

August Court 1737 98
Six before Robert King Gentleman and Others his associates Justices of the said Lord Proprietary
the peace in the County aforesaid to preserve and also divers felony's trespasses and other malfeasances in the
same County committed to hear and determine as required by the Oath of Alexander Leslie and
twelve others being presented that Mary Cowley late of Somerset parish in the County aforesaid
the first day of March anno Domini Seventeen hundred and thirty six at the parish aforesaid in the
County aforesaid within the Jurisdiction of this Court did commit fornication with a certain person to the
Injuries aforesaid unknown and did permit the same unknown person then and there to have carnal
knowledge of her body and to beget them and there a bastard child on the body of her the
same Mary to the high displeasure of Almighty God to the Vile Example of all others in
such case offending contrary to the peace of the said Lord Proprietary that now is in good rule &
Government and against the form of the act of Assembly in such case lately made and provided.

Whereupon command was given to the Sheriff of Somerset County that he should take
the said Mary Cowley if she should be found in his Baileys and have her safe kept so
that he might have her body before the Justices of this Lordships County Court of Somerset to
be held at Dividing Creek in the same County the third Tuesday of June anno Domini One thousand
seven hundred and thirty seven to answer unto his said Lordship of the fornication aforesaid where-
of she was indicted. All which day here before the Justices of his Lordships County Court of Somer-
set and Dividing Creek aforesaid came the Sheriff of the County aforesaid and returned that he aforesaid Mary Cowley
was not found in his bailey aforesaid. Therefore command was again given to the Sheriff of the
County aforesaid that he should take the said Mary Cowley if he could saif so that he might have
her body before the Justices of his Lordships County Court of Somerset to be held at Dividing Creek the
third Tuesday of August anno Domini One thousand seven hundred and thirty seven to answer unto his said
Lordship of the fornication aforesaid whereof she was indicted.

All which day here came the said Mary Cowley in her proper person and had a hearing of the
Indictment aforesaid and saith that she cannot deny but that she is guilty of the premises aforesaid in the Indict-
ment aforesaid Specified in manner aforesaid by the Indictment aforesaid above against her supposed
and the premises aforesaid Regretfully acknowledgeth - but refuseth to declare the father of her bastard
child she stands indicted for - whereupon all y^e Singular the premises by his Court here being seen and
fully understood It is considered that the aforesaid Mary Cowley be whipt with five stripes on the bare back
well laid on while the blood appear, at the publick whipping post at Dividing Creek, and that the said
Mary Cowley be taken up. And Heronon as to his corporal punishment aforesaid command is given
to the Sheriff of the County aforesaid that he doth of immediate Execution by whipping of the aforesaid Mary Cowley