

**KYR-0001-004-0131**

**James R. Dupuy, Affidavit**

The following is the substance of the testimony in the case of  
Comth of Ky  
vs  
Caroline

tried for murder of Blanch Levi child of Willis and Anne Levi of Louisville Ky at the May term of the Jeff  
Co Cir Court.

Caroline is aged about 20 yrs is a contraband & was employed as a cook & the only servant of Willis  
Levi—had been so employed since Sept 1862,—Levi's family consisted of himself, his wife & child &  
Caroline.

Caroline cooked & washed; Levi being a boat pilot was absent more than one half the time. She was a  
good servant & seemed to love the child, who was very fond of Blanche (the child) (her (Caroline) About  
two months before the death of the child (which occurred sometime in Feb 1863.) Levi who had  
purchased some strychnine for the purpose of killing some cats and pigeons that had been annoying him  
asked his wife for the poison, who taking it from some shelf or ^mantle or^ other exposed place in the  
family room handed the paper ^containing the poison^ to Levi. He called Caroline & had her to bring  
him some beef which he took & cut into three peices, small peices, about 1 1/2 inches square & on each  
peice put some of the poison saying at the time that "here is enough strychnine (or poison) to kill a  
regiment of men". Caroline standing near by with the remainder of the beef in her hand & hearing the  
remark

Levi put these peices of meat under the house (the adjacent house) of a neighbor (a plank being off next  
the ground), placing the beef as far under the house as he could reach with his arm; the aperture being  
about 10 or 11 inches wide & about 6 or 7 feet long There was no division fence between this aperture  
& Levi's back yard.\*

\*When Levi had finished putting the poison on the meat he handed the paper to his wife, (in Caroline's  
presence) folded & tied neatly as if just from the Druggists. who ^Mrs Levi^ put it in the bottom of the  
till of a trunk in the room & placed upon the paper a small empty paper box. 2 inches long by one inch  
broad, (about the size of the paper in which the poison was) & on the top of the box she carelessly laid  
some artificial flowers there were all the articles in this part of the till of the trunk—the till being divided  
into apartments like little boxes The ^trunk^ as it always did remained unlocked & unstrapped.

Nearly about the time of this occurance (whether before or after the writer can not now remember)  
Levi had put some of this poison on some grains of wheat in a tin dipper out in the backyard for the  
purpose of killing some pigeons, which remained there for a few days, when he carefully took the dipper

& its contents & threw it into his privy pit on the rear of his lot, twenty paces from his kitchen. About one month before the death of his child Levi had set out several fruit trees in his backyard & just before night cautioned Caroline not to leave the back gate open so as to let his cow in the yard lest she might injure the trees, the following morning the cow was found in the yard, the fruit trees having been much injured by her. Levi asked Caroline if she had left the gate open and she said she had not—whereupon he told her if the cow was found in the yard again at night, that he would hold her responsible for it. Caroline manifested no anger at this & gave him no insolence or response of any kind. About two weeks before the death of the child Levi had just white-washed his yard fence and when done said in the presence of Caroline & his wife "Caroline while I am gone don't any of you throw any water or trash on this fence, if you do I will make you white-wash it again"—No reply was given to this remark by Caroline, no anger manifested. Shortly after this injunction (whether the same meal after or on the next day the writer does not now remember) the fence being within about 8 feet of the kitchen door Caroline stepped out of the kitchen door on a plank platform just in front of the kitchen door & about 3 1/2 feet square & threw the contents of the dish-pan after having washed her dishes in the water, on the white-washed fence. Mrs Levi immediately informed Mr Levi of this who went to the door & told Caroline that "for two cents he would give her a thousand lashes" & that "she had better not do it again" Soon after this (perhaps the next day) Levi left for his boat on a trip to Memphis (or Nashville perhaps)

During his absence Caroline was not disobedient or insolent but was surly, rather pouting & silent doing her work as usual.

Once during Levi's absence Mrs Levi reprimanded Caroline & her husband (a contraband who hired to Levi's brother but slept at Willis Levi's with his wife every night) that they must not sit up so late & keep a light burning

One Monday afternoon Mrs Anne Levi (mother of the child) & her sister her next door neighbor (North) were walking from 3 till 5 o'clock leaving Blanche the child (aged about three years 15 months) and Caroline alone ^together^ at home.

During their absence Caroline asked Levi's next-door neighbor (a German woman going up to the fence dividing the lots) if she knew where Mrs Levi had gone. When Mrs Levi returned, as soon as she entered her room she discerned that the trunk which usually sat either against or nearly against the wall was displaced from its usual position, so as to arrest her attention as soon as she got to a point where she could well see the trunk; one end of the trunk being farther from the wall than the other, having the appearance of having been moved from the wall, so as to give the lid room to go up without interfering with the wall. At one end & near the trunk a wooden chair was always placed & near the wall this chair was so moved from its usual position as to attract Mr L's attention while near the trunk. About eight inches from the trunk & on the floor & near that end of the trunk in which the poison had been placed two months before. (the right hand front corner) was found the little paper box, which two months before had been placed immediately on the paper containing the poison Mrs Levi entered & said to Caroline who was in the kitchen ironing "Why Caroline who has moved the trunk" Caroline replied, "Miss Anne I have'n't been in the trunk" Mrs Levi was restless on Monday night, not sleeping well, awoke

several times during the night & on one occasion had a singularly stinging or suffocating sensation about the lower part of the throat and feeling badly, it was late before she entered the kitchen for her breakfast (where she took her meals in winter) later than usual. She was always a remarkably healthy woman & nearly always rested well. When she entered the kitchen ^on Tuesday morning^ she was dressed for the day & had Blanche by the hand leading her. The child was not yet dressed.

As she entered Caroline was just setting down a cup of coffee at her (Mrs Levis) plate or was just in the act of removing her hand from the cup after having placed it down. The coffee in the cup had been sweetened & the cream put in it.

Mrs Levi stated that at the time she entered the kitchen she thought Caroline had poured out her coffee for her because she was late getting to Breakfast

(Mrs L. stated Caroline had never poured out her coffee before, nor for any member of her family; this office always having ^been performed^ by Mrs L. the lady of the house) Mrs L. remarked when she saw the coffee "Why Caroline we are so late coming to breakfast you have poured out my coffee for me". To this Caroline made no response

Mrs L. took about one teaspoon full of her coffee, not more ^it did not taste well or naturally to me (she said) but this might be the bad taste in my mouth^ & still feeling unwell said she had no appetite for breakfast: told Caroline she would go in her room (the next one) & lie down again & to "take Blanche, dress her & give her (Blanche) her breakfast

Mrs Levi retired to her room & laid down & after she had been there not more than 5 or 6 minutes Caroline came up to her bedside (coming from the kitchen) & said "Miss Anne where is Blanche's bonnet she wants to go out in the yard"? Blanche following Caroline in approached the bed-side of her mother while Caroline stepped into the other (front) room & bringing her bonnet, tied it or put it on her head & leading her to the door Mrs L. told her to leave it ajar (it being mild weather for February) so that in playing she might be in or out as she chose

As Caroline led the child to the door she (the child) seemed to pull back as if reluctant to go. Mrs L saw her lingering about the door for an instant & then lost sight of her for 5 or Eight minutes At the end of this time Caroline entered Mrs L's room (whether from the yard or from the kitchen Mrs L. did not know, the entrance being by the same door) & walking briskly & firmly & in rather a ~~resigned~~ abrupt manner said "Miss Anne come out & see Blanche she acts so strangely". Mrs L hastened to the door & found her child lying on the ground in convulsions about five feet from her room door & about three feet from the kitchen door. And said "Oh Caroline how could you leave her so". Caroline did not reply to this. On being told to get some warm water she brought cold water this occurred twice. Caroline was sent to a neighbors for assistance & During her absence the child died in convulsions in about 15 minutes from the time Mrs L left her in the kitchen with Caroline at breakfast The child frothed at the mouth, became livid under the eyes, around the lips & about the finger nails & on the feet Professional men testified that these were the ordinary symptoms arising from death by receiving strychnia in the

stomach. Late Tuesday after noon Mrs Levi examined the trunk (her suspicions now for the first-time having been aroused) & found the artificial flowers disarranged, displaced & thrown over from off the paper of poison & the poison lying on the top of the flowers the paper being tied rather bunglingly.

(Mrs Levi further stated on cross-ex. that since she examined the paper of poison on Tuesday evening it had not been opened or retied & upon its being presented to her ^in court^ said it was not tied badly.)  
Com atty A good many friends remained with Mrs L during Tuesday;

Coffee was the usual beverage of the family Tea was served only when ordered by Mrs L & it was generally ordered by her only when she felt unwell. Coffee was her drink for breakfast & supper usually. Mr Levi was fond of it= Tuesday at dinner Tea was served without any orders to that effect or on the subject in any way whatever as far as any witness could state Coffee was ordered for Supper but Caroline served Tea instead And about Tea-time Mrs L. smelt coffee (as though it was being perched) & made some remark on the subject when some one stepped to the kitchen & saw some in a bowl or vessel in which it was not usually kept, seemingly wet & asked about it Caroline said she was drying some coffee in which she had spilled some water

The stomach of Blanch was taken out by a physician Dr Palmer, bottled, sealed up & carried by two persons to an experienced practical chemist Dr Jenkins who analysed the contents. applied three tests & each one gave him strychnia He analysed about one third or one fourth of the contents ^of the childs stomach^ with some of which he killed a frog. (the symptoms of which in death indicated the presence of strychnia)

One third or one fourth the contents were sufficient to have caused death

While the post mortem examination was being made Caroline was seen 30 feet from the kitchen standing very near the window of the room where the body of the child was, in an attitude as if endeavoring to look in upon the proceeding (the window shutters being closed) During Tuesday afternoon & the whole of Wednesday she seemed restless, not contented unless briskly engaged at work often went first to the front & then to the back gate of the lot & would look restlessly & quickly first ^in^ one direction & then immediately in another

She was seen to look at the body of the child smile—she did this twice.

She had been told not to come in Mrs L's room on Wednesday, but manifested a disposition & desire to go in there & on one occasion came in abruptly & coming near the bedside of Mrs L, who was unwell & weeping ^said^ suddenly, "Miss Anne how do you feel now" at the same time quickly touching Mrs L. on the elbow at this time or about this time of the day Caroline standing near Mrs L. was in a position on so that Mrs L. could not see her face. Caroline was seen ^by another witness^ to smile She asked on Tuesday once or twice if the child would be buried "Tomorrow". On Wednesday forenoon & shortly after the post-mortem examination (She not yet having been in the room where the body of the child was, that is, that day, Wednesday the matter of the post-mortem examination having been known only

to four persons & the physicians who kept it secret) she asked if they "were going to cut the child open". She asked as many as one half dozen times during Wednesday "When were they going to bury the child" She also asked if they "were going to keep the child till Mr Levi came home

Mrs Levi kept a great many things in the trunk spoken of; it was rather a convenient box for rags, little boxes, soiled clothes, anything in fact—it was always unlocked. She Mrs Levi had not noticed the paper of poison ^particularly^ since she put it there, when given her by her husband, but frequently went in the Trunk & thinks there is no doubt that she went in the trunk evry day or so or evry few days at least and would have immediately noticed any disarrangement such as she discovered on Tuesday (late) afternoon when she found poison displaced

The above testimony was written by me from memory at the request of Mr J H Price atty for Caroline

J R Dupuy  
Com atty  
7th Judal Dist

at the request of the atty for Caroline I add that on Wednesday Caroline was seen in the room where the body of the child was laid out, she was seen to stoop over the body & look upon the face of the child & as she raised her countenance was seen to smile. This was in evidence

J R Dupuy Com atty

The chemist said Blanche died from the effects of strychnia administered to her ^in her stomach^ It was proven that the childs symptoms in death were those of a person having taken strychnia

Dupuy Com' atty

Commonwealth  
vs } Testimony  
Caroline (a slave)

**KYR-0001-029-0503**

**R. F. Baird and J. H. Price to James F. Robinson**

To His Excellency James F. Robinson Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky—

At a late Term of the Jefferson Circuit Court Caroline a woman of color was arraigned tried and convicted on a charge of murder and sentenced to be hung. She is to receive at the hands of the officer the extreme penalty of the law on Friday next. Her time on earth is short indeed. She has as yet made no confession of her guilt: but has under every circumstance and at all times maintained the same imperturbable adherence to the protestations of her innocence—

Caroline is a fugitive slave from the South "a contraband." She is ignorant—wholly uneducated. She made her appearance in this City last fall, was arrested by a police officer and placed in the care of a Mr. Levi as a servant. An infant of Mr. Levi, that Caroline was tenderly nursing was seized with convulsions and died. On analysis, Strychnine was found in the stomach of the child. Caroline was accused of poisoning and found guilty by a Jury of her country.

For the purposes of this Application it is <sup>^not^</sup> necessary to detail facts that might indicate the guilt or innocence of the prisoner—We will however aver that the evidence was wholly and entirely circumstantial.

The Rev. Mr. McKee of this City, and the Rev. Mr. Adams (of color) also of this city, the spiritual advisors of this woman are not satisfied as to the conditions of her soul. They ask that she may have further time to reflect, And if guilty, to repent of this great sin. "For the Redemption of the soul is precious and it ceaseth forever." They pray that she may have a few more days, weeks, or months to prepare to meet her God, if her fate be inevitable.

We the undersigned therefore, as the counsel of the prisoner appointed by the court on her behalf do ask, And most earnestly pray your Excellency to grant to this most unfortunate of all human beings a brief respite from the dreadful sentence, till such time as your Excellency's experienced wisdom shall deem commendable—

R. F. Baird  
J. H. Price  
Attos—

Louisville, Wednesday, August 12th 1863

Louisville Aug 12th 1863  
To His Excellency  
Gov Robinson  
Dear Sir—

From the representations made to me by the Rev Mr McKee as to the condition of "Caroline" I deem it entirely appropriate that your excellency should extend the time as to her case

J R Dupuy  
Com' atty

For the reasons above indicated I hope the respite will be granted.

P. B. Muir

To His Excellency  
Gov. Robinson  
Dear Sir

I was not in possession of information relative to Caroline until last week—have visited her regularly since—find her deplorably ignorant and anxious to know the way of life—hope you may extend her time.

Yours very respectfully John L. McKee  
Pastor of Christ Presbyterian Church

Jefferson Cir. Ct  
Caroline  
(woman of color)

A Respite is granted until Friday the 11th day of September 1863 when the sentence hereby respited will be executed

J F Robinson

Issd Aug 13. 1863

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A Respite is granted until friday 2d october 1863 when sentence hereby respited will be executed

Tho. E Bramlette

I have been visiting Caroline almost since her conviction—I endorse the statements made in petition & unite with Mr. McKee in his request.

Very Respectfully  
Henry Adams

To Govr Robinson  
Pastor of Fifth St. Baptist Church.

**KYR-0001-037-0240**

**James F. Robinson, Executive Journal**

[1863-08-13]

He respited until Friday the 11th day of September next a sentence of the Jefferson Circuit Court ordering Caroline (a woman of color) to be hung on Friday the 14th instant for the crime of murder.

**KYR-0001-004-0134**

**Caroline Dennent to Thomas E. Bramlette**

To His Excellency Thomas E. Bramlet Governor of Kentucky

Your Petitioner, Caroline, a woman of color, would respectfully state that she was tried in the Jefferson Circuit Court at the May term upon a charge of Murder, she was convicted & sentenced to be hung August 14th. A petition for a respite was presented to your predecessor which was kindly granted. Your petitioner now prays your Excellency to grant her a full pardon. She is innocent of the crime charged, & that your Excellency may be impressed with the truth of the statement she will state the leading & important features of the case.

The evidence was altogether circumstantial.

Your petitioner lived in the state of Tennessee, her master Mr. Dennent had joined the army. When General Beull's army marched from Tennessee to Louisville she was brought along in the train. On her arrival in Louisville she found her self in a strange place without any one to advise with. She was houseless & home less, & "had not where to lay her head." In this forlorn condition she was arrested as a fugitive slave by a Policeman & carried to Mr Willis Levys that she might have a home, untill such time as her master might come & take her back to Tennessee. For this kindness she was grateful. She endeavored to pay for this kindness, by being attentive to her duties as a servant; watchful of their interest, & in all things to be faithful & trustworthy.

The family of Mr Levy consisted of himself his wife & a lovely little Girl called Blanch about fifteen months old. This little child died Sudenly, & a practical chemist discovered that the stomach contained strichnine.

The child was fed by petitioner at breakfast, it was carried into the mothers chambers, it was playful & fondled its mother. In a little while petitioner led the child into the yard & several minutes there after the child was seized with convulsions & in a short time expired.

Mr Levy had bought some strichnine several months before & had on two occasions put some out once to poison tame pigeons, & once he split three pieces of meat & put in some of the poison, & put it just under the cill of the house to poison cats; This Mr Levy stated in evidence. Mr Levy & his wife both stated that petitioner appeared to love the little child, & delighted to do little kind things to please it at all times.

Mr & Mrs Levy testified that petitioner was obedient; was not impudent, & obeyed with cheerfulness all commands. The above statements are matters of evidence, brought out on the trial of the case, & that too, from the witnesses introduced by the commonwealth, for your petitioner had none. Your petitioner will now state one important fact which was not developed on the trial, Mr Levy put out the poison on more than two occasions; he put it out many times to kill Dogs & Cats, & it was never taken up, & what became of it no one knows.

Your petitioner plead not guilty before the Jury. She plead not guilty before the Judge when she received he sentence, & before God & High Heaven she is innocent of the crime charged. She could not have perpetrated Such a deed upon any one, much less upon one so innocent & so lovely. The act belies every instinct of her nature. She is alive to the feelings of a woman & a Mother.

Your petitioner prays your Excellency to grant her a pardon

Caroline ^her X mark^ Dennent

We the undersigned citizens of Louisville Ky unite in the prayer of the petitioners, & most respectfully request your Excellency to grant her a pardon

H C Thomas ast Jailer  
John g Enlow Policeman  
Charls Juno Policeman

I prosecuted the petitioner, Caroline, in the city court of Louisville, and from strong circumstances made known to me since that trial, I feel that Executive clemency will have been worthily bestowed if she be fully pardoned

W. G. Reasor  
City Attorney

Burton Farmer  
Turn Key at Jail  
A C Cross Policiman  
Wm Cross Poleceman  
Henry C Russell D M, E D  
John H Williams Policeman  
Georges Jonas Interpaeter  
J C Baird Policeman  
Robt A Hamilton  
Phil Tomppert Jr. C C C L

**KYR-0001-004-0128**

**Raymond Lynch, Affidavit**

Commonwealth

against } Affidavit of Raymon Lynch

Caroline, charged with the murder of Blanche Levy chidl of Willis & Annie Levy

Raymon Lynch states on oath that he lives next door to Willis Levy & am is his brother in Law. Levy & himself having married sisters.

I have been in the Louisville Journal office since 1836. I was foreman of the office for ten years, & since 1859 I have been chief clerk in the counting room.

I leave home early every morning & do not return untill night, Sundays excepted.

All I know about Mr Levy throwing out poison I learnt from my wife who has already given an affidavit in this case. I have no hesitancy in stating that the facts sworn to by my wife are true I did have a dog poisoned by Mr Willis Levy

Raymond Lynch

State of Ky Jefferson Co

Personally appeared before me Raymond Lynch who made oath that the above affadavit Signed by him in my presence was true

Given under my hand and Seal Notorial this 19th Septr 1863

Jno H Talbot

Notary Public for Jefferson County

JNO. H. TALBOTT

NOTARY

PUBLIC

JEFFERSON CO, KY.

**KYR-0001-004-0133**

**Josephine Lynch, Affidavit**

Commonwealth

against } Affidavit of Mrs Josephine Lynch

Caroline, a slave, charged with the murder of Blanche child of Willis & Annie Levy

Mrs Lynch states on oath that while at Mrs Levys she told Caroline to go to the Grocery & buy some tea this was at the time that the child was a corpse & the same time alluded to in Mrs ~~Lynches~~ Levys testimony before the court when Caroline was on trial. My Husband had a dog killed by poison in Mr Willis Levys yard. My husband & my self saw the dog while labouring under the effects of the poison & told Mr Levy about it & he said he poisoned it because the dog had anoyed him.

I found some poison in my yard thrown in by Mr Levy & I remonstrated with him & told him that my children might get some of it I live next door to Mr Levy I am a sister to Mrs Annie Levy. Mr Willis Levy & wife, I have heard the neighbors talk angrily about Mr Levy for killing their dogs in his yard with poison this I have heard a great many time.

I have been very uneasy many time for fear that my children would get some of the poison I alwise thought Mr Levy was very reckless about throwing out poison.

Mrs Levy told me that at the time the child died that she had in the house a water bucket full of parched coffee that was bought from the soldiers. My sister after the death of the child threw away the bucket of coffee

Mr Levy poisoned all the dogs of his close neighbors. This I know becaus the dogs died & Mr Levy said he intended to kill them & he put out the poison to do it He put out poison from fall to spring.

Mr Levy put out the poison every night for a great while I would think a hundred times

Mrs Josephine Lynch

State of Ky Jefferson Co

Personally appeared before me Mrs Josephine Lynch and made oath that the statements made by her in the affadavit signed by her in my presence were true. The said statements were made by affiant in my presence

Given under my hand and Seal Notorial this 17th day of September 1863

Jno H Talbott  
Notary Public  
Jefferson County Ky

JNO. H. TALBOTT  
NOTARY  
PUBLIC  
JEFFERSON CO. KY.

I Jacob TS Cave was present when Mrs Josephine Lynch made the statements contained in the above affidavit. I know her to be a lady and the Sister of Mrs Annie Levy the wife of Willis Levy and next door neighbor of said Levy

J. S. Cave

Subscribed & sworn to before me by J S Cave this 17th day of Sepr. 1863

Jno H Talbott  
Notary Public  
Jefferson County

JNO. H. TALBOTT  
NOTARY  
PUBLIC  
JEFFERSON CO. KY.

State of Kentucky  
Jefferson County } sct

I T. Jack Conn clerk of the County Court of the County afsd certify that Jno H Talbott whose genuine signature appears to the foregoing certificates is now and was at the time of signing the Same an acting notary Public in and for said County duly commissioned and qualified and that full faith and credit are due all his official acts as such and I further certify that I am well acquainted with J. S. Cave whose genuine signature appears to the foregoing affidavit and know him to be a citizen of this County and full faith and credit are due to his statements he being an honorable high toned Gentleman

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of said Court this 17 day of September 1863.

T. Jack Conn clk

JEFFERSON COUNTY  
KENTUCKY

**KYR-0001-004-0127**

**John L. McKee to Thomas E. Bramlette**

Louisville Ky. Sept 3d 63.

Gov. Bramlette

Dear Sir

I suppose one of the greatest annoyances, incident to your office as Govinor, is an application to pardon those condemned as criminals—doubtless, efforts are often made to rescue those that ought to suffer—but, I think you know me well enough, to be satisfied that I would not try to prevent the punishment of the guilty—or of those I believe to be guilty.

An unfortunate negro girl, about 21 or 22 years of age, brought to this city, as a contraband, by Buell's Army, last Fall, Caroline, by name, has been tried, convicted and sentenced to be hung upon the 11th Inst. If guilty she ought certainly to receive the dreadful penalty But, in my judgment, it is very doubtful, to say the least, whether she perpetrated the deed. I did not hear the evidence before the jury—but had a statement of the evidence, in person, from the Judge and Commonwealth's Attorney, and do not think the life of any human being ought to be taken, from such testimony. No one cared any thing about her, and she had a strong prejudice to meet in the mere fact of being a contraband. I visited her as a spiritual instructor and at first inquired into the facts of the case solely as a guide in bringing her to confession and repentance—when I recd the statement, I was amazed that any one should have been convicted upon such a showing. I do not charge or believe there was any corruption in the Court. I questioned and crossquestioned ^Caroline^ at different times, and in every way my ingenuity would dictate, and always received the same simple, artless narative. I may be mistaken in but I do not believe any one, as ignorant as she is, could tell me such a lie as she did, if guilty, and not be caught. She gives a very natural account of every part of the case, that looked to her guilt. I pressed upon her conscience with all the power I could, the impossibility of her finding pardon of God, if she went to Him with a lie in her mouth—and that she might find pardon from God for murder telling lies and every other sin, if she would confess and repent— And this I continued up to the very time she expected to be taken out for execution. She was sentenced to be hung, last month, and we got Gov. Robinson to extend her time—She knew nothing of the extention of the time, or even that application had been made for any thing.

More than this, Caroline gives many marks of true penitence for sin—in a word, she gives good evidence of genuine conversion, and yet denies resolutely that she perpetrated the deed.

No body claims that any of her antecedents point to such a deed, but the contrary is proven by the parents of the child that was poisoned.

In my judgment, no man that will use poison about his premises as carelessly as Mr Levi did, has any right to ask that this servant shall be hung upon ^such^ circumstantial evidence, if his child should die of poison.

I did not intend to test your patience so long, but it is no light matter to take the life of even a friendless and homeless contraband. I hope you will look into the case, and not let the heavy arm of power fall upon an innocent being.

Yours very respectfully

John L. McKee

**KYR-0001-004-0129**

**John G. Barrett to Thomas E. Bramlette**

President. JOHN G. BARRET, Cashier.  
Office Southern Bank of Kentucky.

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Louisville, Sept 2 1863.

Govr Bramlett. Esq.,

Dear Sir:

There was a negro woman by name of "Caroline", convicted at the last term of our Circuit Court, for the murder of the Child of Willis Levy and is sentenced to be executed on the 11 inst. This woman is a "contraband" negro, having come to this place some 7 or 8 months ago, she is ignorant and unable to procure the means of proper defence. And without entering into the evidence, as you will doubtfully have it before you, I will simply say that she was convicted on the flimseyest of circumstantial evidence. And I believe is perfectly innocent. And if she could have a new trial in any way I believe She could find all I have procure such rebutting testimony, that would establish her innocence beyond doubt. It is a case that, demans your executive clemency. I dont know the woman, have never seen her, But can say that from all I know of the case, If she is executed, she is innocent of the crime, and her execution would be wrong.

I do hope you will at least prolong her time until you can have all the facts before you I dont hesitate in saying I believe her innocent

Very Respectfully

J G Barret

**KYR-0001-004-0130**

**George W. Winston to Thomas E. Bramlette**

Louisville Ky Sept. 2d, 1863.

His Excellency

T. E. Bramlett

Dr. Sir.

The negro woman Caroline now under sentence for poisoning the child of Mr Levy; was Examined in the city, ^court^ & she was held over to answer, the Testimony showing probable cause to suspect her guilty. I was not present At the final Trial & did not hear the Testimony given to the Jury. but from the Statement of the Rev. Mr. McKee, of the Jailor & Several others who heard the Trial & have had an opportunity to convene with Caroline since she has been sentenced, I have become satisfied that there is to say the least great doubt of her Guilt; and that her case presents strong grounds for Executive Interference.

I am Dr. Sir

Very respectfully

Geo. W. Whaston.

**KYR-0001-004-0132**

**L. A. Civill et al. to Thomas E. Bramlette**

To His Excellency Thos E. Bramlet  
Governor of Kentucky

We the undersigned Jurors who tried Caroline, (a woman of color) charged with the murder of Blanch Levy, Infant child of Willis Levys Esqr, do unite in the prayer of petitioner, & most respectfully request your Excellency to grant her a pardon

L. A. Civill  
W. O. Gardner  
John Sait  
Joseph Griffirth  
Thomas Schorch  
Samuel Ingrem  
R H Snyder  
Wm K. Allan  
E P Neale

State of Kentucky  
Jefferson County sct.

I James P. Chambers clerk of the Jefferson Circuit Court in the state aforesaid do hereby certify that the foregoing gentleman who signed there names above all were of the Jurors, that tried the case of the Comth vs Caroline, a woman of color.

Given under my hand this 3d day of Sept 1863

James P. Chambers  
C. J. C C

**KYR-0001-012-0004**

**Thomas E. Bramlette, Executive Journal**

[1863-09-04]

The Governor commissioned justices of the Peace for Harlan County elected at the August Election 1863

He Respited until Friday the 2nd day of Oct next a sentence of the Jefferson Cir. Court Ordering Caroline (a woman of Color) to be hung on the 14th Aug/63 & respited by Gov Robinson until 11th Sept 1863, for the crime of murder.

The Governor remitted all of a judgment of the Franklin Circuit Court against Meredity Peyton for \$20.

He remitted all of a judgment of the Lyon Cir Court against Uriah Kevil for \$50

He remitted all of judgement of the Boyd Cir Court against James L. Lurman for \$50— for selling Liquor,

**KYR-0001-012-0017**

**Thomas E. Bramlette, Executive Journal**

[1863-09-24]

He remitted the following Judgments towit:

Louisville City Courts vs. J. N Cornell	\$200.	Gaming
Franklin Cir Ct. vs J. M Harper	Damages	\$653.94

He appointed & Commissioned F. G. Robbins Notary Public Jefferson County

Also John J. Hayden J. Peace for Caldwell County

He Pardoned Carline (a Slave) sentenced to be hung by the Jefferson Cir Court for Murder.