

The Commonwealth of Kentucky

Bracken Circuit Court, County of Bracken, Sct.

The grand jurors for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, empanelled and sworn to inquire in and for the body of the Bracken Circuit Court at a Court begun and held for said Circuit for the trial of criminals at the Court house of said Circuit on the twenty eighth and continued on the twenty ninth day of August in the year of Our Lord One Thousand eight hundred and forty eight; In the name and by the authority of the Commonwealth of Kentucky upon their oaths as present that Harry Slaughter (a negro slave the property of Richard Pindell) late of the said County of Bracken, Jack (a negro slave the property of Cassius M. Clay) late of said County of Bracken, Bill Griffin (a negro slave the property of John Chism) late of the said county of Bracken, Shadrack (a negro slave the property of Thomas Christian) late of the said County of Bracken, Presley Coleman (a negro slave the property of John Wardlow) late of the said County of Bracken; Anderson (a negro ~~slave~~ man slave the property of Alexander Prewett) late of the said county of Bracken, and Jasper (a negro man slave the property of Samuel R. Bullock) late of the said county of Bracken, falsely, unlawfully, maliciously seditiously and feloniously intending to disturb, molest and disquiet the peace and public tranquility of this Commonwealth, and as much as in them lay, to move, stir up and procure sedition, insurrection and rebellion in this Commonwealth an to endanger the Government of the said Commonwealth, and that the said Harry Slaughter, Jack, Bill Griffin, Shadrack, Presley Coleman, Anderson and Jasper, negro slaves as aforesaid to fulfill, perfect and bring to effect their most wicked seditious and rebellious intentions aforesaid, on the Eleventh day of August, in the year One thousand eight hundred and forty eight, with force and arms to-wit: at the County and Circuit of Bracken aforesaid, unlawfully maliciously, seditiously, rebelliously nad feloniously did assemble, meet, consult, conspire and confederate themselves together and with divers other evil disposed persons to the said jurors unknown, and did treat with each other and with the said other evil disposed persons, of and concerning the executing, perfecting and beinging t effect, the wicked, seditious and rebellious conspirings, imaginations and purposes aforesaid; and further that the said Harry Slaughter, Jack, Bill Griffin, Shadrack, Presley Coleman, Anderson, and Jasper, negro slaves as aforesaid to fulfill and bring to effect their most wicked seditious and rebellious devices, practices and intentions aforesaid then and then to-wit: on the said Eleventh day of August in the year One thousand and eight hundred and forty eight, with force and arms to-wit: at the county and circuit of Bracken aforesaid, unlawfully, maliciously, seditiously, rebelliously nad feloniously did consult, counsel, conspire and confederate to make an insurrection within this commonwealth, and to provide and procure arms and armed negroes to be prepared within this Commonwealth to fulfill and perfect their said most wicked seditious, and rebellious intentions, conspirings, imaginations and purposes aforesaid; all which is contrary to the form of the statute in that case made and provided and against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

And the Grand Jurors aforesaid upon their oaths aforesaid do further present that the said Harry Slaughter (a negro slave the property of Richard Pindell) late of the said County of Bracken Jack (a negro slave the property of Cassius M. Clay) late of the said County of Bracken, Bill Griffin (a negro slave the property pf John Chism) late of the said County of Bracken, Shadrack a negro slave the property of Thomas Christian) late of the said County of Bracken, Presley Coleman (a negro slave the property of John Wardlow) late of the said County of Bracken, Anderson (a negro slave the property of Alexander Prewett) late of the said county of Bracken; and Jasper (a negro slave the property of Samuel R. Bullock) late of the said

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county of Bracken wickedly devising and intending to disturb the peace and public tranquility of this Commonwealth of Kentucky, on the Eleventh day of August in the year of our Lord One thousand and eight hundred and forty eight, at the county and circuit of Bracken aforesaid, unlawfully, maliciously and feloniously did ~~xxx~~ conspire, imagine and intend to make insurrection and rebellion against the said Commonwealth and against the laws and constituted authorities thereof; and to fulfill and to bring to effect the said insurrectionary and rebellious conspirings imaginations and intentions of them the said Harry ~~Slaughter~~ Slaughter, Jack, Bill Griffin, Shadrack, Presley Coleman, Anderson and Jasper, negro slaves as aforesaid, they, the said Harry Slaughter, Jack, Bill Griffin, Shadrack, Presley Coleman, Anderson and Jasper afterwards to-wit: on the Eleventh day of August in the year One thousand eight hundred and forty eight, at the county and circuit of Bracken aforesaid, with a great multitude of negro slaves, whose names are at present to the said jurors unknown: to-wit: the number of forty armed and arrayed in warlike manner, that is to say with guns, pistols, knives and other warlike weapons, as well offensive as defensive, being then and there unlawfully, maliciously, rebelliously and feloniously assembled and gathered together, against the said Commonwealth and the laws and constituted authorities thereof, and then and there with force and arms, did falsely, rebelliously and feloniously and in a warlike and hostile manner array and dispose themselves against the said Commonwealth, and then and there in pursuance of their wicked and rebellious intentions and purposes aforesaid, they the said Harry Slaughter, Jack, Bill Griffin, Shadrack, Presley Coleman, Anderson and Jasper, with the said forty negro slaves so as aforesaid rebelliously assembled and armed and arrayed in manner aforesaid, most wickedly, maliciously, rebelliously and feloniously did ordain, prepare and make public insurrection against the said Commonwealth and the laws and constituted authorities thereof, all of which are contrary to the form of the statute in that case made and provided and against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth of Kentucky

And the grand jurors aforesaid upon their oaths aforesaid do further present that the said Harry Slaughter (a negro slave the property of Richard Pindell) late of the said County of Bracken, Jack (a negro slave the property of Cassius M. Clay) late of the said county of Bracken; Bill Griffin (a negro slave the property of John Chism) late of the said County of Bracken; Shadrack (a negro slave the property of Thomas Christian) late of the said county of Bracken, Presley Coleman (a negro slave the property of John Wardlow) late of the said County of Bracken; Anderson (a negro slave the property of Alexander Prewett) late of the said County of Bracken, and Jasper (a negro slave the property of Samuel R. Bullock) late of the said county of Bracken, together with forty other negro slaves whose names to the said jurors are unknown, on the Eleventh day of August in the year of our Lord One Thousand eight hundred and forty eight with force and arms to-wit: at the County and Circuit of Bracken aforesaid unlawfully maliciously and feloniously did then and there meet, assemble and confederate themselves together and did then and there with the said forty other negro slaves to the said jurors unknown, unlawfully, wickedly, maliciously and feloniously conspire to rebel and make insurrection; contrary to the form of the statute in that case made and provided and against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Harrison Taylor
Attorney for Commonwealth

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Saturday, September 2nd, 1848.

The Court met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Judge Reid.

Harry Slaughter, Shadrack, Jasper, Jackson, Bill Griffin, Anderson, Presley Coleman, slaves, who stand indicted and arraigned for conspiracy to insurrection and rebellion were again led to the bar in custody of the jailor and the counsel for the prisoners as well as the Commonwealth's Attorney being present, the Jury sworn herein came into Court and upon their oaths do say We the Jury find Harry Slaughter, Shadrack and Presley Coleman - guilty - and Jack Clay, Jasper, Anderson and Bill Griffin - not guilty. And thereupon they are again remanded to jail.

Ord. Book H, Page 235.

Tuesay, September 19th, 1848.

Court met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Hon. Walker Reid, Circuit Judge.

Shadrack (the slave of Thomas Christian) and Presley Coleman (the slave of John Wardlow) who stand convicted off conspiracy to insurrection and rebellion, this day by their counsel moved the Court for a new trial for the following causes to-wit: (here insert them) and in arrest of Judgment for the following causes to-wit (here insert them) and being fully heard as well as the attorney for the commonwealth, the said motions were overruled, and thereupon they were led to the bar in custody of the jailor and it being demanded of them if for themselves any thing they had or could say why the Court should not proceed to judgment and award execution thereof as the law directs, they said that they had not any thing to say but what they had before said. Therefore it ~~is~~ was considered and adjudged by the Court, that they the said Shadrack and Presley Coleman be taken back to the jail from where they came, there to be safely kept until the 28th day of October, 1848, on which day they shall be taken from thence by the Sheriff of Bracken County to a gallows which he shall cause to be erected at some suitable place within the bounds of said County upon which they shall be suspended by the neck with a cord by the said Sheriff until they are dead and that said Sheriff shall see this Judgment carried into execution at twelve o'clock on that day or as near as can be. And thereupon the said Shadrack and Coleman were in charge of the jailor conducted back to jail.*

O.B. H, page 248.