

Undated letter

Governors Executive Papers – William Cabell

Accession #41135, Box 8, Folder 10

Abraham McDonald Petition

To his Excellency the Governor of Virginia

The humble petition of Abraham McDonald sheweth that your petitioner was sentenced by the District Court at Dumfries to go and remain at the penitentiary house for the term of four years for killing James Billingsley of Fauquier County with a blow of his fist which was done, and caused to be done by irritating and improper threatening language on the part of the said Billingsley, he declaring he would have your petitioners life if a weapon could be procured that would do it. And accordingly got a pair of Taylor's shears apparently for that purpose, this your petitioner was informed of by one of the witnesses and advised to be on his guard as he conceived his life to be in danger, in consequence whereof, your petitioner gave the unhappy blow which put a period to the existence of the said Billingsley. Now your humble petitioner together with a distressed wife and three helpless children (one of them born blind) prayeth and beggeth that your Excellency would extend mercy to him, and in compassion to the distressed and deplorable situation his helpless family, would remit his punishment and liberate him on a shorter period than by law he was adjudged to serve; a number of his neighbors acquainted with him in the county wherein he lived have annexed their signatures in his behalf, which he humbly hopes will incline your Excellency to compassionate the distress and grant the petitioners humbly request, and your petitioners will ever pray.

___ Pickett
Charles Graves
Samuel Ashby
Jno Bir---ett
John Chapman
Jas. Hampton
Edmund Newman

George Riley
James Sowers
W. Edmunds
Luke B-----
William Hooe
Henry Brown
Nathan McPherson

John Jacobs
John Graves
Lewis Wood
D. Hansbury
Jacob Scott
William Monroe
Frederick Hampton

(Two additional pages of signatures were not transcribed)