

he hath been adjudged. - Given under my hand
Great Seal of the State of Maryland this twenty
of April Eighteen. hundred and Seventeen.

By the Governor

Ninian Pinkney

Wm. B. Ridgely of Hanover

Clerk of the Council

The Keeper of the Penitentiary

The State of Maryland to wit Whereas it has been
represented to me by the Petit Jury of Queen Anne's
County that there were three several indictments
preferred against Negroes Benjamin Dick and Celer
for breaking open the Granary of a certain Nathan Dun
Brooks of the said County and that Negro Benjamin
being first upon his trial and upon a hearing of the
Testimony on the part of the State was pronounced guilty:
And whereas it has been further stated to me by the said
Jury that upon the trials of Negroes Dick and Celer
who were to be convicted or acquitted on the same testimony
that condemned Benjamin such circumstances were
disclosed as totally destroyed the Credibility of the State
Witnesses and resulted in the acquittal of Negroes Dick and
Celer - That it is their belief that Negro Benjamin is
innocent of the said offence and have together with a
number of respectable persons who were present at the
recommend the said Benjamin as deserving the
interposition of Government. I have therefore thought
proper to pardon the said Benjamin for the offence