

as above given him, in daily expectation of a Brother's arrival, lately stopped by the hand of Providence, to act in his behalf has at times resided in your Excellency's Government not in defiance of your Excellency of my Lords Honourable Council nor of the Laws of which his audacious presumption your unfortunate Petitioner is incapable but with the intent only of saving out of his almost destruction some trifle to support him hereafter therefore he most humbly doth presume to hope that having as yet no formal discharge as aforesaid nor the other requisites as yet complied with, if unfortunately deluded by the Council given him he shall find Commiseration in your Excellency's generous Breast, and not resentment, because if he has unhappily caused offence it is very innocently and an act the which any rational being having his preservation in view could not be guilty of. Your Excellency's unfortunate Petitioner being extremely distressed for too many reasons to be Illustrated is this his humble Petition doth with all due Submission Implore your Mercy by the grant of a most gracious Pardon with some short allowance of time finally to adjust his Affairs hitherto by him unwarily neglected in expectation of the arrival of his Brother as aforesaid or such other Relief as in your Wisdoms deemed meet. And as in Duty bound your Excellency's Petitioner shall ever pray -
James Richards.

Ordered by His Excellency the Governor with the Advice of this Board that a Pardon issue in Behalf of the abovementioned James Richards with a Condition that he shall depart the Province on or before the first Tuesday in June next and never to return again - Whereupon a Pardon was issued accordingly -

This day being appointed to take into Consideration the Complaints of John Doncastle and William Wright against Richard Lee Esq^r Sheriff of Charles County the said Richard Lee only attending was called in, who informed this Honourable Board that John Doncastle was not to be found in the Province and that William Wright had timely and regular Notice of this Meeting, as may appear by the following Letter and Depositions - Viz^t

For Inclosed you have the Letter I received from you some time ago for my Father as I have never had a convenient opportunity of sending it and have lately heard that he is not at the place where I expected he was neither does it lay in my Power to inform you where he is as his Brother can give no Account of him and I do not expect he will be this way before the middle of the Summer -
To Richard Lee Jun. Esq^r -
May the 1st 1770 -
I am Sir, Your most humble Serv^t
John Doncastle

The Deposition of Joseph Courts aged Twenty eight Years or thereabouts being sworn on the holy Evangel of Almighty God deposes and saith that Sixteen or Eighteen days before the Council met to hear the Complaint of William Wright and John Doncastle against Richard Lee Junior Sheriff he this Deponent delivered a Letter to William Wright which was delivered by Richard Lee Jun. to this Deponent to deliver to the said Wright and a few days afterwards he this Deponent informed the said William Wright of the day that Richard Lee Jun. was to take several Depositions and desired that he would attend at Richard Lee Sen. on that purpose to which the said William answered that he would not attend, this Deponent further saith that a few days afterwards he gave William Wright Notice again to attend at Annapolis on the day the Council was to sit and the said William Wright answered that he should attend there, and bring his Witnesses and further this Deponent saith not.

The above Deposition taken before Samuel Love.

Richard