

palaeography

further practice

Document 36: State Papers: Letter regarding John Palmer alias Dick Turpin, dated 24 February 1738/9 (Catalogue reference: SP 36/47 folios 87 and 89)

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about this oocument

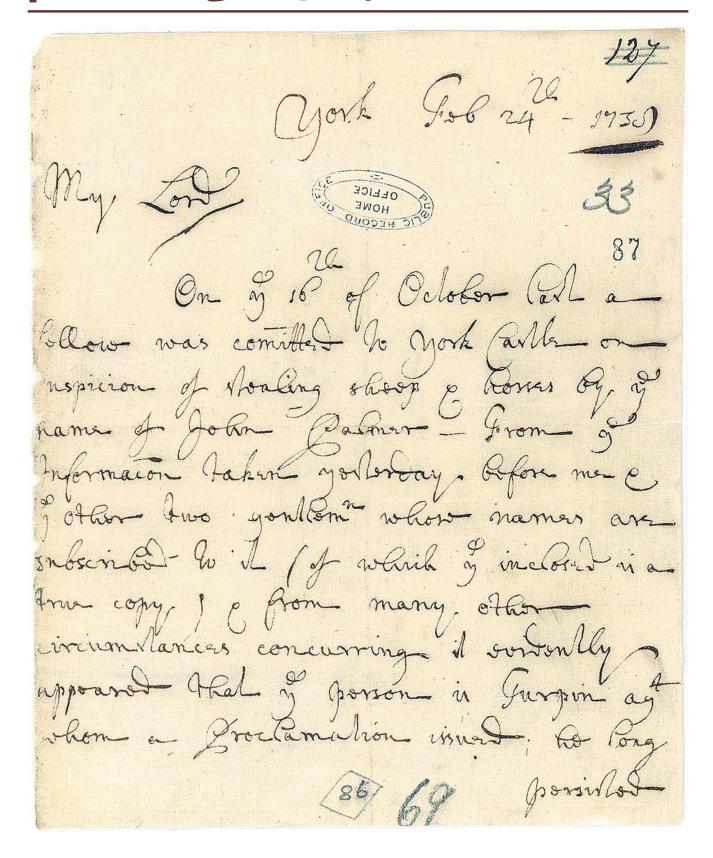
Correspondence concerning Dick Turpin, dated 24 February 1738/9. (Catalogue reference: SP 36/47 folios 87 and 89)

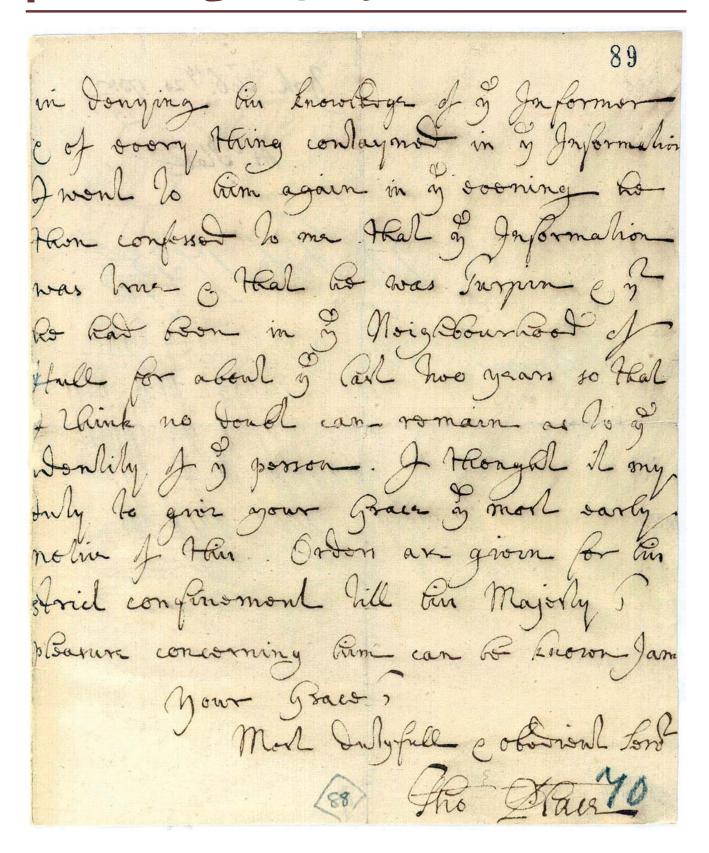
John Palmer is committed to York Castle on suspicion of stealing sheep and horses. It is revealed that John Palmer confessed to his subsequent identification of Richard (Dick) Turpin, the infamous highwayman.

Turpin was born at Hampstead in Essex. Having made a career of stealing livestock and robbing farmhouses he left Essex in 1737 to avoid arrest and settled in Yorkshire under the name John Palmer, a horse dealer. Turpin was actually stealing the horses on frequent excursions into Lincolnshire, and supplementing his income by highway robbery.

Please note:

• The document is written in a cursive mixed hand.





transcript

- 1. York Feb 24th 1738
- 2. My Lord
- 3. On the 16th of October last a
- 4. fellow was com[m]itted to York Castle on
- 5. suspicion of stealing sheep & horses by the
- 6. name of John Palmer. From the
- 7. Informac[i]on taken yesterday before me &
- 8. the other two gentlem[e]n whose names are
- 9. subscribed to it (of which the inclosed is a
- 10. true copy) & from many other
- 11. circumstances concurring it evidently
- 12. appeared that the person is Turpin ag[ains]t
- 13. whom a Proclamation issued, he long
- 14. persisted
- 15. in denying his knowledge of the Informer
- 16. & of every thing contayned in the Information
- 17. I went to him again in the evening he
- 18. then confessed to me that the Information
- 19. was true & that he was Turpin & th[a]t
- 20. he had been in the Neighbourhood of
- 21. Hull for about the last two years so that
- 22. I think no doubt can remain as to the
- 23. identity of the person. I thought it my
- 24. duty to give your Grace the most early
- 25. notice of this. Orders are given for his
- 26. strict confinement till his Majestys
- 27. pleasure concerning him can be known I am
- 28. Your Graces
- 29. Most dutyfull & obedient Serv[an]t
- 30. Tho[mas] Place