

Sir

Somerset County 27. March 1766.

I am informed that my Negro Man Robin was convicted of a Capital Offence at your last Court and that the Testimony upon which he was convicted, was as slight Testimony as ever Man was convicted on, what could induce the Jury to convict him upon such Testimony, I know not unless they suspected he was an old Offender, if that was what they went on, do assure you they were greatly mistaken for none tell you upon my Reputation that the fellow suspected a good Character not only with me but with all the Neighbours where I resided. Now Sir as I am informed you intend to Annanapolis very soon desire you would lay the poor Fellow's case before his Excellency, and make no doubt from his known Goodness and Mercy will grant the poor fellow his Pardon and that without Imputation that being a matter I must desire be excused from as I can't think he in any Sort deserves it.

I am with Esteem your very humble Servant

To Will. Allen Esq^r

Thomas Hayward jun^r

On consideration of the above Letter and Recommendation of the Justices His Excellency with the Advice of the Board was pleased to Order that a Pardon should issue for the aforesaid Negro Robin, which was issued accordingly.

And the following Relation of Sundry Justices of Frederick County:

To His Excellency Moratice Sharp Esq^r Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the Province of Maryland.

The Relation of the subscribing Magistrates of Frederick County.

Most humbly sheweth That your Petitioners with great Sorrow and Regret find themselves obliged to accuse two of their own Members of a scandalous Abuse of that Power which your Excellency hath thought proper to intrust them with in joint Commission with your Petitioners.

That without imputing upon other Irregularities your Petitioners will confine themselves at present to the Information they have received of Capt. Evan Shelby, and M^r. Joseph Warford, in a Case of Fornication, as follows.

That a certain Catharine Wheate, Daughter of Conrad Wheate, in the Month of September last, charged Thomas Hynes, an Irish, before Capt. Thomas Rice, one of his Lordships Justices of this County, with being the Father of her bastard Child. Whereupon Capt. Rice took Recognizance for her appearance at November Court, and also for the said appearance and made return thereof accordingly.

That the said Hynes appearing at the said November Court, but the young Woman not appearing, the matter was respite'd till March Court following.

That Hynes in the Interim, apply'd to Capt. Evan Shelby for a Warrant to take the Child from the said Catharine his Mother, which was granted in the form of a Search Warrant for Stolen Goods; and in pursuance thereof on the 2. December Barnet Johnson Constable of Linton Hundred, with five more, went to the House of Conrad Wheate, and after calling for Whiskey, and making other Pretences, at length demanded of Conrad Wheate to deliver up his Daughter (Child) pretending they had an Order of Court for it. Which Wheate demanding to see the Order, and finding the same only to be an Order of Capt. Rice's, refused to comply with, as his Daughter was under Recognizance already. Upon