

Mary Records
petⁿ against
John Turpin

To the Worshippfull his Lordships Justice of Somerset County now sitting the humble petition
of Mary Records most humbly sheweth

That your petitioner having served John Turpin
these four years past (in which time has been used in most Barbarous manner) your petitioner humbly
conceives that she is free from her servitude altho' she is now detained contrary to all reason ^{and} allows her
negro to beat me and strip me and with switches the said Negro did whij in most shamefull manner as Capt Stott
hath been an eye witness, having seen the blows and Strips therefore humbly begs your worshipps will be pleased
to clear me of so barbarous a master and miskef and of so unjust servitude and your petitioner as in duty
bound will ever pray &c. Mary Records.

Whereupon it is ordered by the Court here that the Sher. of Somerset County summon the said John Turpin so
that he be and appear immediately before the Justice of his Lordships County Court of Somerset now sitting at dividing
Weeks to answer the petition afo^r. whereupon afterwards came her into Court as well the aforesaid petitioner as
the afo^r John Turpin in their proper persons, and the petition afo^r being read and heard, as also the severall alle-
gations as well on the part of the petitioner as on the part of the said John Turpin being fully weighed and
understood and mature deliberation thereupon had as also the severall Judgm^t of Court for Runaway time, the
said Mary Records ^{been} judged to serve her severall masters being suspected &c.

Therefore it is considered by the Court here that the afo^r Mary Records from the service of the afo^r John Turpin
be acquitted and goe home without day &c. and further it is considered by the Justice here that the afo^r Mary
Records recover against the afo^r John Turpin one hundred and Eighty Six pounds of tobacco for her costs and
charges to the same Mary by the Court here adjudged &c.

His Lordship } Somerset County p^r. Be it Remembered that Lewis Gale Esq. prosector of his Lordships pleas and
J^r. Turpin } Clerk of Judgments in the same County Court, comes into Court before the worshippfull Samuel Hopkins
Esq. and his associates Justices of the same Court this fiftenth day of June in the year of our
Lord God Seventeen hundred and thirty one and gave the same Court to understand and be informed that John Turpin
late of Somerset County planter the tenth day of April in the year of our Lord God Seventeen hundred and thirty one
at Somerset County afo^r within the Jurisdiction of this Court with force and armes in and upon a certain Mary Records
(the same Mary then and there being a servant to the said John Turpin) in the presence of God and the said Lord proprie-
tary then and there being an assault did make and her the said Mary then and there did beat wound and evilly
entreat then and there giving to her the said Mary more than ten lashes for one offense so that of her life it
was much desperied and other harms then and there did to the great damage of the said Mary and against
the peace of the said Lord proprietary his good rule and Government and contrary to the form of the act
of assembly in that behalf made and provided wherefore the same Lewis prays the advice of the Court in the
premises and due process against him to issue - Lewis Gale Esq. Propriety.

Thereupon Command was given to the Sher. of Somerset County that he should take the said John Turpin afo^r to
answer &c. and afterwards in the same Court came the said John Turpin and being by the Sher. set to the bar is thereupon
instantly demanded how he would acquit himselfe of the premises afo^r above upon him imposed, Submits with a pro-
testation of his Innocency, because he will not contend with his said Lordship the Lord proprietary and quits him-
selfe upon the favour of the Court &c. whereupon all and singular the premises by the Court here being seen heard
& fully understood - It is considered by the Court here that the afo^r John Turpin pay to his said Lordship the Lord
Proprietary one hundred pounds of tobacco for his fine by reason of the premises afo^r above upon him imposed and that
the said John Turpin be taken to satisfy his said Lordship of the fine afo^r &c.