



Primary Source – Jack

Record from Trial of “Jack a Negro Man Slave” (Transcription)

April 13, 1781

Court Order Book, Vol. 5a (pp.100-101), Botetourt County Courthouse, Virginia

At a court held at Botetourt Courthouse the 13th day of April, 1781 for the Examination of Jack a Negro Man Slave, the property of Stephen May on suspicion of a felony Present: George Skillern, the Reverend Adam Smyth [unknown word] William Neelly and Thomas Rowland, Gentlemen. The prisoner being set at the Bar and arraigned of having feloniously taken out of Mr. Lockhart’s Cellar a Quantity of linen the property of Mr. William Hamilton, one piece of woolen cloth the property of out of Thomas Prutor’s, fulling Mill, for endeavoring to excite an insurrection among the Negroes of this County and threatening the lives of Thomas Quirk and Rowland Madison Whereupon it was demanded of him whether he was guilty of the Several charges or not, pleaded thereto not guilty Whereupon sundry witnesses were sworn and examined and the Prisoner heard in his defense on Consideration whereof the Court are of opinion that he is guilty thereof and that he be hanged by the neck until he be dead and that the sheriff do perform and carry this judgment into Execution on Monday the twenty third of this instant Between the hours of ten and twelve o’clock in the forenoon This court doth value said slave to one hundred pounds in Specie and that his Master be paid the same in paper currency of this State or the Continental currency at the Current Exchange when paid.

Ordered that the court be adjourned

This proceeding was signed by

George Skillern

Both spelling and formatting have been corrected in this transcription to make the document easier to read.