

The circumstances attending the murder are these. A Negro of Slave
 and descended from Kent Co. They passed generally through the
 Head of Sapotass, a small town in Kent near the civil line and within
 a few miles of Delaware. Mr. Vansant and a Mr. Clayton were standing
 in the R. R. Street about 11 O'Clock at night. A stout Negro man passed
 within 3 or 10 feet - Vansant turned round, inquired who it was and here
 he was going - He replied that he was on his way home - Vansant called
 him a dog & walked towards him & when he got within striking distance,
 the Negro raised on his feet & with a single blow of a Cleaver or some
 such instrument, struck him on the back of the head, severing all the large ar-
 teries, cutting the jaw bone and both in two & the tongue - Vansant
 fell and never spoke. He had but raised a hand or had arm, nor
 used any threatening language - He was killed within 30 or 35 of his own
 door. It would be expected the case is one that excites considerable
 interest in Kent. After an arduous investigation, important facts have been
 brought to light.

I remain with great respect
 Your Obedt & Able Servt
 George Tucker

Mr. Coulson,
 W. Mason
 Wm. & M.D.

To His Excellency, G. W. Ligon

Governor of the State of Maryland:

The undersigned citizens of Kent County
 respectfully represent that at the April Term 1857 of the Circuit Court
 for Kent County held at Charleston, the Grand Jurors of the State of
 Maryland for said County found an indictment, of true bill, against
 Albert Reed (A. R.) late of Cecil County, for the Capital Murder of George
 L. Vansant in Kent County, on the 23rd June 1856 as by a copy of said in-
 dictment will appear: That the said Albert Reed, upon application
 made by him, procured a removal of his case to the Circuit Court for
 Cecil County, and that the said Reed has ever remained in Cecil County
 and is now in the jail of said County. Your petitioners further rep-
 resent that the Circuit Court for Cecil County will not sit at its reg-
 ular term till the second Monday of August next - That it has oc-
 curred a number of times heretofore, that prisoners committed to the
 jail in said County, have escaped therefrom, because of the insecurity
 of said place - That the said Reed has a number of relatives and
 friends in and about Eyleson and Cecil County, who may possibly aid
 in the escape of said Reed - That at the late April Term of the Cir-
 cuit Court for Cecil County, a writ proceeded against the said Reed for
 the murder of said Vansant, under a former indictment, found in Kent
 County, and removed to Cecil County, for trial, an entire day in which
 his testimony for the State was introduced and examined in the presence
 of his friends and his counsel when an advantage was taken of a
 defect in the indictment and which made the finding of a new indictment
 necessary - That the testimony as then given, and understood presented
 a strong case for the State, and circumstantial evidence - That the
 facts and circumstances being now known to the prisoner and his relatives