



Corporation of London Records Office

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Mr. Verne R. Horton
725 Jackson Way
Carson City
NV 89701
U.S.A.

Our Reference
horton.ems
Your Reference

Date
22 September 1998

Dear Mr. Horton,

Thank you for your e-mail respecting information on the trial of Robert Horton (alias Hemmery).

Until the establishment of the Central Criminal Court in 1834, the Old Bailey and the adjacent Newgate Gaol were used by both the City of London and the County of Middlesex for the trial and imprisonment of prisoners from the City and the County. The official court records of these trials, were, however, kept separately at the time. Records relating to City of London cases are among the official archives in my custody here in the Corporation of London Records Office.

Robert Horton was tried at the Sessions of Gaol Delivery for the City of London held at the Sessions House in the Old Bailey which commenced on 6 September 1769. He was accused with James Rowlinson of stealing goods to the value of 36s. from Jonathan Saunderson. These are itemised in the indictment as follows: 4 linen shirts of the value of 8s, 2 linen neck cloths of the value of 3s, 1 pair of silk stockings of the value of 4s, 1 pair of cotton stockings of the value of 2s, 1 pair of "thread" stockings of the value of 1s, 4 pairs of worsted stockings of the value of 6s, 2 silk handkerchiefs of the value of 4s, 4 linen handkerchiefs of the value of 4s, 1 linen gown of the value of 2s, 1 linen apron of the value of 1s, & 2 linen towels of the value of 1s. The crime occurred in the parish of St. Giles Cripplegate on 22 July 1769. Both Horton and Rowlinson were found guilty and were sentenced to be transported for 7 years. Witnesses at the trial were Saunderson, Hannah Saunderson & Richard Hurlstone. Like everyone else indicted at that period, Horton was described as "of London, labourer", a legal fiction designed to avoid the failure of the indictment on a technicality. No personal details of the accused are given in the official court records. By a sealed bond of 24 November 1769 Horton with 22 other convicts was handed over to John Stewart to be transported to America. [CLRO Refs: Index to London Indictments, 1756-1792; Sessions Minute Book SM 135; Sessions File SF 1001; Transportation Bond 24 November 1769].

I regret that none of these documents are suitable for photocopying. Photographs may be ordered and I enclose a photography order form and a list of the current prices of the

commercial photographer as guidance. If you wish to order photographs please return the completed form to me but please do not send any payment as the photographer will invoice you directly.

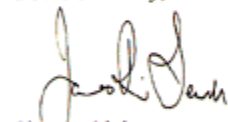
In addition to the official trial records there exists a series of printed and published proceedings of both London and Middlesex cases known as *Old Bailey Sessions Papers* (or O.B.S.P.). These printed proceedings often contain more information about the accused and the circumstances of the offence than the sparse and rather formal official records. A good set of the O.B.S.P. is held on microfilm by the Guildhall Library Printed Books Section (Aldermanbury, London EC2P 2EJ). Print-outs may be available by writing to them with specific details of the case.

I also note from *The King's Passengers to Maryland and Virginia* by P.W. Coldham (1997) that a document relating to Hemmery is available at the Public Record Office (Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond Surrey TW9 4DU), their reference T1/478/1. This appears to be a passenger list of felons transported from London to Virginia on board the ship "Justitia" by Captain Colin Somervell in February 1770.

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I hope that this information is of interest.

Yours sincerely,



City Archivist