

650 AM PETITION OF JOHN CHAMBERLAIN TO THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL REQUESTING A PARDON, NOVEMBER 1, 1844

To His Excellency The Governor
And The Honorable The Council of New Jersey

The Petition of John Chamberlain
Most humbly and very respectfully sheweth

That your Unfortunate petitioner
had been Sentenced to 5 Years imprisonment to
hard Labor in the State prison for taking a
Horse the property of Brazilla Osborne which
Sentence will expire sometime during the present
Month.

That your humble petitioner
having Sold his Brother Benjamin ^{two} Horses,
on Credit, & sometime after being desirous to go
a Journey to see my Son who then lived in the
Genesee Country, I sundry times sent him word
of my intended Journey and the moral Obligations
he was under to satisfy me for my Horses, but in vain,
your petitioner finally sent him word & gave him previous
notice if he did not settle with me I should be under
the disagreeable necessity of taking as good a Horse from

him in exchange, which, I did, and was gone with
the Horse but a short Distance, when I was apprehended
tried and Sentenced to 5 Years at hard Labor in
this Prison.

That your humble petitioner had never
any Idea or intention of Defrauding his Brother Benjamin
out of his Horse, but took him as above related as
some equivalent for the two Horses sold him not
wishing to go to Law with him upon the Occasion; and
under the erroneous influence of this impression, and
the ardent desire he had to see his Son, in an evil
hour, and under erroneous Judgment he unfortunately
did as above narrated.

That your humble petitioner has recently
received a Letter from his Brother Benjamin informing
him he would if possible be here and endeavor to get me out
by pardon during the present Session of the Legislature.

That your humble petitioner is much
advanced in Years, being in his 62nd year, and laboring
under great bodily infirmity of the Dead Palsy which
has rendered him utterly incapable of performing little
or no Labor for several Years past, which occasions him to
be a Bill of Cost to the Institution!

That therefore, under all the circumstances
of this my unfortunate case and situation, your
humble petitioner would indulge the pleasing
hope, that his unfortunate case is not beyond the
reach of Mercy; but that the punishment of 5 years
imprisonment and other bodily inflictions occasioned
thereby, may, it is sincerely hoped, be considered
by his Excellency the Governor and the Honorable the
Council, as a punishment of adequate atonement
for the erroneous judgment & procedure above
recited; and that his Excellency & the Honorable the
Council, would be pleased, in the plenitude of their
power, to humanely condescend, and graciously grant
him a pardon, for which inestimable favor, your
humble petitioner as in Duty & Gratitude found
with ever fervently pray &c

New Jersey State Prison }
November 1 1814 }
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John Chamberlain
to

His Excellency William L Pennington }
And The Honorable the Council of New Jersey }

Chambers -

His Excellency The Governor
And The Honorable The Council
Of New Jersey

Post paid -