Queen Anne County Sept. 29th 1778

May it please your Excellency,

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Give me Leave to recommend to your Honors Compassion such Prisoners as the Bearer of this, Tis Sir the Wife of John Jones on whom Sentence hath passed for Treason. Among the Hardships of your Office and mine is the taking Care of such poor Wretches, of which Nothing further can be said than that we must do the best for them we can. I am truly sorry for this poor Man for this Reason that he is the only one found guilty of hundreds who Crimes could they be properly developed would appear perhaps tentimes more glaring; but by Direction of their good Genius Cowardice, they have acted with such precaution, that it has been impossible in most Cases for the Law to lay hold of them. when this Fellows Crimes have only been supposed by a more generous Spirit or Courage, that of shewing by his Actions what his Mind dictated. About the fourth of April he gave himself up since which I have remarked much Sorrowfulness within. His Wife has two Small Children one born in Jail, and his and her Poverty for them and each other would have been a Remark not unworthy the Imitation of more polite Life. The Circumference of ten or twelve Miles about where Chinaclough and his Gang infested near two thirds of the People were tories in Grain, and some considerable People who I believe chose rather to plan than execute, whose superior Degree in Life with other Advantages could them influence others to commit Crimes, which their superior Cowardice would not let them even attempt tho' they ardently wished it done. From out of such a Band of Rascals, I should be sorry most honored Sir to have your Orders to hang perhaps the least deserving one of all. I am

May it please your Excy

Yr honors

Most Obd

W Wright Sheriff

ARCHIVES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND.