

At about half past 12 and held at the Court house of Rockingham County on the 8th day of February 1816. for the trial and examination of James Ayles (alias Buck) a free man of colour, who was committed to the Jail of this County, on Suspicion of felony and stands charged with feloniously breaking open the desk of Dennis Lanahan and stealing therefrom a Pocket book containing about One Hundred Dollars - Present

George Mustow, John Ewen, Jacob Nyser, Peckey Harrison & Joseph Craven -

The said Prisoner being led to the bar in Custody of the Jailor, and being arraigned and charged with the said felony pleas not guilty, and thereupon sworn Witnesses to wit Dennis Lanahan, Thomas Lanahan, John Clark, Timothy O'Leary, James Owen, Peter Tinto, John Leno, William McMahon Peter Barry, Martin Burscholder, & Jacob Burscholder were sworn and examined touching the said offence, and the said Prisoner being fully heard in his defence by his Counsel, The Court upon consideration whereof; are of the Opinion that he is Guilty, of the felony where with he stands charged, and for the same is triable in the Superior Court of Law to be holden for the said County, and doth order that he be remanded to the Jail of the said Superior, there to remain untill discharged by due Course of Law. - Attest Teste

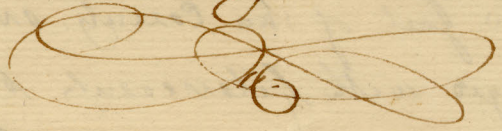
G. W. Williams Clerk

Rockingham County to wit

To the Sheriff of said County. Whereas James Ayles of this County was this day committed to the Jail of this County by my Warrant it appearing to me, that the felonious offence where with he stands charged ought to be examined into by the County Court; Therefore on behalf of the Commonwealth I require you that you summons at least Eight of the Justices of our said County, to meet at the Court house on the Eight day of February, and there and there to hold a Court for the examination of the facts with which

the said James Ayles stands charged and for such other purposes
concerning the premises as is by law required and directed, and that
you have then and there this Warrant. Given under my hand
the 31st day of January 1816—

Henry Melch



A Copy Teste

L. W. Williams B. C.



Count
Ayles & A Copy
Record of
County Court—

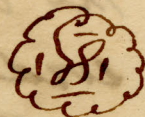
The Commonwealth of Virginia to the sheriff of
Rockingham County Greeting. We command you
that you cause to come before the Judge of the
Superior Court of Rockingham County, on the first day
of April Court Next, twelve good and lawfull freeholders
of your county, residing as near as may be to the
place where the felony was committed of which
James Ayles alias Buck, a Negro ~~slave~~ is accused
every one of whom is possessed of visible estate real and
personal of the value of \$300. at the least, to recognize
on their oaths or their oaths whether the aforesaid James
Ayles be guilty of the felony aforesaid or not, and
have them then the Wm. Wilkins, Larwood & Williams
Clerk of our said county at the Court house the
19. Februry 1816

L. W. Williams

bornth of memorandum upon the trial
^{vs} Ayler of this cause the prosecutor for
the Commonwealth proceeded to offer in
evidence to the jury various Bank
notes on various ^{banks} as are set out in
the second count in said indictment - upon
which the counsel for the prisoner called
upon the prosecutor for evidence of their
validity which he failed to give - upon which
the counsel for the prisoner moved the
court not to permit said bank notes
to be read to the jury unless evidence
was offered of their validity which ~~note~~ motion
was overruled by the Court & ^{the} notes suffered to go in evidence
to the jury on said second count without proof of their validity
to which opinion of the Court the prisoner begs leave to except

and prays that then his exceptions may be signed sealed
and ^{enrolled} ~~delivered~~ according to the act of Assembly in such cases
made & provided

A. Holmes



fourth

James Ayler alias Buck & And the said Deft James Ayler, alias Buck in his proper person comes & defends the four felony & larceny when &c. and says that he ought not to be charged with the larcenies mentioned in the first second & third counts in the indictment because he says he is a free man of color not subject to indictments for any felonious charge until a called court legally constituted for that purpose have examined into the grounds of such charge & have decided that he ought to be put upon his trial therefore before the superior court of law for the county where such felony was committed; and the said James Ayler alias Buck doth further say that previous to the finding of the indictment upon which he is now arraigned he had not been examined in the manner prescribed by law by the court of the county wherein the offences in the first second & third counts in said indictment are alleged to have been committed & this he is ready to verify by the record of the proceedings of the called court, which is here produced to the court whereon he prays that whether the said counts ought not to be quashed.

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Virginia
Rockingham County to wit

The Jurors for the Commonwealth of Virginia & for the County of Rockingham upon their oath present that James Ayles (alias Buck) a free man of colour of the Parish of Rockingham in the County aforesaid Labourer. On the 31st day of January in the year of our Lord 1816 with force and arms at the Parish aforesaid in the said County of Rockingham and within the Jurisdiction of this Court. One Hundred Dollars of the goods chattles and monies of a certain Dennis Lanchan then and there being found feloniously did steal take and carry away against the form of the act of the General Assembly in such case made and provided and against the Peace & Dignity of the Commonwealth of Virginia. And the Jurors aforesaid on their oath aforesaid do further present that the said James Ayles (alias Buck) a free man of colour of the Parish of Rockingham in the County aforesaid Labourer. On the 31st day of January in the year of our Lord 1816. with force and arms at the Parish aforesaid in the said County of Rockingham and within the Jurisdiction of this Court, the following Bank Notes, to wit.

1st One on the Bank of Kentucky for three Dollars N^o 78 by which the President Directors & Co. of the Bank of Kentucky promise to pay three Dollars on demand at their office of Discount and Deposit in Washington to Henry Lee President thereof or to the bearer and which said Bank Note is dated Frankford the 1st of July 1813 and signed Will S. Miller Cash^r and Rob^t. Alexander President.

2nd One on the State Bank of North Carolina for 3 Dollars N^o 1966 by which the President and Directors of the State Bank of North Carolina promise to pay on demand at the branch Bank at

Tarborough three Dollars to Edmund D. Macnair or bearer which
said last mentioned bank note is dated Raleigh 9th October 1813
and signed Wm H. Haywood Cash. Will Polk Pres. ^{3^d} One on the
Farmers Bank of Virginia No 7485 by which the President Directors
&c of the Farmers Bank of Virginia promise to pay to B. Calvin
or bearer on Demand five Dollars which said last mentioned Bank
note is dated Richmond the 4th Sept 1814 and signed Wm Neckervis
Cash. ^{4th} Ben. Fletcher Pres. One on the State Bank of North
Carolina by which the President and Directors of the State
Bank of North Carolina Promise to pay on Demand at their
principal Bank at Raleigh five Dollars to Wm Boylaw or
bearer which said last mentioned Bank note is dated Raleigh
5th Novr 1811 & signed Wm H. Haywood Cash. Will Polk Pres.
^{5th} One on the Bank of Winchester in Virginia No 317 which requires
the Cashier of the Bank of Winchester in Virginia to pay to
G. Orrick or order on Demand out of the joint funds of the
President Directors &c five Dollars which said last mentioned Bank
note is dated Winchester August 25th 1815 accepted & signed by
Lewis Hoff Cash. and signed by Edw. McGuire Pres. and which
said last mentioned Bank note is endorsed by the said Geo:
Orrick ^{6th} One on the Bank of Winchester in Virginia No 641
which requires the Cashier of the Bank of Winchester in Virginia
to pay G. Orrick or order on demand out of the joint funds
of the President Directors &c ten Dollars which said last men-
tioned Bank note is dated Winchester Sept 15th 1815 and is
accepted and signed by Lewis Hoff Cash. and signed by
Edw. McGuire Pres. and which said last mentioned bank
note is endorsed by said Geo: Orrick, ^{7th} One on the Union
Bank of Maryland No 622 by which the President and
Directors of the Union Bank of Maryland promise to pay
James Carey or bearer on Demand five Dollars which

Said last mentioned Bank note is dated Baltimore 2nd May
1812 and signed R Higginbotham Cash. Henry Payson Pres.
^{8th} One on the Mechanics Bank of Alexandria No 316 by which
the Mechanics Bank of Alexandria promise to pay S. Macon
or bearer on demand five Dollars and which said last mentioned
Bank note is dated Alexandria Oct 26th 1812 and signed Wm
Patton J. Cash. and Robert Young Pres. ^{9th} One on the Central
Bank of Georgetown & Washington No 828 by which the pres.
and Directors of the central bank of Georgetown and Washing-
ton promise to pay to J. A. Magruder or order out of their
joint funds according to their Articles of Association five Dollars
on Demand which said last mentioned ~~note~~ Bank note is
dated Georgetown D. Co Sept 15th 1815 and signed Thomas
F Gantt Cash. John Tayloe Pres. and which said last
mentioned Bank note is endorsed by said J. A. Magruder
^{10th} One on the Bank of Washington Pennsylvania No 163 by
which the Bank of Washington Pennsylvania promise to
pay J. Ross or Bearer on Demand ten Dollars which said
last mentioned bank note is dated Washington Pennsylvania
5th Oct 1814 signed J. Barrington Cash. Th. F. Baird
Pres. ^{11th} One on the Bank of Virginia No 3583 by which the
President Directors &c of the bank of Virginia promise to pay
to No. Gamble or bearer on demand five Dollars which said
last mentioned Bank note is dated ^{Richmond} the 15th of July 1814
signed W. Dandridge Cash. J. Brookenbrough Pres. ^{12th} One on
the Cumberland Bank of Allegany No 1698 by which the
President and Directors of the Cumberland Bank of Allegany
promise to pay Geo: Hebb or bearer on Demand ten Dollars
which said last mentioned Bank note is dated Cumberland
24th Sept 1813 signed M. Mallow Cash. Upton Bruce pres.

13th
One on the Bank of Winchester in Virginia N^o 600 by which
the Cashier of the Bank of Winchester in Virginia is required
to pay to Orrick or order on Demand out of the Joint
funds of the President Directors & Co five Dollars which
Said Last mentioned Bank Note is Dated Winchester Sept^r
15th 1815 is accepted and signed by Lewis Hoff Cash^r and
Signed Edw. McGuire Pres^t the said last mentioned Bank
Note is endorsed by said Geo: Orrick ^{14th} One on the Bank
of Alexandria N^o 278 by which the President Directors
& Co of the Bank of Alexandria promise to pay to Jas Cox
or bearer on demand five Dollars the said Last mentioned
Bank Note is Dated Alexandria 2nd January 1815 Signed JS
McKenna Cash^r Wm Herbert Pres^t ^{15th} One on the Farmers
Bank of Virginia N^o 9390 by which the President
Directors & Co of the Farmers Bank of Virginia promise
to pay B. Crompton or bearer on Demand five Dollars which
Said last mentioned Bank Note is Dated Richmond 2nd
Nov^r 1814 Signed Wm McKenna Cash^r Benj Walcher Pres^t
then & there being found feloniously did steal take and
Carry away against the form of the act of assembly
in such case made and provided and against the
Peace and Dignity of the Commonwealth of Virginia
And the Jurors aforesaid on their oath aforesaid do further
Present that the said James Ayles (Alias Buck) a free
man of Colour of the County and Parish of Rockingham
Labourer on the 31st day of January in the year of our
Lord 1816 with force and arms at the Parish aforesaid
in the said County of Rockingham and within the

Jurisdiction of this Court a promissory Note for the
payment of money the property of a certain Dennis
Lanehan and Executed by a certain Harman C. Veid
to the said Dennis Lanehan and which said promissory
Note for the Payment of money being unpaid is in the
words and figures following Viz- I promise to pay
Dennis Lanehan four Pounds Six Shillings for value
Received of him as witness my hand and Seal this 27th
Day of March 1806
Harmon C. Veid
Teste

which said promissory note for the payment of money
being then and there found the said James Ayles (Alias
Buck) a free man of Colour feloniously did steal take
and Carry away against the form of the act of the
General Assembly in such case made and provided and
against the peace and Dignity of the Commonwealth
and the Jurors Aforesaid on their oath aforesaid do further
Present the said James Ayles (Alias Buck) a free man
of Colour of the Parish of Rockingham in the County
aforesaid Labourer on the 31st Day of January in the
year of our Lord 1816 with force and arms at the parish
aforesaid in the said County of Rockingham within
the Jurisdiction of this Court one Red Leather
(Commonly called Morocco) Pocket Book of the value
of one Dollar the Goods and Chattles of a certain Dennis
Lanehan then and there being found feloniously did
steal take and Carry away against the form of the
act of the General Assembly in such cases made

and provided and against the Peace and Dignity
of the Commonwealth

Dennis Lanchan of the Town
of Harrisonburg in the County
of Rockingham Tavern Keeper
Prosecutor

Received of the Sheriff of the County of Rockingham
the sum of \$100.00

for the sum of \$100.00
paid to the Sheriff of the County of Rockingham
for the sum of \$100.00

Received of the Sheriff of the County of Rockingham
the sum of \$100.00
for the sum of \$100.00

Deems Larnahan
The Larnahan
Peter Harry &
Oliver Carter Esq
Sworn in Court
at Gambell Mo

Commonwealth
vs { Indictment
James Miles (alias Drunk)

1816. April at G.
Lay. Verdict Left with
Guilty

A True Bill

Edgar Allan Poe

See the story find the Criminal
provision Not guilty Buchanan and