

**Brentsville, Va. November 7<sup>th</sup> 1849**  
**Box #393, Folder 1, Accession # B1055892**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Buchanan Floyd**

In Prince William County Court, November 7<sup>th</sup> 1849. Poll taken by the County Court of Prince William this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November 1849, for the election of a proper person to be commissioned as a sheriff of said County of Prince William.

**CANDIDATES**

Jas. B. T. Thornton	John Fitzhugh	Benjamin Johnson
Benjamin Johnson	Benjamin Johnson	Benjamin Johnson
A. Howison	A. Howison	A. Howison
B. E. Harrison	B. E. Harrison	B. E. Harrison

Whereupon Jas. B. T. Thornton, John Fitzhugh, & Benjamin Johnson are nominated to the executive as, either of whom may be commissioned sheriff of this county.

Teste J. Williams clerk

**Buckland, Prince William County Va. December 20<sup>th</sup> 1849**  
**Box #393, Folder 1, Accession # B1055892**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Buchanan Floyd**

Mr. D. J. Delaplane

Dear Sir:

In your letter of the 14<sup>th</sup> instant, you inform me that you are an applicant for the office of inspector of flour in the city of Richmond, which office will be filled by the Governor in July next, and also that a report that you were a Whig before you removed to Richmond has been circulated, designed to prejudice your claims to that appointment. I am surprised that any one should have been so reckless as to have made such a charge.

It gives me pleasure to state that I have known you ever since you were a mere boy, and that prior to your removal to Richmond you lived with me for a year or two, and that in all that time you were a Democrat, warm, decided and reliable. I have reason to believe that since that period you have been equally earnest and steadfast in the good old cause of Democracy.

It will be a source of much pleasure to me to hear of the success of your application, not only because you have always been a consistent Democrat, but because I have every reason to believe, that if appointed, you would discharge your duties satisfactorily to those interested.

Very respectfully yours, &c.  
Charles H. Hunton  
Buckland, Prince William County  
December 20<sup>th</sup> 1849

**Brentsville, Va. January 17<sup>th</sup> 1850**  
**Box #394, Folder 2, Accession # B1055892**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Buchanan Floyd**

**Commonwealth vs Agness – Letter**

To the Governor

Sir,

Herewith enclosed I send a copy of the record in the case of “Commonwealth vs Agness: a slave, convicted of murder & sentence to be hung on the 10 May, next. On reading the record you will observe that Agness, alleged that she was with child, & the court being in doubt as to the truth of her allegation put off the day of her execution, till the 10 May, next, so as to ascertain the truth or falsehood of her allegation with certainty, & to give the Executive an opportunity, to postpone her execution further, if it should turn out to be true, that she is with child.

Most respectfully  
Your obedient servant  
J. Williams

**Brentsville, Va. January 17<sup>th</sup> 1850**  
**Box #400, Folder 1, Accession # B1055892**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Buchanan Floyd**  
**Commonwealth vs Agnes – Trial Transcript**

For the Governor of Virginia

Virginia, Prince William County Court, January 7<sup>th</sup> 1850. Present at this time, John Fitzhugh, Allen Howison, Seymour Lynn, Basil Brawner and Charles E. Norman, Gentlemen Justices.

The Court proceeded as a Court of Oyer & Terminer to the trial of Agness, a negro woman slave the property of the late Gerard Mason, charged with having willfully, deliberately, maliciously & with malice aforethought, killed and murdered her master Gerard Mason, by striking him repeated blows on the head with an axe. Eppa Hunton & Francis L. Smith Esq. appeared as counsel for the Commonwealth, and the Court assigned Daniel Jasper Esq. counsel for the accused. Whereupon the said Agness was led to the bar in custody of the Sheriff of this County, arraigned & upon her arraignment pleaded not guilty, & for her trial put upon God & this Court. And the Court proceeded to examine sundry witnesses, as well for the Commonwealth as the prisoner, upon consideration whereof the Court are unanimously of opinion that the said Agness is guilty of murder. Therefore it is considered by the court that she be hanged by the neck until she be dead. And thereupon she is remanded to jail & the case is continued over till tomorrow morning 9 o'clock. And in Prince William County Court, January 8<sup>th</sup> 1850. The court proceeded as a Court of Oyer and Terminer to the trial of Agness, a slave, pursuant to adjournment. Whereupon the said Agness was led to the bar in custody of the jailor of this county, & thereupon the said Agness alleging that she had discovered herself to be with child about five weeks since, & from the inspection of said Agness by the Court, & the statement of several Physicians who had examined her at their request, the Court being still in doubt as to the correctness of the allegation of the prisoner. It is therefore considered & ordered by the Court, that the said Agness be remanded to jail the place from whence she came & there to remain till the day of her execution and from thence taken to the place of execution, on Friday the 10<sup>th</sup> day of May 1850, between the hours of 10 o'clock in the morning and 4 o'clock in the afternoon of that day. And the court are of the opinion that the said Agness is worth \$450. The following is a copy of the evidence taken in this cause, which was ordered to be made a part of the record, to wit: "Commonwealth vs Agness – Testimony of Lewis Weston examined for the Commonwealth; as I was prepared to go to mill Mr. Ragan said if there was any way of going up he would like to go too. I then told one of my sons to go over to Mr. Mason & get his canoe, & if he was not at the house not to go after him but get someone to help push his canoe off so as I might carry a quantity – my son went directly over & found the door of the kitchen open, fire in the house & kitchen, and house shut up & locked, & someone lying there & knowing the customs of the place, & raised the mat at the door.

I goes over with Mr. Ragan after the return of my son, and takes the key from under the mat where it always lay, and unlocked the door & went in & takes the cover & threw it back without touching Mr. Mason, & see him laying there & the blood all around him smoking & Mr. Ragan come & we both pronounced him dead. Then I made my son go after Dr. Saunders, & tell all he saw that Mr. Mason was there murdered dead, & told Mr. Ragan not to touch nothing till others came. Then I was standing on the steps & told my son not to stop to saddle horse, time was short & then I saw three or four Negroes coming down the hill. One or two disappeared & only two came down which was the prisoner Agness & Priscilla her mother – then I named to them, when they came down & she Agness spoke to me first & I asked her what made her kill her master. She said what? I ask again – She made very strange of it in a kind of shout & says you don't say master dead & her mother says Agness you know you have killed your master & what use denying it & Agness then says yea I have killed him. I asked her what did she kill him for – She said her mother had come up after her to get her masters breakfast & she went in there & her master told her something about an axe, why it was not sharp, & then she brought it in & showed him it was not sharp, he her master had taken his gun down & cocked it & made some attempts to shoot her - in the scuffle she took the gun out of his possession & put it up in the rack, master she said was sitting on the side of the bed when she picked up the axe & struck him - & she found that she had killed him & gave him the second lick – she then put him in bed & put him in the position in which witness found him. Witness is near neighbour to deceased – and frequently was there & when he found body of deceased he was lying in a natural position as if there had been no scuffle. He was lying in bed – the forepart of the bed was not tumbled – laying in a little hollow with his feet crosswise bed – his feet crossed – his head was lying on one side & the blood was spattered against the wall with much blood under his head – smoking – there was no blood upon the floor when I went – had all his clothes on but his shoes – deceased was lying between the covering as if he had gone to bed – there was no blood on the outside covering nor anywhere else except where the wall was spattered & under his head – there was no appearance in the room of a scuffle – the little supper table was setting at the foot of the bed where the deceased lay with cups &c on it – deceased some time previous had his shoulder mashed & collar bone broken. Witness saw the deceased as above the Wednesday before

Christmas. Witness got at the house of deceased short time after 12 m: Cross examined by accused – Witness sent his son over to house of deceased about 12 o'clock – prisoner said that deceased wanted to handle her & she would not submit to it & with this he took the gun down – she says she took the gun away & put it up – and then she took the axe & killed him. I think prisoner said something about the axe but am not positive – she was in two or three scuffles but took the gun away once, deceased took the gun down cocked it & said he would shoot her – prisoner was told to set there until Dr. Saunders came – there was no counterpane under deceased that I recollect, he was lying on his back with his head on one side – face towards the wall, was dressed in ordinary dress except shoes – had on over coat I judge – it was his habit to lie down with his overcoat on – deceased takes lolls through the day at different times.

Reexamined by the Commonwealth: Saw deceased in the morning across creek about breakfast time probably about eight.

Lewis Weston'

Dr. A. H. Saunders a witness on the part of Commonwealth says Mr. Weston's little boy came after me on the 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> December & stated his father had sent for me that Mr. Mason was dead. I went as soon as I could in company with R. Stonnell & Henry Selecman, when I got there I went up to his bed & found Mr. Mason dead with his scull mashed in & blood & brains running out, some of which were some six inches from his head – there was no blood in any other part of the room except on the wall deceased was lying in bed between the covering – shoes off – no blood on outer covering – thinks from the position of body in bed – from the blood & brains, that the blow was received while deceased was in bed – prisoner spoke of having murdered her master and was sorry for it – that deceased had taken down the gun with the avowed intention of shooting her – she took the gun from him and put it up in the rack – before the scuffle for the gun deceased had the axe brought in to see whether it was dull – the axe was setting near the fireplace, he attempted to seize the axe or did seize it – but she took it away before he could use it, & struck him while upon his feet or standing. I asked how it was possible there was no blood on the floor where he was standing, if she struck him there – she said he fell upon the bed – she saw it was all over with him and struck him again. Head was much mashed – I could not make up my mind that there was more than one blow – Bed was six feet from fireplace – accused stated that bed clothes were down towards the foot when deceased fell – deceased was near the bed when struck – accused said that some weeks before the deceased had had her whipped by Abram & she said at that time of the whipping if any one attempted to whip her again she would destroy or kill the person who did it. Abram is negro foreman for deceased she spoke of the cruelty of the whipping & that her master being disabled made Abram whip her – deceased had been severely wounded by a fall of his horse some four or five weeks before his death upon examination I found his shoulder and collar bone broken & shoulder bone dislocated – deceased was still labouring under his disability & four or five days before his death could not raise his right arm or mount his horse without assistance – witness acted as Coroner & summoned a jury of inquest their verdict has been returned to court & will speak for itself.

Cross examined by counsel for accused – accused said deceased took the gun down to shoot her for disobedience in not making fire – she said in excuse the axe was dull, she also spoke of her master wanting to use her & she would not submit to it – accused did not say door was locked with those two in the house – deceased had no regular house servant – on this occasion she said she had just been brought into the house – the other servant having run away the evening before.

A. H. Saunders''

T. M. Gossom, witness for Commonwealth – says I stayed at house of deceased the night before his death – in the morning he got up a little before day & I asked why he got up so soon he said he wanted to go on the hill where his servants were & asked me to go – I said I was unwell & did not want to go – he said get up & put on your young legs & go – I said I would – I put on my clothes – there was whiskey in the decanter and deceased said I must drink with him and deceased went into the cellar and drew more whiskey – He got the sugar and I think we drank twice – I told him I wanted to go but he would not consent – I looked out of the door and saw mother of accused and He told her to come up and she came up I then went home & left them talking together – deceased was a little intoxicated he had drank three times before I left. I went over to Mr. Mason's after his death, body of deceased was lying or inclining on right side – saw no blood on the counterpane, two blankets & sheet that were over body – and there was no blood or appearance of blood in any part of the room except on the wall opposite his face and on the pillow underneath his head. I asked accused why she killed her master she said she did not intend to do it but found he was killed and thought she would give another lick to put him out of his misery – I said Agness why did you kill your master when you was able to do anything with him she pleased she said she did not intend to hit him so hard – she said he had attempted to shoot her & she had taken the gun from him and put it up in the rack & then he got hold of the axe and she took it from him & struck him with it – while standing – deceased was still suffering from the fall of his horse & complained of ill health.

Cross examined by counsel for accused – accused said deceased wanted to use her & that she brought the axe for her master to see whether it was dull – accused was not regular house servant – said deceased was standing when she struck him & that he fell on the bed – she said she put deceased under the bed clothes & covered him up as he was found – no appearance of blood as if he had been moved & all the blood was on under bed clothes – no counterpane under him.

Thomas M. Gossom”

Richard Stonnell Jr. witness for Commonwealth: says I went down with Dr. Saunders & met with several servants belonging to Mr. Mason and Dr. Saunders asked questions about the murder of their master – when I reached the house the accused was sitting on the steps crying – Dr. Saunders, I think asked her something about the murder of her master, she told how she did it and why she did it – she said deceased had required her to bring in the axe and asked a damned bitch why she did not have the axe ground – she said deceased attempted to turn up her clothes & whip her & she resisted saying she was no child to be whipped in that way – He told her then, she should not serve him if he could not correct her and accused replied she did not wish to serve him – he went and took the gun twice and accused took it away each time. He then got hold of the axe and she took that away and struck him with it & knocked him on the side of the bed & finding she had wounded him so bad that he would not recover she struck him again & finished him – deceased was lying in bed as if he had laid there to sleep & the appearance of the bed was the same, & his feet were wrapped up – In turning up the bed clothing I found his shoes off & something wrapped round his feet, I think from the bed clothing deceased could not have walked with that wrapping round his feet – There was no blood in the room except on the wall and round his head – There was a mixture of blood and brains spattered on the wall also on the axe.

Cross examined by counsel for accused – The axe with blood was found in the hands of Bill cutting wood – did not understand that accused said deceased wanted to use her – did not hear accused say that bed clothes were turned down, when she struck deceased – can’t say positively that wrapping round feet of deceased was separate from bedclothes but it appeared to be.

Richard Stonnell Jr.”

Richard Atkinson for Commonwealth – says that last Tuesday I went to jail with young Mr. Mason who called up accused and asked her if she had killed her master – she said yes – He asked her where he was standing when she struck him – she said on the floor near the bed – she said she killed him the first blow – accused said when she struck deceased the blood gushed out at first blow.

Cross examination by counsel for accused – There was no threat on the part of young Mason or any undue means made use of to obtain the testimony.

Richard Atkinson”

Ben negro slave property of the late G. Mason, witness for Commonwealth says shucking corn time accused said if her master laid his hands on her she would knock him in the head with a club – Agness, Eliza, & himself was present – Witness was not present when murder was committed.

Cross examined by counsel for accused – Eliza is about as large as accused – accused gave no reason for the threat but said if he was to beat her she would knock him in the head – Milly was there also, she is smaller than witness.

Hugh Hammill witness for accused says – I went to G. Mason’s soon after he was killed – went in & looked at deceased & took hold of his collar and raised him up – lying mostly on his back, inclined a little to the right – his hands lay across his breast & his feet crossed – Mr. Selecman & witness got there next after Weston, his head seemed mush mashed & his ear drove in & knocked loose round the socket – I saw accused & asked her why she murdered deceased she said, he had taken the gun maybe twice & cocked it to shoot her – she had taken it away & put it up – she said he sent her out to cut wood & she stayed too long for him, he asked her why she stayed – she said the axe was dull – He told her to bring the axe & said that was a pretty axe, when there was a grindstone on the place – she said she could not grind it herself – He wanted to turn up her clothes and take privilege with her, she told him she was too old for that now – he got hold of the axe & swore he would kill her & she caught hold of it too & took it away & struck him – but had no thought of killing him, but after she saw how badly she had hurt him she thought she would strike him again & finish him – at the first blow she said he fell on the bed – she covered him up locked the door & went after her mother – she says mother told her to go & let Mr. Weston know and not run off – the next day at the inquest there was much contention whether he was struck on the bed or standing – I went to accused & asked her why there was no blood on the floor & outer covering – she said he fell on the bed & she covered him with the bed clothes which were turned down some of them on the floor, the bed has not been made up just as he got out of it – she said she was the only one concerned and no one else had anything to do with it – she said there were one or two pretty severe scuffles about the gun – and witness saw several scratches on the cheek and jaw & under the chin of deceased – deceased was at witnesses shop evening before and witness saw no scratches

then – witness told accused if anyone else was concerned in it, she had better come out & till all about it, that she might become evidence & save her from being hung.

Cross examination by Commonwealth Attorney – The scratches seemed to be fresh and not done by shaving – they seemed to be done with finger nails – The blood had caked upon face of deceased – I noticed these scratches more particularly after he was shaved.

Re-examination by Counsel for accused – deceased was at witnesses shop evening before his death – He came to put a band on & spring in flask & took hold of me, pulling me about as he generally did, when drinking – complained of having discharged blood & was injured in a fall some time before, but was getting better – He caught hold of me with both hands – saw no difference in either hand, but he made no great exertion.

Hugh Hamill ”

Teste J. Williams

29<sup>th</sup> April 1850 – It is again advised that the Executive do not interfere: - If, however, it should hereafter be shewn, by evidence filed previous to the day of execution, that this woman is pregnant, or believed to be so, then it is advised that she be reprieved from time to time, until that fact is established, and if established so, until one month after her delivery, and no longer.

Reprieved until 19<sup>th</sup> of July 1850  
J. B. Floyd – April 30

(The following written at the end of document)

Received January 22<sup>nd</sup> 1850

Convict declares herself pregnant

Day of execution May 10<sup>th</sup>

Advised that the execution do not interfere with the sentence of the court

April 19, 1850 wrote to sheriff to state whether convict appears to be pregnant

April 30<sup>th</sup> 1850 respite to 19<sup>th</sup> July

July 16<sup>th</sup> 1850 no further interference

**Brentsville, Va. March 1850**

**Box #397, Folder 1, Accession # B1055892**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Buchanan Floyd**

**Commonwealth vs Agnes – Letter**

To the Governor

Sir,

We the subscribing citizens of Prince William and adjacent Counties being of opinion from the peculiar circumstances attending the homicide of Mr. Gerard Mason that the extreme penalty of the law should not be inflicted upon the negro woman, Agnes under sentence of death for the same, do earnestly present the case to the attention of the Executive, and recommend that the punishment be changed to transportation. Given under our hands  
March 1850

A. P. Lynn

Wileman Thomas

Lucien B. Lynn

Thomas Pettit

Perez Richmond

Henry R. Avery

Lewis Carney

Jno Matthews

Thomas G. Waring

Robert Beach

M. A. Simmons

Jos. Janney

John Towles

William Frazer

James Gray

Isaiah Fisher

G. W. Clifford

J. E. Weems Jr.

Craven Peake

Wm. W. Avery

Isaac Newton Lynn

Charles E. Keys

Benjamin F. Thomas

Hugh Hammill

Lewis Pearson

Wilemon Cornwell

John H. Janney

Joseph C. Brown

Moses Mathews

James Maddox

H. H. Davis

James Norman

Thos. J. Smoot

Caleb F. Stone

Minor Maxfield

John W. Chapman

T. W. Tansill

Nelson Hammond

\_\_\_ Suddath

Enoch Fair

William H. Duvall

Ahikam Westerman

William Ragan

Samuel Davis

William Cleary

**Brentsville, Va. March 1850**  
**Box #397, Folder 1, Accession # B1055892**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Buchanan Floyd**  
**Commonwealth vs Agnes – Letter**

To his Excellency, John Floyd Governor of Virginia

Sir,

We the subscribing citizens of Prince William and adjacent Counties being of opinion from the peculiar circumstances attending the homicide of Mr. Gerard Mason that the extreme penalty of the law should not be inflicted upon the negro woman, Agnes under sentence of death for the same, do earnestly present the case to the attention of the Executive, and recommend that the punishment be changed to transportation. Given under our hands March 1850

\_\_\_ Weedon  
L. Lynn  
J. E. \_\_\_\_\_  
J. D. Hooe  
Jno S. Storke  
Geo. F. Carney  
Edwin Gaines  
Wm. G. Austin  
Gro. M - -\_on

Wm. Edward Lipscomb  
H. P. Carter  
Dade Hooe  
Basil Cole  
Joseph J. Cockrell  
William B. Brawner  
Richard W. Weedon  
James M. P. Newby

Robert C. Leachman  
Wm. W. Monroe  
Thos. N. Carter  
Redmon Foster  
George W. Tennille  
John Gray  
John H. Austin  
Edward Shepherd

**Brentsville, March 22<sup>nd</sup> 1850**  
**Box #397, Folder 1, Accession # B1055892**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Buchanan Floyd**  
**Commonwealth vs Agnes – Letter**

To the Governor

Sir,

We the subscribing members of the bar of Prince William County being of opinion from the peculiar circumstances attending the homicide of Mr. Gerard Mason that the extreme penalty of the law should not be inflicted upon the negro woman, Agnes under sentence of death for the same, do earnestly present the case to the attention of the Executive, and recommend that the punishment be changed to transportation. Given under our hands March 1850

John Luttrell  
John P. Phillips  
J. C. Moncure  
M. B. Sinclair  
(signature not legible)  
B. Ward  
Gilbert P. Minor  
Thomas M. Monroe  
Saml. Chilton  
B. Tebbs Jr.

**Brentsville, Prince William County Va. April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1850**  
**Box #399, Folder 1, Accession # B1055892**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Buchanan Floyd**  
**Commonwealth vs Agnes – Letter**

To the Governor

Sir,

The undersigned are justices of the peace for the County of Prince William and respectfully represent to your Excellency that we were of the court who set on the trial of a negro slave (Agnes) charged with killing her master Gerard Mason, we further represent to your Excellency that from the evidence and circumstances in the case, we passed sentence of death against her, under a thorough conviction, that she committed the murder willful and premeditated, whilst he was in bed, and the strong presumption asleep, we deem it our duty thus to represent the

case to you, because a petition is in circulation (which have been signed by a number of persons from other counties and by many who did not hear the trial,) asking your interposition, we cannot believe it such a case as will justify interference on the part of the executive.

We are very respectfully yours  
Basil Brawner  
A. Howison  
John Fitzhugh

**Occoquan, Prince William County Va. April 19<sup>th</sup> 1850**  
**Box #399, Folder 3, Accession # B1055892**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Buchanan Floyd**  
**Commonwealth vs Agnes – Letter**

To the Governor  
Sir,

In the case of negro woman Agnes now under sentence of death for May 10 in this county I have to state to you that a petition now being signed by many citizens for a change of the punishment to transportation and I very respectfully request that no decision by the Executive be made in her case until the petition and other documents shall be by me presented in person about 26 or 27 inst.

Very respectfully  
Jos. Janney

**Brentsville, Va. April 25<sup>th</sup> 1850**  
**Box #400, Folder 2, Accession # B1055892**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Buchanan Floyd**  
**Commonwealth vs Agnes - Letter**

To William H. Richardson Esq., Secretary of the Commonwealth, Richmond, Va.

Dear Sir,

Your communication was received by the last mail and I embrace the first opportunity to answer it. I have endeavored (as far as practicable ) to investigate the situation of Agnes in regard to pregnancy and although some of the symptoms would authorize the belief that such was not her condition yet I would be very unwilling to say that there was wanting others which would lead to that conclusion from her own statement pregnancy has advanced about four and half months and so great is the uncertainty of the symptoms at that stage that I think much caution should be exercised in the expedition of any desired opinion when so much (as I concur) is at stake.

You will clearly perceive from the above remarks that there are doubts on my mind on the subject of Agnes's condition.

Very respectfully your obedient servant  
Jas. B. T. Thornton, sheriff  
of Prince William County & M.D.

**Brentsville, Va. May 4<sup>th</sup> 1850**  
**Box #411, Folder 3, Accession # B1055892**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Buchanan Floyd**  
**Commonwealth vs Agnes - Letter**

To His Excellency John B. Floyd, Governor of Virginia, Richmond, Va.

Dear Sir,

I was much surprised to learn from Mr. Janney that you had not received any communication from this place in regard to the situation of Agnes. Immediately upon receipt of the letter of Mr. Richardson I called upon Dr. James B. T. Thornton our high sheriff and a physician of regular practice & good standing to examine Agnes and make of an opinion upon her alleged pregnancy. Dr. Thornton made two cervical examinations and wrote to Mr. Richardson immediately embodying his opinion therein. He sustained that his opinion is that while some of the

symptoms indicate a state of pregnancy others were wanting to justify a positive conclusion that she was so. But due to the circumstance of the case it was extremely hazardous to venture an opinion that she was not pregnant and of course without child. I hope you will act on this case immediately as the day of execution is next Friday, Please send an answer Tuesday next that it may be sure to reach us.

Yours very respectfully  
G. W. Clifford  
Jailor, Prince William County

**Brentsville, Va. July 11<sup>th</sup> 1850**  
**Box #411, Folder 1, Accession # B1055893**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – John Buchanon Floyd**  
**Commonwealth vs Agnes - Letter**  
To His Excellency John B. Floyd, Governor of Virginia, Richmond, Va.

Dear Sir,

In reply to a letter received yesterday from Mr. Richardson. I would state that the prisoner Agnes was mistaken in regard to her situation. She was very much swollen all the winter & spring & Dr. Thornton (who examined her) says it is very natural that she should have come to the conclusion that she was pregnant, indeed it was the opinion of all who saw her at that time, but now the swelling has left her, it is evident she is not in that situation.

Very respectfully  
G. W. Clifford  
Jailor of Prince William County