

Maryland Penitentiary
Baltimore, April 15th 1848

To his Excellency, Philip S Thomas
Governor of Maryland.
Sir:

By direction of the Board of Directors of this Institution, I am entrusted with the honor of transmitting to your Excellency the accompanying papers, consisting,

1. Of an application of the Board of Directors for a pardon for Sherry Wilson, a convict prisoner in this institution.

2. The Recommendation of the Court in behalf of the prisoner, commending ^{him} as a fit object of Executive clemency: and

3. A letter from Judge Hopper, in which the facts and circumstances in connection with the prisoner's case are detailed.

Commending the prayer of our Board to your favorable consideration, I remain with sentiments of great respect, your Excellency's
Obt. Servt.

Edw. P Roberts
Secy Ches Hill to the Board of Directors.

His Excellency
Philip F. Thomas
Gov. of Md
Annapolis

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E. S. Roberts.

Maryland Penitentiary
Baltimore, April 1848

To his Excellency, Philip F. Thomas
Governor of Maryland.

Dear Sir:

The Undersigned, Directors of the Maryland Penitentiary, most respectfully beg leave to represent, that there is at present confined in this Institution an aged colored man, named Sherry Willson. He is now 69 years of age, and has been a prisoner since the 22^d day of May, 1839, a period of nearly nine years. He was tried and convicted at the May term of Queen Ann's County Court in the year 1839, of "Circulating a Book tending to Insurrection", and sentenced by said Court to 10 years confinement in the Maryland Penitentiary.

The crime of which the prisoner was found guilty is a grave one, but as he has already suffered nine years punishment - as his conduct since he has been an inmate here has been of the most exemplary character, patient, obedient, and industrious - as he is far advanced in years, being on the verge of the time allotted to man on earth - as he bore an excellent character in his neighborhood, except for the single offence for which he has been so long a prisoner - and as the Undersigned has learned that there were mitigating circumstances in this case, they applied to the Honorable Judges of the Court by whom he was tried, convicted, and sentenced, for a Recommendation to your Excellency for a Pardon for the said convict prisoner. The Undersigned herewith enclose to your Excellency the Recommendation of said Court, commending the said Sherry Willson to your clemency, and the Undersigned most earnestly, though respectfully, join in the prayer, that you may grant a pardon to the said Willson, remitting the residue of his term of servitude. In so doing they sincerely believe, that your Excellency will subserve the cause of humanity, confer a well deserved favor upon a worthy though humble individual, without in the least weakening the power

and effect of the law under which he was convicted and punished, and that its aim and object, its conservative and repressive influences will be as fully promoted by this present punishment, and the violated majesty of the law as fully vindicated, as they would be were he compelled to serve out the unexpired year of his servitude.

In the hope that your Excellency will take the same view of the prisoner's case as they have done, the Undersigned beg leave to remain with sentiments of high consideration and respect, your Excellency's
Most Obedient Servts.

J. P. Ambrose
J. V. Wagner
J. J. Frazer
Wm. A. Boyd
Geo. W. Cox
L. N. Gosnell

No. 1. Recommendation
of Directors of Penitentiary
for Pardon of Wilson for
Negro from Queen Anne's County

Recommended above for Pardon
of Henry Wilson for negro count
-ed in Queen Anne's County Court
by the Directors of Penitentiary

To His Excellency Governor Thomas

We have been applied to for a recommendation of Sherry Wilson a convict now in the Penitentiary as a fit subject for Executive clemency.

Believing that the ends of justice have been attained and learning that Sherry Wilson has conducted himself with exemplary correctness since his imprisonment, we take leave to suggest that he might be pardoned without fear of encouragement to others to perpetrate the very mischievous crime of which he was convicted.

With great respect

Sept. 10th 1848 Yr. Able Servants

E. H. Chamber

P. B. H. Appr

J. B. Eccleston

No 2

To His Excellency

P. F. Thomas

Governor of Maryland

Annapolis

Recommendation of Judge
John C. Hoffman and Co.
Director for order of King
Mills. In negro.

Centerville April 11. 1848

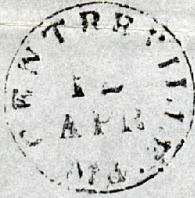
Sir: I received the enclosed papers from Judge Chambers this afternoon with a request that I should inclose them to you. There has been considerable anxiety for years past in this County for the pardon of Sherry. We have been ~~petitioned~~ solicited by some of the most respectable and influential gentlemen in the County to sign a recommendation, and upon one occasion Judge Chambers agreed ~~to~~ represent to one of our Generals the wish of the County upon the subject; but forgot to do so. Sherry upon his trial proved an excellent character, and had purchased the Book, which he circulated before the passage of the law making it criminal; but was caught reading it to two negro women after the passage of the law. The Court thought that there were mitigating circumstances in his case, and therefore imposed the slightest punishment in their power. If it had been otherwise and the case had been one of deliberate design, he would have had the extent of the law, and would not now be recommended by me.

Yr haste

Yours Respectfully.

P. B. Kopper

Judge Stephen for the Son
-son of Henry Wilson



E. P. Roberts Esq

Secretary to The Board of Directors
of The Maryland Penitentiary.
Baltimore

10/11

