

TRANSCRIPTION

Lt. Governor Nicholson Ordered John Fulcher to Pay Maintenance, April 6, 1691

To the* R^t Honrable francis nicholson** Esq^r

Their maj^{ies} L^t Gov^r

The humble pett of Ruth fulcher

In most humble manner Complains to your hon^r that she hath beene for some time marryed to John fulcher of Lower norfolk County; and had about six years since a man Child by him who Is now alive; and that for severall years past your poore pett^r has beene much abused by him Insomuch that the years since your pettr. and her said husband parted he promising to pay mainteynance; Butt soe It is may It please your hon^r that your pett^{rs} Said husband has never since given her any mainteynance nor her Child w^{ho} now lives wth her, nor Entertayned Eyther of them.

Your pett^r therefore humbly Implores your hon^{rs} due Consideraon*** and Respect In the premises.

And as In duty bound shee shall Ever pray &c.

By the Right Honorab^{le} the L^t Governour

This petⁿ Is by my self & the Councill Reffered to the County Court of Lower norfolk; who are forthwth to send for Jn^o fulcher the pett^{rs} husband and If he Refusing to Entertaine and provide for his wife and Child, answerable to his Estate, then the Court are to order a mainteynance for the pett^r and Child out of her husbands Estate, butt nott to permitt the Child to be taken from the mother, and of their providing the Court and to Returne an accompt by the 3^d day of the next Genll Court.

Aprill vith 1691

ffr:**** Nicholson

TRANSCRIPTION

Norfolk

Att a Court then had 16th June 1691

County

Coll Lemuell mason

Present.

Cap^t W^m RobinsonCap^t W^m CraffordCap^t Ja^s HobsonMaj^r Jn^o nichols

Justices.

L^t Coll Anth^o Lawson

and James Wilson

Whereas Ruth the wife of mr Jn^o fulcher has Complained to the R^t Honabl the L^t Govnr that she hath nott Cohabitted wth him for some years past and that he never all the time allowd her any thing towards the mainteynance of her self & Child w^{ch} Complaint his hon^r Refferred to this Court to allow her a mainteynance out of his Estate according to her quality w^{ch} the Court having duly Considered doe find that great part of the Estate in his possession belongs to his father Cap^t Henry fulcher now In England, and therefore ord that the s^d Jn^o fulcher her Husband pay her In octob^r next two Thousand pounds of Tob^o & Caske [*two abbreviated words illegible*] and soe yearly two Thousand pounds of tob^o & Caske towards her and her Childs mainteynance during the pleasure of the Court.

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* The word "ye" was pronounced "the." The first letter of the word, which looks like the modern letter "y," derived from a letter called a "thorn" that was pronounced "th."

**** William Porten used the long or leading s, a character that looks similar to a backwards "f" but is used as an "s," often as the first of a double s as in assign or address.**

***A common abbreviation in seventeenth century writing for "tion" (the construction that sounds like "shun" in the words petition or plantation) was "con" with a tilde or a line over the omitted letters. In this instance, Porten left out even the c, but inserted a tilde to indicate the missing letters.

****Sometimes a double f construction was used in place of a capital F at the beginning of a word or name.

Citation: Virginia (Colony), Colonial Papers, Petition, 6 April 1691, Folder 8, No. 17, Record Group 1, Accession 36138, State Government Records Collection, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.