

Dand Dulaney
John Bidow
Walt^d Dulaney
Georg Stewart

10th April 1769
Lord Proprietary of
Transcript
agt
of Conviction from
Negro Ben
Talbot County
The
10th April 1769 Ord. by his Ex:
with the advice of the Board
the Gov. that pardon issue for the
said Negro which issued accordingly
Ent.

In the records of Talbot County among other things is contained as follows to wit.



Talbot County p. 1 At a County Court of the Right Honorable and Absolute Lord & Proprietor of the provinces of Maryland & Avalon Lord Baron of Baltimore &c holds for Talbot County at the Court house in the County of the first Monday in March Anno Domini seven thousand four hundred & sixty nine before the same Lord Proprietor his Justices of the peace for the County of whom were present

The M^r. Andrew Wyman M^r. James Dickenson
W^{or}shipful M^r. John Goldsborough M^r. Jonathan Neels
M^r. Robert Goldsborough and
M^r. Edward Oldham M^r. William Martin

Thomas Howard Sheriff -

John Ledy

Lordship } Talbot County p. At a County Court of the right
Negro Wore } Honorable the Lord Proprietary that now is holds
for Talbot County at the Court house in the County
of the first Thursday in March Anno domini

One thousand seven hundred & sixty nine by the Oath of twelve Jurors good & lawful Men of the County of whom being sworn and charged to enquire for the same Lord Proprietor and the body of the County aforesaid it is presented that Negro Ann late of Talbot County of Labourer the Slave of a certain Rachel Harrison of Talbot County of not having the fear of God before his eyes but being moved and seduced by the Instigation of the Devil on the twentieth day of November in the year seven thousand four hundred & sixty eight with force and arms at Talbot County of this his wicked purpose and so thought wickedly wilfully & feloniously in and upon a certain Eva Shanahan of Talbot County aforesaid Widow an Aunt did make and her the said Eva Shanahan then & there bring a White Woman within this province to wit at Talbot County of did then & there wickedly wilfully and feloniously conspire advise conspire and attempt to ravish and carnally know against the peace of the Lord Proprietary his good Rule and Government and contrary to the form of the Act of Assembly in such Cases made provided and so forth -
R. Goldsborough (A) J. Proprietor

And thereupon at the same Court before the Justice of the Peace the
said Negro Ben under the Custody of Thomas Shawood Gent
High Sheriff of Talbot County of into whose Custody for the cause
of before that time he was committed to the Ben here led in this
proper person and is committed to the same Sheriff and immedi-
ately being asked how he of the promises above upon him imposed
would be acquitted with his own throat guilty and throat of good
and evil hath put himself upon the Country and Robert Goldborough
Esq Attorney who for the said Defendant in this part followeth likewise
Whereupon it is commanded to the Sheriff of the County of that he
should cause to come here before the Justice of the Peace immediately twelve
or whose to recognize or become sure. And thereupon Daniel Sher-
wood Thomas Harrison Joseph Harrison Henry Banning George
Crawson Nicholas Goldborough John Stevens James Dickerson
Edward Todd John Thomas Joseph Rowley Isaac Palmer
by the said Sheriff to this being Impannelled and here called come
who to say the truth in the promises being elected tried and sworn
upon their Oath say that the said Negro Ben is guilty of the promises
of in the Indictment of above specified in manner and form
and by the same Indictment above against him it is supposed
And thereupon it is demanded of him if any thing for himself he hath
to say knoweth whereof for the Court here to judgment against
him upon the promises to proceed ought not who nothing further
saith only as before he had said.

Whereupon all and singular the promises by the Court here being
seen and fully understood it is considered that the said Negro Ben
be carried to the prison from whence he came and from thence be
drawn to the place of execution and there hanged up by the neck
until he be dead.

The Court values the said Negro Ben to sixty pounds Current Money.

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand
and Affixed the Seal of Talbot County this County
first day of March Anno dom One thousand seven
Hundred & sixty Nine.

J. W. H. H. H.

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Handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.

25th March 1769
The Representation of the Justices
and Jurors relative to the Conviction
of Negro Ben at last Fall by
March Court
Pardonified for said Negro
M^{rs} in Council
10th April 1769
Pardon Order & signed
C^{mt}

To his Excellency Horatio Sharp Esq: Governor of Maryland



We the Justices of Talbot County beg Leave to acquaint Your Excellency that Sentence of Death hath this March Court been passed upon Negro Ben a Slave belonging to Rachel Harrison for assaulting with Intent to ravish Eve Shannahan

As the Evidence upon which his Conviction was founded, had such Uncertainty in it, that it was neither clear the said Ben was the Felon, (the Attempt having been made in the Night and in an house without Light ~~with Light~~ where Objects could not well be discerned,) nor, if he was the Person, that his Intention was to ravish, We take the Liberty to recommend him as a proper Object of Your Excellency's Pardon

J. Goldborough

Robt Goldborough

Jam: Dickinson

Jos: Nicols

Wm Martin

To his Excellency Horatio Sharpe Esq: Governor and Commander in Chief
in and over the Province of Maryland

We the subscribers being the Jurors that passed upon the Trial of
Negro Ben Slave of Rachel Harrison of Talbot County for com-
mitting an Assault on the Body of Eva Shanahan with Design
to commit a Rape upon the Body of the said Eva, and we being
very desirous that your Excellency ~~that your Excellency~~ would ex-
tend your Mercy to the said Ben do by Leave to recommend
him to your Excellency, as apprehending that the Law in the
Case is extremely severe, and being satisfied that the Attempt
made upon the Woman brings him within the Description
of that Act, yet notwithstanding as the Fellow before has
a good Character, the Attempt but small, and the Evidence not
so clear as we could wish we hope your Excellency will grant
Pardon to the said Ben and your Petitioners will pray.

March 13. 1769.

Daniel Sherwood. formⁿ

Saml Dickinson
John Thomas

Edward Nidels

John Stevens

N. Goldborough

Thomas Harrison

Joseph Buxley

Henry Banning

G. Dawson

Isaac Jalar

Joseph Harrison