

Richmond, Va. May 1857

Box 8 – Accession #36710 and Box 10, folder 3

Virginia Governors Executive Papers – Henry Wise

To the Senate and House of Delegates of the General Assembly of Virginia:

Gentlemen,

In compliance with the constitution, I proceed to state the particulars of the several cases of reprieve or pardon granted, and of punishment commuted, since my last communication on the subject, with the reasons which induced me to grant or commute the same.

1. At the last session of the general assembly, I asked the attention of that body to the case of Eben Lipscomb, a prisoner, who was convicted of the crime of murder, and sentenced to be hung. At that time it was stated that such was the conflicting character of the testimony on the trial, that it was doubtful whether the accused was not insane at the time of the commission of the offence, and whether he was not so still. I recommended the passage of a law to provide for the institution of proceedings, to ascertain the fact of lunacy, as well after sentence of condemnation, as now authorized by law before sentence, in order that the prisoner, if adjudged insane, might be sent to a lunatic asylum. The general assembly having made no provision upon the subject, and my mind having been satisfied of the insanity of the convict, I granted him an unconditional pardon. He has since been sent to the Eastern Asylum and received as a lunatic.

2. On the 29th of February 1856, I pardoned also George Cunningham, who was condemned by the circuit court of the city of Norfolk to twelve months' imprisonment in the city jail on a charge of whipping a female while in a state of intoxication.

31. Two slaves Elias and Ellen, were condemned to be hung by the county court of Prince William for the crime of murder, were reprieved by me on the sixth of February last, and the execution of the sentence was ordered to be postponed until the 22nd day of May, to enable me to consider deliberately what punishment should be imposed.

In this case five slaves were implicated in the murder of their master. All were members of the same family; grandmother, mother, brother, and two children, Elias and Ellen. They are twins, about 14 years old, and were supposed to be acting under the influence and instigation of the older slaves. The three oldest were executed, which I deem all sufficient for public justice and example; and in consideration of the youth and feeble intellects of the prisoners, I ordered their punishment to be commuted to sale and transportation beyond the limits of the United States.

Brentsville, Va. April 22nd 1857

Eppa Hunton Letter

Box #7, Folder 5, Accession # 36710, Reel #4201, pages 0790, 0791

Virginia Governors Executive Papers – Henry Wise

To Hon. Henry A. Wise, Governor of Virginia

Sir,

I beg leave to co-----d to your favorable consideration Mr. D. R. Blacklock of Alexandria whose friends are anxious to secure his appointment as Director in one of the Banks of that city. He is a member of a large mercantile firm and has the entire confidence not only of the citizens of Alexandria but of all this region of country & is regarded as a man of fine business qualifications, strict integrity, and gentlemanly deportment. He took friends in favor of the L----- as early as _____ canvass of 1855 and since then has been an active man in our party. I do not think a better appointment could be made. Again commending him earnestly to your favorable consideration I am.

Yours very truly

Eppa Hunton

Brentsville, Va. September 26th 1857

Box #7, Folder 7, Accession # 36710, Reel #4201, pages 0531, 0532, 0533

Virginia Governors Executive Papers – Henry Wise

It is hereby certified that we George F. Carney and Robert Weedon officers who conducted an election held on the 26th day of September 1857, in our County of Prince William, and in District No.1, by the voters of said district, qualified according to law, caused to be chosen a justice of the peace of said district, namely Henry Love to fill the vacancy caused by Wm. C. Merchant a justice of the peace in said district, having accepted an office under

the General Government, and to act as a justice of the peace in said district and county, and that the said Henry Love was duly elected according to law.

Given under our hands the day and year aforesaid.

George F. Carney

Robert Weedon

October 27th 1857

Excuses made by Commissioners of Revenue for failing to return their books in time.

Box #9, Folder 4, Accession # 36710, Reel 4204

Virginia Governors Executive Papers – Henry Wise

Dear Sir,

In conformity with the 16th section of the 8th chapter of the acts of 1855-56. I herewith transmit to you a report of such Commissioners of the Revenue who failed to deliver copies of their books to the Sheriffs within the time prescribed by law. And whose pay was suspended in consequence thereof but who were afterwards paid upon the excuses placed opposite their names and the time of paying the same.

Counties	Commissioners	Time of Payment	Excuse
Westmoreland	Thomas Parker	August 5 th 1856	Protracted sickness
Dinwiddie	William Bishop	August 7 th 1856	Protracted sickness
Caroline	William J. Murray	August 19 th 1856	having assed his licenses before he received orders & instructions, had to reassess them as they were all wrong.
Upshire	John D. Rapp	August 20 th 1856	Protracted sickness
Marshall	Eli Talbert	August 20 th 1856	Snow drifts &c. were such as to render roads impassable
Alexandria	P. C. Claughton	August 20 th 1856	Illness & death of son & absence of clerk from his office, when the books were ready
Loudoun	T. M. Wrenn	August 26 th 1856	Weather such as to render it impassable for him to attend to his duties
Dinwiddie	Robert G. Boissea--	August 28 th 1856	Sickness & inclement weather
Scott	J. T. Lane	September 6 th 1856	Law requires taxes for county purposes to be included in books & court failed to lay the levy in time.
Elizabeth City	George Cooper	September 9 th 1856	Books ready in time & tendered to sheriff, he refused to receive them.
Loudoun	George K. Fox	September 22 nd 1856	Bad weather, snow & ice such as to render roads impassable.
Scott	Robert Steele	September 23 rd 1856	Weather, snow & ice prevented him from traveling.
Nelson	P. J. Hill	October 2 nd 1856	Weather, snow &c. prevented him from traveling.
Carroll	Wm. H. C. Bolt	October 11 th 1856	Same as above
Bedford	John Beard	October 11 th 1856	Same as above
Staunton	R. W. Stevenson	November 5 th 1856	Commissioner didn't qualify until March Court 1856.
Page	C. B. Modeset	November 8 th 1856	Weather and disappointment in procuring assistance.
Gloucester	R. C. Haywood	November 11 th 1856	Commissioner didn't qualify till March court 1856
Accomack	Spencer Drummond	November 13 th 1856	Sheriff refused to take advantage of the delay.
Prince Edward	Watkins Duprey	November 19 th 1856	Sheriff refused to take advantage of the delay.

Patrick	G. P. Sandifer	November 19 th 1856	Commissioner not elected in time to qualify till 18 February 1856
Patrick	F. G. Smith	November 19 th 1856	Protracted sickness
Braxton	Lewis Perrin apt. comm..	November 20 th 1856	Inclement weather of long duration
Richmond City	Edwin Barton	November 25 th 1856	Sickness
Bath	Charles S. Miller	November 25 th 1856	Bad weather & sickness
Highland	Daniel McNulty	December 2 nd 1856	Inclement weather of long duration
Fauquier	Wm. B. Butler	December 8 th 1856	Illness of self and wife.
Montgomery	Wm. H. Ragan	December 13 th 1856	Commissioner not elected till late in February 1856
Shenandoah	Jno J. Grandstaff	December 17 th 1856	Snow & ice, roads impassable
Fauquier	N. T. Ashby	December 20 th 1856	Snow & ice, roads impassable
Cabell	Greenville Harrison	December 20 th 1856	Snow & ice, roads impassable
Hampshire	A. W. Alverson	December 31 st 1856	Snow & ice, roads impassable
Hampshire	James Candy	December 31 st 1856	Snow & ice, roads impassable
Nicholas	Kyle Bright	January 7 th 1857	Commissioner did not receive his books till March 1856 having been delayed on the way
Putnam	Nelson Hundley	January 8 th 1857	Family illness & inclement weather
Randolph	P. Collett	January 8 th 1857	Old sheriff refused to qualify, new sheriff didn't qualify till 28 July 56
Shenandoah	J. Watson	January 15 th 1857	Inclement weather, death in family
Essex	Evan Rice	January 15 th 1857	Inclement weather of long duration
Petersburg	J.M.B. Stewart	January 16 th 1857	Delay caused by comm.. being elected Sergeant & new comm. having to be elected.
Fairfax	John B. Hunter	January 17 th 1857	Comm. Retained books in order to Extend County levy, but excuse not being deemed very good
Prince William	R. F. Brawner	February 16 th 1857	Inclement weather long duration
Pocahontas	John Waugh	February 23 rd 1857	Old sheriff didn't qualify & new sheriff qualified 1 July 1857
Logan	Peter H. Dingess	March 2 nd 1857	Sickness
Bath	Benjamin T. Wallen(?)	June 23 rd 1857	Old sheriff refused to qualify & would not take the books

The Commissioners and their excuses would have each been reported to your Excellency at the time they were paid had it been deemed at all requisite by the Auditor, but he considered a report which would embrace them all as in this instance, would be amply sufficient. It is proper to state that no excuse was deemed good unless supported by the affidavit of the Commissioners.

J. M. Bennett
Auditor of Public Accounts

I have approved the divisions of the Auditor in these cases because they are made & deem reasonable. Hereafter the Auditor will please report the delay & the reasons &c. before two commissions we paid in each case.

H. A. Wise

LaGrange near Thoroughfare, Va.
Prince William County, October 27th 1857
Box #9, Folder 7, Accession # 36710, Reel #4200, pages 0576- 0577
Virginia Governors Executive Papers – Henry Wise
Henry Wise Esq. Governor of Virginia

Dear Sir,

I have been called on today by two of my neighbours in person with the names of at least twenty others to a memorial to you as Governor remonstrating against a petition which will be presented to you to reprieve William D. Bevier who was sentenced at our last Circuit Court for three years confinement in the penitentiary. The residents of Haymarket where Bevier resided and in the suburbs of which the stacks were burnt only learned today that a petition to you was circulating and immediately they drew up a memorial and all the men who live in Haymarket who were at home except two signed it, and started two gentlemen with it to get the names of the residents of the neighbourhood around to it, and particularly to call on me and request me to drop you a line stating the fact that the memorial will be forwarded to you next week with the names of at least nine out of every ten citizens of Prince William County presented signed it besides the names of the residents of Haymarket. When the two gentlemen who had it, called on me today there were to it the names of several of our best men in every sense of the word, in fact every person they had presented it to as they stated to me but two had signed it, and I have no hesitation in signing. I believe at least nine out of ten in Prince William will sign if it is presented to them, therefore I write heartily with the memorialist, that in this (inst.) that you receive the petition before you receive the memorial, you will not act on it, nor finally grant the prayer on the petition. In haste and under fatigue, your faithful constituent.

A. E. Harrison

N. B. My residence is four miles from Haymarket and the memorial had only been presented to a few persons who reside immediately on the road between my residence and Haymarket when it was shown to me, it will numerously signed

Richmond Va., July 9th 1858

Box #13, Folder 5, Accession # 36710,

Virginia Governors Executive Papers – Henry Wise

Prisoners in the Penitentiary of Virginia and on Public Works, who were sentenced for terms over Five Years, and who were Fifty Years Old, when received, without regard to length of sentence, dates when received. Where sentenced, Crimes, Sentences and ages when received Penitentiary June 9th 1858

Names	when received	where from	offence	sentence	age	remarks
John Robinson (Col)	11 Nov 1844	Richmond City	burglary	life	27	2 nd offence
William Norment	25 Sep 1845	Caroline Co.	rape on dau.	18	47	
Moses Smart	08 Apr 1847	Carroll Co.	pass counterfeit	15	54	2 nd offence
John A. Blevins	18 Dec 1848	Richmond City	carrying off slaves	life	53	4 th offence
Allen Ewing	18 Dec 1848	Richmond City	carrying off slaves	10	42	2 nd offence
Jack Norval	29 Aug 1849	Loudoun Co.	stabbing	15	16	on canal
John F. Schenberger	18 Dec 1849	Richmond City	murder 2 nd deg.	18	29	
Robert Mills (col)	01 May 1850	Halifax Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	09	39	on canal
J.A.H.W.R. Armstead	08 Jul 1850	Richmond City	horse stealing	10	27	on canal
John Hays	14 Nov 1851	Richmond City	murder 2 nd deg.	12	23	
Alexander Combs	22 May 1851	Russell Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	10	52	
William A. Brown	24 Jun 1851	Stafford Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	18	42	
Mich. Cherry	14 Oct 1851	Norfolk Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	18	51	
John Conway	22 Nov 1851	Lewis Co.	rape	10	38	
Joseph P. Davis	22 Dec 1851	Charlotte Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	18	26	
Frederick Stoffer	07 May 1852	Berkeley Co.	burglary & Arson	12	27	
Ellick Brooks (col)	15 Oct 1852	Caroline Co.	robbery	10	24	on canal
Meletus Scott (col)	20 Sep 1852	Buckingham Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	18	43	on canal
John Mills (col)	09 Nov 1852	Fauquier Co.	house breaking	08	20	with French
Barthelomew Maloney	07 Dec 1852	Augusta Co.	rape & other crimes	40	31	
John Spratley (col)	10 Dec 1852	Frederick Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	08	27	on canal
James McIntire	10 Dec 1852	Harrison Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	08	34	
Norment Queen	26 Apr 1853	Richmond City	carnal knowledge	20	41	
Robert Gill	10 May 1853	Marion Co.	horse stealing	06	20	2 nd offence
Bartley Lee	30 May 1853	Doddridge Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	12	22	
Bradley Yance	02 Jun 1853	Fairfax Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	18	25	
George M. Smith (col)	09 Jan 1854	Washington Co.	rape on slave	06	31	on canal

William Patton (alias)	21 Jan 1854	Kanawha Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	13	26	“Wm. Whalen”
Washburn Ashby	23 Nov 1854	Richmond City	hiding slave	10	41	2 nd offence
Tom Harris (col)	22 Dec 1854	Petersburg City	receiving stolen-	10	42	on canal
Robert Evans (col)	18 Feb 1854	Petersburg City	house breaking	15	36	2 nd offence
Wingfield Butcher (col)	18 Feb 1854	Petersburg City	house breaking	life	28	3 rd offence
Francis Horan	06 Jul 1854	Ohio County	felonious stabbing	10	29	
James H. Ames	22 Nov 1854	Accomack Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	18	21	
George Francis	09 Dec 1854	Ohio County	murder 2 nd deg.	18	32	
Lewis Armstead (col)	12 Dec 1854	Frederick Co.	assault with intent	08	37	on canal
			to kill white man			
Louis Romette	24 Apr 1855	Norfolk Co.	cow stealing	06	30	
A. J. Parsons	29 Apr 1855	Cabell Co.	store breaking	08	24	2 nd offence
John W. Thornton	30 Apr 1855	Richmond City	murder 2 nd deg.	07	30	
John Goodfellow	18 May 1855	Prince George	murder 2 nd deg.	08	33	
John Varenberg	18 May 1855	Harrison Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	18	52	
William H. Ewell	06 Jun 1855	Princess Ann Co	murder 2 nd deg.	09	46	
Martha Dixon (col)	13 Jun 1855	Charles City	murder 2 nd deg.	18	18	on canal
John W. Vaiden	13 Jun 1855	Lunenburg Co.	vol. manslaugt.	04	64	
Robert D. Dickey	21 Jun 1855	Fairfax Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	18	31	
George W. Crump	05 Jul 1855	Alexandria Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	12	23	
William H. Spurr	06 Jul 1855	Fayette Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	18	23	
Andrew J. Copenhaver	06 Jul 1855	Frederick Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	15	26	
Thomas Ames (col)	17 Jul 1855	Northampton Co	wounding/beating	06	25	on canal
John Decker	03 Aug 1855	Norfolk City	murder 2 nd deg.	10	22	
Ruffin T. Freeman	28 Sep 1855	Brunswick Co.	slave stealing	04	52	
Samuel McDonald	30 Sep 1855	Hampshire Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	18	19	
Henry Abbott	20 Oct 1855	Richmond City	grand larceny	15	24	2 nd offence
Barney Handlin	same as above	- name used as an alias by Henry Abbott				
James A. Wilson	23 Oct 1855	Loudoun Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	18	35	
John Miller	24 Nov 1855	Kanawha	horse stealing	03	60	escaped Ohio penitentiary
			& grand larceny			
William Boon (col)	13 Nov 1855	Southampton	murder 2 nd deg.	18	24	on canal
Peyton Grimsley	26 Nov 1855	Fairfax Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	18	27	
James Bradley (col)	28 Nov 1855	Petersburg City	murder 2 nd deg.	20	42	2 nd offence
Samuel Coogle (col)	08 Mar 1856	Not Given	rape	12	21	with French
Henry C. Hunter	15 Oct 1856	Richmond City	grand larceny	06	56	2 nd offence
Meckens Reynolds	16 Apr 1856	Patrick Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	10	56	
Edmond Thomas (col)	15 May 1856	Loudoun Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	11	38	on canal
Frank Lazier	25 May 1856	Ohio County	rape	20	33	
Lawson Winesburg	25 May 1856	Ohio County	rape	20	23	
John Coneal	25 May 1856	Ohio County	murder 2 nd deg.	18	30	
William Burch	04 Jun 1856	Alexandria	burglary	09	27	escaped Wash City
Wm. H. Lambden	30 Jun 1856	Norfolk City	abducting slaves	7 2/3	27	
Edward J. Duffel	30 Jun 1856	Lynchburg City	murder 2 nd deg.	08	21	
Lott Mundy (col)	18 Aug 1856	Richmond City	aiding slaves to esc.	15	33	
Nancy Crowley (col)	06 Oct 1856	York County	murder 2 nd deg.	12	12	on canal
Benjamin Hughs	06 Oct 1856	Halifax Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	08	52	
Edmund Wilkerson	15 Oct 1856	Marshall Co.	store breaking	06	23	
George Kelley	25 Oct 1856	Isle of Wight	larceny	07	44	
Justin ford	06 Nov 1856	Albemarle Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	15	33	
Samuel Boyers	13 Nov 1856	Jefferson Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	6 1/2	25	
Ed Dunnivant	15 Nov 1856	Prince George	burglary& larcny.	06	22	
Samuel Howard	21 Nov 1856	Alexandria	murder 2 nd deg.	05	50	
George B. Johnson	14 Apr 1857	Richmond City	stealing a slave	06	41	
William Nelson	27 Apr 1857	Patrick Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	18	17	
William H. Keene	29 Apr 1857	Fairfax Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	10	43	

Fielding Jones	09 May 1857	Nelson Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	15	19
George Goodrich	29 May 1857	Alexandria	murder 2 nd deg.	18	40
William Nelson (col)	23 Jun 1857	Botetourt Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	08	23 on canal
John McKinney	23 Jun 1857	Kanawha Co.	aiding slave to esc.	06	38
Austin Duval	23 Jun 1857	Kanawha Co.	burglary & larceny	08	24
George Dade (col)	23 Sep 1857	Prince William	burglary	10	30 on canal
Wm. Jones	09 Oct 1857	Nelson Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	18	27
Thomas T. Owen	14 Oct 1857	Halifax Co.	rape on daughter	11	39
Thomas J. Hardy	16 Oct 1857	Richmond City	rape 3 rd offence	20	30
Alexander Neale	03 Nov 1857	Loudoun Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	18	60
Abram Womack	09 Nov 1857	Halifax Co.	10 counterfeit notes	02	73
James Rush	14 Nov 1857	Augusta Co.	rape	17	35
James Shiflett	03 Dec 1857	Albemarle Co.	grand larceny	02	50
Augustus Baird	27 Nov 1857	Ohio County	grand larceny	03	53
Alonzo C. Turner	06 Jan 1858	Lynchburg City	murder 2 nd deg.	18	25
Wm. B. Smither	22 Jan 1858	Essex Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	18	29
Job Self alias Chennault	10 Mar 1858	Caroline Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	18	33
George Gordon	12 Nov 1858	Brunswick Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	18	26
Benjamin Delbridge	12 Mar 1858	Brunswick Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	06	36
Zeph. Shiflett	25 Mar 1858	Monroe Co.	burning saw mill	07	23
Alex. Cottingham	20 Apr 1858	Northumberland	murder 2 nd deg.	15	50
Everett Eskew	22 Apr 1858	Putnam Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	18	27
Thomas Fox (col)	22 Apr 1858	Allegheny Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	10	35 on canal
Sarah Freeman	29 Apr 1858	Sussex Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	05	47
Edmond Lee	29 Apr 1858	Norfolk Co.	carrying off slaves	25	38
James Flynn	29 Apr 1858	Norfolk Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	18	22
Edward B. Ledbetter	29 Apr 1858	Sussex Co.	rape	10	23
Joseph Owens	01 May 1858	Essex Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	12	46
David Davis	19 May 1858	Morgan Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	18	44
Joseph F. Walter	01 Jun 1858	Spotsylvania	house breaking	10	53 alias Blockman
Robert Pullen	12 Apr 1858	Richmond City	house breaking	08	NG alias Wheeler
Dempsey Jones (col)	21 Oct 1857	Nansemond Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	06	24 on canal
Charles Granger (col)	21 Sep 1857	Henrico Co.	grand larceny	08	40 on canal
Charles Green (col)	24 Jul 1857	Richmond City	grand larceny	10	19 on canal
Ned Lee (col)	24 Jul 1857	Richmond City	grand larceny	life	28 3 rd offence
Zachariah Davis	11 Jun 1857	Petersburg City	forgery	07	28 2 nd offence (canal)
John Valentine (col)	31 Mar 1857	Amelia Co.	malicious wound.	10	30 2 nd offence
James Lester	17 Dec 1856	Bedford Co.	murder 2 nd deg.	10	35 2 nd offence (canal)
John Roberts (col)	11 Aug 1856	Lynchburg City	stealing a mule	07	29 2 nd offence (canal)
John Campfield	16 Apr 1856	Richmond City	burglary	10	29 2 nd offence
Wm. Jackson (col)	20 Mar 1856	Richmond City	burglary-larceny	10	29 2 nd offence (canal)
George Buardly (col)	23 Jan 1856	Culpepper Co.	store breaking	07	30 2 nd offence (canal)
James Stevens (col)	11 Jan 1856	Fredericksburg	grand larceny	08	23 2 nd offence (canal)
John W. Unger	29 Oct 1855	Ohio County	forgery	07	21 2 nd offence
Joseph Smith	06 Jul 1853	Norfolk City	passing counterfeit	07	36 2 nd Indictment
Wm. B. O. Franklin	15 Mar 1854	Carroll Co.	petit larceny	06	32 2 nd offence
John Hussey	20 Apr 1854	Norfolk Co.	grand larceny	09	39 2 nd offence
Joseph Needham	31 Oct 1854	Botetourt	horse stealing	07	24 2 nd offence
John E. Watkins	13 sep 1855	Goochland	murder 2 nd deg.	10	44

Name of Free Negro- Frank Gwynn

Date – June 10th 1858

What Crime – Felonious wounding a white man

Where Sentence – Henrico County Period of Time – 10 years

Height – 5 feet 6 ½ inches Age – 24 Complexion - nearly black Eyes – black Hair - black

Marks & Scars – small scar on inner corner of each eye & one on left eye brow and a small one over the

said brow, born in Henrico County, Virginia.

Name of Free Negro- John Thomas Smith Date – June 24th 1858
What Crime –cutting & stabbing
Where Sentence – Petersburg City, Virginia Period of Time – 3 years
Height – 5 feet 6 ½ inches Age – 38 Complexion – pale yellow Eyes –black Hair – dark brown
Marks & Scars – scar from a burn on the right leg inside above the ankle, scar on calf of left leg, and one near & above the ankle of same leg & outside, and one below and 2 above the ankle on inside of same leg, born in Prince Edward County, Virginia.

Name of Free Negro- James W. Lockart Date – June 29th 1858
What Crime – grand larceny
Where Sentence – Alleghany County, Virginia Period of Time – 2 years
Height – 5 feet 7 ¼ inches Age –25 Complexion - yellow Eyes –hazel Hair - black
Marks & Scars – scar on right arm above wrist, a small on right thumb, also on right shen, one on top of each great toe. The nail of right one split. Born in Allegany County, Virginia.

Name of Free Negro-Margaret Lucas Date – July 2nd 1858
What Crime – murder in the second degree
Where Sentence –Frederick County, Virginia Period of Time – 5 years
Height –5 feet 2 inches Age – 30 Complexion – dark yellow Eyes –black Hair - black
Marks & Scars – a scar under chin from a cut and a small one on left wrist nearly round in form. Born in Frederick County, Virginia.

Name of Free Negro- Eli Ellis Date – July 5th 1858
What Crime – store breaking and larceny
Where Sentence –Surry County, Virginia Period of Time – 4 years
Height – 5 feet 7 inches Age – 36 Complexion –dark yellow Eyes –black Hair - black
Marks & Scars – a small scar on each wrist and one under side of nose, born in Surry County, Virginia

Name of Free Negro-William H. Thompson Date – July 13th 1858
What Crime – abducting a slave
Where Sentence –Isle of Wight Period of Time – 10 years
Height – 5 feet 2 ½ inches Age – 19 Complexion - dark Eyes – black Hair - black
Marks & Scars – a small scar on left shin: born in Burlington, New Jersey

Name of Slave – Lewis (White) Slave Date – June 17th 1858
What Crime – Arson
Where Sentence – Richmond City Period of Time – Transportation
Height – 5 feet 5 ¾ inches Age – 31 Complexion - nearly black Eyes – black Hair - black
Marks & Scars – two scars from a burn on breast grown up in welts, born Butler Co. N.C.

Name of Slave – William (Jones) Slave Date – June 21st 1858
What Crime – wounding a white man
Where Sentence – Prince George County Period of Time – Transportation
Height – 5 feet 1 ½ inches Age –30 Complexion –yellow Eyes – brown Hair - black
Marks & Scars – left arm has been broken near elbow joint & set crooked, scar below left hip joint from a boil, born in Prince George County, Virginia

Name of Slave - George Date – July 20th 1858
What Crime – assault to kill master
Where Sentence –Accomack County, Virginia Period of Time – Transportation
Height – 5 feet 1 ¾ inches Age –23 Complexion – nearly black Eyes – black Hair - black
Marks & Scars – one scar on top of left arm near elbow joint & one on left wrist, born Accomack Co.

Name of Slave - Simon Date – July 23rd 1858

What Crime – attempted to kill overseer
Where Sentence – Spottsylvania County, Virginia Period of Time – Transportation
Height – 5 feet 3 ½ inches Age – 59 Complexion - black Eyes – black Hair - black
Marks & Scars – Born in Spottsylvania County, Virginia and thought to be sound

Name of Slave - George Date – July 28th 1858
What Crime – burglary
Where Sentence – Richmond City Period of Time – Transportation
Height – 5 feet 4 ½ inches Age – 19 Complexion - black Eyes –black Hair - black
Marks & Scars – a small scar on each arm above wrist. Small bumps on each side of face over the jaw bone
like warts, mostly on right side, born Richmond City.

Name of Slave - Napoleon Date – July 30th 1858
What Crime – assault on white man
Where Sentence – Lynchburg City Period of Time – Transportation
Height – 5 feet 11 ½ inches Age – 22 Complexion – yellow Eyes – dark brown Hair - black
Marks & Scars – scar on right wrist near joint, small scar on right arm a few inches above the first, several
scars on left arm about the elbow, the third finger on left hand has been severed, both legs from the knees
down are covered with scars from sores and injuries.

William H. Thompson who came for abducting slaves is from New Jersey and I suppose Governor Wise will not send him out of prison as no other free negro has as yet sent out who came for any offence connected with adduction.

There is a girl of 15, Mary, from Loudoun County, received since the last Negroes were sent out. Who I suppose the Governor will let remain for the present.

Margaret Lucas the above named will in a few months be confined, and probably increase her family.

James Mercer, alias John Mercer was received July 26th 1858 is for a second offence and ought not to be sent out until after he is identified and sentenced to the additional 5 years. He was discharged on the 21st day of September last from the first term.

B. S. Morgan
July 29th 1858

The free negroes Margaret Lewis & William H. Thompson mentioned in the foregoing list are retained in the penitentiary according to the recommendation of Col. Morgan; the remaining ten are ordered to be delivered to the President of the James River & Kanawha Company.

George W. Mumford
Sec. of the Commonwealth

Prince William County, July 9th 1858
Box #13, Folder 7, Accession # 36710,
Virginia Governors Executive Papers – Henry Wise

My Esteemed friend

Will you please examine the Act – passed April 2nd 1852 authorizing our constable to be elected in each district, and also the Act passed June 2nd 1852 authorizing the County Court (when necessary) to have an additional constable in each district, and the law passed at the last session – authorizing one constable in each district – and say whether the last Act repealed the Act of June 2nd 1852 granting the County Court when necessary to have an additional constable. There is a division of opinion in my County on the above question, and as I am one of the members that ___ the power of the County Court has not been revoked. I appeal your information. I have based my opinion on the constitution; 4th Article 16 Section and deny that the last act passed has referred or in any way named. The act passed June 2nd 1852 and if I am right of yours that act has not been repealed please let me hear from you by return mail – With my best wishes for your health and prosperity I remain your to serve.

Seymour Lynn

1859, Box #22, Folder 8, Accession # 36710,

List of men with John Brown in Jail

Virginia Governors Executive Papers – Henry Wise

White Men were – John Brown, New York; Aaron C. Stephens, Connecticut; Edwin Coppic, Iowa; Oliver Brown, New York; Watson Brown, New York; Albert Haslet, Pennsylvania; William Lennan, Maine; John Cook, formerly Connecticut here lately, got off – (John Cook escaped for a while but was captured and hung along with the Negroes); Stewart Taylor, Canada; Charles P. Tidd, Maine; William Thompson, New York; Dolph Thompson, New York; John Hager, brought up in Virginia born in Ohio; Jerry Anderson, Indiana.

Negroes – Dangerfield Newby, Virginia formerly, last couple of years Ohio; O. P. Anderson, Pennsylvania; Emperor, New York formerly South Carolina; Leary from Oberlin Ohio formerly (not legible) Copeland, same as the above named Leary.

April 27th 1859, Warrenton, Va.

Pardon of John Cornwell

Virginia Governors Executive Papers – Henry Wise

To the Honorable Governor Wise

Dear Sir,

I visited the state prison the first of this month, and saw there a convict by the name of John Cornwell from Prince William County. I have known the old man for more than twenty years, he was sent there for the murder of a man at Brentsville, when he (Cornwell) was drunk, he had been drunk for several days and had been blacked and cuffed about by several; on the day, he committed the murder and when he stabbed the man he supposed it was one of those who had played him during the day. When sober I knew him to be a hard working and as good disposed old man as ever lived, he is now I suppose sixty years old and if the old man could be released and spend the remainder of his days with his family. I know it would be a heaven on earth to him and his old wife. Gov. if I have done wrong in writing on this subject please forgive me for it is caused both by the head and heart – for when I saw the old gentleman my feelings were such as I never had before. I do not suppose a dishonorable charge of any grade can be brought against the old man except the one for which he is now imprisoned. I will again by that you will pardon me if I have committed an error in writing you on this subject.

Your True Friend

Wm. B. Brawner

Prince William County, December 10th 1859

Box #22, Folder 6, Accession # 36710,

Letter from William Stoddard

Virginia Governors Executive Papers – Henry Wise

Letter received in Richmond December 19th 1859

To the Honorable Governor Wise

Sir,

A Virginian by birth, by residence and by interest and sympathy, I hope I will not be suspected of treachery to the State, in laying the following facts before you.

I have during the last week visited different sections of Virginia, and have become convinced that public sentiment is hourly changing in favor of the criminal Cook. I may mention as illustrative of what I assert, that I have been in four houses during the last day, and that inmates of all expressed the utmost anxiety for a change of sentence.

It is believed that Cook has a peculiar mental organization which marked him out as the fit tool of designing traitors, and that he was rather a deluded victim than an inbred criminal. It is thought we are strong enough to show mercy, and that if Old Brown had given Cook a quarter and with it a double portion of his spirit, we would have nothing to fear. And that since the Arch Traitor is executed, mercy may be extended to the repentant criminals and an extensive neutral element and the North may be conciliated.

I am convinced from what I have seen that if you defer for a few weeks, the execution of Cook, that you will be satisfied that a great reaction has taken place in the public feeling towards him. And if such course is possible you will be as I believe the most popular man not in a section, but in the totality of the Union.

I am a Presbyterian Minister, residing in Buckingham County and temporarily in Prince William County.

I am with much respect

William Stoddard

Bay Side Flushing Queens Co. L. I., December 1859

Box #22, Folder 8, Accession # 36710,
Letter from William Stoddard
Virginia Governors Executive Papers – Henry Wise
To his Excellency Governor Wise

Sir,

I have to apologize for intruding on your Excellency's time by addressing you on a subject that has caused you so much trouble of mind but my feelings urge me to a duty which is to express to you Sir, the very great respect and admiration of the superior and energetic measures that you have taken to preserve the peace and welfare of your noble old state and punish those who so justly merited their fate. Your Excellency may rest assured that in the North are men who feel with you and the inhabitants of Virginia in the trying situation that you Sir and they have been so lately placed and will assist both with their hands and hearts with the pen and word ready to assist and support the good old state of Virginia her laws and the lives of her loyal and generous hearted inhabitants. I sir for one feel the highest respect for her laws and institutions. My heart will always beat warmly towards the South and noble and hospitable and ever generous hearted people of the Southern States. Then allow me to press on your Excellency's mind the facts that the City of New York alone are thousands of true friends to the South and have immense assemblage for a union meeting to express their determination to preserve the rights of your state and the union and every state in its own rights. Yes Sir even in Boston the very hotbed of abolitionism they have come forth forty thousand strong hearts as champions to maintain the South in her rights and her laws preserved and her property secured and her honor vindicated. Your Excellency may best assured that if a single arm could assist that arm would be stretched forth to your aid if every man in this wide union shrank from task.

With sentiments of the highest respect

I am your Excellency's obedient servant

William E. Stoddard