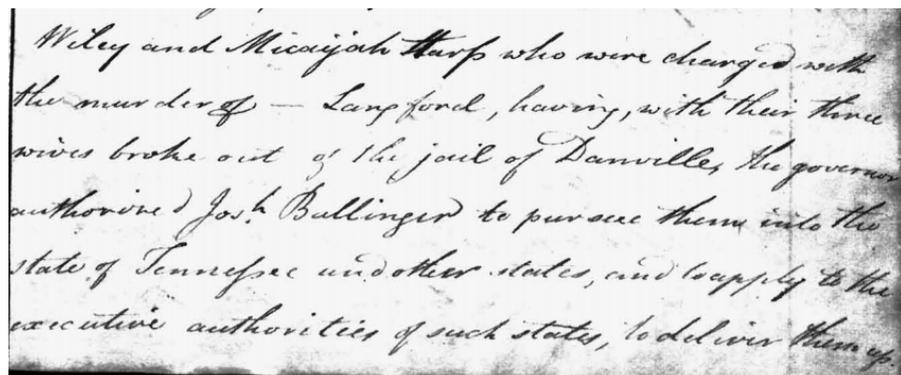
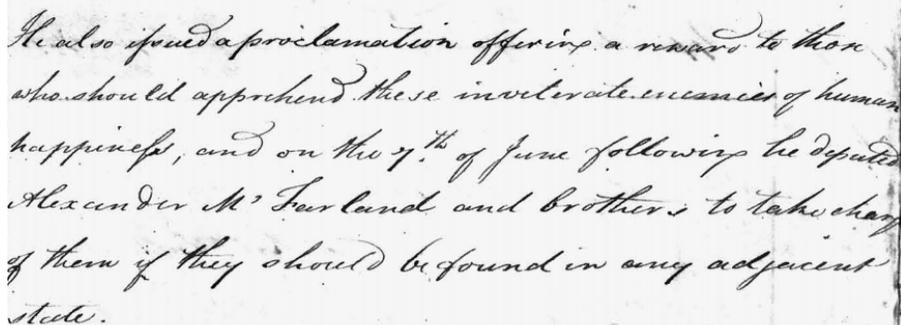


A KENTUCKY HISTORY MOMENT



Wiley and Micajah Harp who were charged with the murder of — Langford, having, with their three wives broke out of the jail of Danville, the governor authorized Jos.^h Bullinger to pursue them into the state of Tennessee and other states, and to apply to the executive authorities of such states, to deliver them up.



He also issued a proclamation offering a reward to those who should apprehend these inveterate enemies of human happiness, and on the 7th of June following he deputed Alexander M^r Farland and brothers to take charge of them if they should be found in any adjacent state.

“Wiley and Micajah Harp who were charged with the murder of — Langford, having, with their three wives broke out of the jail of Danville, the governor authorized Jos.^h Bullinger to pursue them into the state of Tennessee and other states, and to apply to the executive authorities of such states, to deliver them up. He also issued a proclamation offering a reward to those who should apprehend these inveterate enemies of human happiness, and on the 7th of June following the deputed Alexander McFarland and brothers to take charge of them if they should be found in any adjacent state.” Images from the First Executive Journal of Governor James Garrard, in the public domain and available on KDLA e-Archives.

WEBSTER COUNTY:

THERE'S A STORY BEHIND HARP'S HEAD

A descriptive place name, Harp's Head recalls gruesome frontier “justice” in Kentucky and horrific events from 1799 connected to what many say are the nation's first serial killers. After Micajah Harp(e) and his cousin, Wiley, killed a woman, her baby and a lodger, the woman's husband formed a posse and tracked the men, who passed as brothers. When he caught Micajah, he killed him, decapitated the corpse and impaled the head on a lance near his home where it is said to have remained for many years as a warning to other outlaws.



KentuckyHistoricalSociety

100 W. Broadway | Frankfort KY | 502-564-1792 | history.ky.gov

The Kentucky Historical Society (KHS) educates and engages the public through Kentucky's history in order to confront the challenges of the future. KHS, an agency of the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet, is accredited by the American Association of Museums.