

Commonwealth of Virginia, Prince William County to wit;

The jurors of the Grand Jury of and for the body of Prince William County being impannelled sworn and charged for the Commonwealth this seventh day of August in the year one thousand eight hundred and forty three on their oaths present that a certain Stephen Chilton late of the county aforesaid mariner being a person of wicked depraved and abandoned mind and disposition and wholly lost to a due sense of decency and morality, and as much as in him lay to violate and contempt the morals of the Citizens of the Commonwealth did on the twenty eight day of June in the year aforesaid with force and power in the Town of Dumfries in the County of Prince William, and within the jurisdiction of the court, unlawfully, wickedly, deliberately and willfully did expose himself from his neck and shoulders to his waist naked in the house then occupied by William A. Merchant situate in the Town and County aforesaid where sundry persons as well males as females were peaceably assembled and on the same day and year last aforesaid in the Town & County aforesaid with the like wicked unlawful deliberate and willful purpose did expose himself naked from his neck and shoulders to his waist in the public streets of the Town aforesaid in the County aforesaid and within the jurisdiction of this Court, with force and arms in front of divers houses of divers citizens in the Town & County aforesaid situate as aforesaid with intent to violate and corrupt the morals of the good Citizens of the Commonwealth, to the great scandal and subversion of decency, religion and good order, to the great corruption of the morals and manners of the Citizens thereof and against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth.

John Gibson attorney for the Commonwealth in the County Court of Prince William

From the information of Daniel Ratcliff attorney at law and William A. Weaver yeoman, the first of the County of Prince William County and Town of Dumfries, and the latter of the said County of Prince William and sent by direction of the Court as evidence before the Grand Jury

(From court records found at the Prince William County Court Archives, Stephen Charlton was arrested and jailed for an unknown period of time. After being indicted in August 1843 by the Grand Jury, the case was continued on three occasions until 4 June 1844, when he pleaded not guilty and posted a bond. The case came to a conclusion 6 August 1844 with a notation "Judgment for defendant")

Ron Turner
18 September 2012