

W. H. Perkins to Governor William Branch Giles, 15 July 1829

The Hon

Richmond 15th July 1829

Wm B Giles

W^m Sir

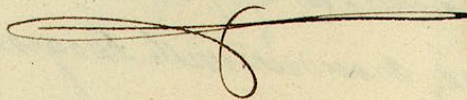
I have presumed the liberty to inform you of a subject which perhaps you are unapprised of and of which you should be informed, and which probably you may be it is the incursions of Negroes, in the County of Mathews & Gloucester. I also of Virginia and the adjoining Counties it appears to be a General thing, all the Sails are crowded with Negroes and the Militia Generall have been called out in the neighboring Counties particularly from the County of New Kent, and sent over to Mathews's whited Volunteer companies have been ordered to Patrol. The information derived is from numerous sources and seems too authentic to be In doubt. Mr Francis Foster was to see me today who said he had lately seen Mr Jno B. Stetson from New Kent who confirmed the subject so mentioned above. The veracity of both Gentlemen can be relied on.

W. H. Perkins to Governor William Branch Giles, 15 July 1829

Besides I have a gentleman who had seen the man who
carries the mail from this place to Matthews, and he
said it was a certain fact Matthews Jail was crowded
with Negroes and kept Guarded; if you can give
evidence to what you have heard, you know well
what should be done for the preservation of our lives
& Liberty In haste

Your Very Respectfull
F. W. P.

W. H. Perkins



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Transcription

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The Honl Wm: B Giles

Dr. Sir

I have assumed the Liberty to inform you of a subject which perhaps you are unaprired of and of which you should be informed; And which probable you may be it is the insurrection of Negroes; in the County of Mathews Glouster Isle of Wight and the adjoining Counties. it appears to be a General thing, all the Jails are crowded with Negroes and the Militia Generally have been called out— in the neighbouring Counties particularly from the County of New Kent, and sent over to Mathews whilst Volunteer companys have been ordered to patrole; The information derived is from numerous sources and seems two authentic to be Questioned. Mr. Francis Foster was to see me today who said he had lately seen Mr. Jno B Clopton from New Kent who confirmed the subject as mentioned above— the veracity of both Gentlemen can be relied In Besides I saw a Gentleman who had seen the man who carries the mail from this place to Mathews, and he said it was a certain fact Mathews Jail was crowded with Negroes and kept Guarded; if you can give credence to what you have heard; you know well what should be done for the pre[se]rvation of our lives & County. In haste

Yours Very Respectfull

& obt sert

W: H. Perkins

August Tompkins to Governor William Branch Giles, 18 July 1829

Matthews St. House 18th July 1829

His Excellency William B. Giles

Sir As rumours may be spread abroad calculated to misrepresent the facts existing here of a suspected insurrection among the slaves, & unnecessarily to disturb the publick tranquillity, I have deemed my duty to communicate to you such circumstances as are of any importance. About ten days ago information was communicated confidentially by a Negro ~~man~~ to a widows woman that it was expected generally among the slaves, that they were to be free in a few weeks. - The first of August, seemed to be the time agreed on as the period. It was not deemed, at the time of such importance as to take any notice of it. - but a conversation in a Mark Smiths shop between several Negro's being overheard by two white apprentices boys who had secreted themselves behind it.

August Tompkins to Governor William Branch Giles, 18 July 1829

conspired in relation to the subject of general
emancipation of the slaves. - an investigation was
made into it, & a great number taken up. - the
evidence given in, & the confessions, generally
seemed to concur in the general belief among
the blacks which had been for some time entertained
that the late convention election had exclusively for its
object the liberation of the blacks. - & that the
question had been decided by the result of the
convention election, & that it had been kept secret
from them. - & that their free papers had been
withheld improperly. - but were to be delivered
at August court. The tenor of the evidence
given in before the Magistrates was that they were
to be free at the period above mentioned. This does
not seem however to have been the only idea entertained
of it by two of the slaves in custody who were remanded
to jail to take their trial, one of them is the Black Smith
in whose shop the conversation was carried on, & the
other a Negro fellow who was heard to use expressions in
that conversation of a character declaratory of a purpose to
rise this year or the next. - the trial of these slaves
was commenced to day, but the court remanded them
to jail & adjourned to Friday next for the purpose of

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perceiving our own evidence. To what extent this delusion has gone among the blacks is not exactly known. - The Negro's who have been examined on the subject as witnesses say that it is the general belief among the slaves that they are emancipated. - Those among them who have entertained thoughts of asserting their freedom by insurrection are probably few. - but that there are some of the latter description there is very little doubt.

The Militia of this County are almost entirely destitute of arms. - 55 muskets fit for service are all by the last returns. - It would be desirable under the circumstances that there should be more arms in the hands of the Militia of this county, 120 or 150 Muskets more would arm about half the effective force of the County, & also about 25 Cavalry swords & as many pairs of Pistols with a small proportion of ammunition for both the infantry & Cavalry to accompany the arms. - if you think with me, you will order this supply as soon as possible & I will see the arms placed in such hands as will take good care of them, & use them when required, with great respect I am very truly
Your Obedt Servt
Aug^d. Tompkins Col. 61 Regt.

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Transcription

Mathews Ct. House 18th July 1829

His Excellency William B. Giles

Sir

As rumours may be spread abroad calculated to misrepresent the facts existing here of a suspected insurrection among the slaves, & unnecessarily to disturb the publick tranquility, I have deemed my duty to communicate to you such circumstances as are of any importance. About ten days ago information was communicated confidentially by a negro woman to a widow woman that it was expected generally among the slaves, that they were to be free in a few weeks.— the first of August, Seemed to be the time agreed on as the period. It was not deemed at the time of such importance as to take any notice of it.— but a conversation in a Black Smiths shop between several Negro's being overheard by two white apprentice boys who had secreted themselves behind it confessedly in relation to the subject of general emancipation of the slaves.— an investigation was made into it, & a great numbers taken up.— the evidence given in, & the confessions, generally deemed to concur in the general belief among the blacks which had been for some time entertained that the late convention election had exclusively for its object the liberation of the blacks.— & thus the question had been decided by the result of the convention election, & that it had been kept secret from them.— & that their free papers had been withheld improperly.— but were to be delivered at August court. The tenor of the evidence given in before the Magistrates was that they were to be free at the period above mentioned. This does not seem however to have been the only Idea entertained of it by two of the slaves in custody who were remanded to jail to take their trial, one of them is the Black Smith in whose Shop the conversation was carried on; & the other a negro fellow who was heard to use expressions in that conversation of a character declaratory of a purpose to rise this year or the next.— the trial of these slaves was commenced to day, but the court remanded them to jail & adjourned to friday next for the purpose of ferreting out more evidence. To what extent this delusion has gone among the blacks it not exactly knowne.— the Negro's who have been examined on the subject as witnesses say that it is the general belief among the slaves that they are emancipated. those among them who have entertained thoughts of asserting their freedom by insurrection are probably few.— but that there are some of the latter description there is very little doubt.

The Militia of this County are almost entirely destitute of arms.— 55 muskets fit for service and all by the last returns.— It [] be desirable under the circumstances that [] should be more arms in the hands of the [] of this county, 120 or 150 Muskets more would arm about half the effective force of the County, & also about 25 Cavalry swords & as many pair of Pistols with a small proportion of ammunition for both infantry & Cavalry to accompany the arms.— if you think with me, you will order this supply as soon as possible & I will see the arms placed in such hands as will take good care of them, & use them when required, with great respect I am very truly

Your obedt. Servt.

August. Tompkins Col. 61 Regt.