

many of the murders but were constantly guarded by negroes with guns who were ordered to shoot them if they attempted to escape. They remained until the whole troop were dispersed. - questions being asked by the Court relative to the ages of the prisoners. It appeared that the oldest was not more than 15 years - the other two much younger. the eldest very badly grown.

The Court after hearing the testimony and from all the circumstances of the case are unanimously of opinion that the prisoners ^{are} guilty in manner and form as in the information against them is set forth and it being demanded of each of them if any thing for themselves they have or know to say why the Court should not proceed to pronounce judgment against them according to Law and nothing being offered or alleged in delay of judgment it is considered by the Court that the prisoners be taken hence to the jail from which they were taken therein to be safely confined until Tuesday the 20th day of September instant on which day between the hours of ten o'clock in the morning and two o'clock in the afternoon they be taken by the Sheriff to the usual place of execution and there to be hanged by the neck until each of them be dead. And the Court from all the circumstances of the case do recommend to the Governor to commute the punishment of the said Nathan, Tom and Davy to transportation - And the Court doth value the said slaves to the sum of three hundred dollars each.

The Court doth allow James S French the sum of ten dollars his fee for defending Nathan a slave the property of the estate of Benjamin Blunt and to James S French, William C Parker & Thomas R Gray the sum of ten dollars each for defending Nathan, Tom and Davy negro slaves belonging to Nathaniel Francis -

It having been intimated to the Court that the military force assembled at this place will be discharged in a few days, the Court believing that a strong guard is necessary to the safe keeping of the prisoners now in jail until such as are condemned may be executed, respectfully solicit General Espino the Commanding Officer to retain at this place fifty men as a guard for the jail; and the Clerk of this Court is directed to deliver to General Espino a copy of this order -

Wm J Goodwyn