

To His Excellency John Letcher Governor of Virginia -

Mr. the petitioner respectfully represents  
your Excellency that Wm. W. Bradlow a free person  
of colour who was committed by the County Court of  
Essex on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of March 1863 of aiding  
and abetting runaway slaves, when on his removal  
for a number of years has uniformly borne a  
high character, and has been regarded in the  
community as an honest, industrious and upright  
citizen, and of great use and value to the com-  
munity as a blacksmith - The offence of which  
of which the said Bradlow stands convicted  
and for which he has been sentenced to be  
sold into absolute slavery, is the only offence  
affecting the character of the said Bradlow  
that has come to our knowledge, and we are  
satisfied from all the circumstances of the  
case that it was not the intention of the  
said Bradlow to violate the law, but that  
he was unwittingly carried, the runaway  
slaves across the Rappahannock River under  
the impression that they had sufficient papers  
from the owner, and George F. Wright, the  
principal witness who testified against  
the said Bradlow is under the same  
impression -

In view of these facts, Mr. perfectly  
petitioner your Excellency to grant a pardon  
to the said Bradlow;

Respectfully,  
L. Montague  
James M. Montague.

application for the pardon  
of Wm Bond Love  
Pardon granted  
& the reasons will  
be furnished to  
morrow

John Letcher  
Dec 18: 1852

Dec. 19

Pardoned

William Breedlove a free negro was  
convicted by the County Court of Essex at  
the term held for the month of November  
last, of aiding slaves to escape from their  
masters, and sentenced to be sold into  
absolute slavery. At the time of his con-  
viction the Court recommended the pris-  
oner to Executive clemency, but assigned  
no reason for the recommendation. I  
therefore declined to interfere with the  
judgment. To day Lieutenant Governor  
Montague, Mr Matthews, and the Sher-  
iff and deputy Sheriff of Essex have  
applied to me, for a pardon, and up-  
on their representations as to his previous  
uniform good character and conduct,  
and the further representation that Judge  
Coleman who heard the evidence regard-  
ed it as wholly insufficient to warrant  
a conviction I direct his discharge

John Litcher

To his Excellency John Letcher Governor of Virginia —

We the undersigned respectfully represent to your Excellency that Mr. Breedlove a freeperson of colour who was convicted by the Circuit Court of Essex Co. the 16<sup>th</sup> day of March 1863 of aiding and abetting runaway slaves, whom we have known for a number of years, has uniformly borne a high character, and has been regarded in the community as an honest, industrious and upright citizen, and of great use and value to the community as a blacksmith. He offence aforesaid of which the said Breedlove stands convicted and for which he has been sentenced to be sold into absolute slavery, is the only offence affecting the character of the said Breedlove that has come to our knowledge, and we are satisfied from all the circumstances of the case that it was not the intention of the said Breedlove to violate the law, but that he ~~was under the~~ ferried the runaway slaves across the Rappahannock River under the impress that they had sufficient papers from the owners, and George T Wright the principal witness who testified against the said Breedlove is under the same impression.

In view of the facts, We respectfully petition your Excellency to grant a pardon to the said Breedlove;

RO: L. MONTAGUE

JAMES MC MATTHEWS

application for the pardon of Wm Breedlove —

Pardon granted & the reasons will be furnished to morrow

John Letcher

Dec 18: 1863

Dec. 19

Pardoned

William Breedlove a free negro was convicted by the county court of Essex at the term held for the month of November last, of aiding slaves to escape from their masters, and sentences to be sold into absolute slavery. At the time of his conviction the court recommended the prisoner to Executive clemency, but assigned no reason for the recommendations I therefore decide to interfere with this judgment. To day Lieutenant Governor Montague, Mr. Matthews, and the Sheriff and deputy Sheriff of Essex have applied to me, for a pardon, and upon their representations as to his previous uniform good character and conduct, and the further representations that Judge Coleman who heard the evidence regarded it as wholly insufficient to warrant a conviction I direct his discharge.

JOHN LETCHER