

The State of Maryland to wit whereas Griffin Williams of Talbot County has  
been presented at the Court of the said County at May Term eighteen Hundred and  
Eleven for Killing a Negro Man named Nathan the property of William B. Smith  
and whereas it has been represented to me that the said Griffin Williams has  
been for the last twelve years acting as Overseer for the said William B. Smith  
that the said Nathan was often extremely refractory and insolent, and on Monday  
the twenty fifth day of March eighteen Hundred and eleven behaved as if he was  
determined not to obey any orders he might give him. that the said Nathan had  
often threatened to take the life of the said Williams if he should ever attempt  
to correct him. that being apprehensive that the said Nathan would at some time  
or other take advantage of this situation, and carry his threats into execution of  
went armed to defend himself. that on the morning of the said Twenty fifth of March  
the said Nathan on being ordered to work instead of obeying raised his axe and  
swore he would sink it in the said Williams's heart, if he attempted to raise his  
hand against him - that believing that the said Nathan was about to throw his  
axe at him, caught up his gun and discharged it at him - and whereas the  
whole of the Grand Jury, William B. Smith and a great number of respectable  
persons inhabitants of Talbot County have recommended the said Griffin  
Williams as a fit object for the interposition of Government. I have therefore thought  
it proper to order and direct that all proceedings at law against the said Griffin  
Williams do cease and determine and that no further prosecution be had or  
carried on against him for or on account of the same - Given under my hand  
and the seal of the State of Maryland this sixteenth day of July eighteen  
Hundred and twelve

By the Governor  
Ninian Pinkney  
Clerk of the Council

Robert Bowie

The State of Maryland to all our Bailiffs and good People to whom these presents  
shall come Greeting whereas Negro James slave of the Heir of William Whitney  
was at Somerset County Court at April Term last sentenced to the  
Penitentiary in Baltimore County for the term of one year and whereas I am satisfied  
from the representation of the Court of Somerset County that the said act was the result  
of accident and not design and the said Court having recommended the said James  
as a fit object for the interposition of Government, I have therefore thought proper  
to pardon the said negro James for the offence aforesaid and do hereby order and direct  
that he be released from the punishment to which he hath been adjudged - Given  
under my hand and the seal of the State of Maryland this thirteenth day of July  
in the year of our Lord one Thousand eight Hundred and twelve

By the Governor  
Ninian Pinkney  
Clerk of the Council

Robert Bowie