

Pardons and Reprieves, 1726-1775
Reasons Given
Slaves

Reasons	Pardoned	Reprieved	Transported
Confessed or pleaded guilty	3	0	0
Confessed; justices say evidence full and clear	2	0	0
Confession extorted by whipping; petition of victim of attempted rape (not sure he is the culprit); petition of victim of other crime; petition of master (who did the whipping)	1	0	1
Object of mercy	5	0	0
Object of mercy; first offense	2	0	0
Object of mercy; evidence a boy nine years old; justices recommend mercy	1	0	0
Young			
first offense; petition of "Sundry Gentlemen" (twenty-two gentlemen)	1	0	0
justices say young, first offense "worth notice," sorry, promises reform	1	0	0
only a boy	1	0	0
only a lad; justices say object of mercy	1	0	0
pleaded guilty; not quite twelve years old; petition of inhabitants; valuable slave; under influence of older Negro	1	0	0
about twelve years old; justices say youth, earlier mistress instigated crime; confessed this crime and others	1	0	0
in teens; justices say youth, doubt guilt; confession might have been extorted; no evidence against him except confession	1	0	0
under fourteen years old (twelve to fourteen); object of mercy	2	0	0
fifteen to sixteen years old; influenced by father	1	0	0
justices say youth — about twenty years old; first offense; probably will reform	1	0	0
Master requested			
pardon	1		1
reprieve; victim did not die within a year and a day of the alleged poisoning	0	1	1
Reprieved			
till child born, then pardoned	1	0	0
for pregnancy, then pardoned; letters from two respectable persons	1	0	0
Justices recommend mercy	1	0	0
Justices recommend mercy; petition of master	1	0	0

Reasons	Pardoned	Reprieved	Transported
Justices say			
good character; object of mercy; first offense	1	0	0
whites encouraged crime, recommend mercy	1	0	0
evidence “not sufficient to convict,” had always been orderly	1	0	0
slight evidence, recommend mercy; letter from master — vouches for good character; convict says he tried to prevent murder	1	0	0
evidence uncertain; petition of jurors — say evidence unclear, good reputation	1	0	0
probably not guilty; master says he behaved in the past, doubts guilt; petitions of respectable people, including two justices; petition of inhabitants	1	0	0
ignorant — not aware of penalty	1	0	0
good character; evidence uncertain; petition of victim of crime; valuable slave; had “a Tolerable Character till this matter happened”	1	0	0
Evidence unclear; justices ask for clemency, say evidence is vague and uncertain; new evidence after conviction supports innocence	1	0	0
Only evidence another Negro; no circumstantial evidence of guilt; person of “ill-fame”	2	0	0
Petitions of			
several people; object of mercy	2	0	0
friend of victim; “the Representation of several Persons”; object of mercy; justices say evidence is full and sufficient	1	0	0
justices	2	0	0
preacher	2	0	0
master	1	0	0
Letters from respectable people (two justices); master says confessed, first offense, sorry; valuable slave	1	0	0
Insufficient indictment — does not justify death penalty	1	0	1
Totals	51	1	4
No reasons given	54	1	8
Not included in totals			
Person of ill-fame	1	0	0
Turned evidence; never tried	1	0	0
Totals	2	0	0