

and friends, and the crime charged being the highest known to the law, the receipt of a speedy or early trial becomes incident - Not only is it charged to be apprehended or not escape by the fugitive - but by all rational circumstances, that if a single mile for the State, should die or go beyond the jurisdiction of the Court and the chain of circumstances be broken, justice can never be done between the State and the party charged.

We therefore humbly pray your Excellency to order and issue a Commission of Oyer and Terminer and Gaol Delivery for the trial of all crimes and offences and misdemeanors which are to be tried in said County on some early day, between this and the first day of July and in any bound your petitioners will ever pray &c.

Wm. H. 1837

Charles Hardy  
 Charles Gilmer  
 C. H. Price  
 Edw. Williams

George Vickers  
 Jas. E. Gordon  
 James Beck of Leo  
 William Harris  
 George Mason  
 Rich. Byrnes  
 Geo. L. Ham  
 William Lamb  
 A. W. Sparks  
 J. H. Gordon  
 Saml. E. Baker  
 W. L. Westcott  
 Jas. Patton  
 Benj. D. Hays

Elkton Mar. 14<sup>th</sup> 1837

To His Excellency

Thomas Martin Ligon  
 Governor State of Maryland

Dear Sir:

Official business with the Circuit Court for Harford County, prevented me from receiving the favour of the Secy. of State, and as the date of 19<sup>th</sup> inst. until my return home this evening, I therefore have to reply briefly, as to the strength of Cecil County Jail, I can only say that I believe it is as secure, as the general average of Maryland jails, except those of very recent construction and which are supplied with many modern improvements - it is certainly much better than many of the jails of other Counties in the State - the walls are of stone in good condition two feet thick, the windows are secured with heavy iron bars - the doors are on above with heavy bolts and locks and the yard is enclosed by a wall of granite built in 1819, of great apparent strength, though I am not willing to say that a person of very desperate character and ingenious skill might not effect an escape from this as well as from other jails.

My practice is to heavily iron and to secure to my bolts in the floor, such prisoners as I suspect to be of desperate