

him to a Confession. Mr. Sprigg still declaring it to be his hand Writing, but he persisted in denying it - I then left the Office, and afterwards on Mr. Lee asking me how he should act, I advised him to acquaint the Court of the Transaction, he said perhaps Hamilton might be prevailed on to Confess the Fact to me tho' he would not in the presence of so many Persons, that he would go to him and endeavour to persuade him to do it, a very short time after, and before I left the Court House, Hamilton came to me and said I acknowledge I entered that Dued upon Record myself. I asked him what could induce him to be guilty of so bad an Action, he answered that if he had not been persuaded he should never have thought of doing it, but would not say by whom, we then parted, I immediately went to Mr. Lee and informed him of the conversation that had passed, as also those who were present in the Office at the time Hamilton was first called on - Mr. Lee desired I would advise him what I thought he had best do with regard to the Record. I told him that by Hamiltons Confession it was no Record, and as there was sufficient Evidence to convict him on a Prosecution, I thought it best to have the Dued carefully erased out of the Record, and as Clerk I thought he could not let it remain there, especially as it might be done without any Prejudice to the Book, it being mostly on the inside of the Cover of it, and further told him it would be right to have it done in the Presence of some of the Persons that were present at the time Hamilton was called in the Office, in consequence of this Advice, he directed John Lillie one of the Clerks in the Office to take it out, and to be very careful in doing it, the next Morning Mr. Lee set off for England, after his departure I enquired of Lillie if he had complied with his Orders in erasing the Dued from the Record Book, he told me he had, and upon Examination found it very carefully done, and without any Prejudice to the Book. At the next Assizes Hamilton and Lillie were presented, Hamilton for entering the Dued and Lillie (who acted only in Obedience to Mr. Lees Order, and that from an Opinion it was Right,) for erasing it - If any thing further should be required of me I shall cheerfully comply - I hope you will excuse the trouble I am giving you on this Occasion - and believe me to be Sir  
 Your most Obedient Servant.  
 Joseph Sim.

To  
 The Honble. Daniel Dulany Esq.<sup>r</sup>

Upon Consideration of the foregoing Letter, His Excellency, with the Advice and Consent of this Honourable Board, was pleased to Order a Noli Prosequi to stay all further Proceedings on the Presentment against the aforesaid John Lillie. -

At a Council held at the Governours on Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> Day of  
 March in the eighteenth Year of his Lordships Dominion Anno Domini 1769.

Present

His Excellency Horatio Sharpe Esq.<sup>r</sup> Governour.

The honble. Benedict Calvert Esq.<sup>r</sup>  
 Daniel Dulany Esq.<sup>r</sup>  
 John Ridout Esq.<sup>r</sup>

Walker Dulany Esq.<sup>r</sup>  
 John Beale Bordley Esq.<sup>r</sup>  
 George Stewart Esq.<sup>r</sup>

Read the Transcript of the Conviction of Negro <sup>Scipio</sup> late of Prince Georges County Labourer, the Slave of a certain Thomas Ramsay Hodges, Condemned at the last November Court held in the said County for breaking open and Robbing the Meat House of Mr. Stephen West of Prince Georges County of

Read also the following Representation of the Justices relative to the Conviction of the aforesaid Negro Scipio -  
 May it please your Excellency -

At last November Court Negro Scipio, the Slave of Thomas Ramsay Hodges of this County was indicted tried and found guilty of breaking open the Meat House of Mr. Stephen West, and Stealing  
 from