

The following pages pertaining to Lafayette Adkins were found in the Executive papers of Henry A. Wise the Governor of Virginia from 1856 to 1860.

To His Excellency the Governor of Virginia

“The petition of the undersigned citizens of the counties of Boone & Cabell respectfully represent: That on the 19 day of June 1858, Lafayette Adkins a resident of the said County of Boone, was sentenced to the penitentiary of the Commonwealth, after indictment and conviction in the Circuit Court of Kanawha, with one William Price, for felony, in having in his possession, counterfeit money – for the term of three years; That the said Adkins has now been confined in said prison for about sixteen months.

While your petitioners believe him guilty of having such money about his person; yet we think there were extenuating circumstances, which ought to have had some weight with the jury. The prisoner was before this alleged offence always regarded as an honest man in his neighbourhood. He was industrious, a hard labourer, and supported well his family consisting of a wife and seven children. All his neighbours can vouch for his honesty, industrious and usefulness.

The money found on his person when caught in company with the said Price was counterfeit; but the evidence did not show that he had attempted to pass it; nor do we believe that had he been sober at the time, he would have been in the company which caused him the sad and humiliating prisoner for the relief of which are now humble and wishful petition. We petition the Executive in behalf of his wife and children, who are wholly in want; and upon your clemency they rely and therefore petition for his pardon, believing that the full measure of justice has been made to the offended laws of the Commonwealth, by the punishment already inflicted upon this unfortunate man.

The appeal to you for his release, praying that he may leave the walls of his prison a better man, and for this we will all pray. (Many of the following signatures were barely legible)

John Hager Esq.
Robeson Spurlock J.P.
William Cummins
Evermont Spurlock
Andrew Hager
Wm. Price
J. W. Keck
Charles Huffman
G. R. McComas
W. D. Holley
Lewis F. Vickers
F. Johnson
Lewis Adkins
___ B. Stollings
Alexander Cabell
Andrew Estep
Lewis Be—ter
William Jarrell
Lewis McComas
John Hager
Harrison McComas
Blackburn McComas
William Nelson Sen.
Benjamin Spears
Preston Spears
Henry Spears
John Spears
John G. Adkins
John Vannatter
John Farrel

Burwell Hager
William Hager
Melvin Spurlock
George W. Stacy
Henry Hill
James A. Holley
Albert Allen
Harrison Smith
Evermont Ward
Jeremiah Polley
___ C. Mahone
Martin Bruner
William Canterbury
A. R. Clendenin
Charles Laurence
James Snodgrass
Preston Laurence
Henderson McComas
Daniel Elkins
David H. McComas
James Doss
A. J. Barrett
Christopher Cits
Calvary Stollings
Peyton Spears
Squire Thompson
Washington Hill
Samuel Smoot
Wm. Atkins
James Lovejoy

Allen Vannatter
Casander Spurlock
Simon P. Stacy
Clinton Spurlock
J. C. Black
Fry Lucas
Wm. Curry
M. C. ___
Burwell Hinchman
B. P. Clendenin
Adam___
S. Johnson
C. Blankenship
Robert Chambers
William Laurence
Floyed Nelson
Isaac Canterbury
Wm. S. Chandler
Dike McComas
John Price
Benj. F. McComas
Blackburn McComas
Henry Sites
Wm. Thompson Jr.
William Spears
G. W. Gore
Drewry Elkins
James Elkins
Nathan Elkin
Elijah Elkin

Philip Doss
Samuel Canterbury
Silas Hagar
Anderson Barker Esq.
Richard Hager
H.? Barrett
William Smoot
-----ew Mitchell
Henley Ballard
Owen Estep
John Smoot
B. S. Ballard
B. J. Miller
Joseph Paine
Floyd S. Ba----
H. H. Hopkins
William Walker Jr.
M. S. Ballard
Robert Cummins
Joseph Miller
John Cummins
C. M. Stone
Richard L. Lovejoy
Philip W. Hagar
Joshua Adkins
Elexander McComas
W. Holly
Perry Adkins
Lewis Hager
Mathew Adkins
Andrew Lovejoy
Anderson Adkins C.B.C.
G. Adkins
James Johnson
William Peyton
Spencer Midkiff
Nathaniel G. Boothe
John M. Lucas
Jesse W. McComas
Winchester Cremens?
Clement Vance
Charles Waugh
Hezekiah Swann
James Byes
Andrew Adkins
Andrew McComas
Henry Hatfield
John A.? Smith
William Johnson
William Yates
Andrew Johnson
James Mitchell
James Parsons
Mark Adkins
William B. Smith
William Boothe

James Doss
Vernon Price
William Stone
James Baisden
Andrew Chambers
L. Morris
Ely Pauley
-----stran Bias
Thomas Nelson
Keat? Smoot
Benjamin Miller
Ryland Ballard
Daniel Miller
M. Price
William __. Collins
Jordan Nelson
Isom Adkins
M----da Price
Peter Miller
William Nelson
Lewis Adkins
Logan Linville
William Lovejoy
Galsberrey Adkins
Samuel Adkins
A. H. McComas
Elisha McComas
Luke Adkins
John Lovejoy
Bradford Hill
Hiram Adkins
Samuel Smith
Perry Johnson
Harrison Robertson
John W. Vaughn
Samuel M. Boothe
Ballard P. Boothe
Isaac McComas
James M. McComas
A. N. Williams
James B./R. Chapman
Richard Vaughn
Lewis Midkiff
John G. F—y
William Bias
D. __. Shelton
James Henderson
Claton Adkins
Maras Ray
Ebermont Rids
Henry Johnson
Perry Paton
Daniel McComas
Elisha Adkins
Benjamin Smith
Hiram Hill

William Elkin
George W. B-----
Evert J. M-----
Samuel Miles/Mills
Levi Collins
Mecjah Belcher
Julian Ballard
Samuel Stollings
Joseph McNeely
Wm. Workman
S. __. Thomas
E. __. Miller
Weldon Kessinger
G. W. Stanley
Cumberland Adkins
John Workman
John Hill
Thos. Chandler
Joshua Miller
Floyd Miller
William Marten
Spurwood O. Estep
Henderson Adkins
Caleb Adkins
G. L. Adkins
E. E. McComas
Sherwood Adkins
Mari- __. Elkins
Dar—Lovejoy
Harvey Adkins
Mathias Willas?
T. J. McComas
Jefferson Johnson
Henry Von
John H. Ridgeway
James __. Boothe
E. __ Yates
Caleb F-----
H. C. Hatfield
Christopher Lake
E. R. Vaughn
Jesse Paine
Henry Peyton
William Miller
Obediah Bias
Sam Beach
Emberson Turley
Gordon Midkiff
Andrew Ray
Granvill Yates
Milton McComas
Samuel Porter
Moses Bledsoe
Joshua Adkins
John Boothe
Adam Blake

Maris Blake
Sanders Cremmins
W. M. Franklin
James A. Adkins
James Holton
Eri Sias
Luke S. Adkins
Mathias Plumley
Hamilton Adkins
Henry C. Sias
Ellat Adkins
Alfred E. Smith
Adam Cummins
Simon J. Adkins
Cliburn Adkins
Alexander Griffith
Joseph A. Griffith

Isaac Blake
Andrew J. Smith
Henry Johnson
Richard Adkins
Martin Adkins
James Sias
John Lawson
Sylvester Plumley
Washington Plumley
John M. Sias
Peter Smith
William Cooper
Calvin Adkins
H. B. Maupin
James W. Sias
Lewis L. Griffith

AlexanderMcCallister
Jno Chapman
A. H. Sibley
Alexander Adkins
Elliot Adkins
Anderson Sias
Noah Sias
Erastus G. Wall
Cal Plumley
Manuel F. Adkins
John Harvey
David Gude
Cun---- Adkins
W. D. Pate
Joseph R. Lavender
William Smith

(22 additional signatures were illegible)

Virginia – Pleas before the judge of our Circuit Court for the County of Kanawha at the Court House thereof the 19th day of June 1858, and in the 83rd year of the Commonwealth.

Be it remembered that heretofore to wit: At a Circuit Court held for Kanawha County the 25th day of May 1858

The grand Jury impanelled and sworn for the body of the County of Kanawha presented an indictment against William Price and Lafayette Adkins, for felony, a true bill, And is in the words and figures following to wit:

Indictment – “Virginia, Kanawha County, to wit: The jurors for the Commonwealth of Virginia, in and for the body of the County of Kanawha, and now attending the Circuit Court for said County, upon their oaths present, that William Price and Lafayette Adkins on the 13th day of May in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and fifty eight in the said County of Kanawha, did feloniously and fraudulently utter and employ as true, a certain piece of false forged and base coin, forged and counterfeit to the likeness and similitude of a two dollar and a half gold piece, current in this Commonwealth by the laws and usages thereof, with intent to deceive and defraud, then and there well knowing the same to be false, and forged, and the said William Price and Lafayette Adkins did also at the same time and place, to wit, on the said 13th day of May in the year 1855 in the said County of Kanawha feloniously utter and attempt to employ as true, two certain false and forged bank notes, purporting to be true and genuine bank notes. One for the payment of twenty dollars of the Bank of the Valley of Virginia (the same being a Banking Company authorized by law) and the other likewise for the payment of twenty dollars; of the Bank of Charlotte in the State of North Carolina (the same being a Banking Company authorized by law) with intent to defraud, they the said William Price and Lafayette Adkins then and there well knowing the said Bank Notes to be false and forged, against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

And the Jurors on their oaths aforesaid do further present that the said William Price and Lafayette Adkins on the said 13th day of May 1858 in the said County of Kanawha did feloniously and fraudulently utter and employ as true to a certain William T. Wilson a certain other piece of false forged and base coin forged and counterfeited to the likeness and similitude of a two dollar and a half gold piece current in this Commonwealth by the laws and usages thereof, with intent to deceive and defraud then and there well knowing the same to be false and forged against the piece and dignity of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

And the Jurors aforesaid on their oaths aforesaid do further present that the said William Price and Lafayette Adkins on the said 13th day of May 1858 in the said County of Kanawha did feloniously utter and attempt to employ as true to a certain William T. Wilson, a certain false and forged Bank Note purporting to be a true and genuine Bank Note for the payment of twenty dollars of the Bank of the Valley, in Virginia, the same being a Banking Company, with intent to defraud, the said William Price and Lafayette Adkins then and there well knowing the said bank note to be false and forged, against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

And the Jurors aforesaid on their oaths aforesaid do further present that the said William Price and Lafayette Adkins on the said 13th day of May 1858 in the said County of Kanawha, did feloniously utter and attempt to employ as true to a certain William T. Wilson a certain other false and forged Bank Note for the payment of twenty dollars of the bank of Charlotte in the State of North Carolina, the same being a banking company, with

intent to defraud, the said William Price and Lafayette Adkins, then and there well knowing said bank note to be false and forged, against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

And the Jurors aforesaid on their oaths aforesaid do further present that the said William Price and Lafayette Adkins on the said 13th day of May 1858 in the said County of Kanawha, did feloniously and fraudulently utter and attempt to employ as true to a certain note, purporting to be of the Bank of Charlotte, in the State of North Carolina, for the payment of twenty dollars, and purporting to be dated on the 19th of July 1853, when in truth and in fact no such Bank then existed, with the intent to defraud, the said William Price and Lafayette Adkins, then and there well knowing said note was base, and that no such bank as that of Charlotte in the State of North Carolina existed. Against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

And at a Circuit Court held as aforesaid the 28th day of May 1858 William Price and Lafayette Adkins who stand jointly indicted for passing forged coin &c., were led to the bar in custody of the keeper of the jail for this court, and thereupon came as well the attorney for the Commonwealth, as the defendant Lafayette Adkins by his counsel – And the said Adkins electing to be tried on the indictment for said offence, Separately, he was arraigned thereon. Whereupon by his counsel he moved the court to quash the 1st & 2nd counts of said indictment, which motion being argued and considered was overruled. And thereupon the said Adkins pleaded not guilty to said Indictment. And it appearing to the court that the prisoner William Price is poor and unable to employ counsel to defend him, the court appointed Samuel A. Miller & Isaac S. Samuels, gentlemen attorneys practicing in this court, to defend him. Whereupon he being also arraigned on the said indictment moved the court to quash the last court thereof, which motion being argued and considered was overruled. And thereupon the said William Price pleaded not guilty to the said Indictment. And the Attorney for the Commonwealth electing to try first the defendant Lafayette Adkins, the prisoner William Price was remanded to Jail, and then came a jury to wit; Thomas Newhose, David C. Snyder, James Copenhaver, Franklin L. Noyes, Henry Chappell, Calvin Armstrong, Samuel Damce?, John B. Hart, Squire G. Jarrett, Hugh W. Sesonder?, Joel Alexander, and Samuel Mccomick, who being elected impaneled, and sworn the truth of and upon the premises to speak as to the defendant Lafayette Adkins, and having heard the evidence in part, were committed to the care of John Slack sheriff and Andrew Moore. Lewis D. Wilson & John Slack Jr. his deputies, after they the said Sheriff had been duly sworn to keep the said jury together without meat or drink, save such as should be directed by the court, and not to suffer them, or either of them to communicate with any other person or persons whatsoever. Nor communicate with the said jurors themselves, on the subject matter with which they were charged. And the said Sheriff were instructed to bring the said jury into court. On next day morning 8 ½ o'clock, until which time this cause was continued, and the prisoner was remanded to jail.

At a Circuit Court held as aforesaid the 29th day of May 1858 Lafayette Adkins who stands indicted together with William Price for passing forged coin &c. was again led to the bar in custody of the keeper of the jail for this court, And thereupon as well the attorney for the Commonwealth as the said Defendant by his counsel, and the jury impannelled and sworn in this case, were brought into court in the care of the Sheriff and his deputies, and having heard the evidence in full, and returning to their chamber, and not agreeing upon a verdict, were again committed to the care of John Slack sheriff, and Andrew Moore, John Slack Jr. and John Laidley his deputies, after they the said Sheriffs had been duly sworn to keep the said jury together without meat or drink, except such as should be directed by the court, and not to suffer them or either of them to communicate with any other person or persons whatsoever, nor to communicate with the said jurors themsoever on the subject matter with which they are charged. And the said Sheriff were instructed to bring the said jury in court on Monday morning succeeding 9 o'clock, until which time this cause was continued. And the prisoner was remanded to jail.

At a Circuit Court held as aforesaid the 31st day of May 1858 Lafayette Adkins who stands indicted together with William Price for passing forged coin &c. was again led to the bar in custody of the keeper of the jail for this court, And thereupon came again as well the attorney for the Commonwealth as the said Defendant by his counsel, And the jury impannelled and sworn in this case, were brought into court in the care of the Sheriff and his deputies, and returning to their chamber, after some time returned into court, and upon their oaths did say, that he the said Adkins is guilty of the felony as in the indictment against him is charged, and they do ascertain the term of his imprisonment in the Penitentiary of this Commonwealth to three years. Whereupon the prisoner was remanded to jail.

And now this day to wit: at a Circuit Court held for Kanawha County at the Court House thereof the 19th day of June 1858.

Lafayette Adkins who stands convicted of felony on a joint indictment against him and William Price for the said offence, was this day again led to the bar in the custody of the keeper of the jail of this county, and thereupon it being demanded of him, if anything he had or knew to say, why the court should not now proceed to pronounce judgment against him according to law, and nothing being offered or alleged in delay of judgment. It is considered by the court that the said Lafayette Adkins be confined in the Penitentiary House of this Commonwealth,

for the period of three years, as by the jury in their verdict was ascertained, And it is ordered that the Sheriff of this county, do as soon as practicable, remove and safely convey the said Lafayette Adkins to the Penitentiary aforesaid, therein to be kept imprisoned and treated in the manner prescribed by law, and the prisoner is remanded to jail.

Teste,

A. W. Quarrier, clerk
Kanawha Circuit Court

To His Excellency Henry A. Wise
Governor of Virginia

At the request of Mr. Ballard of Boone County and Doct. Maupin of Cabell County I have examined into the character and conduct of Lafayette Adkins a convict in this institution from the County of Kanawha; and learn from the officers of ward in which said Adkins works, that he has uniformly conducted himself in the most commendable manner, obedient attentive industrious and well disposed, the other officers who have had opportunities of noticing have concurred with the ward officers. From my own observation, I can cheerfully say that the said L. Adkins has been a most excellent prisoner.

J. F. Pendleton Superintendent
of Virginia Penitentiary
December 14th 1859