

TRANSCRIPTION

William Breedlove Applied for Pardon, December 18, 1863

To his Excellency John Letcher Governor of Virginia—

We the undersigned respectfully represent to your Excellency that Wm: Breedlove a free person of colour who was convicted by the County Court of Essex on the 16th day of Novemb^r 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— The 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 ferried the runaway Slaves across the Rappahannock river under the impression that they had sufficient passes from the owners, and George T. Wright, the principal witness who testified against the said Breedlove is under the same impression—

In view of these facts, we respectfully petition your Excellency to grant a pardon to the said Breedlove.

RO: L. MONTAGUE

JAMES M. MATTHEWS

Notation on the back:

Application for the pardon
of W^m Breedlove—
Pardon granted
& the reasons will
be furnished to
morrow
John Letcher
Dec. 18: 1863
Dec^r. 19
Pardoned

Citation: William Breedlove, Pardon Papers, 19 December 1863, John Letcher Executive Papers, Record Group 3, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.