

The State of Tennessee

Be it remembered that at a circuit Court opened and held for the County of Blount at the Court House in Maryville in said County and within the second judicial District of the said State of Tennessee on the first Monday after the fourth Monday of July, to wit the fourth day of August in the Year of Our Lord One thousand Eight hundred and twenty eight and holden by the Honorable Edwards Scott Judge of said District.

William Wallace High Sheriff of said County returned into our said Court a list or venire facias of good and lawful men Citizens of said County designated and appointed by the justices of the Court of great and quarter Sessions of said Blount County at their next succeeding Sessions of their said Court after the last term of this Court as jurors to serve at this term of our said Circuit Court, and that he had duly summoned and made known the same to the following good & lawful men Citizens of our said County who were designated and appointed as aforesaid to wit Henry Powerman Strong M. Faddon Nolley Warren Matthew Branch David Helzell John W Rankin John P. Dale John Williams Jr. William Upton Bartley W. Duncan Matthew Whittaker David Cantill William M. Hamy Virginia Wilson Andrew Ferguson Daniel Durr James Trundle Robert Cunningham Isaac Yearout William Trotter John H. Howard Samuel Gould Sr. Samuel M. Culloch and Campbell Gillespie of whom the following appeared on Ojura



Court Court David Scamell Jotley Warren  
Matthew Hannah David Durr David  
Delzell Samuel Gould Sr. Andrew Ferguson  
Henry Bowerman James Trundle William  
Foster Campbell Gillispy Robert Cunningham  
William Wilson Matthew Whittinberger Isaac  
Fearout Strong M. Faddon John M. Rankins  
John Williams John W. Dale John R. Howard  
and William M. Harry, and out of these were  
chosen a grand inquest for Blount County Court  
James Trundle who is by the Court now here  
appointed foreman thereof and William  
Foster Campbell Gillispy Robert Cunningham  
William Wilson Matthew Whittinberger Isaac  
Fearout Strong M. Faddon John M. Rankins  
John Williams Jr. John W. Dale John R. Howard  
and William M. Harry Jr. which said grand  
jury were duly elected empannelled sworn and  
charged to enquire for the body of the County  
retired to consider of their presentments

And on Monday the first day of said term the  
Grand Jurors appeared in Court and by their  
foreman presented a Bill of indictment against  
Henry Sunford for Murder indorsed "a Fred Pitt"  
which is in the words & figures following  
Court State of Tennessee }  
Second Judicial Circuit } Circuit Court.  
Blount County } August term 1828

The grand jurors for the State empannelled sworn  
and charged to enquire for the body of the said  
County in the Circuit aforesaid upon their oath  
aforesaid present and say that Henry Sunford



of the said County laborer on the twenty fifth  
day of March in the Year of Our Lord One  
Thousand eight Hundred and twenty eighth at Clarks  
Creek town in said County and circuit and with  
in the jurisdiction of this Court. Not having the  
fear of God before his eyes, but being moved  
& seduced by the instigations of the devil with  
force and arms, in and upon One Berry  
Thompson then and there being feloniously wil-  
fully and of his malice aforethought an assault  
did make, and that he the said Henry Swanson  
with a certain large stick of no value, which  
he the said Henry Swanson in his right hand  
then and there had and held, him the said  
Berry Thompson in and upon the head of him  
the said Berry Thompson on the left side thereof  
near to the Crown of the head of him the said  
Berry Thompson, then and there feloniously wilfully  
and of his malice aforethought did strike, giving  
to the said Berry Thompson, then and there with  
the stick aforesaid, by the stroke aforesaid in  
manner aforesaid in and upon the head of him  
the said Berry Thompson. On the left side  
thereof near to the Crown of the head of him  
the said Berry Thompson one mortal wound  
of the length of two inches and of the depth of half  
an inch, of which mortal wounds the said Berry  
Thompson from the said twenty fifth day of  
March in the Year aforesaid, at Clarks Creek  
town in the County aforesaid until the second  
day of April in the Year aforesaid, at Clarks  
Creek aforesaid in the County aforesaid did



his languish, and languishing did live  
On which second day of April in the Year aforesaid  
at Clois, Creek in the County aforesaid he  
the said Henry Thompson of the mortal wound  
aforesaid died: And so the jurors aforesaid  
upon their Oath aforesaid do say that the  
said Henry Sumpford, him the said Henry  
Thompson in the manner and by the means  
aforesaid feloniously, wilfully and of his mal-  
ice aforesaid did kill and murder, to the  
evil example of all others and against the  
peace and dignity of the state.

John Wellison Attorney  
upon which } General for the third  
Bill of Indict- } Selectorial district  
ment are the following indorsements to wit

"Indorsement" State } Murder-  
Henry Sumpford  
"Abel Dockery Prosecutor" "Witnesses" Sheziah  
Thompson, Patry Ellis, John Clap, James Clap,  
John Clap Jr, Andrew Ferguson, Walter Weaver,  
Adam Pope, Harman Wortha, William Weaver"  
"John Clap Sr, John Clap Jr, & Isaac Clap sworn  
to the grand jury 4. Aug. 1828. David Furbelt, Elko  
Sheziah Thompson, Patry Ellis, Andrew Ferguson,  
Walter Weaver, Harman Wortha & W<sup>m</sup> Weaver sworn  
to the grand jury 4. Aug. 1828. David Furbelt  
"A True Bill" Saml. Furbelt foreman of the grand jury"  
And on Wednesday the third day of said term  
On motion of the Attorney General and it ap-  
pearing to the Court that the defendant Henry  
Sumpford was confined in the prison of this  
County It is Ordered by the Court that he



he brought to the Bar, which was done, and <sup>5</sup>  
he being brought into Court and charged on the  
Bill of indictment pleads thereto "Not Guilty," and  
the defendant is remanded to jail.

And again the defendant being brought  
to the Bar says he is ready for his trial, where-  
upon a venire of fifty two good & lawful men  
is ordered and the prisoner remanded to prison  
until tomorrow morning.

And on Thursday the fourth day of said  
Term "Came the attorney General who prosecutes  
for the state as well as the defendant in his own  
proper person and having heretofore been  
charged on the Bill of indictment in this cause  
pleads thereto "not guilty" and now puts himself  
on his Country for trial and the Solicitor  
General doth the like, whereupon came  
a jury to wit Thomas Maxwell David Delzell William  
Whittenberger, Nottley Warren David Sulp Horner  
Joffries, Joseph LeBlanc, Robert Porter Joseph Layman  
John McFarlane James Stirling, John Scullery who  
being elected sworn well and truly to  
say and true deliverance make between the good  
people of this state and the defendant at the Bar  
upon their Oaths do say the defendant Henry  
Lunsford is guilty of the felony and Murder in  
Manner and form as charged against him  
in the Bill of indictment whereupon he the  
defendant is remanded to prison.

And on Saturday the sixth day of the said  
Term "Came the attorney General who prosecutes  
for the state and the defendant being brought



to the Bar by Order of Court, Moved the Court  
for a new trial in this Cause, and after argu-  
ment of Counsel being heard and mature  
Consideration thereon had by the Court, It is or-  
dered by the Court that the Motion be Overruled

And the defendant by his attorney filed  
his reasons in arrest of judgment, and after argu-  
ment of Counsel and mature Consideration  
had - It seems to the Court that the said reasons  
and matters therein contained are not good and  
sufficient in law to arrest the judgment and  
Sentence in this Cause - And the defendant being  
asked by the Court whether he had anything  
further to say why the Sentence of the law  
should not be pronounced against him, Sayeth  
Nothing, whereupon the Court proceeded to  
pronounce Sentence - It is therefore Ordered  
and Considered by the Court that the defendant  
Henry Sinsford for such his offence as charged  
in the Bill of indictment, be remanded to  
the prison of Blount County and there remain  
until Friday the twenty sixth day of September  
next and then, that he be taken from thence  
to the Gallies & place of execution and be hung  
by the neck until he is dead, And that the  
Sheriff of Blount County carry this judgment  
and Sentence into execution. And for so doing  
a copy of this judgment shall be his sufficient  
Authority, from which judgment and Sentence  
the defendant prays an appeal to the next  
Supreme Court to be held at the Court House  
in Knoxville on the second Monday of



July in the Year 1829 in the nature of a writ of Error, and that the prisoner be and remain in prison accordingly -

Affidavit for New Trial -

State of New York }  
County of Lunsford } } Plaintiff's Court  
August Term 1828.

Indictment for Murder

Defendant makes oath that he does truly believe that Heziah Thompson a principal witness for the prosecution is not entitled to credit in a court of justice, and that respectable witnesses, well acquainted with her general character, can be produced to show that she is not entitled to credit. This defendant was informed previous to his trial, and did believe that several of the witnesses in attendance in this case were respectively well acquainted with the general character of said witness Heziah, to impeach her credit before the jury, but on their examination most of those called to that point, denied an acquaintance with her general character or misunderstood the import of the question so that a further examination could not be had on the subject of her creditability. This affidavit was therefore taken by surprise, and unprepared for a fair and impartial trial that he had been confined in jail ever since the day after the occurrence of the matter for which he was indicted, and had no friends or relations in this County until a short time since



to attend to, or prepare for his trial, that  
his Brothers who reside in North Carolina  
came here utter strangers, shortly before this  
Court, and were unacquainted with the citizens  
of the neighborhood in which said Meziak the  
witness, had formerly lived, and where her  
general Character was known; - affiant  
does believe if a new trial be granted to  
him he can by respectable & credible witnesses  
acquainted with the general Character of  
said Meziak shew that she is not entitled  
to credit when on oath - This affiant further  
states that he is informed and does believe  
that after said Meziak had been examined  
before the Court & Jury, (being the first witness  
that was sworn) she the said Meziak went  
into the company of the other witnesses, who were  
under the rule and in the care of an officer  
and commenced a conversation with said  
witnesses, who had not yet been examined  
this affiant has not been informed & does not  
know what conversation said Meziak had  
with the other witnesses, but is informed that  
her mixing with said witnesses while thus  
under the rule of the Court and the care of  
an officer was in violation of the rules of the  
Court & the laws of the land, and affiant thinks  
it probable his cause may have been injured  
thereby - This affiant is informed and believes  
that some of the witnesses sworn and examin-  
ed against him on the trial, did combine  
with the prosecutor & with each other and



Contributed or subscribed some amount to I  
make up a fee with which to employ a lawyer  
-yes to aid and assist the attorney General to  
prosecute this affair which was done - This  
affair did not know of this fact before or du-  
-ring the trial, and has only been informed of  
it since the verdict was rendered; that this in-  
-formation was given and derived from Mrs  
Staney Smider wife of Thomas Smider, that  
she lives about 12 miles from this place, and  
started home very early on Tuesday Morning  
as affiant is informed and believes - Affiant  
has this morning been informed for the first time  
that John Alexander a witness for the prosecution  
did say before the trial that he had or would  
know in something to employ a lawyer to prosecute  
this affair - This affair therefore prays a ver-  
-dict - Sworn to & Subscribed Henry Lumpford  
Mark

Subscribed in Open Court of August 1828 Dan D.  
Route 6th - Plaintiff's Court,  
State of New York August Term 1828.

Andrew Ferguson makes  
Oath that while he and other witnesses were  
in the care of the officer under the rule  
by order of the Court that Hezekiah Thompson  
who affiant understood & believed had been  
examined before the Court & jury, came to  
and got amongst the jury close to the said  
witnesses, so as aforesaid under the care of



The officer, answered as affiant believes by  
the officer, for some short time; this affiant  
does not recollect to have heard said Menick  
Converse with any of the witnesses, and states  
that the attention of the officer was immediately  
called to the matter, who then removed said  
Menick - affiant further states that after the  
witnesses were discharged, and while the con-  
cluding speech was making on the part of  
the prosecution, that John Alexander who had  
been sworn & examined as a witness on the  
part of the prosecution against the defendant  
told this affiant that he either had given, or  
would give something to pay the Lawyer  
to aid the attorney General in the prosecution  
of defendant - This affiant does not distinctly  
recollect whether said Alexander said he  
had given or would give something

Sworn to & subscribed at Andrew Ferguson  
in Open Court 9<sup>th</sup> August  
1828. David D. South Clerk

Reasons in Arrest of Judgment -  
State August Term 1828.  
Henry Langford vs Blount County Circuit Court

The defendant prays the Court to arrest  
the judgment against him on the verdict of guilty  
rendered by the jury; for the following reasons  
1<sup>st</sup> The instrument or weapon is not properly  
described, with which the mortal wound  
is charged to have been given.



2<sup>nd</sup> The time at which the death of Perry Thompson the deceased, did happen, is not certainly & properly laid

3<sup>rd</sup> The indictment is in other material and formal matters defective informal and insufficient - All which defendant is ready to show and verify - Wherefore he prays an arrest of judgment &c

Henry Linsford

Bill of Costs -

State tax \$1.00

Chk Law & Court fees in indictment 10 Cents 20 Subpoenas at 25 Cts each 50 Cents Affidavits at 25 Cts 1 motion in arrest of judgment 50 Cts Judgment 10 Cts

50 Cts 19 Books of the Transcript \$1.62 1/2  
copy of papers therein 50 cents 80 Cts

\$9.46 1/4

Attorney Willinson 5.00  
Justice Ferguson .50

Shp W. Wallace Commitment 50 Cents Release 50 Cts  
3 Subpoenas each 25 Cts 75 Cents Jury 12 Cents 1 call 10 Cts

\$6.91 1/2

Court Duncan 1 Warrant each 50 Cents Summons 4 each 2.00  
w/fees - Conveying to jail 50 Cts

Witnesses in Jail 1 day before justice 25 Cts 4 days in Court 2.25	
And Ferguson 1 day before justice 25 Cts in Court 2.25	
Hezekiah Thompson 1 day before justice 25 Cts in Court 2.25	
Patsy Thompson 1 day before justice 25 Cts in Court 2.25	
Eli Richey 3 Days in Court 50 Cts	1.50
Anna Wortha 4 days	2.00
Adam Hope 3 days	1.50
John Alexander 4 days 50 Cts	2.00
Rich Roberts 3 days	1.50
Sally Roberts 3 days	1.50
Eleanor Roberts 3 days 50 Cts	1.50
John Elaps Sr 4 days 50 Cts	2.00
Isaac Elaps 4 days	2.00
Walter Weaver 4 days	2.00
William Weaver 4 days	2.00
Robert Leamon 3 days	1.50
Nancy Snyder 4 days	2.00
John Ferguson 2 days 50 Cts	1.00
Rachael Elaps 3 days 50 Cts	1.50



The State of Tennessee

I Daniel D. Fouts Clerk of the Circuit Court of  
Blount County do hereby Certify that the foregoing  
is a true Copy of the Record & Proceedings had  
in the Case The State against Henry Leonard  
in the Circuit Court of Blount County taken  
from the Original now in my office

Given Under my hands and  
(private having no public)  
Seal of Office at office in  
Maryville the 15<sup>th</sup> day of  
July A.D. 1829

Daniel D. Fouts Clerk



Mar . . . . . 1.00

John St Brown

1 order 24

1 kg binder. 1.00

7<sup>1/2</sup> for 90

Transcript 1.00

Judgment 1.60

2 copies of judgment 3.20

Solicitor

~~4.44~~  
8.04  
5.00

Transcript  
The State  
in 3 murder  
Henry Sunford  
Made Out 15 July  
1879 D.D. Hunt Clk

342  
349

Henry Sunford

01

The State

1879



State of Tennessee in account with John  
 C. Vile Jailor for Knox County for keeping  
 Henry Lunsford in the Jail of said County  
 in a suit the State against him and  
 charge of murder July 17<sup>th</sup> 1829 up  
 to August 3<sup>rd</sup> 1829 making 17 days at  
 2/3 per day is \_\_\_\_\_  
 To W. John Keep a 3/ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \$ 6.37 1/2  
 3-00  
 \$ 9.37 1/2

State of Tennessee } this day Persorable  
 Knox County } appeared John C. Vile  
 before me John Bullis one the acting  
 Justice for said County and made oath  
 that the sum of nine dollars and thirty  
 seven and half Cent as stated is just  
 and true

Sworn to and Subscribed August 19<sup>th</sup> 1829

J. C. Vile

attest  
 John Bayless  
 "



*Faint, illegible handwriting at the top of the page, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side.*

*Faint handwriting, possibly a name or signature.*

*Part of*

*the State*

*of*

*Henry Sumner*

*\$9.37<sup>10</sup>*



The State of Tennessee

To John F. Sobers

Jailer Blount County

To keeping Henry Seayford from the

26 March 1828 to the 17 July

1829. in all 148 days at

thirty seven sh half cents per day \$178.75

Two Turnkeys 50<sup>cts</sup> each 1.00

\$179.75

John F. Sobers Jailer  
Blount County.



John T. Atkins jailor of Blount county maketh oath & in  
open court that the within account is just and true, the best  
of his knowledge

Sworn to before me

July 22. 1829

Geo Brown

Lunenburg

The State