1799

Judge McDowell

His Excellency
James Gerrard
Governor of Kentucky

Lad by
Mr Blair

Beards Town Septr 6th 1799

Dear Sir/ I have been applyed to, to sign a Petition to your Excellency for a Pardon for Mr Fields, But I could not sign it. But Promised to write to you on the Subject. All I can say on the Subject is that If you think Proper to Extend Mercy to the unhapy man I Shall be Satisfyed. though had I been one of the Jury I must have found him guilty as think there is Scarcely a Possibility of his being Innocent. Though if your Excellency finds a Clearness in your mind to grant a Pardon I am Persuaded from my knowledge of you that you Act from the Purest motives. I only add my Sincere Prayers that the Divine Being may direct you in this affair to what is right and for the honour of that God who has the Power of directing and controling all our actions. And beleive me Dear to be your Sincere friend

And most Obedient
and Very Humble Sert
Saml. McDowell

GA 4-173

Elijah Holton letter

His Excellency

James Garrard

No. 11. Woodford County Sept. 15 1799

Sir

No. 11

With diffidence I address your Excellency on the unhappy situation of the persecuted N Fields. I have lived near twelve months in his Family and ever found him to be a kind affectionate Parent but a ~~[illegible]~~ persecuted ~~[illegible]~~ Husband. From my contiguous situation I have had a Chance of collecting the most material Circumstances and do verily believe him to be innocent of the horrid Crime for which he stands convicted I therefore pray your Excellency if it may be as consonant to your feelings as it is with mine that the present apparent Criminal may experience your Excellency's Clemency by a free Pardon and thereby obliterate that Persecution he has undergone Mercy is the darling Attribute of Heaven It is twice bless'd — In granting this Petition I hope you will experience that ~~[illegible]~~ which the Good alone can feel I am with due Respect your Excellency's humble Servt —

Elijah Cotton

GA 4-158

Benj Boston

James Garrard Esqr

Governor of Kentucky

1799

No. 8.

Sir/ Woodford County 15th September 1799 —

I have lived a near neighbour to Capt. Field about eight years, & his general conduct for that time, in my opinion, entitled him to the confidence and respect of all his neighbours, — I was one of the Inquest on the body of Mrs Field. & from the marks on her body. & Elsewhere, it is probable with me, that her life might have been taken (in the manner it appears it must have been taken by the marks) so silent as not to have awakend a moderate sound Sleeper & as I wish not to intrude opinion on your Excellency I will only add that from the whole of the circumstances relative, to the different Testamony, I do not think Mr. Field. Ought to be executed, I therefore pray your Excellency May grant him a pardon, & as in duty bound, your Petitioner will ever pray &c

Iam with respect
Yours &c. Serv.

Benjamin Boston

his Excellency. the Governor —

GA 4-153

1799

Maj^r Nawlin
his Excellency
E

Maj^r Nawler

James Garrard Esqr.

Handed by Mr.
M. Clure } — Governor of Kentucky

Sir/ Woodford. August 28th 1799 —

No. 4

lee so good, as to pardon the Liberty I have taken In the introduction to you, of the three gentlemen, (Mr. Mr. Clure Mr. Pepper & Mr. Rout,) who ware it appears, better acquented with the different confessions of the late executed negro. than Many others, & they are inform'd. you are desirous to hear Something more, relative to it; I can assure you they are all amiable private Characters, & on whom you may place the Entire confidence, relative to myself, The first Impressions the Melancholy transaction made on my mind ware unfavourable to Capt. Field, but I must Confess. I am considerably changed in my Opinion, I do admit The possibility of his innocence, & I hope the dangerous precedant of executions upon Suspicions, in Criminal Cases, will not lee Established in our Goverment, when our mercyful Laws founded upon Melancholy experience has so wisely provided against it, will may the public mind be thus adjitated; the atrocity of the crime, cannot be got over, while the popular clamer, may punish the Innocent, the false reports which have gone forth, & rigorous prosecution may perhaps have excited in me a degree of compassion for the Man; but the Cause, & not the man. appears most to concern me for the several reasons stated in the petitions. togather with what is stated above operates my mind, & inclines me to wish for his pardon; I will call & see you, the first time I.

A4-146

I come down to Frankfort & subject myself to any Interogatories you may think fit, but there are but very Few of the Facts that have come within my own knowledge

I am with sentiments of Esteem

Your most Obt. Hble Servt.

William Dawter

James Garrard Esq.
Governor of Kentucky

A4-147

1792

Routt & Pippers

Letter

Copied

James Garrard Esqr

Governor of Kentucky

Copd.

Sir. No. 5 Woodford County September 14th 1799 –

Believing, that, the particular situation of Henry Field, who is condemnd to die in a few days & the thread of whose life is now in the hands of your Excellency, call aloud on all his fellow citizens who possess any degree of Humanity & Information necessary to communicate to you; we therefore take the liberty of stating to you a circumstance which to us appears very material in the cause & which (corroborated by a variety of other circumstances) has changed us from a confidence of guilt to a confidence of innocence – it was a confession made by Fanny the Executed negro; to her mother when Locked up in the Goal together, & we intreated in hearing & unknown to them – which were in the following words, to wit, after the mother of Fanny observed to her "the Lord have mercy on you see what you have brought yourself to & then asked Fanny what did make you do so. She answerd "I do not know but I could not get over it" her mother said "Fanny" if you never have [redacted] told the truth yet tell me now all about it, for I dont expect ever to see you again in the world & pray dont die with a lie in your mouth, Fanny replyd Mamma I will tell you the truth, if I was going to die this minute I did kill my mistress myself. – her mother said Fanny how could you go into the house & kill your mistress & your Master in bead & not hear you it is impossible

4-148

he must have hope you — Fanny replyd solemnly
that her master was a sleep. and knew nothing of it. I
killd her myself. if it was the last word I had to say & I
cant give no account what made me do it, but I could not
get over it, her mother signafied she had better get pre-
-pard to die she had owned she had killd her mistress
herself and cleard her master of it, & was sure to be hanged
her mother asked her if Nancy told the truth, when she
swore you told her you killd your mistress the morning
after it was done, as you went to the Spring — Fanny said
Nancy told the truth, I did tell her I killd mestress, but
reftuted on Nancy for telling of it, — her mother replyd
I am sure you could not blame Nancy, for if you had
told me I would have told on you — Fanny asked her
Mother if she did not think her old master could save her
Life yet her mother said no Fanny you need not think
any such thing, how could you think your old Master
would save you now you have owned that you did it
yourself. & cleard your Master, her mother told her she
heard that she had said ~~said~~ her master & princess did it
Did you say so or not Fanny said I did say so because
they would keep plaguein of me & when I told the truth
they said I told lies — & I told them so to keep them from
plaguein of me so much. — her mother told her to pray
for she was sure to die — Fanny said I think old

Master can cleare me. & Insisted that her old Master ought to forgive her — the foregoing ~~confession~~ confession of Fannys. from the manner in which it was made, togather with strong Circumstances tallying well with it has excited pity & Compassion in us for the unhappy Field. the manner in which the questions were stated to her, by her mother; must have induced her to have altered her tone if a Sense of her guilt had not have bound her to the truth, these with a number of Other — Reasons we conceive compels us, & for the reasons first above stated. to Solicit in the solemn manner for the pardon of Henry Field — & hope the different Statement will have the desired Effect — & as in duty bound will ever Pray.—

Roadham Roulo

Elijah Pepper

GA4-149