Oct the 19 1801

to his Excelency James Garrard governor of this Common Wetth touching the tryal of Neagro Harry the property of Benjamin Bledsoe which now Lies in Jail and Condemned for Execution I was one of the Jury on his trial and from the testimony Advanced I Conceived him Guilty of a breech of the Law But not knowing the Law in that case and being at that time of opinion that the Court Would only pass punnishment of a Nother nature and not tuch his Life would Willingly his Life Should be Shared

William Smith

To his Excelency James Garrard Esqr

Sr I being one of the Jury being on a quainted with the Law Though Found negro harry guilty Still new not but it Lay In the brest of the Court to inflict what punishment they thought Proper on him and that his life may be pardond I Ernestly Request

Daniel Ticks

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James Garrard Esq. Governor of K

P. Capt. Jennings Frankfort

Lancaster October 19th 1801

Dear Sr

You will be informed by a petition which will be handed to you by the bearer of this letter of the sentence of death having been passed by a court of Oyer & Terminer held for Garrard county upon a negro man slave the property of Benjamin Bledsoe for the commission of the crime of Burglary: His offence did not consist in actual mischief done but in his intention to have done it; It was not his having entered by night the house of Mr Bledsoe at which the indignation of the virtuous part of the people were & ought to have been aroused. but his intention to have committed a rape upon the body of Mrs Bledsoe; That intention was evidenced only by a feeble attempt to confine her hands in his while she was

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a sleep, from which he immediately desisted & fled upon her waking & crying for assistance without using farther violence; As the criminality of his offence consisted in his intention to commit a rape, I am persuaded every man of humanity must & will think that the punishment he has already suffered (to wit) that of voluntary castration, sufficiently severe & most of all others adapted to the nature of the offence; It forbids the remotest fear of his ever attempting to commit the offence again. And neither justice or policy requires a punishment different in degree or kind from that which will answer the purpose of preventing a repetition of the crime.

Before his suffering, though I thought death a severe & dreadful punishment; rather than he should escape without punishment, I joined with a number of my countymen in a remonstrance to prevent his being pardoned. But since his

voluntary castigation which in my opinion is the clearest mark of deep contrition & true repentance. I feel a desire that mercy should be extended to them & I send these communications with my fellow county men that a favorable change has taken place in their sentiments.

Mr William Logan who in my absence appeared for me as attorney for the commonwealth has also subscribed his name to the petition for his pardon.

Your most Obt St

John Bayle

James Garard Esqr.

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His Excellency James Garrard

Gerrard County, Octr. 19th 1801

Dear Sir,

Having conducted the prosecution against the negroe man the property of Benjamin Bledsoe, I have been applied to, to sign a petition praying a pardon for said slave. I did not sign the petition, but at the same time declared my entire willingness in the obtainment of a pardon for the culprit. I think the charge was pretty clearly substantiated by the evidence introduced in the trial. It has since been confessed by the culprit, as I have been informed. Expecting that the petition will state the case pretty fully, I will barely suggest that, I have been informed, that those who were most warm in conducting & supporting the prosecution against said slave, are reconciled to the granting of a pardon, upon the promise of Ben. Bledsoe to send him from the Country; & in consequence of said fellow's having castrated himself — which circumstance combined with the fact of the crime's not having been actually perpetrated, will, I think induce many to wish for his

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pardon. You will excuse me, sir, for the manner in which this letter is written, because of my being at court.

With due Respect

I am, sir, Your

Hble Servt

William Logan

His excellency James Garrard.

Dear Sir.

Amidst the conflicts of openion, and Situated as I am in relation to the families who feal themselves concerned on the condemnation of the negro Harry the property of one Brother, while the family of the other has been complaining, has rendered my Situation pe-culiarly dellicate; and how to act the part consistant and according to the dictates of duty very difficult.

I had previous to his castration expressed that if he was castrated and Sent out of the State for my own part I Should be Satisfied: I am Still of the Same openion: and altho my Brother Joseph Bledsoe has not wrote to your excellency on the occation I am authorised to Say he has made no opposition to the petition in his favour Since his castration and has agreed to be Silent and Submit to your decision even if in his favour under assurance of his being Sent away if pardoned.

I have no doubt from my acquaintance with your excellencies administration that you will do that which You think right and I hope you will consider this as a case which merits your attention Pardon me if wrong when I Say I think the Suffering adequate to the crime and hope it will have a Sufficient in

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influence as a preventitive to the commission of
alike offence in this neighbourhood.

I am with peculiar consideration
and respect your excellencies most
ob.t Servt.

William M. Blasse.

Garrard county 19.th Oct 18 61.

I do Certify that at the Court for the assessment of Fines against Delinquent in the 42nd Regiment of Militia on the 6th day of December 1802 — Samuel Wilkinson was returned by Capt. Ross for Disobedience of Orders, in not attending Muster as a Sergeant after being Notified of his appointment the subject was fully discussed, in a full Court, & he was acquitted — the Circumstances which appeard in Course of the investigation, were as follows — viz Wilkinson had been appointed a Sergeant in Capt. Ropes Compy. who notified him of his appointment & required him to provide a Sword &c & attend the next muster, Wilkinson refused, alledging he was not bound to furnish himself with a sword that had a right to join one of the Independant Companies — he made application, & was admitted a Member of Capt. Postlethwaits Compy of Infantry and on the days for which he was returned by Capt. Ross & ever since has performed his duty in Postlethwaits Compy — The Commandant of the Battalion had issued Orders that no Person after being appointed a Sergeant should be at liberty to join a light Compy until he served one year in the Office of Sergeant — but some of the Infantry Compy told Wilkenson that

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that he had a right to join the Infantry Comp
& if he did duty in it, he could not be fined
for not attending in the other Compy.

The next day a Motion was made in the
Court to reconsider Wilkinsons Case, when
a smaller number of members were present, than when
he was acquitted, without giving him Notice
the Subject was taken up & he fined according
to Law for failing to attend the Muster in October
& November as Sergeant — I have been informed
& believe that Mr. Wilkinson had no notice of
his being fined, nor did he know it was necessary
to apply to the Court of Appeals until after the setting of that Court.

I acted as Judge advocate to the Court in
the absence of Mr Clay, & am confident the
foregoing is a correct Statement — Given
under my hand this 29th day of March 1809.

Thos Dodley

To his Excellency James Gerrard Governer of the Common Wealth of Kentucky

Your Petitioners humbly shew-

eth that a certain Stephen Marshal Spain was bound in a Recognizance ~~to appear at the fors of~~ ~~Five~~ One thousand ~~Hundred~~ Dollars to appear at the first Distrect Court that was to be held in Bards Town in the year 1799 but the said Stephen Marshal Spain failing to appear at said Court Forfeited his Recognizance, the Charge that was against said Spain, was a Supposition that he past Bank Notes that were Counterfeit — But the said Spain being a Very poor Man and by no means able to discharge the Recognizance and having a Family to support, and appearing now to be a Man of Industry and good Conduct, Induces us to Petion Your Excellency to discharge him from the payment of Said Recognizance and we in duty bound will ever Pray &c —

The 28th of October 1801 —

Elias Barber

Nathl. Owens

James Allen

Jonr Cowherd

John Chandler

Sam Hawke

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For the remis:n
of a Fine

attach

To his excellency the Governor of the commonwealth of Kentucky

Your petitioners beg leave to State, that at a court of oyer and terminer held in the county of Garrard some time past a negro man Slave named Harry the property of Wm. Benjamin Bledsoe Was tried and found guilty of Burglariously breaking and entering the house of Captain Joseph Bledsoe and attempting a rape upon Aggy Bledsoe his wife, and that Sentance of death was pronounced on Sd. Slave accordingly.

That after condemnation of Sd. Slave public openion was strongly and currently circulated that castration was the most natural and proper punishment due to Sd. crime that the Sd. Slave did after condemnation confess his guilty intention and earnestly Solicit castration and at length began and effected his own castration So far that a doctor and many others were called to examin Sd. prisoner in Gaol, that Humanity dictated ending the process So far completed or done; and that the Sd. negro is like to Survive, and that the owner is willing Sd. Slave (if a pardon can be obtained) Shall be banished or sent out of the State. That your petitioners are unwilling to do any thing that would operate as an injury to Society, or discredit to Captain Bledsoe or his lady whose character Stands fair and respectable; and as in this case no actual injury was done to her, Your petitioners think the punishment may in this particular case be accepted as an attonement for the attempt, and willing to save the State the expence that would attend the execution of Sd. Slave, Humbly petition your excellency to exercise that power vested in you by the constitution of Granting a Pardon for Sd. Slave. and your petitioners will ever pray.

Oct. 19th 1801.

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James Guthrie.

David L[illegible]

Elijah Bledsoe

I am satisfied a pardon
Stall Issue for Harry
the property of Benj Pelton
Garrard County

Pardon
Oct. 29