hester
 Francis Lord Proprietor
 Proceeding Judgment was as follows vizt.
 Groome Foreman

And the said Margaret Murray in her proper person comes and ~~pleads~~ swears that she cannot gain say the Judgment aforesaid against her brought nor that she is guilty of the premises above upon her imposed as by the said Judgment it is alleged and therefore submits to the Court Therefore this is considered by the Justices here to wit at the Court house in the Town of Rochester in said County this twenty fourth Day of March Anno Domini Seventeen hundred and twenty six that the said Margaret Murray should be publicly whipped with twenty five Lashes well laid on her bare Back till the Blood appears as a punishment for her said Crime of committing Fornication in Fornage or forsooth as also that she pay the Sum of two hundred and thirty seven pounds of Tobacco Cents according to the premises aforesaid to the officers of this Court

Ordered by the Court here at this Day to wit the Day and year last mentioned that the Sheriff of Kent County take the said Margaret Murray into his Custody and execute the punishment in the Judgment aforesaid and specify the said Judgment to bring her into Court again of which Sheriff the said Sheriff to wit John Gresham Esq. High Sheriff of Kent County makes Return on the Day and year aforesaid that he hath executed the said Judgment and also hath laid the said Margaret Murray before the Court

Ordered by the Court here that Henry Culley Master of the said Margaret Murray be allowed four hundred pounds of Tob. in next Levy for trouble and Disgrace of his House in bringing the said Margaret Murray to bed of the said Child and two hundred pounds of Tob. for keeping the said Child till this time