This day came the attorney for the Commonwealth & the defendant was set to the bar in the custody of the Jailor. And thereupon came the veneremen of a venire towit. John K. Johnston. Joseph Russell John Dodd. Fonshe F. Taylor. Daniel Brown Michael Gabbert. Samuel McMurry Henry Harlan. John Embree John Spires Ludwell Duncan & George Elgin who being elected tryed & sworn well & truly to try & a true deliverance to make between the Commonwealth & the prisoner at the bar. And afterwards towit on the third day of the term. The Jurors upon their oaths do say We of the Jury do find that the within named Willis Beasley the prisoner at the bar is guilty of murder in manner & form as charged against him in the within Indictment.

On a subsequent day of the term aforesaid a Judgment was rendered upon the verdict & the prisoner Willis Beasley was sentenced to be executed on the twentieth day of July eighteen hundred & twenty seven.

Witness Thomas Helm clerk,
Lincoln Circuit Court.

D15-1

1827

Beasley

The Commonwealth of Kentucky Lincoln County & Circuit (Court)

The grand Jurors for the Commonwealth of Kentucky good and Lawful men empannelled and sworn for the body of Lincoln County upon their oath present that Willis Beasley late of the County of Lincoln labourer on the fifth day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand and eight hundred and twenty six in the County of Lincoln aforesaid feloneously wilfully and of his malice aforethought did make an assault in and upon one Stephen Flint and the Said Willis Beasley did then and there with a certain dirk made of Iron and Steel which he the Said Willis Beasley then and there had held in his right hand feloneously willfully and of his malice aforethought did strike thrust stab and penetrate in and upon the left side between the ribs of the body of the Said Stephen Flint and in and upon the left side of the neck of him the Said Stephen Flint and entering the body of him the Said Stephen Flint by his collar bone and in and upon the left arm Just below the Shoulder of him the Said Stephen Flint and in and upon the left breast of him the Said Stephen Flint and in and upon the Belly Just below the navel of him the Said Stephen Flint giving to him the Said Stephen Flint then and there with the dirk aforesaid in and upon the Said left side between the ribs of him the Said Stephen Flint one mortal wound of the breadth of two inches and of the depth of Six inches and giving to the Said Stephen Flint then and there with the dirk aforesaid in and upon the said left side of the neck of him the Said Stephen Flint and entering the body of him the Stephen Flint by his collar bone one other mortal wound of the breadth of two inches and of the depth of Six inches and giving to him the Said Stephen Flint with the dirk aforesaid in and upon the Said left arm of him the Said Stephen Flint Just

D15-2

below his Shoulder one other mortal wound of the breadth of two inches and of the depth of Six inches and giving to him the Said Stephen Flint then and there with the dirk aforesaid in and upon the Said left breast of him the Said Stephen Flint one other mortal wound of the depth of three inches and of the length of nine inches and giving to the Said Stephen Flint then and there with the dirk aforesaid in and upon the Said belly of him the Said Stephen Flint Just below his navel one other mortal wound of the breadth of three inches and of the depth of six inches of which Said mortal wounds he the Said Stephen Flint in the County aforesaid from One Oclock past meredian of the Said fifth day of november in the year aforesaid until ten oclock at night of the Same day did Languish and Languishing did Live on which Said fifth day of november in the year aforesaid at ten oclock at night of the Same day as aforesaid in the County aforesaid of the mortal wounds aforesaid he the Said Stephen Flint did die and so the Jurors aforesaid upon their oaths aforesaid do say that he the Said Willis Beasley Feloneously wilfully and of his malace aforethought in manner and form aforesaid in the county aforesaid the Said Stephen Flint did kill and murder against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

John Kincaid atto for the Commonwealth

And now Lewis at a court held for the County of Lincoln at the court house in the town of Stanford on Monday the 4th day of June in the year 1827 being the first day of the term

The Commonwealth of Ky Plaintiff
against
Willis Beasley Defendant

Indictment

Paper A Referred to

I have examined the Evidence as written out by Mr R Forbes In the case of the Commonwealth vs Willis Beasley I think the Evidence as given by Mr Forbes is full as stronger against Beasley as detailed in court - It is impossible to commence recall the impression which the detail of a witness frequently makes upon the mind - It was very clear from the Evidence of Murphy that Flint & Beasley had been together nearly the whole day without any apparent bad feelings existing on either side - That when their road separated upon their return from the plain where they had been all day Beasley took the path which lead to his own house with his wife behind him & his child before him upon the same horse that he had went about 100 yards before B called to Murphy - I considered the story told by Murphy as to the affray and its commencement defective in not giving circumstances which must have taken place - I considered his entire want of recollection of having seen dead bray not half an hour before the affray took place as an evidence of his intoxication and stupour

It also appeared in Evidence that Beasley & Flint lived in the same neighbourhood

and had been frequently at public plans together — It also appeared that Murphy had been a drenking man for many years and that he was seldom where he ~~could~~ get whisky that he was not intoxicated

It also appeared that there was no stab ~~or~~ in Flints coat which must have been otherwise if the coat had been on him at the time he rec'd the wounds

Mr John Green and myself were appointed as counsel by the Court to appear for the accused consequently we rec'd no pecuniary consideration whatever — I name this to shew the true condition in which I stand in relation to the accused

Saml Davis

N B The Clerk has omitted to give the new trial granted by the Court after the first trial

S Davis

J Davers:
Statement

paper marked A

W Beasley

To his Excellency Joseph Desha Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The undersigned humbly petition ~~the~~ and shew. That Willis Beasley has been at the June term of the Lincoln Circuit Court, Tried and Convicted of the Murder of Stephen Hint and is sentenced to be hung at the 20th day of July next. We the undersigned believing that the said Willis Beasley is an object of Executive mercy humbly petition your Excellency for a pardon, and we beg leave further to assure your excellency that we do this with no other motive than an honest sense of duty towards this unfortunate man and his Family, hoping & believing that the end and object of the law will be fulfilled, and that he will be restored to society, and by this timely admonition he will in future refrain from a further abuse of the laws or the injury of his fellow citizens, and should your excellency think fit to Comply with this humble appeal to your humanity & Clemency we have Only to say that this will stand as full evidence of our approbation and that we will be ever ready to acknowledge our sincere thanks for this particular mark of attention from Your Excellency towards those who have here taken to themselves the honour to subscribe their names as

Your Fellow Citizens

Venire
George Elgin
Ludwell Dunnee
Johnty Spires
Josyer Russel

D15-5

Samuel McMurry

Burtow McKinney stated the wounds were ghastly & Extensive proved that Murphy never was known to have the opportunity of getting drunk but what he did so but believed him to have the report of Being honest as far as he knew States also that the Coat which Flint wore was not Cut one thread or stitch that Flint was stabbed through the arm below & above the Elbow not far from the Elbow. Willis Brown stated the same adding that he never knew Murphy to have the Chance for years but he got drunk but once & that was remarked by the whole Company that was after the prosecution he and several others testified to the dying declarations of Flint who said in Beasleys presence after he was stabbed that he had been killed without Cause. same said Murdered without Cause.

Robt Givens & several others prove that Beasley when he was prosecuted for killing a man frequently when drinking threatened to kill Flint if he should go to the penitentiary and one witness stated he threatened to kill him. Generally these threats were a year or two before

D15-6

this killing Robt. Givens speaks of one
threat the summer before such killing
but states that Beasley & Flint became
friendly afterwards, some witnesses said
they passed along to Each others houses
through the woods after these threats.

Mr. Dunts man says that Flint threatened
to whip Beasley also. about the same
time says Flint is a boisterous loud talk
-ing & Rather a quarrelsome man that
Flint was a stout strong man & Beasley
not so stout & he & others testify to his
having rather a weak voice.

Dr. William Craig says he overtook them
a short distance before they got to Williams'
gate they all appeared to have been drinking
but Murphy looked stupid and like a
drunk man he had known Murphy
many years & had practised once in Murphys
family Beasley took out his Bottle & asked
the Doctor to drink Murphy was asked
& remembered nothing of this

One Witness proved that Murphy in his
presence threatened to Wash his hands in the

hearts Blood of John Green, ~~Murphys~~ Beasley's Council,
When speaking of the first trial this threat
happened before the last trial at which
Murphy swore he made no such threat.

Mr. Williams & others prove that Beasley when
he was taken Confessed he had Killed
him in self defence that he kept stabbing
as long as Flint kept striking & said Flint
was a going to pull him off his horse &
One of these witnesses says Beasley
said that all this happened because he
refused to loan Flint 25 Cents at Williams
Gate.

I do Certify that I took notes on the trial
of Willis Beasley merely for the purpose of
arangeing the Facts properly But my
notes on this occasion being with a view
to make a speech in behalf of the prisoner
I only noticed the prominent Facts which
these two sheets Contain I doubtless left
some out Both favourable & unfavourable
but either without design. the first sheet
of Murphys testimony & Mrs Williams's. the
principal Witnesses as I thought I believe
to be Correct as to the most prominent Facts.
Given under my hand — Reuben Forbes

D15-7

Capt Davis will Examine these notes &
see if they are substantially Correct.

R. Forbes

See the paper marked A as to the Statement
of S Davers

1827

Capt. Saml Davis