

Elyton Nov. 27/58

Dear Sir

At the Feb'y Term 1855 of the Circuit Court of this County, Jackson Blackburn was convicted of Manslaughter in the 1st degree, and by the verdict of the jury was sentenced to six years imprisonment in the penitentiary. The same jury, has now unanimously united in a petition recommending him to Executive clemency. I understand that a petition having in view the same object, has been numerously signed by respectable citizens of this County.

At the request of Mrs Blackburn I make the following brief statement of the facts connected with the homicide in this case,

The fight in which the killing occurred, was at a grocery - the deceased whose name was Montgomery, and the convict Blackburn, were at the time both excited by liquor. A sudden quarrel arose between them, which very soon led to blows - Blackburn I believe striking first with his fist. In the progress of the fight Montgomery used a knife and cut Blackburn pretty severely. Blackburn used a chair with which he knocked down the deceased, & afterwards jumped upon him

and stamped him. From the injuries thus received the deceased died in a very short time. The deceased was about equal in point of strength to the said Blackburn. He was also a violent quarrelsome, & dangerous man. Blackburn at that time, also bore a character somewhat similar.

The officers of the penitentiary report the conduct of Blackburn since his confinement, as in the highest degree exemplary, and I am told that they say, if he was ever a bad man, a complete reformation has taken place. He seems subdued, humble, and penitent.

Such being the case, it is more than probable that in this instance the chief purposes for which punishment is instituted, have been secured.

The offender, I have no doubt, is reformed, and the public good has most probably already been subverted, so far as the case of Blackburn is concerned.

Of this however you will be the better able to judge, when you shall have examined the petitions and reports ^{that} will be submitted for your consideration.

If after an investigation of the facts, you shall conclude that the case of Blackburn is one that would justify you, under your established rule, in the exercise of Executive ^{clemency}. I am sure that your exercise of it in his

behalf, will meet with the general
approbation of those best acquainted
with the facts & the circumstances,
as it will certainly receive the appro-
val of your

To:

His Excellency
Gov. A. B. Moore

Montgomery
Ala.

Off. servant
Wm. Mudd

P.S. I was Solicitor at the time of
Blackburn's conviction.

W. L. M.

I presided in the case of the State vs Blackburn.
I concur with Judge Mudd in my recollection of
the facts, & also concur in his recommendation to your
Excellency for the pardon of Blackburn.

Nov 30th/58.

To Gov A B Moore.
Montgomery.

Yours Respectfully
Geo D Shortridge



Gov. A. B. Moore
Montgomery
Ala.