

**Fredericksburg, Va., December 19<sup>th</sup> 1799**  
**Box 1, Folder 1, Accession #40936, RG-3**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – James Monroe**

Sir,

Since my return home from Richmond I have received a letter from Col. Thos Lee in answer to one I wrote him from Richmond respecting the suit Bristoe vs the Commonwealth, the following is a copy of his letter to me. "I have received your favor from Richmond your former letter is now come to hand: When I was in Richmond in May last I gave the Governor all the information I was possessed of on the subject you have written about. This was done in writing which I presume he must have mislaid: however it was to this subject: the names of the commissioners appointed by the British Government to ascertain the value of the lands belonging to the refugees & confiscated during the American Revolution I have never been able to learn – their secretary's name was Robert McKurgie – the names of the commissioners I presume might be found out by reference to a court calendar for the years 1783, 4, or 5. If that could not be done as it is possible that the commissioners and secretary may be dead or not now residing in the city of London we attached copy of the payment for the confiscated lands to the widow or heirs if Robert Bristoe in Virginia I suppose might be had from the records of the commissioners which no doubt is in some publick office in the city of London. I hope that information will be sufficient to enable the governor to take the necessary steps to process the evidence. I think it will be necessary to employ an agent in London to procure the necessary Testimony. The object of the controversy is considerable. I think I mentioned to you as a fit agent Mr. John Reynolds formerly of Tappahannock now in London as a proper agent.

I am very respectfully  
Sir, your most obedient servant  
John Minor, Jr.

**Dumfries, Va., May 1800**  
**Box 1, Folder 11, Accession #40936**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – James Monroe**  
**Petition in favor of Edmund Foster – was rejected by the Governor Monroe**

To his Excellency James Monroe, governor of the commonwealth of Virginia. We whose names are hereunto signed beg leave to represent that Edmund Foster has been convicted during the present District Court of Dumfries for Horse Stealing and sentenced to undergo a Confinement in the Penitentiary House of two years and one day. That being present at the trial and having heard the same, we do consider him as a proper object for a pardon and recommend him as such to your Excellency.

Thomas Swann	Thomas T. Jones	Thomas Neale
Samuel Davis	John Davis	William Davis
Jacob Ridenour	Ludwick Shule?	David James
A---la Davis	Dison Robinson	Thos. Lawson
Thomas Harrison	Charles Allen	Thomas Cooper
John Watson		

**Dumfries, Va., May 1800**  
**Box 1, Folder 12, Accession #40936**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – James Monroe**  
**Petition in favor of Edmund Foster – was rejected by the Governor**  
**(This petition was rejected by Governor Monroe)**

To his Excellency James Monroe, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia. We whose names are hereunto signed beg leave to represent to your Excellency that Edmund Foster has been convicted during the present District Court of Dumfries, for Horse Stealing and sentenced to undergo a Confinement in the Penitentiary House of two years and one day. Having resided for several years in this neighbourhood in which the said Foster has lived, we take the liberty of stating that although he has been convicted of the above mentioned offence he has heretofore supported a character free from blemish, and from his youth and our knowledge of his character and conduct heretofore we incline to believe that if your Excellency will pardon him, he will become an useful member of society. We therefore recommend the said Edward Foster to your Excellency as a fit object for a pardon and hope

your Excellency will grant him the favor. That being present at the trial and having heard the same, we do consider him as a proper object for a pardon and recommend him as such to your Excellency.

Prince William County, May 1800

William Cundiff	Griffin Matthews	George Timmille
Garner Fortune	Cornelius Gaines	Colin Campbell
William Robinson	William Brown	George Brett
Richard Newman	Henry Jordan	Thomas Herndon
William Hampton	Presley Wigginton	Thomas Newman
Britton Sanders	Jas Newman	John Sanders
Charles Jordan	James Legg	Robert Latham
Hinson Garner	Leonard Brasfield	Walter Warder
Benjamin Skinner	John McCormick	James Beatty
Lewis Blackwell	William Reno	William Robinson
Benjamin Dilley	John Cox	James Jackson
James Graham	John Barnett	Nick Peers
Alexander Lee	Robertson Grey	John Ball
(signature not legible)	William - -ny	James Green
Moses Owens	Nathan __ eighley	W. _ . Johnson
James __ agin	Leatham Leagin	Thomas Sparks
George Robinson	George Chapman	Joshua Owens
William Milton Jun.	Aaron Caton	William Aliff
John Dawkins	Isaac Faedgan	Isaac Cundiff
Amos Hawley	Enoch Hoff	Edward B. Jewell
Richard A. Oden	Aaron Chapman	Elyah Graham
Bryan Y. Cundiff	James Hanks	-----am Leary
Eli Newman	James Herndon	George Delgarne?
George Rogers	Richard B. Alexander	Lewis B. Whiting
William Hanes	John King	Obed. Harris
James Clark	John Ellis	Thomas Bristow
William Burnett	Craven Horton	Alex _____
Wm. Waddell	Reuben George	Redmon Grigsby
Andrew _ _ on	John Loach?	John Cloe
Thomas Mount	Joe Moore	Thomas Mount
Elijah Legg	Sam Barber	A. M. Monday
Robert Petty	George Legg	James Brown
David Aliff	Uriah Dunaway	John Collice
William Dung---	George Collice	Asel Lee
Fielding Marley	James Ellis	John Fulton
Hugh Glansey	Joseph Ellis	William Carrico
John McClanahan	Wm. Williams	T. Love
Craven Maddox	Peter Owens Jun.	William Davis
Enoch Calvert	William Maddox	James Bell
Enoch Foley	Thomas Leach	Dixon Robinson

**Dumfries, Va., May 21<sup>st</sup> 1800**

**Box 1, Folder 12, Accession #40936**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – James Monroe**

Sir,

Yours of the 1<sup>st</sup> instant I received some few days ago and should have answered the same sooner, had not some few of those fifty stand of arms been missing which was therein mentioned, however I can inform your Excellency that they are collected & deposited in this place subject to your further orders as to my giving a

particular description of their situation I cannot well do it this far I can venture to report, take them in & they are the worse set of arms I ever see, they are not in a worse situation then when brought here & satisfied I am that three fourths of them are not worth repairing.

With respect & esteem I am Sir your obedient servant  
Willoughby Tebbs

**Dumfries District Court 10 October 1800**

**Box 4, Folder 12, Accession #40936**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – James Monroe**

It appearing to the Court that Henry Howes who stands Indicted at this term for larceny has escaped from the Goal of Fairfax County, it is ordered that the same be certified to the Executive and that the Court here have reasons to believe the said Howes has gone to the State of Kentucky.

Teste J. Lawson D.C.

**Dumfries District Court 27 October 1800**

**Box 4, Folder 12, Accession #40936**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – James Monroe**

It appearing to the Court that Thomas Otway and John Pigot who were severally ordered by the Court of Hustings of Alexandria to be sent to this Court for trial on charge of Felony have severally escaped from the said Goal. It is ordered that the same be certified to the Executive.

Teste J. Lawson D.C.

**Dumfries, Va., May 27<sup>st</sup> 1801**

**Box 4, Folder 2, Accession #40936**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – James Monroe**

**To his Excellency Governor Monroe, Richmond**

Sir,

At the present time at this place Abraham McDaniel was indicted for the murder of one James Billingsby. The Jury found him guilty of volunteer manslaughter, and fixed the term of his imprisonment to four years; and the court have this day passed sentence upon him, and adjudged him to solitary confinement for one third of that time – Viz: 483 days. The verdict may be regarded as rather favourable, for although the deadly blow was not given with any other weapon than the fist. The deceased had not struck, and was evidently not upon his guard not expecting the blow when given.

The enclosed petition was put into my hands by the wife of the prisoner. How for the statement it contains may be true I am not informed – but I could not refuse to transmit it to you.

I am with due respect

Sir, Your most obedient servant

P. \_ Tucker (this was Judge Tucker)

**Dumfries, Va., December 7<sup>th</sup> 1801**

**Box 5, Folder 3, Accession #40936, RG3**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – James Monroe**

**To his Excellency Governor Monroe, Richmond**

At a Court held for Prince William County the 7<sup>th</sup> day of December 1801. An Inquisition taken before one of the Coroners of this County upon the body of Sarah a negro woman late the property of Isaac Farrow on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of November 1801 having been returned to this court and the said Farrow who was by the said inquisition found to have murdered the said Sarah having been committed to the Jail of this County for the said murder and to take his trial therefore according to Law by warrant under the hand and seal of James Ewell gentleman a Justice of the peace for the said County and he the said Farrow having escaped from the custody of the officer to whose custody he was committed as appears by the said warrant and the return thereon now among the files of the Clerk of the County & this Court to whose Jurisdiction the examination of the offender belongs having considered the premises doth order that the foregoing facts be certified to the Executive of this State in order to the adoption of such measures as may

be devised for bringing the said Farrow to Public Justice and it is further ordered that the clerk of this County do forthwith transmit to the said Executive the aforesaid certificate.

Teste John Williams, Cl. Cur.

**Supr. Office, December 18<sup>th</sup> 1801**  
**Box 5, Folder 4, Accession #40936, RG3**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – James Monroe**  
**To his Excellency Governor Monroe, Richmond**  
**On subject of the collection of tax on Bristoe Estate**

Sir,

Enclosed I do myself the honor to send you a letter of the Collector of the District Tax in the County of Prince William relating to the tax on the Bristoe Estate and will thank you for that note to Mr. Lee the agent it may be thought proper. The District Tax Law exempts from tax the property which will be freely exempt by any law of note. The estate in question I suppose does not come under the exemption, it being property of a private nature, although in doubt as to ownership, and if the district tax reverts against the State, the profits will of course be payable to the other party. I deem it proper to present the subject to your consideration, confident that it will be candidly considered and that such measures will be directed as they appear proper. I suppose from what is said in the letter that Mr. Lee is in? for the tax if directed to pay it. The amount appears by the Collector's Account to be \$95.94.

I have the honor to be with great respect Sir,  
Edward Carrington

**Virginia High Court of Chancery, December 31<sup>st</sup> 1801**  
**Box 5, Folder 4, Accession #40936**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – James Monroe**  
**Robert Bristoe of Great Britain an infant by Richard M. Scott of Virginia – Plaintiff**  
**The Attorney General, Treasurer, Auditor of Public Accounts & Thomas Lee commissioner – Defendant**

The bill in the suit above mentioned states that Robert Bristoe departed this life in 1776 leaving the plaintiff an infant about two years old, to whom he devised, with other property in Virginia, 7500 acres of land in the county of Prince William. That the inquisition taken before Henry Peyton, Sheriff of Prince William, is untrue and defective: that the plaintiff's right is not barred or concluded thereby, as devisee of his father, because, first, Robert Bristoe in the inquest mentioned was not the plaintiff in this suit who on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of April in 1775, had not any right to the lands therein mentioned, his father being then alive, by whose will only, the plaintiff's title commenced, secondly Robert Bristoe in the inquest mentioned is therein stated to have been in existence about thirty years before the year 1779, Thirdly the said Robert Bristoe in the same inquest mentioned is stated to be the owner of the said lands in the year 1779 when the inquisition was taken, when in truth he had been dead several years. Fourthly the said Robert Bristoe is found never to have conveyed the said lands to any one, when in truth by his last will, he had conveyed them to the plaintiff and then dead. Fifthly almost the whole of the said lands were possessed by tenants having leases or promises of leases, and had been so for many years, prior to the year 1779, and none of these tenants by leases are named, nor the several tenements described in the said inquisition. Sixthly the inquisition does not find expressly that the Commonwealth hath a right to the said lands but leaves it to be inferred or not that in the year 1783 a treaty of peace was made between Great Britain and the United States, the benefit of which particularly of the fifth and sixth articles, in protesting the right and title which the plaintiff had when it was made, is prayed to be extended to this case, that the Governor with the advice of the council, in pursuance of an Act of the General Assembly, passed in the year 1793, has appointed the defendant Thomas Lee, a commissioner for selling the said land, and prays that the sale may be inhibited, and for general relief. To this bill Robert Brooke esquire late Attorney General, Jaquolin Ambler late treasurer, John Pendleton late auditor for public accounts, and Thomas Lee, having put in their answers. The defendant Thomas Lee in his answer states that he is a stranger to most of the facts set forth in the bill. He submits to the court whether if the facts stated in the bill be true, they furnish any just cause of application to the court; that the plaintiff does not pretend that he was not at the time of the inquisition was taken, a British subject that the informalities in the inquisition, thou, they might be true, have availed the plaintiff as common law cannot entitle him to the interference of a court of equity; that the Court will not let in unimportant legal objection, to destroy the inquisition, which would have been as strictly right if it had escheated the lands as property of the plaintiff, as of his father, merely to give the plaintiff the benefit of the treaty of peace made long after; that in

the belief of the defendant, the full value of the land of said Robert Bristoe in the county of Prince William, which was escheated, has been paid by the British Government to the plaintiff's mother, as his guardian: Admits that the land in dispute is principally in the possession of tenants, some of whom appear in the General Court upon the return of the inquisition and put in their claims, which were decided on, and that he has collected rents. The answer of Mr. Pendleton merely states the payments made into the public treasurer, arising from the sale of the estate of the late Robert Bristoe, in the county of Gloucester, and on account of the rents of the Prince William estate. The answer of Mr. Ambler states only the payments made by the defendant Lee on account of the rents of the Prince William lands. Mr. Brook by his answer, neither admits nor denies that facts stated in the bill and refers to the answer of the other defendants to which answers the plaintiff has replied generally, and in the cause now stands for hearing.

Peter Tinsley

**Richmond, Va., January 23, 1802**

**Box 5, Folder 7, Accession #40936, RG3**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – James Monroe**

**By the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia – A Proclamation**

Whereas it appears to the Executive that Isaac Farrow, charged with murder, hath escaped from the Jail of the County of Prince William; and that Jacob Hersher alias John Rife, indicted for forgery, hath escaped from the jail of the district of Winchester. I have therefore thought fit, with advice of the Council of State, to issue this Proclamation, hereby enjoining all officers civil and military, and exhorting the good people of this Commonwealth, to use their best endeavors to apprehend and convey to the jails from which they respectively escaped the said Isaac Farrow and Jacob Hersher, alias John Rife, that they may be dealt with as the law directs.

Given under my hand as Governor, with the Seal of the Commonwealth annexed, at Richmond this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January 1802 and of the Commonwealth the twenty sixth.

James Monroe

The above Jacob Hersher is about 45 years of age, five feet 6 inches high, black hair, big eyes, round shoulders, understands the German and English languages very well, had on when he made his escape a coarse linen hunting shirt, one fine linen shirt, one pair of country linen overalls, one pair of shoes and an old hat.

Certified under my hand this 15<sup>th</sup> October 1801

Edward Power, Jailor

**Richmond, Va., 13 March 1802**

**Box 5, Folder 10, Accession #40936, RG3**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – James Monroe**

Sir,

Mr. Lee agent or escheator for the Commonwealth in the County of Prince William requested me to aid the Attorney General in sustaining the right of the Commonwealth against the claims of one Bristoe to a tract of land in the County of Prince William, which escheated to the Commonwealth. I have accordingly done all I could to promote the interest of the Commonwealth and mean to continue my exertions, particularly as I am informed by the Attorney General that it is the wish of the Executive that I should do so – But I beg leave to inform the Executive that I have yet received no fee in this case – indeed I have never before asked for one. Those years ago a Commission was issued to take some depositions in London which was thought important, and the Executive undertook to have there taken and I have heard did send over the Commissioners for that purpose but the depositions have not yet been taken. If the Executive has not already an Agent in London to attend to the business I beg leave to mention Mr. John Reynolds late of Tappahanock Irvin, American Counsel now at London as a fit person to discharge the Trust.

I am Sir very respectfully  
Your most obedient servant  
John Minor

**Dumfries, Va., 22 May 1802**

**Box 6, Folder 6, Accession #40936**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – James Monroe**

**(He was pardoned by the Governor 26 May 1802)**

To His Excellency James Monroe Esq., Governor of Virginia, Richmond

Sir,

Amongst the Criminals that have been convicted this term is one John Hair, a young man under twenty two years of age. He confessed his guilt and the jury have directed him to be confined in the penitentiary house one year, the lowest time they could confine him for grand larceny, which is his offence. He appears to us, and we have been assured his sincerity and determination to lead a new life. He has made some very important discoveries against a set of atrocious rogues who have been ordered to be prosecuted and it is believed through him many villains may be brought to punishment was he to receive a pardon from the Executive which we strongly recommend, convinced it will be of considerable advantage to the community. Upon various examinations he was consistent with himself and his relations corroborated by other testimony and strong circumstances so that as far as we can pledge ourselves on the propriety of pardoning him. We wish the pardon to be made out and sent immediately that he may when brought up to receive sentence be enabled to plead it, and when he is at liberty he may make other discoveries before the rising at the court we have the honor to be your

Excellency's Humble Servants  
Richard Parker  
Arch. Stuart

**Washington, June 3<sup>rd</sup> 1802**  
**Box 6, Folder 4, Accession #40936, RG-3**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – James Monroe**  
**Insurgent Negroes**

Dear Sir,

I observe that the resolution of the legislature of Virginia of January 23, in desiring us to look out for some proper place to which insurgent negroes may be sent expresses a preference of the continent of Africa or some of the Spanish or Portuguese settlements in South America: in which preference, and especially as to the former, I entirely concur on looking towards Africa for our object, the British establishment at Sierra Leone at once presents itself. You know that the establishment was undertaken by a private company and was first suggested by the suffering state of the blacks who were carried over to England during the Revolutionary War, and who were perishing with want and misery in the streets of London. A number of benevolent persons subscribed for the establishment of a company who might carry these people to the coast of Africa, and there employ them usefully for themselves and indemnify the company by commercial operations. Sierra Leone was fixed on as the place, the blacks then in England were carried thither and a vessel or vessels sent to Nova Scotia which carried to the same place the blacks who had gone to that country. The settlement is consequently composed of negroes formerly inhabitants of the southern states of our union, having asked a conversation on this subject with Mr. Thornton, the British Charges des Affairs here, he informs me the establishment is prosperous and he thinks there will be no objection on the part of the company to receive blacks from us, not of the character of common felons, but guilty of insurgency only, provided they are sent as free persons, the principles of their institution admitting no slavery among them. I propose therefore, if it meets your approbation, to write to Mr. King our minister in London, to propose the matter to the Sierra Leone Company who are residents in London, and if leave can be obtained to send black insurgents there, to enquire further whether the regulations of the place would permit us to carry or take there any mercantile objects which by affording some commercial profit might defray the expenses of the transportation. As soon as I can be favored, with your (Governor Monroe) sentiments on this proposition and your approbation of it, I will write to Mr. King that we may have the matter firmly arranged. Should any mercantile operation be permitted to be continued with the transportation of these persons so as to lessen or to pay the expense, it might become eligible to make that the asylum for the other description also, to wit the freed Negroes and persons of colour. If not permitted, so distant a colonization of them would perhaps thought too expensive, but while we are ascertaining this point we may be making enquiry as to what other suitable places may be found in the West Indies, or the Southern Continent of the Americas, so as to have some other resource provided if the one most desirable should be unattainable. In looking out for another place we should prefer placing them with whatever power is least likely to become an enemy, and to use the knowledge of these exiles in predatory expeditions against us, Portugal and Holland could be of this character, but I wish to have your sentiments on both benches of the subject before I commit it by any actual steps. Accept assurances of my affectionate high esteem and respect.

Thomas Jefferson

**Dumfries, Va., June 25<sup>th</sup> 1802**  
**Box 6, Folder 5, Accession #40936, RG-3**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – James Monroe**

Sir,

Benjamin Hough Canby a person charged with murder and committed for further trial by an examining court held for the County of Loudoun in January last was held at the last term of the District Court in consequence of the failure of the persons whose names the clerk mention at the foot of this letter to attend and give evidence for the commonwealth, and at the next term he will be discharged for want of their testimony unless means can be covered of bringing them here. They are without property and too infirm to come otherwise than in a carriage. The old man besides his other afflictions I believe is blind.

Presuming that under these circumstances the Executive would see cause to authorize the proper office to hire a carriage & to pay their way under an assurance of being reimbursed out of the contingent fund. I pray a postponement of the trial & had a Capias ordered against them so as to enable the Sheriff to bring them even against their will. He is to be obliged therefore to bring them if means be furnished him. If an order \_\_\_ taken in this case begs the government, notice of it had better be transmitted to me that I may cooperate in contacting & sending the process.

Jacob Tawner & Elizabeth his Wife

With much respect I am your humble servant.

Benjamin Botts, attorney for  
for the Commonwealth in the  
District Court of Dumfries

**Dumfries, Va., 5 July 1802**

**Box 6, Folder 6, Accession #40936**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – James Monroe**

**Nominations for Sheriff of Prince William County**

At a Court held for Prince William County the 5<sup>th</sup> day of July 1802. Charles Tyler, Charles Ewell and William Barnes are nominated as proper persons to execute the office of Sheriff in this County.

Teste John Williams Cl. Cur.