

At a court of Oyer and terminer held for the County of
for the trial of Dick a negro man slave the property of the
Jury on the 19th day of November 1808, charged with
having on the 31st day of October last past unlawfully
and carnally known & abused Sally Briggs an infant child
of said Charles Briggs of said County under the age of ten years

Pres^t Josiah Vick George Dunlop
Sam^l Blunt Wm^l Law } Gent
Moody Collier & Henry Blaw

The court being thus constituted the prisoner was set
to the bar by the Sheriff of this county to whose custody
he was hitherto committed, and Joshua Port assigned
counsel for the prisoner by the Court and was charged with
the felony aforesaid to which he pleaded not guilty and was
heard by counsel in his defence and seven witnesses appeared
on behalf of the commonwealth to wit. Jane Briggs
wife of full age being sworn deposed that on Monday the
31st of October Sally Briggs an infant child of Charles
Briggs and this deponent was sent out of the house into the
kitchen in order that her father might sleep he having not
rested well the preceding night after she had been gone
out about two hours or more this deponent heard the child
cry and sent the sister of the child to see what was the matter
with her (the child sister & daughter of this deponent) &
opened the partition door and Dick the prisoner was standing
at the door holding the child & Sally the sister cried out
good Lord Mamma Sally is ruined. And this deponent
turned round and discovered the child (Sally) fast and legs in a
gorge of blood, and this deponent called the child to come to
her, and she replied she was so hurt she could not walk

and her sister took her up and brought her to the
room, and this deponent called for water to wash her &
the blood continued to trickle down the child's feet and
legs, still this deponent saw no wound, and then she
stript her cloaths off her, and sent a negro girl for fresh
water and as the girl went out of the door at the corner of
the house the girl spoke to Dick the prisoner and asked
him what he was doing in the chimney corner, and the
prisoner made some answer which this deponent did not
hear distinctly, and from the prisoner being in the chimney
corner and the girl speaking to him in the manner she did
caused this deponent to examine the child more closely, her being
injured as she was caused this deponent to suspect the prisoner
the deponent then went & stripped the child and went out to inquire
of the boy ^{one of the witnesses} Dany, if he was in the cotton patch with the
prisoner - And this deponent asked Dany if he was in the
cotton patch at the time the child was hurt and his answer
was, that he was not & thank God that he was not & appeared
to be all in a tremor - and this deponent asked the boy what
he was so much alarmed at, and he replied he was so full
he could not talk, and said he wished he could, and this deponent
returned into the house and asked the child Sally where she was
hurt, if she did not fall off blocks, and she answered no! and
said that Dick said she had fallen off the blocks, but said she
did not - And this deponent asked the child if she would go with
her & show where she was hurt, she said she would, but she
was afraid of Dick, and said that he (meaning Dick) said
that if ever she told he would kill her - and if he caught
her out of the yard he would kill her, and this deponent