

By his Excellency William Smallwood Esquire Governour of Maryland  
A Proclamation

Whereas it has been represented by Nathan Soper of Prince Georges County, Planter, that some time in the month of October last he had a Tobacco house full of Tobacco and other property consumed by fire in the night. That on the evening preceding this misfortune, a Tobacco house belonging to Hotley Young Esquire, full of Tobacco, in which the said Soper (being Manager for Mr Young) was interested had likewise been destroyed by fire; that further on the twenty eighth Day of August last he lost seven Stacks of wheat and rye in the same manner and at the same time he had a new Tobacco house containing a quantity of packed Tobacco, and other valuable property set on fire, which last he by a timely discovery prevented from being consumed. And whereas the said Soper declares himself firmly persuaded that these misfortunes have not been occasioned by accident, but that they have proceeded from some person or persons maliciously bent on effecting his ruin. I have therefore with the advice of the Council thought fit to issue this my Proclamation, offering a reward of sixty Dollars for the discovery of the perpetrator or perpetrators of the aforesaid outrages, so that he, she, or they may be convicted thereof.

Given under the Seal of the State of Maryland  
this thirtieth Day of September in the year of our Lord  
One thousand, seven hundred and eighty eight

By his Excellencys Command

Thomas J. Lee

W. Smallwood

God save the State