

Your charge is to inquire whether the accused is guilty of the felony as charged in the indictment or not guilty.

If you find him guilty of murder, as charged in the indictment, and that the same was committed with malice aforethought and was wilful, deliberate and premeditated, then you shall find him guilty of murder in the first degree and ascertain his punishment at death, or, in your discretion, by confinement in the penitentiary for life, or for any term not less than twenty years.

If you find him guilty of murder, as charged in the indictment, and the same was committed with malice aforethought, but was not wilful, deliberate and premeditated, then you shall find him guilty of murder in the second degree, and ascertain his punishment by confinement in the penitentiary for not less than five nor more than twenty years.

If you find him not guilty of murder in the first degree or of murder in the second degree, but that he killed Robert Davis without malice aforethought, actual or implied, upon a sudden heat, on reasonable provocation, or in mutual combat, you will find him guilty of voluntary manslaughter, and ascertain his punishment by confinement in the penitentiary for not less than one nor more than five years.

If you find him not guilty of murder in the first degree or of murder in the second degree, or of voluntary manslaughter *but guilty of involuntary manslaughter as charged in the indictment* you will say so and ascertain his punishment by confinement in the penitentiary for not less than one nor more than five years, or in your discretion, assess a fine against him of not exceeding \$1,000.00, or by confinement in jail for not exceeding one year, or both.

If you find him not guilty, you will say so and no more.

Your charge is to inquire whether the accused is

guilty of the felony as charged in the indictment or not guilty.

If you find him guilty of murder, as charged in the

indictment, and that the same was committed with malice aforethought
and was willful, deliberate and premeditated, then you shall find

him guilty of murder in the first degree and ascertain his punish-
ment at death, or, in your discretion, by confinement in the peni-
tentiary for life, or for any term not less than twenty years.

If you find him guilty of murder, as charged in the

indictment, and the same was committed with malice aforethought,
but was not willful, deliberate and premeditated, then you shall

find him guilty of murder in the second degree, and ascertain
his punishment by confinement in the penitentiary for not less than
five nor more than twenty years.

If you find him not guilty of murder in the first

degree or of murder in the second degree, but that he killed Robert
Levis without malice aforethought, actual or implied, upon a sudden
heat, on reasonable provocation, or in mutual combat, you will find
him guilty of voluntary manslaughter, and ascertain his punishment
by confinement in the penitentiary for not less than one nor more
than five years.

If you find him not guilty of murder in the first

degree or of murder in the second degree, or of voluntary manslaughter
you will say so and ascertain his punishment by confinement in

the penitentiary for not less than one nor more than five years,

or in your discretion, assess a fine against him of not exceeding

\$1,000.00, or by confinement in jail for not exceeding one year,

or both.

If you find him not guilty, you will say so and no

more.

penitentiary

*Use the first four the accused, Charles Rufus
I have a right of my name in the first paper
I had for his grand jury at confinement
in the penitentiary for life -
Clarence Jackson
Thomas*

STATE OF VIRGINIA
COUNTY OF ROCKINGHAM, to-wit:

The grand jurors of the State of Virginia, in and for the body of the County of Rockingham, upon their oaths do present, that Charles Rufus Lam on the 9th day of April, 1931, in the said County of Rockingham, feloniously did kill and murder one Robert Davis against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

This indictment is found upon the testimony of C. R. Fawley, Lucy Davis, and Herman Davis, witnesses sworn in court and sent before the grand jury to give evidence.

Robert Davis

Lucy Davis

*Robert Davis
Lucy Davis
C R Fawley
Herman Davis
Flossie Davis
Wilmer Davis*

We the jury find the accused, Charles Rufus Lam guilty of murder in the first degree and for his punishment at confinement in the penitentiary for life -

Clarence Jackson Foreman.

STATE OF VIRGINIA

COUNTY OF ROCKINGHAM, to-wit:

HOMICIDE

COMMONWEALTH

V CHARLES RUFUS LAM

A FELONY

A True Bill

J. O. Stuckey
Foreman

D. W. Earman,
Commonwealth's Attorney

Handwritten notes and signatures in blue ink, including 'J. O. Stuckey' and 'D. W. Earman'.

sworn in court and sent before the grand jury to give evidence.

Faint handwritten text on the right page.

A. CLAIR SAGER
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW
925 HULL STREET
RICHMOND 24, VIRGINIA

September 25th, 1944.

Mr. J. Robert Switzer, Clerk
Circuit Court of Rockingham County
Harrisonburg, Virginia

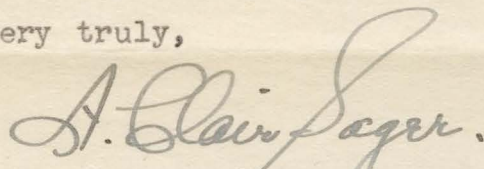
Dear Sir:

Please advise the name and address of the Judge of your Court in 1931; also the names of the Clerk and Commonwealth's Attorney at that time together with their respective addresses, if they are still living.

I have been retained for the purpose of presenting a petition to the Governor for executive clemency in the case of Charles Rufus Lam, who was convicted in your Court 13 years ago for the crime of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment in the Virginia State Penitentiary. If you can furnish me with any information relative to this case I will greatly appreciate the same.

Enclosed herewith find self-addressed envelope for your convenience in making reply. I shall be very glad to reimburse you for your time and trouble in looking up the records in this case and forwarding to me any pertinent information which might be of assistance in preparing said petition.

Very truly,



A. Clair Sager, Attorney.

ACS/BS

APR 1931

#851

COMMONWEALTH APR 1931

VS. Felony (homicide)

CHARLES RUFUS LAM *John*

- 1 M.W. Brown ✓ ✓ ✓
- 2 Wm Phalen ✓ ✓ ✓
- 3 G.W. Helbert ✓ ✓ ✓
- 4 G.D. Wampler ✓ ✓ ✓
- 5 J.H. Leeth ✓ ✓ ✓
- 6 R.E. Filler ✓ ✓ ✓
- 7 Clarence Jackson ✓ ✓ ✓
- 8 G.H. Linder ✓ ✓ ✓
- 9 A.M. Reid ✓ ✓ ✓
- 10 Ward Barber ✓ ✓ ✓
- 11 Thos L. Yancy Jr ✓ ✓ ✓
- 12 Lloyd Blane ✓ ✓ ✓

May 7th

Came fair Apr-9

5 out 5.9.
26 " Trial

Shop Bill

amt 1.50
 sub witness 12.00
 sub jur 1.50
 sub jur 50
\$15-5-0



28 4761

May, 5, 1931.

Harry Rosenberg

My Dear father and step mother
Pappa I dont want you
to worry about this
Case for I am going to
tell the truth and stick
to it and that is all
that I can do he is
going to share his
Part just same as me
I dont intend to lie
for my self and no one
else, as a matter you thank
more of me if I would
get up and tell the
truth than if I would
tell a lie your love
means more to me than
all of the friend ships
in the Country I dont

1891
The first part of the
country is a
great plain
with a few hills
and mountains
in the distance
The soil is
fertile and
the climate
is temperate
The people
are mostly
farmers
and the
country is
very rich
in the
country I
visit

thank that they will
give me the electric chair
I am get a life time
sentence in Prison.
but I hope it wont be
that much. Pappa it
wasent my fault I was
made dumb and lead ~~it~~
in to this and you
dont no or I cant tell
you how I feel over
it Puf was a very good
friend to me Pappa it
is awful to think that
I am just 24 years old
and have thrown my
life away like this
and it was caused by
a man that is worse

think that they will
give me the letter
I am out a life time
at a time of about
that is the purpose
of the letter and
the only way
to get it is
to get it from
the only person
who has it
the only person
who has it
the only person
who has it

and has done worse than
I have I guess you will
come up to here the time
I thank it will be a great
surprise to some people
to here the truth of
it. Pappa I am awful
sorry that I destroyed
your deed and I am
asking you kindly to
forgive me for it and
all the other thing
that I have done to
you. dady I wanted to
have a talk with
before time but you
wouldnt come up to
see me but I thought
maybe the reason you

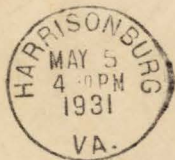
and how long it takes them
 to get up to see the hills
 I think it will be a great
 surprise to have people
 to see the beauty of
 it. Perhaps I am afraid
 that I might be
 just a few miles away
 from the best of things
 that I know of. I
 am sure that I should
 like to see the
 mountains and talk with
 the people who live
 there. I am sure that
 I should like to see
 the mountains and talk
 with the people who
 live there. I am sure
 that I should like to
 see the mountains and
 talk with the people
 who live there. I am
 sure that I should like
 to see the mountains
 and talk with the
 people who live there.

decent come over here
that you had a Business
some where else and she
didn't know time, gladly
there is only one thing
that I am asking
of you and that is
forgiveness that in all
that will do me any
good, ~~So~~ Eric seems
to be a real good friendly
guy I like her fine and
I wish you all, all the
happyness and joy in
the world for I will
love for this thru out
real soon give my love
to all

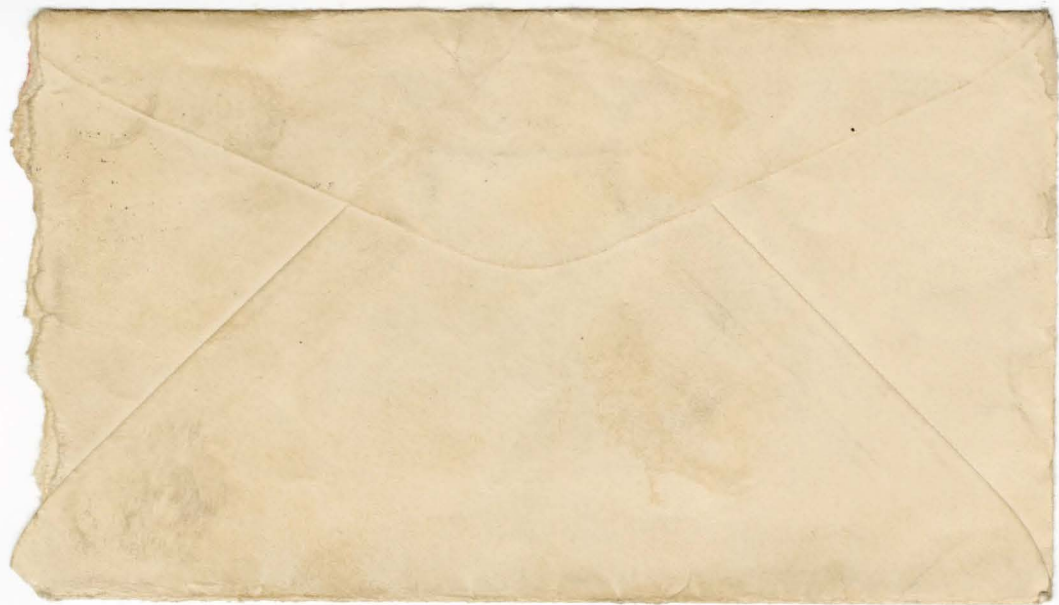
Your Son Reuben to Papa
and wishes to see

+

about our new line
 that we had a business
 and other things and all
 that is only one thing
 that I am writing
 of you and that is
 business that is all
 that will do me any
 good, for this business
 is a part of your family
 and I hope you will
 be successful in
 the world for I will
 live for this time and
 not care for the future
 to be
 your love, Rufus
 and your mother



Mr. S. W. Lam
Elkton Va.
P. O. Box 117



Arrest Warrant

Commonwealth of Virginia, } To-Wit:
Rockingham County, }

To Sheriff, a Constable of said County:

Whereas, On information of the said County, has this day made complaint and information on oath before me, W. T. Bruce a Justice of the said County, that Rufus Lane

of the said County, on the 9 day of Apr, 1931, in the said County, did

unlawfully and feloniously kill one
Robt Davis against the peace and
dignity of the Commonwealth.

These are therefore, in the name of the Commonwealth of Virginia, to command you forthwith to apprehend and bring before, me or some other Justice of the said County, the body of the said

to answer the said complaint and to be further dealt with according to law. And you are required to summon

to appear and give evidence in behalf of the Commonwealth, on the examination touching the said offence.

Given under my hand and seal this 9 day of Apr, in the year 1931.

W. T. Bruce J. P. [Seal]

To: Commonwealth of Virginia
Rockingham County

Commonwealth

Commonwealth

vs.

vs.

Arrest Warrant

Ruffus Lane

Ruffus Lane

Judgment

That the Defendant found guilty and fined
and costs as follows:

Fine - - - - -

Clerk's Fee - - - - -

Justice's Fee - - - - -

Arrest - - - - -

Summoning Witness - - - - -

Witnesses Attendance and Mileage - - - - -

Total - - - - -

Executed the within warrant by arrest-
ing and delivering the body of

Ruffus Lane to
County Jail - Haverhill
Ca

before

a justice of Rockingham County, and by sum-
moning the within named witnesses in person

this 9 day of April 1831

Ch. Hawley SBC

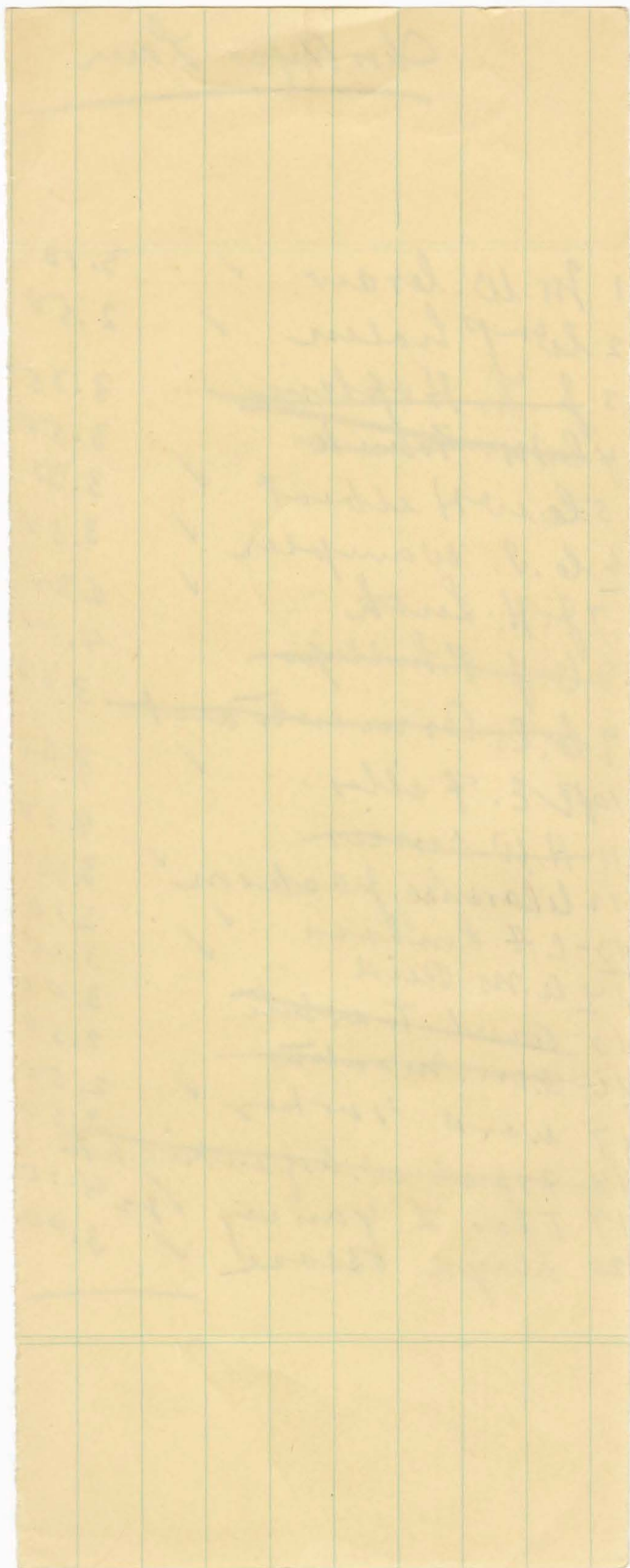
Constable of Rockingham County

Justice of the Peace.

J. P. [Seal]

Chas Rufus Lane

1	M. W. Lerow ✓	3.10
2	Wm Phalen ✓	2.50
3	J. T. Hopkins	3.75
4	Wm. Frank	3.50
5	Le W. H. Albert ✓	3.30
6	C. J. Wampler ✓	3.50
7	J. H. Luth ✓	4.20
8	C. J. Phillips	4.00
9	C. E. Armentrout	3.50
10	R. E. Filler ✓	3.60
11	H. W. Carrier	4.50
12	Clarence Jackson ✓	3.40
13	C. F. Lichess ✓	3.10
14	A. M. Reid ✓	3.20
15	Brub. T. White	3.00
16	Wm. Martin	2.50
17	Ward Barker ✓	2.50
18	Frank W. Argentright	3.50
19	Thos L. Yancy ✓	4.10
20	Lloyd Blase ✓	3.00



We the jury find the accused
Charles Rufus Lam guilty of
murder in the First degree
and fix his punishment at
life in the penitentiary.

for man:
Clarence Jackson.

Not to set aside the verdict as contrary as
contrary to the law and the evidence -

The purpose of the account
is to provide a summary of
the work done in the field of
the history of the American
people.

It is not until the middle of the century
that the history of the American
people is written.