

Counts

Shackelford & Indent.

for Murder

A true bill

Herring

We the jury find  
the Prisoner not guilty

Philip Weaver

So. Loranus.

So. Williamus

Richd. M. Shackelford

City Dentle

Mrs Williamus

May Benton &

Alex Mallory. sworn  
in court

Test St. Gambell

Gambell

17



Rockingham County Superior Court July Term 1841

John Goodale Lessee of Solomon  
Pringle Henry Pringle - - Plaintiff  
against

David Good & Abraham Perry ... Defendant &c

Whereas on the Motion of the Plaintiff it is  
ordered that the surveyor of the said County do go upon  
the land in controversy on the — day of — next  
if fair if not the next fair day and survey and lay  
out the same as either party shall require and return  
six fair plats and reports thereof to the Court and  
that any of the Justices of the said County do there  
and there meet him and examine and take the  
depositions of such witnesses as shall be produced  
by any of the parties which are to be returned  
with the said plats  
and reports and the Sheriff of the said County  
is to attend the said survey and remove force  
if any should be offered

Test

J. G. Gambell



The Commonwealth of Virginia to the Sheriff of Rockingham  
County Greeting You are hereby commanded that you cause  
to appear before the Judge of the Superior Court of Law to be  
holden for the said County on the first day of the Next Term  
twelve good and lawful men being freeholders of your County  
residing as near as may be to the place where the Murder  
was committed of which Mary Shechleford is accused each  
of whom is possessed of a visible estate both Real & personal  
to the Value of one Hundred pounds at least who are in  
no wise of kin to the said Mary Shechleford to recognize  
on their oaths whether the aforesaid Mary Shechleford be  
Guilty of the Murder aforesaid or not and this they shall  
in no wise omit under the penalty of £100 each and  
that you have then there the names of the Jurors aforesaid  
and this Writ Witness Henry Gambill clerk of  
our court of our said County of Rockingham at the Court  
house thereof the 11<sup>th</sup> day of September 1817 and in the  
42<sup>nd</sup> year of the Commonwealth

H. Gambill



Executed on the following freeholders (Locals)  
 Jacob Beckholder George Cline Christian  
 Beckholder George Gilmore Daniel Wine  
 George Argabright Jacob Pirtney John  
 Dokey Jacob Nicely John Smith Senr.  
 James Harrison and John Shaper

Wm. Houston Whiff  
 for George Houston All  
 W

Com the  
 4  
 Shackelford } Wm. Lucas

54  
 16  
 52  
 122  
 36.  
 104  
 12



Court & May Thacker. Doctor Joseph Leaven being  
sworn, said that he saw the Prisoner about 2 or 3 Weeks  
previous to the charge that appears in <sup>her</sup> situation afterwards, that  
at the time of seeing her, it was at her own house, that she  
then exhibited every appearance of all or none in a state of  
Pregnancy, and that in a conversation with the prisoner at  
the same time, he the Witness inferred the prisoner that he  
thought she was with child, but that the <sup>Prisoner</sup> persisted  
in <sup>declaring</sup> that she was not in that situation, and attributed her appearance  
to ~~some~~ other cause, but that he the Witness had no doubt  
but that she was with child. That on Sunday the 3<sup>rd</sup> instant  
was the next time he saw the <sup>Prisoner</sup> at her own house  
and from appearance he had no doubt but that she had  
had a birth, but that the ~~Witness~~ Prisoner declared she  
had not, ~~but~~ that on the Monday evening follow-  
ing he was again <sup>said</sup> for by the Prisoner, that upon his  
going and seeing the Prisoner, and from circumstances which  
was visible, he was fully of the opinion that she had had  
a birth, and so told the prisoner, but that she the prisoner  
positively declared, and (call<sup>d</sup> God to Witness) that she had  
not been delivered of a child. The Witness being asked  
if it was possible for a female to exhibit such appearance  
without a birth of some kind, answered that he thought not  
but that he was of the opinion that a Woman having <sup>what</sup>  
a call<sup>d</sup> false conception ~~might~~ exhibit such appearance,  
being asked if the Prisoner was sitting up when he visited her on  
Sunday, as above stated, answered that she was, but that she shortly  
after lay down, and complained of sickness, and attributed it to  
the effect of her feelings brought on by the reports that was  
in circulation about her having had a child. The Witness  
also stated that the Prisoner was on her feet at the time he last  
mentioned, and walked a few steps in the house. The Witness  
being asked if it was not common for a child to have a passage  
altho it was born ~~and~~ dead answered that he thought not. —  
being asked ~~she answered that~~ the Witness said that he was acquainted with the



Prisoner, that she had a high opinion of her character <sup>as a</sup> ~~modest~~ <sup>woman</sup>, and ~~affectionate~~ <sup>affectionate</sup> mother.

Mary Beasly Swon said, that she was call<sup>d</sup> upon on Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> Instant to examine the Prisoner's cloths, that upon examination of some of her cloths, she discovered that from what appeared on the cloths that the Child must have been alive, for that there was every appearance, ~~of the~~ that it had ~~been~~ <sup>had</sup> a passage for that which appears on the cloths, had every appearance of that which passes from children shortly after they are born, - the witness also stated there was other appearances on the cloths, such as is usual for Women to have on such occasions, - such as the cloths being stained &c. she further stated that she ~~can~~ <sup>saw</sup> the Child that was taken out of the Well on Tuesday the 5<sup>th</sup> Instant, that it was a large Child, and appeared to have come to its full time, ~~she~~ <sup>the witness</sup> also stated that she thought she saw a string around the said Child's Neck, - that the Child was very white when it was first taken out of the Well, but upon it being exposed to the ~~for~~ <sup>the</sup> air it turned black, upon being asked if the after birth was separated from the Child and that it was, for that she did not see the after birth, - on being asked if that separation appeared to have been taken place by cutting, or having been torn, answered that she could not tell, but supposed that it was cut as there was a pair of scissors in the bag in which the Child was in. the witness also stated that she told the prisoner, that she must have had ~~the~~ <sup>a</sup> Child, but she positively denied it, calling God to witness that she had not.

Peachy Harrison Swon said, upon being asked <sup>if it was not common</sup> ~~if~~ <sup>if</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> Child that was born to have a passage, answered it was not, but that if it some time happens that ~~a child~~ <sup>children</sup> had a passage shortly after they were born, but that it was most common for that operation of Nature was suspended for some days. &c



Alex Mallow says that the Prisoner ~~sent~~ for her on Sunday the third instant, that upon her going ~~there~~ to her house she found several persons there, and after they all went away, the Prisoner ~~said~~ <sup>told</sup> the Witness, that she had a few cloths, which she wanted her to destroy for that she expected her house would be searched the next day, - the Witness asked her how she was to destroy the cloths, she answered she might either burn them, or throw them away in the woods, the Witness refused to do either, upon which the Prisoner asked the Witness if she would wash them for her, which she agreed to do, and upon her taking them home to wash them, she was ~~advised~~ not to do it, and that upon the Monday Morning following she ~~returned them~~ <sup>told the Prisoner</sup> brought the cloths to Mr. Dinkles, and then informed the Prisoner that she had brought the cloths back, for that she did not like to wash them, upon which the Prisoner asked the Witness to bring the things to her, and the Witness having refused, the Prisoner asked the Witness if she ~~had any~~ <sup>had</sup> any cloths had the appearance of a woman having had a child, the Witness answered that one of the things a green Petticote had that appearance, and that she was called upon she did no what she could say, The Prisoner declared that she had not had a child - upon being asked, the Witness stated that she in some of the cloths the same appearance as that spoken of by Mr. Reader -



Ed. Williamson being sworn saith that on Monday  
the 4<sup>th</sup> instant he appeared in answer upon the child  
spoken of, that it was confined in a too tenon bag, and  
that he the witness cut the bag from off the child, that  
there was a small stone in the bag with the child  
and that there was nothing else in the bag, but that  
he had left the cress with the bag when he cut it  
off, & the witness further states that it was a large child,  
and appeared to this affiant to be black child, - and that  
it appeared to get much darker after it was exposed to  
the air. - the affiant further states that he had frequently seen  
the Prisoner, before the day on which the child was found, and  
that she had the appearance of a woman that was pregnant,  
and had expressed that opinion two months before - that  
he had examined the child but found no marks of violence  
on it, except that the skin was off in several places -

Mrs. Clarke being sworn saith, that on the Friday next before the  
child was found, the prisoner was at the house of this deponent,  
and eat her supper there, and was complaining of not being  
well, and from her appearance she this deponent thought  
she was with child, and told the prisoner that was her  
opinion, upon which the Prisoner declared that she was  
not, - the affiant also states that she told the prisoner that  
if she was with child, that she should send for the midwives,  
and then the people would be satisfied - the witness  
also states that she saw the child when it was taken



from the well, and that the child appears to a large one,  
and had come to its full time. - The witness also stated that  
on the Saturday Morning before the child was found in the  
well, the Prisoner sent for her, she found her in bed, - the  
prisoner ~~called~~ <sup>told</sup> this affiant that she was sick, and wished her  
to bring her some Stead Leguer, which this affiant did, -  
after the Prisoner was ~~convinced~~ <sup>convinced</sup> to fact she ~~that~~ <sup>the Prisoner</sup> ~~admitted~~  
~~that on the evening the child was found.~~ <sup>she also</sup> ~~admitted~~  
told to the witness that it was her child, and that she had  
had it, before she sent for her on Saturday, and it was at that  
time when her bed in a little Mail cart. - The witness also  
stated that when she seen the prisoner before she was committed  
to Jail, and that she appeared not so big as before. - The  
witness also stated that the prisoner, at the time aforesaid she  
told this affiant that the child was Dead born. - she also said  
that she was acquainted with the Prisoner, and that she appeared  
to be a kind and affectionate Mother.

Mrs Burton said that she had frequently seen the Prisoner  
before the child was found, and that she ~~always~~ <sup>always</sup> had the  
appearance of a Woman with child, but always denied it  
and called God to witness that she was not so, and that  
on the Tuesday after the child was found she was at  
the house of the Prisoner, and asked her if she now called  
God to witness that she was not with child, and that  
she was as clear as (she the witness), to whom the Prisoner  
replied: Oh, that she had not put away her child, and that she  
had not done it on her own account, but for fear of her  
Mother, but that it was born dead.

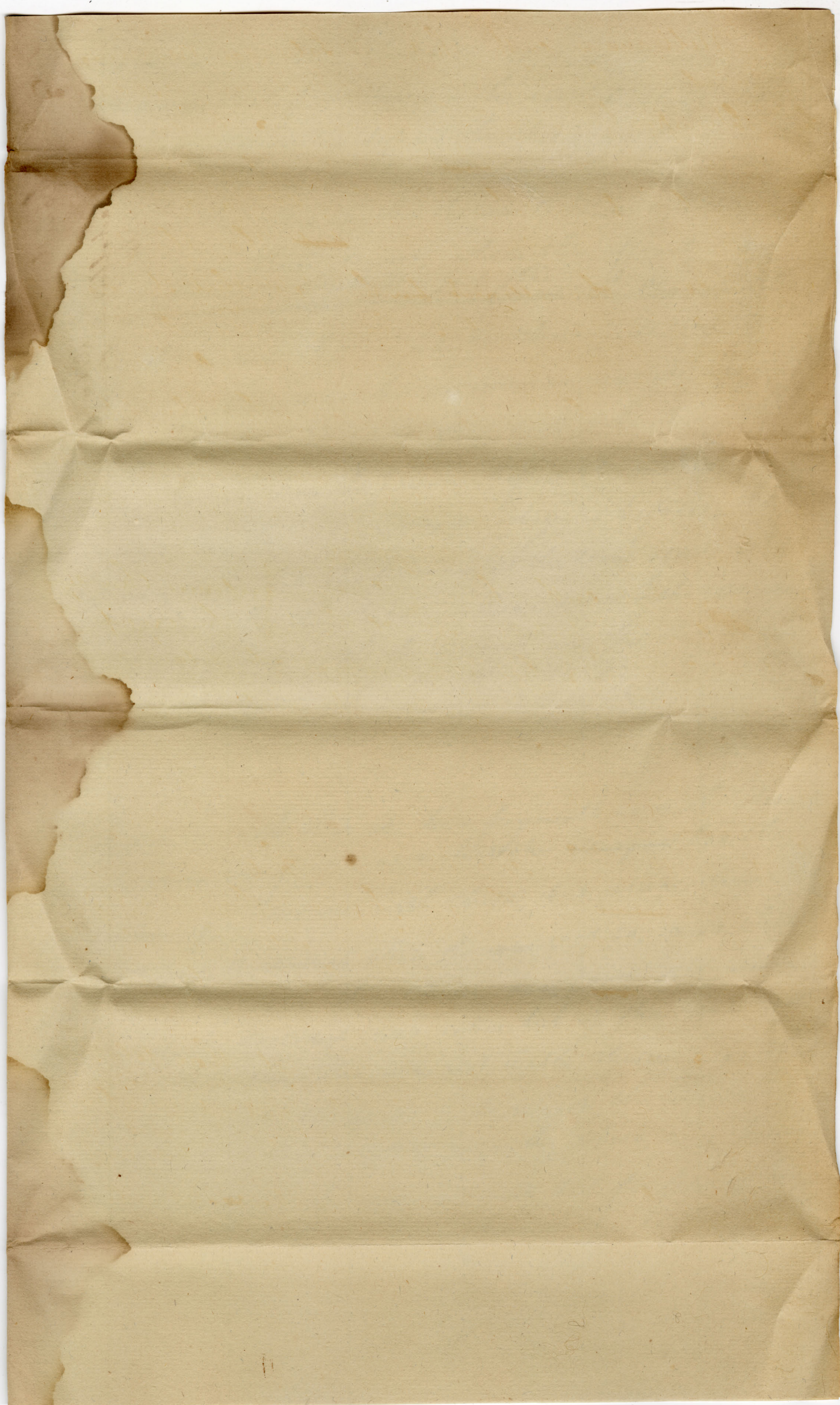


Mr. Mellianus saith, that on Saturday Morning, she was informed that the Prisoner was sent and called to see her, that upon her going <sup>in</sup> the prison, to the witness good Morning, and observed ~~that~~ in a very pleasant, and good humor, that she now had her fine son, and she hoped she was in fair way to get well, ~~but~~ that the Prisoner was in bed - this affiant further <sup>stated</sup> that she did not believe that the prisoner had had a child, from the pleasant manner in which she made the observation above <sup>stated</sup>. - The witness also <sup>stated</sup> that she believed the child found in the Well was white, -

Mr. May Kyle saith, that the Prisoner informed this deponent that she had not prepared any cloths for the expected birth of her child, and that conversation took place a short time before the prisoner was taken to Jail, -

Richard M. Shackelford being sworn, that on his ~~father~~ Mother gave him something in a bag and told him, to put it in Mr. Lites Well, that when he got there a ~~man~~ man was at the well, he returned she told him to put it in Mr. Duff's Well, but that was close and he could not get it in, she then told him to take it to Mr. Dinkles when he put it, she further saith that when he returned a second time, his Mother told him, he must put away or she would be hanged.







Count  
Shackelford & Depa



The Commonwealth of Virginia, to the Sheriff of Rockingham County,

GREETING :

YOU are hereby commanded to summon

*Polly Kyle & Harriet  
Effinger Pence*

to appear

before the Justices of our Court of Rockingham County, at the Court-House, on the

*this*

day

~~Commanded~~ to testify and the

truth to say in behalf of *the Commonwealth*

in a certain matter of controversy in

our said Court depending and undetermined, between *said Commonwealth*

*and Polly Shuckleford Dyendant*

And this *They* shall in no wise omit under the penalty of £100.

And have then there this writ. Witness *Henry Gambill* Clerk of our said Court

at the Court-House the

*15<sup>th</sup>* day of *August*

*1817*

and in the

*42<sup>nd</sup>*

year of the Commonwealth.

*H. J. Gambill*



Com<sup>te</sup>  
Shachford  
Lpa

The Commonwealth of Virginia, to the Sheriff of Rockingham County  
GREETING:  
YOU are hereby commanded to summon

before the Justices of our Court of Rockingham County at the Court-House on the  
day of \_\_\_\_\_  
to appear in a certain matter of controversy in

our said Court depending and undetermined, between  
And this  
shall in no wise omit under the penalty of \$100.

And have then there the writ. Witness my hand and the Seal of our said Court  
at the Court-House the  
day of \_\_\_\_\_  
year of the Commonwealth



Rachigberr County (to wit):

To the Sheriff of said County

Whereas this Day an Inquisition was taken  
and found by a Jury of Inquest before me  
John Raonty one of the ~~Common~~ with the  
Coroners for said County, which Inquisition  
finds and sets forth that Mary Shackelford  
of the town of Harpersburg in the said  
County, Did feloniously Kill and Murder  
her Infant <sup>Bastard</sup> Child - and I thereupon this  
Day committed her to the Jail of said County  
- and it appearing to me that the felonious  
offence charged against her in said Inqui-  
sition should be examined into by the  
County Court, Therefore on behalf of the  
Commonwealth, I require you that you  
summon at least eight Justices of the Peace  
of said County to meet at the court house  
on Friday the 15th Day of the Present  
month and then and there to hold a Court for  
the examination of the fact with which the  
said Mary Shackelford stands charged in sd  
Inquisition, and for such other purposes concerning  
the premises as so by law required and Directed  
and that you have them then this warrant  
shown under my hand this 6th of August 1817 John Raonty Coroner



Counts

Shackelford & Paps

in Call? Court

held 15 August  
1817.



Rackingham County to wit

To the Keeper of the Jail in said County  
I John Throntz Coroner for the County of Rack-  
ingham send you herewith the body of Mary.

Shackelford of said County for safe keeping  
she being found and charged by a Jury of Inquest  
before me as to their Inquisition of having  
Murdered her Bastard Child, and you the  
said Jailor are hereby Comanded to  
Receive the said Mary Shackelford into  
Jail and your Custody and her safely keep  
until she shall be there discharged  
by due course of Law

Given under my hand and seal this 6<sup>th</sup> of August 1844

John Throntz Coroner



*[Faint, mirrored handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. The text is illegible due to fading and the condition of the paper.]*



Virginia

Rockingham County to wit

The jurors for the Commonwealth of Virginia and for the body of the County of Rockingham upon their oath present that Mary Shackelford Seamstress, late of the Parish of Rockingham in the said County of Rockingham, on the first day of August, in the year of our Lord Eight hundred and Seventeen, being big with a child, on the same day and year last above mentioned, at the parish aforesaid in the County of Rockingham aforesaid, by the providence of God, was delivered of the said child alive, of the body of his the said Mary Shackelford, alone and in secret; which said child so being born alive, by the laws of the said Commonwealth, was a bastard, and that the said Mary Shackelford Seamstress, not having the fear of God before her eyes, but being moved and seduced by the instigation of the Devil, after wards to wit <sup>on the</sup> first day of August in the year of our Lord Eight hundred and Seventeen as soon as the said child was born with force and arms at the parish aforesaid in the County of Rockingham aforesaid and within the jurisdiction of this Court in and upon the said child in the peace of God and of the said Commonwealth on the same day and year last above mentioned and at the parish aforesaid in the County aforesaid and within the jurisdiction of this Court being feloniously wilfully and of her malice aforethought did strike an assault; and above said at the County aforesaid and within the jurisdiction of this Court feloniously wilfully and of the malice aforethought of his the said Mary Shackelford Seamstress did choke and strangle, of which said choking and strangling the said child on the same day and year last aforesaid in the County aforesaid ~~and~~ within the jurisdiction of this Court instantly died. And that the said Mary Shackelford then and there did endeavour privately to conceal the death of said child by procuring the said child to be secretly thrown into a well, so that it might not come to light, whether it was born alive or not but be concealed: and so the jurors aforesaid upon their oath aforesaid do say that the said Mary Shackelford Seamstress, the said bastard child on the day and year last above mentioned at the parish aforesaid in the County aforesaid and within the jurisdiction of this Court feloniously wilfully and of the malice aforethought of her the said Mary Shackelford Seamstress did kill and murder against the form of the said act of the General Assembly in such case made and provided, and against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth of Virginia

And the jurors aforesaid for the body of the County aforesaid do further upon their oath present that the said Mary Shackelford Seamstress late of the parish of Rockingham in the said County of Rockingham on the first day of August 1817 being big with a child on the same day and year last mentioned at the parish aforesaid in the County of Rockingham aforesaid by the providence of God was delivered of the said male child alive of the body of his the said Mary Shackelford alone and in secret which said child so being born alive by the laws of the Commonwealth was a bastard and that the said Mary Shackelford Seamstress not having the fear of God before her eyes, but being moved and seduced by the instigation of the Devil after wards to wit on the first day of August in the year of our Lord 1817 as soon as the said child was born with force and arms at the parish aforesaid in the County of Rockingham aforesaid and within the jurisdiction of this Court in and upon the said child in the peace of God and of the said Commonwealth on the same day and year last above mentioned and at the parish aforesaid in the County aforesaid and within the jurisdiction of this Court being



feloniously wilfully and of her malice aforethought did make an assault and then she the Mary Shackelford the ~~female~~ male child on the same day and year last aforesaid and at the County aforesaid and within the jurisdiction of this Court feloniously wilfully and of the malice aforethought of her the Mary Shackelford ~~seemingly~~ did beat and strike to wit <sup>on the head</sup> with the right hand of her the Mary Shackelford of which striking and striking the male child on the day and year last aforesaid in the County aforesaid and within the jurisdiction of this Court instantly died and so the jurors aforesaid upon their oath aforesaid do say that the Mary Shackelford ~~seemingly~~ the male bastard child on the day and year last above mentioned in the Parish aforesaid in the County aforesaid and within the jurisdiction of this Court feloniously wilfully and of the malice aforethought of her the Mary Shackelford did kill and murder against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth of Virginia

And the jurors aforesaid for the body of the County aforesaid do further on their oath present that the Mary Shackelford ~~seemingly~~ late of the Parish of Rockingham in the County of Rockingham on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of August in the year of our Lord 1817 being big with a female child on the same day and year last above mentioned in the Parish aforesaid in the County of Rockingham aforesaid and within the jurisdiction of this Court by the providence of God was delivered of the female child alive of the body of her the Mary Shackelford alone and in secret which female child so being born alive by the laws of the Commonwealth was a bastard and that the Mary Shackelford not having the fear of God before her eyes, but being moved and seduced by the instigation of the Devil afterwards to wit on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of August in the year of our Lord 1817 as soon as the female child was born with force and arms at the Parish aforesaid in the County of Rockingham aforesaid and within the jurisdiction of this Court in & upon the female child in the peace of God and of the Commonwealth on the same day and year last above mentioned and at the Parish above mentioned in the County aforesaid and within the jurisdiction of this Court being feloniously wilfully and of her malice aforethought did make an assault and that she the Mary Shackelford ~~seemingly~~ the female child on the same day and year aforesaid and at the County aforesaid and within the jurisdiction of this Court feloniously wilfully and of the malice aforethought of her the Mary Shackelford did strike and beat on the head to wit with the right hand of her the Mary Shackelford of which striking and beating the female child on the day and year last aforesaid in the County aforesaid and within the jurisdiction of this Court instantly died and so the jurors aforesaid upon their oath aforesaid do say that the Mary Shackelford ~~seemingly~~ the female bastard child on the day and year last above mentioned at the Parish aforesaid in the County aforesaid and within the jurisdiction of this Court feloniously wilfully and of the malice aforethought of her the Mary Shackelford did kill and murder against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth of Virginia

And the jurors aforesaid for the body of the County aforesaid do further on their oath present that the Mary Shackelford ~~seemingly~~ late of the Parish of Rockingham in the County of Rockingham on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of August in the year of our Lord 1817 at the County aforesaid being big with a male ~~bastard~~ child on the same day and year last



above mentioned at the Parish of Rockingham in the County of Rockingham  
aforesaid and within the jurisdiction of this Court by the providence of God was  
delivered of the <sup>male</sup> child alive of the body of her the <sup>s</sup> Mary Shackelford seamstress  
alone and in secret, which <sup>s</sup> male child so being born alive by the laws of  
the <sup>s</sup> Commonwealth was a bastard and that the <sup>s</sup> Mary Shackelford not hav-  
ing the face of God before her eyes but being moved and seduced by the instiga-  
tion of the Devil afterwards to wit on the <sup>s</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> day of August in the year of  
our Lord 1817 as soon as the <sup>s</sup> male child was born with force and arms at  
the Parish aforesaid in the County of Rockingham aforesaid and within the  
jurisdiction of this Court in and upon the <sup>s</sup> male child in the presence  
of God and the <sup>s</sup> Commonwealth on the same day and year <sup>last</sup> above mentioned  
and at the Parish aforesaid and in the <sup>s</sup> County of Rockingham and within  
the jurisdiction of this Court being feloniously wilfully and of the malice  
14<sup>th</sup> Count aforethought of her the <sup>s</sup> Mary Shackelford did on her own account and  
that she the <sup>s</sup> Mary Shackelford seamstress the <sup>s</sup> male child on the same  
day and year aforesaid at the Parish aforesaid in the County aforesaid and within  
the jurisdiction of this Court feloniously wilfully and of the malice aforethought  
of her the <sup>s</sup> Mary Shackelford did choke and strangle, of which <sup>s</sup> choking and  
and strangling the <sup>s</sup> male child on the day and year aforesaid at the Parish aforesaid  
in the <sup>s</sup> County of Rockingham and within the jurisdiction of this Court  
instantly died: and so the jurors aforesaid upon their oath aforesaid do say the <sup>s</sup> Mary Shack-  
elford seamstress the <sup>s</sup> male bastard child on the day and year last above  
mentioned in the Parish aforesaid in the County aforesaid and within the  
jurisdiction of this Court feloniously wilfully and of the malice afore-  
thought of her the <sup>s</sup> Mary Shackelford did kill and murder against the peace  
and dignity of the Commonwealth of Virginia  
And the jurors aforesaid for the body of the County aforesaid do further on their oath present  
that the <sup>s</sup> Mary Shackelford seamstress late of the Parish of Rockingham in the  
<sup>s</sup> County of Rockingham on the <sup>s</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> day of August in the year of our Lord 1817  
at the County aforesaid being big with a female child on the same day and year last  
above mentioned at the Parish of Rockingham in the County of Rockingham aforesaid  
and within the jurisdiction of this Court by the providence of God was delivered of  
the <sup>s</sup> female child alive of the body of her the <sup>s</sup> Mary Shackelford seamstress alone  
and in secret which <sup>s</sup> female child so being born alive by the laws of the said  
Commonwealth was a bastard: and that the <sup>s</sup> Mary Shackelford not having the  
face of God before her eyes, but being moved and seduced by the instigation of  
the devil afterwards to wit on the <sup>s</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> day of August in the year of our Lord  
5<sup>th</sup> Count 1817 as soon as the <sup>s</sup> female child was born with force and arms at the Parish of  
Rockingham in the County aforesaid and within the jurisdiction of this Court  
in & upon the <sup>s</sup> female child in the presence of God and the <sup>s</sup> Commonwealth  
the same day and year last above mentioned and at the Parish aforesaid and  
in the <sup>s</sup> County of Rockingham and within the jurisdiction of this Court being  
feloniously wilfully and of the malice aforethought of her the <sup>s</sup> Mary Shackelford seam-  
stress did choke and strangle, of which <sup>s</sup> choking and strangling the <sup>s</sup> female child  
on the day and year above mentioned at the Parish of Rockingham in the <sup>s</sup> County  
of Rockingham and within the jurisdiction of this Court instantly died: and  
so the jurors aforesaid upon their oath aforesaid do say the <sup>s</sup> Mary Shackelford seamstress  
the <sup>s</sup> female ~~bastard~~ bastard child on the day and year last above mentioned in the Parish



aforesaid at the County of Rockingham aforesaid and within the jurisdiction of this Court  
 feloniously wilfully and with the malice aforethought of her the <sup>s</sup> Mary Shackelford  
 did kill and murder against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth of Virginia  
 And the Jurors aforesaid for the body of the County aforesaid on their oath do further  
 present that the <sup>s</sup> Mary Shackelford seemeth on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of August in the year  
 of our Lord 1817 being big with a child on the same day and year last above mentioned  
 at the Parish aforesaid in the County of Rockingham aforesaid by the providence of God was  
 delivered of the <sup>s</sup> child alive of the body of her the <sup>s</sup> Mary Shackelford alone and in secret  
 which <sup>s</sup> child so being born alive by the laws of the <sup>s</sup> Commonwealth was a  
 bastard and that the <sup>s</sup> Mary Shackelford not having the fear of God before her eyes but  
 being moved and seduced by the instigation of the Devil afterwards to wit on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of  
 August in the year of our Lord 1817 at the Parish aforesaid in the County of Rockingham aforesaid  
 and within the jurisdiction of this Court as soon as the <sup>s</sup> child was born with force and  
 arms at the Parish aforesaid in the County of Rockingham aforesaid and within the  
 jurisdiction of this Court in & upon the <sup>s</sup> child in the peace of God and of the <sup>s</sup> Commonwealth  
 on the same day and year last above mentioned and at the Parish aforesaid in the County  
 aforesaid being feloniously wilfully and of her malice aforethought did make an assault  
 and that she the <sup>s</sup> Mary Shackelford the <sup>s</sup> child on the <sup>s</sup> last mentioned day and year  
 and at the Parish & County aforesaid and within the jurisdiction of this Court feloniously  
 wilfully and of the malice aforethought of her the <sup>s</sup> Mary Shackelford did choke and  
 strangle, of which <sup>s</sup> choking and strangling the <sup>s</sup> child on the same day and year last  
 above mentioned at the Parish aforesaid in the County of Rockingham and within the  
 jurisdiction of this Court instantly died: And so the Jurors aforesaid upon their oath aforesaid do say  
 that the <sup>s</sup> Mary Shackelford seemeth the <sup>s</sup> male bastard child on this day and year last above  
 mentioned in the Parish aforesaid at the County of Rockingham and within the jurisdiction of  
 this Court feloniously wilfully and with the malice aforethought of her the <sup>s</sup> Mary Shackelford  
 did kill and murder against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth of Virginia.  
 And the Jurors aforesaid for the body of the County aforesaid upon their oath aforesaid do further present that the <sup>s</sup> Mary Sha-  
 ckelford seemeth on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of August in the year of our Lord 1817 being big with a child on the same day and  
 year last above mentioned at the Parish aforesaid in the County of Rockingham by the providence of God was de-  
 livered of the <sup>s</sup> child alive of the body of her the <sup>s</sup> Mary Shackelford alone and in secret, which <sup>s</sup> child so  
 being born alive by the laws of the <sup>s</sup> Commonwealth was a bastard and that the <sup>s</sup> Mary Shackelford  
 not having the fear of God before her eyes, but being moved and seduced by the instigation  
 of the Devil afterwards to wit on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of August in the year of our Lord 1817 at the  
 Parish aforesaid in the County of Rockingham and within the jurisdiction of this Court as  
 soon as the <sup>s</sup> child was born with force and arms at the Parish aforesaid in the County of  
 Rockingham and within the jurisdiction of this Court in and upon the <sup>s</sup> child in the peace  
 of God and of the <sup>s</sup> Commonwealth be on the <sup>s</sup> last mentioned day and year and at the Pa-  
 rish aforesaid in the County of Rockingham and within the jurisdiction of this Court in &  
 upon the <sup>s</sup> child on the <sup>s</sup> last mentioned day and year and at the Parish and County aforesaid and  
 within the jurisdiction of this Court feloniously wilfully and of the malice aforethought of her the <sup>s</sup> Mary  
 Shackelford did strike and beat on the head to wit with the right hand of her the <sup>s</sup> Mary  
 which <sup>s</sup> striking and beating the <sup>s</sup> child on the <sup>s</sup> last mentioned day and year in the Parish and  
 County aforesaid and within the jurisdiction of this Court instantly died: And so the Jurors aforesaid  
 upon their oath aforesaid do say that the <sup>s</sup> Mary Shackelford seemeth, the <sup>s</sup> bastard child on  
 the day and year last above mentioned in the Parish aforesaid in the County of Rocking-  
 ham and within the jurisdiction of this Court feloniously wilfully and with the malice  
 aforethought of her the <sup>s</sup> Mary Shackelford did kill and murder against the peace and  
 dignity of the Commonwealth of Virginia