

**Richmond Virginia, December 1781**

**Reel #2970, Accession #29604**

**Sentence of John Chapman, James Robinson & Reuben Griffith/Griffis**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – Benjamin Harrison**

A list of the Criminals, who were tried, convicted and condemned at the December General Court 1781.

John Chapman alias John Timberlake from Prince William County for horse stealing – sentenced to be hanged by the Sheriff of Henrico on Friday the eighteenth day of January next.

James Robinson from Prince William County for Burglary - sentenced to be hanged by the Sheriff of Henrico on Friday the eighteenth day of January next.

Reuben Griffis from Mecklenburg County for horse stealing - sentenced to be hanged by the Sheriff of Henrico on Friday the eighteenth day of January next.

Teste John Brown C.G. C.

**Richmond Virginia, December 1781**

**Reel #2970, Accession #29604**

**Petition of James Robinson, John Chapman of Prince William  
& Reuben Griffith of Mecklenburg County**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – Benjamin Harrison**

**To His Excellency Benjamin Harrison Esq. Governor of Virginia**

The petition of James Robison, John Chapman & Reuben Griffith humbly sheweth, that your unhappy petitioners at the last court of Ayer and Terminer received the awful sentence of death – the time of the sentence being uncertain. We beg leave to look to your Excellency for mercy. Praying that in your goodness you will be pleased to consider our time of Life – and although our crimes are many, & our transgressions great – yet by repentance & your forgiveness, we hope to make ample reparation to the injured laws of our country.

Your petitioners most humbly pray that you will be pleased be allow us to enlist in the Army of America and on the Solemn words of Dying Men. We promise to become good and faithful Soldiers that we will on all occasions endeavor to retrieve the good opinion of Mankind we have unhappily lost.

That the God of all our Mercies who hath taught us to pray ‘forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us,’ may be your guide & protector in the Sincere prayer of your unhappy petitioners.

Who in duty bound will ever pray &c.

James Robinson

John Chapman (his mark)

Reuben Griffith (his mark)

**Richmond Virginia, December1781/January1782**

**Reel #2970, Accession #29604**

**Petition of James Robinson & John Chapman of Prince William County**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – Benjamin Harrison**

To The Honorable Governor Benjamin Harrison Esquire & Captain Commander of Virginia. The humble Petition of James Robinson & John Chapman, Humbly saith that, your unhappy petitioners at the last Court of Oyer & Terminer received the –full sentence of Death; the time of execution being nigh \_\_ \_\_ we beg leave to look to your Excellency; for mercy; praying, that, in your Goodness, you will be pleased to consider our time of Life – and, although our crime is great, Yet by repentance and your forgiveness we hope to make ample preparation.

Your unhappy petitioners most humbly prays that you will be pleased to allow us to enlist in the Army of America and on the Solemn Word of Dying man we promise to become Good and Faithfull Soldiers & that we will \_\_\_\_\_ Endeavour to retrieve the good opinion of mankind we have unhappily lost.

That the Great God of all our mercies who hath taught us to pray “forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us “may be your God and protector is the increase prayers of your \_\_\_\_\_ petitioners.

And as in duty bound shall we ever pray

**Richmond Virginia, December 1781/January 1782**

**Reel #2970, Accession #29604**

**Petition of James Robinson & John Chapman of Prince William County**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – Benjamin Harrison**

To his Excellency the Governor and the honorable the Council of State

The petition of James Robinson & Chapman humbly sheweth that they are under sentence of death on charges of felony; that they very scarcely lament & bewail the crimes they have been guilty of which has brought them to their unfortunate and unhappy end; they see them with all their dreadful and fatal consequences respecting both corporal & \_\_\_\_ matters; they have resolved and think they should forever adhere to those revelations, that \_\_\_\_ - their \_\_\_\_ - be prolonged & their crimes pardoned to become good and useful members of society, and alone in some measure, for their past offences, by their future good consent & behavior in all things. Your petitioners therefore are driven with all the horrors of confusion, shame, and despair, to beg that your Excellency & your honors will be graciously pleased in your wisdom, goodness & mercy to take this case under consideration & pray that you will be pleased to pardon and remiss this ignominious sentence that is passed on them. And your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray &c.

**Richmond Virginia, January 1782**

**Reel #2970, Accession #29604**

**Petition of James Robinson, John Chapman of Prince William  
& Reuben Griffith of Mecklenburg County**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – Benjamin Harrison**

**To Honorable Governor Benjamin Harrison Captain General of Virginia**

The Humble petition of James Robinson, Reubin Griffis and John Chapman humbly sheweth that your unhappy petitioners humbly prays trough Your Bountyfull Goodness you will Be pleased to Bestow to us a Little Longer Limited time of Life as we are not at this time Capable of Death as we have not had no priest but twice with us and as for Duty Bound shall we pray.

**Dumfries, Virginia, December 8<sup>th</sup> 1781**

**Reel #2970, Accession #29604**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – Benjamin Harrison**

**To William Davies Esq.**

Sir,

I am sorry it has not been in our power to make the return of the specific tax for the county till today. As our late Sheriff Mr. Keith had by mistake taken up the list of Tithables to Fauquier County of which I requested Col. Lee to inform you.

We think it our duty to inform you that a great part of the corn was sold out to the French Troops for cash for 10 percent hard money & rest by a Mr. Carr a Deputy Q.M. from Alexandria.

I have the honor to be for Col. Alexander a county commissioner for Prince William County with the highest respect.

Your most obedient servant

Richard Graham

**Dumfries, Virginia, February 5<sup>th</sup> 1782**

**Reel #2971, Accession #29604**

**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – Benjamin Harrison**

Sir,

Your favor of the 10<sup>th</sup> ulto covering an extract of a letter from Col. Hendricks came to hand a few days ago. When the French troops came to the southward I was in Philadelphia & before I got home part of them had passed this place. I was informed that Mr. Conn was furnished the whole of them with our specific tax & corn and swine from them cash at \_\_\_ per bl. And that he was supplying them also with hay that had been impressed from the gentlemen in my neighborhood for the use of the Continental Army. I stopped over to Mr. Daniel's where Mr. Conn \_\_\_\_\_ to tell him that he ought in my opinion to return the money received for the corn into the Treasury & that the people who he received the hay from ought to have the money arising from it, but he was gone up to Alexandria &

thou he was from time to time in town for about two or three weeks otherwise I did not see him. I did not know his person but in the meantime as Mr. M. Daniel had told me that he was taking up the cash returned from time to time to Col. Hendricks made no doubt but the Colonel had particular directions regarding the disbursement of the money and therefore gave myself no further trouble about the matter. Only when I made the return of our Specific Tax I thought it necessary to note that a quantity of the corn had been delivered to the French. Since the receipt of your letter I have made particular enquiry into the matter and notwithstanding Mr. Conn's return and only three ton of hay & nineteen bushels of corn he has from the best information I could obtain furnished the French Troops. I received the money for upwards of twenty tons of hay and eight hundred or a thousand bushels of corn for which I am not \_\_\_ that he ever \_\_\_ one pound of hay or a single bushel of corn at this post. Mr. Daniel \_\_\_ me that Conn at about three different times from his house with large sums of money \_\_\_ which he told him he was taking up to Col. Hendricks and that he has seen him \_\_\_ at one time upwards of \_\_\_ from the French & he was receiving almost every day for three or four weeks.

One Gentleman Mr. Gwodkins had twelve ton of hay taken from him & sold to the French Commander the money in the presence of Mr. Gwodkins but would not pay him one shilling of it \_\_\_ every drove of French Bev-- -- was fed here with corn and hay or both. The American B---- were furnished with neither a court of enquiry may bring all these matters to light. Conn has certainly imposed upon Col. Hendricks most greatly but I think the colonel is mistaken in some of his observations. "That if the grain was \_\_\_ there could be no harm done & that if the people goods were once taken from them & got into the agents hands as they never could go back to them it could make no difference who consumed them" – in the first case as the corn was sold at \_\_\_ lot \_\_\_ bl to the French & could \_\_\_ the money ought to have been sent to the Treasury because \_\_\_ corn had been wanted at this post it could be laid in again at a dollar \_\_\_ Mr. Conn could have no right to make \_\_\_ by trading with the county property in the second – The people concurred and \_\_\_ that one third ordered one fourth of the hay impressed for this post would have served the Continental Troops & that they could have sold the remaining two thirds on three fourths to the French themselves for cash. Therefore the people have no doubt just case of complaint. I have the Honor to be with greatest regard.

Dear Sir your most obedient servant  
Richard Graham

**Dumfries, Virginia, April 12<sup>th</sup> 1782**  
**Reel #2971, Accession #29604**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – Benjamin Harrison**

Sir,

I am very sorry that my state of health prevents my doing the business that you have required. My age together with the gout puts it entirely out of my power.

I am Sir, your most obedient servant  
M. Whiting

**Dumfries, Virginia, June 22<sup>nd</sup> 1782**  
**Reel #2973, Accession #29604**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – Benjamin Harrison**

Sir,

Yesterday I received your favour of 12<sup>th</sup> inst. Together with a letter from His Excellency dated the 10<sup>th</sup> inst. Appointing me Commissioner for the District of Loudoun, Fairfax, Prince William & Stafford from the number of Commissioners, Commissioners \_\_\_ that have been in Commission in these Counties. I foresee that this appointment will be attended with much trouble & grant me a deputy, however being necessary that the business should be done. I agree to undertake it and you may rely on my utmost executions in the accomplishment of your instructions. You will please \_\_\_ this to His Excellency so that I need not trouble him with a letter on the subject at present.

I have already wrote to the respective County Lieutenants to have that part of the clothing that has not yet been delivered ready that I may get it collected & forwarded as soon as possible.

I have the honour to be Sir  
Your most obedient servant  
Richard Graham

**Dumfries, Virginia, August 10<sup>th</sup> 1782**  
**Reel #2973, Accession #29604**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – Benjamin Harrison**

Sir,

Last Wednesday by post I had the honor of receiving your circular letter of the 24<sup>th</sup> ulto and your letters of the 31<sup>st</sup> ulto 3<sup>rd</sup> inst. Agreeable to your request in the last. I would now insure you what money I have yet received but there is none of Mr. Monroe's or Bank Notes to be got there, but I shall send off a cart next week with the clothing from Fairfax & some that I expect from Loudoun by that \_\_\_ the money shall be sent and as the Fairfax Commissioners are to send me their money immediately after their court the week after next. I will take the very first opportunity of forwarding it also as I shall do with every sum I receive from time to time. I have ordered everything to be sold off. I had all the bacon brought down to this place Colchester & Alexander in time for the French Troops expecting they would take the whole but only took a little for the waggons. The bacon from Loudoun was much damaged, some of it rotten – it was sent to Alexandria – it was handed off in small parcels from \_\_\_ @ 5 ½ \_\_\_ the rest sells from 6 @ 7 ½ \_\_\_. The wheat at Alexandria about 300 bushels has the flies in it and as it could not be ground up at present, our mills being all dry to prevent a total loss & I sold it to Mr. Jos. Watson a merchant of fuenetuality at 3 \_\_\_ half the 15<sup>th</sup> October & half the first week of December together with about 100 bushels that was left last year by Mr. Lawrason at General Washington's & Mr. Gelpins Mills.

There is at Mr. Millons in this county 33 cattle. I have wrote Mr. Dick that if he request it I will send them down at once or from time to time as he may require them for the use of the Gun Factory. There was eight lost if Fairfax last year. I have heard of five of them at Mr. Curtis & Mr. Fitzhugh's quarters. I have authorized Mr. Lawrason to try to collect the whole of these eight and sell them.

I was up at Alexandria last week to settle with the commissioners. The commissioner of provisions Mr. Lawrason gave me a copy of his returns and informed me that he had sent over the vouchers. I applied to Col. Hendricks for a copy of what articles he had received from the specific provision commissioners so that I might compare them. I also suspect those articles were issued but he refused to do anything in the matter said he had made a return of what he had received from the state and that he had nothing more to do with them. Mr. Lawrason says that most of the grain was sold by Col. Hendricks to the French troops. The people of Fairfax complained the matter ought to be fully enquired into.

Mr. James Adam has in his possession about 11,000 of the specific \_\_\_ he was not at home but I observe by his letter the \_\_\_ he appears some old light \_\_\_ from 300 to \_\_\_ 800 each \_\_\_ as \_\_\_ these are not the tobacco he received for the tax. I shall not take it. I received seven good \_\_\_ from the commissioner which I delivered to Messrs. Hunter & Allison on behalf \_\_\_.

You may rely on my utmost endeavors to bring everything in this district to a settlement in conclusion as soon as possible but I find it will be a \_\_\_ troublesome piece of business. Thou I have frequently sent & gone after the commissioners for 1780 & \_\_\_ in Stafford & Loudoun I have not yet been able to obtain \_\_\_ but I hope soon to get it accomplished. I have enclosed Mr. Lawrasons return that you may have it compared with that of Col. Hendricks sent Mr. Pierce.

I am with due esteem  
Sir, your most obedient servant  
Richard Graham

**Dumfries, Virginia, October 7<sup>th</sup> 1782**  
**Reel #2974, Accession #29604**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers – Benjamin Harrison**

Dear Colo:

Enclosed you'll receive my answer that I presented you when I was in Town last. I shall leave it entirely at your discretion to settle in what manner you please.

I should have waited on you, but the security of money prevented it; the horse that I have got, I shall send up to Capt. Peyton tomorrow, agreeable to his orders, when he will be immediately sent to the point forty. I should have been very glad to have kept him in part pay of my wages.

W. Chapman who will deliver this, will act for me and do as you order. I am dear Colo. With utmost respect.

Your most obedient servant  
John Tebbs