State of Washington vs

W. G. V. Renwick

STATE OF WASHINGTON:

To the Sheriff of Spokane County and the Warden and Officers in charge of the Penitentiary of the State of Washington—Greeting:

Whereas, W G V Renwick having been duly convicted in the Superior Court of Spokane County of the crime of Embezzlement and judgment having been pronounced against him, that he be punished by confinement at hard labor in the Penitentiary of the State of Washington, at Walla Walla, for the term of Two years and , all of which appears to us of record, and a certified copy of the judgment being endorsed hereon and made a part hereof.

NOW, THIS IS TO COMMAND YOU, the said Sheriff of Spokane County, to take and keep and safely deliver the said W G V Renwick into the custody of the said Warden, or other officer in charge of the Penitentiary of the State of Washington, at your earliest convenience.

AND THIS IS TO COMMAND YOU, the said Warden, and other officers in charge of the Penitentiary of the State of Washington, to receive of and from the Sheriff of Spokane County the said W G V Renwick, convicted and sentenced as aforesaid, and he, the said W G V Renwick, keep and confine in the said Penitentiary for the term of Two years and , and these Presents shall be authority for the same. Herein fail not.

Witness, Hon. Norman Buck, Judge of the said Superior Court, this 14th day of March, A. D. 1895.

Attest my hand and seal of said court the day and year last above mentioned.

W E Wiles, Clerk.

1374.

COMMITMENT.

THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

vs.

W. G. V. Renwick

COPY OF JUDGMENT AND SENTENCE.

Received and filed 16

day of March *A. D. 18* 95

Keeper of the Penitentiary.

11-16-95

The W. D. Knight Company, Printers.

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State of Washington,

Executive Department.

To all to Whom these Presents Shall Come, Greeting:

Whereas, *On the* 14 *day of* March 189 6, W. G. V. Renwick *was sentenced by the Judge of the Superior Court of the State of Washington, in and for the County of* Spokane, *to imprisonment in the Penitentiary for the term of* two years *for the crime of* Embezzlement ; *and*

Whereas, *The intervention of executive clemency has been recommended by the presiding Judge, the prosecuting attorney who conducted the case, and a large number of leading reputable citizens of said County, upon grounds set out and fully appearing in the papers in this case now on file in the Executive Department:*

Now, therefore, *I, J. H. McGRAW, Governor of the State of Washington, by virtue of the authority in me vested, do hereby pardon the said* W. G. V. Renwick *and restore him to all the rights and privileges he forfeited by reason of his conviction and confinement.*

And I hereby authorize the Warden of the Penitentiary to liberate him forthwith.

In Witness Whereof, *I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the State to be affixed at Olympia, this* 16 *day of* March *A. D.* 189 6

By the Governor:

Secretary of State.

State of Washington :
:ss In the Superior Court in and for said
County of Spokane :
County and State.

State of Washington,
Plaintiff,

-vs- S E N T E N C E

W. G. V. Renwick,
Defendant.

This cause coming on for hearing on this 14th day of March A.D., 1895, in the Superior Court aforesaid, upon an information charging the said defendant W.G.V.Renwick with the crime of embezzlement, and the State of Washington appearing by J.W.Feighan, Prosecuting Attorney and the said defendant appearing in open court in person, and announcing that he did not desire counsel. The said defendant was arraigned and asked to plead to the said information, which was filed on said 14th day of March 1895, and being duly advised of the crime and his rights in the premises, the said defendant entered a plea of "Guilty" to the charge contained in said information, and thereupon, being asked by the Court, if he had anything to say why the judgment and sentence of the Court should not be passed upon him, answered that he had not.

The Court being sufficiently advised in the premises: It is therefore considered, ordered and adjudged by the Court, that the said defendant is guilty of the crime of embezzlement as charged in said information, and it is adjudged that the said defendant be, and he is hereby sentenced to confinement at hard labor in the penitentiary of the State of Washington, at Walla Walla, for a term of two years and

that he pay the costs of this prosecution, taxed at $56.70 dollars. And hereof let execution issue.

It is further ordered that the Sheriff of Spokane County convey said defendant from the jail of Spokane County, where he is now confined, to the penitentiary at Walla Walla in said State of Washington, and that he be there delivered to the warden of said penitentiary to be dealt with according to the foregoing judgment and sentence.

Norman Buck
JUDGE.

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State of Washington

-vs-

W. G. V. Renwick

S E N T E N C E

1153

Copy

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

State of Washington,

Executive Department.

To all to Whom these Presents Shall Come, Greeting:

Whereas, *On the* 14 *day of* March *1896,* W. G. V. Renwick *was sentenced by the Judge of the Superior Court of the State of Washington, in and for the County of* Spokane, *to imprisonment in the Penitentiary for the term of* two years *for the crime of* embezzlement ; *and*

Whereas, *The intervention of executive clemency has been recommended by the presiding Judge, the prosecuting attorney who conducted the case, and a large number of leading reputable citizens of said County, upon grounds set out and fully appearing in the papers in this case now on file in the Executive Department:*

Now, therefore, *I, J. H. McGRAW, Governor of the State of Washington, by virtue of the authority in me vested, do hereby pardon the said* W. G. V. Renwick *and restore him to all the rights and privileges he forfeited by reason of his conviction and confinement.*

And I hereby authorize the Warden of the Penitentiary to liberate him forthwith.

In Witness Whereof, *I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the State to be affixed at Olympia, this* 16 *day of* March *A. D. 1896*

By the Governor:

Secretary of State.

FREE

State Penitentiary,

Wardens Office.

242

Walla Walla, Washington,

Jany 17th. 1896.

To whom it may concern:-

This is to certify to the most exemplary conduct, of W.G.V. Renwick, # 1374, during his incarceration in this Penitentiary.

Thomas Mosgrove

Warden.

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LAW OFFICES OF
J. W. FEIGHAN,
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY,
HYDE BLOCK.

S. A. WELLS,
W. H. LUDDEN,
DEPUTIES.

Spokane, Wash., March 13th., 189 6

Hon. John H. McGraw,

Governor of Washington.

Dear Sir:-

I have seen the petition of the friends of W.G.V. Renwick, presented to you with an application for pardon, and am acquainted with a large number of the signers of said petition who represent some of the best citizens of this community.

Mr. Renwick was sentenced to the penitentiary during my term of office, upon a plea of "guilty". From my investigation of the causes of his trouble I am led to believe that he was led into the commission of the offense for which he is now serving a term in the penitentiary, by some reckless friends and the liquor habit, of which I understand he is now thoroughly cured. I have heard of him repeatedly from persons engaged in the penitentiary, and they all speak in the highest terms of his conduct as a prisoner and a man.

I believe the purpose of the law has been fulfilled, and if now released, he would make an honorable citizen. Mr. Renwick is an exceedingly competent, gentlemanly and scholarly man, and his friends have perfect faith that when restored to freedom, he will once more be worthy of respect and confidence.

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LAW OFFICES OF
J. W. FEIGHAN,
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY,
HYDE BLOCK.

S. A. WELLS,
W. H. DDEN,
DEPUTIES.

Spokane, Wash., _____ 189—

I write this letter because I know the man myself, and because I also know the gentlemen, who are asking for his pardon, have fairly and truly stated the facts in their petition.

Very respectfully yours,

J. W. Feighan,
Pros. Atty.

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STATE OF WASHINGTON.
OFFICE OF
ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Spokane, March 9, 1896. 189

Hon. John H. McGraw,

Olympia, Washington.

My Dear Governor.-

I am advised that a petition for the pardon of Mr. W. G. V. Renwick is about to be forwarded to you, accompanied by recommendations from the judge and prosecuting attorney of this district. I have taken some trouble to look into the circumstances of that matter, and as a result of my investigation it is a pleasure to me to be able to join in these recommendations for executive clemency. From what I am able to learn of Mr. Renwick's conduct since he was incarcerated, I feel justified in believing that the lesson which he has already received will be sufficient to keep him within the lines of strict duty and integrity hereafter. At the time this offence was committed the circumstances justify the inference that he was not in a mental condition to appreciate the seriousness of his act or the consequences which might follow on its heels. I am therefore of the opinion that if he is pardoned at this time the gratitude which he will necessarily feel for the clemency shown him, added to the realization of the consequences of transgression, will have a greater tendency towards reformation than if he is permitted to earn his liberty by satisfying the full penalty of the law.

I have the honor to be
Very sincerely yours,

Attorney General.

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COMMANDER - - NORMAN BUCK, SPOKANE
SEN. VICE COMMANDER - - N. J. ALEXANDER, SIDNEY
JUN. VICE COMMANDER - - L. H. COON, SNOHOMISH
MEDICAL DIRECTOR - - E. R. FREEMAN, SPOKANE
CHAPLAIN - - - - A. H. LACKEY, ABERDEEN

ASST. ADJT. GEN - - J. M. COMSTOCK SPOKANE
ASST. QUARTERMASTER GENL. - - - - W. H. WI[illegible]MB, SPOKANE
JUDGE ADVOCATE - - - - - THOMAS MATTISON, TACOMA
INSPECTOR, - - - - - - R. B SCOTT, SPOKANE
MUSTERING OFFICER - - - - - A. W. HASTIE, SEATTLE

HEADQUARTERS
Department of Washington and Alaska
Grand Army of the Republic

Spokane, Wash., March 9 1895

Hon John H McGraw
Governor - Dear Sir
About 14 Months ago. It was
my duty to sentence Mr W.G.V. Rennick
to the penitentiary. He is a gentleman
of Culture but had become
addicted to drinking. and under
the influence of liquor last
his balance and became a
criminal. With him the con-
viction and sentence accom-
plished all that can be done
in reformation. He has a del-
icate and refined wife who
needs his presence and I
believe a pardon will have
a better effect than continued
punishment and therefore rec-
ommend it. Respectfully
Norman Buck
Superior Judge Spokane Co

THE CITY OF SPOKANE,

Mayor's Office,

H. N. BELT, MAYOR.

SPOKANE, WASH., ~~March 11,~~ 189~~6~~

Hon. John H. McGraw, Governor,

Olympia, Wash.

My dear Sir:

I desire to state that W. G. D. Renwick of this City, who was sentenced to the state prison some time ago, was favorably known here for several years.

The circumstances of his conviction will perhaps be laid before you by parties who are well informed in that regard. An effort is being made by Mr. Renwick's friends to obtain executive clemency for him. In this effort I heartily join, believing that the short time for which he is compelled to serve from now to the end of his term will have no effect whatever in addition to the punishment he has already been given, in making him any better citizen.

I am convinced from what I know and have learned concerning his case, that a pardon would conduce more towards the end of justice than to compel him to serve out his term. Therefore, I take pleasure in recommending to your Excellency an unconditional pardon for Mr. Renwick.

Very sincerely yours,

H N Bell

Mayor of Spokane

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STATE OF WASHINGTON)
)
)
COUNTY OF SPOKANE.)

P E T I T I O N .

To His Excellency John H. McGraw,

Governor of the State of Washington,

Olympia, Washington.

Sir:-

We, the undersigned, citizens of Spokane County, earnestly pray your Excellency to exercise executive clemency by pardoning and restoring to citizenship one W.G.V.Renwick, a convict now in the State Penitentiary at Walla Walla, Washington; and would respectfully submit the following reasons therefor, viz:--

First : That the said W.G.V.Renwick, in the Superior Court of Washington sitting at Spokane in Spokane County, on the 14th , day of March 1895, plead guilty to a charge of embezzlement and was thereupon sentenced by Judge Norman Buck to serve a two years term of imprisonment in the State Penitentiary at Walla Walla, Washington, where the said W.G.V.Renwick was received March 16th, 1895 and has continuously remained ever since;

Second : That the said W.G.V.Renwick pled guilty and thereby saved to the State the cost of the long and expensive suit that would have been required to secure a conviction, he preferring rather to assume the responsibility of his actions than resort to the tedious and costly technical subterfuges frequently adopted by other equally culpable persons ;

Third : That the said W.G.V.Renwick has a wife in very delicate health, who must depend wholly upon her own efforts for a livlihood, and who, by reason of a highly nervous and sensitive temperament,

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has suffered so severely the disgrace to herself and her husband that she is almost incapacitated for earning her living and ought to have the tender care he has always given her ,and which he so earnestly desires again to undertake ;

Fourth : That the primary object of punishment,viz:-reformation in order to prevent future injury to society,has now been fully accomplished in the case of the said W.G.V.Renwick,as has ever been shown by his constant good conduct and undoubted sincerity of purpose to redeem the error of the past;

Fifth : That the said W.G.V.Renwick has now been constantly imprisoned for a period of over thirteen months,a length of time equal to an 18 months sentence or three fourths of the time imposed upon him by the Court,and that the demands of justice would not be perverted by giving him the few remaining months of his term and thereby enable him to procure such employment as is always obtainable at the beginning of the season but often difficult to obtain toward the Winter season;

We beg to further submit ;

That the enviable reputation for well and faithfully performed duties,acquired and always maintained by the said W.G.V.Renwick previous to his arrest on this charge,during seven years service in the public offices of Spokane and Pierce Counties in this State,proves him worthy the mercy ever due to the truly penitant and that society would be infinitely the gainer by giving to him,at an early date,the opportunity so earnestly desired of rebuilding the lost reputation,now so deeply appreciated,and which experience has taught him to ever carefully guard; and by also permitting a faithful and suffering wife to receive the care she needs and has a right to expect at his hands;and

We your petitioners earnestly pray and will ever so pray.

Arthur J. Shard Ex-Postmaster + Sec. U.S. Senate
M Thruesen Pres't-Centennial Flouring Mill Co + director in Old Trail Bk
F. P. Weymouth Supt Water Dept + Ex city commissioner
A. G. Cromer Gen. Agt - Great Northern R. R. Company
E. D. Olmsted Physician and capitalist -
E. H. Belden Attorney at Law
H. L. Kennan ex-Judge; Attorney at Law
S. M. Jamieson Vice-Pres't + Manager Spokane Abstract Co
Marion M. Murphey Editor "The Ore Knocker" insurance
W. W. Roberts Bond-brokers and bankers
L. A. Roberts " " "
Frank C. Loring Assayer + Mining Engineer
B. Godkering Prop. Spokane Paper Ware House
N. W. Durham Editor The Spokesman-Review
J. J. Cunotan Merchant -
W. Hancock Prop. Davenports Restaurant
Alan Gill City Commissioner
Henry L. Wilson Capitalist + Prominent Citizen
W. D. Vincent Cashier Old National Bank
Fred Lucas, City Comptroller
W. Potter M.D. Physician and City Health Officer
C. A. Plummer Corporation Counsel
Wm. Morse City Clerk
A. D. Ansell City Treasurer
Harry Rosenhaupt Merchant
W. A. Wright Pres't State Dental Associa'

M. W. Tolan — County Auditor
D. J. Wetzel Jeweler & Capitalist
F. P. Lindsay Merchant
C. L. Thorp County Commissioner
Henry Treeder County Commissioner
F. A. Treeder " "
Hal J. Cook County Assessor
E. D. Rinear County Sheriff
Wm Mason Ex City Commissioner; mining
C. B. Hopkins Resident Inland Telephone Co
Geo. T. Cowan Mine Owner & Broker
F. E. Snodgrass " " "
Isaac Ritter Attorney at Law
P. A. Dagger & Insurance and Real Estate
J. M. Fitzpatrick Prop. Wash. Title Company
Brian C. Roberts Pastor Trinity Church
Charles. Leary Pres't-Spokane Typographical Union
Wallis Cowles City Commissioner & Treasurer
Geo. H. Gibboney Pastor First Presbyterian Church
C. F. Tuttle Storekeeper Great Northern R.R.
W. H. Cleaves Pres't-Wash. Mill Co; City-Councilman
C. Hubbell Insurance Agent
George Pahl Capitalist & Merchant
F. Cossaduc Business Mgr Review
H. Rieck Merchant
W. H. Kearney Politician & Real Estate
J. Lynch Police Inspector & Politician
Jos. A. Borden Prop. Shaw-Borden Co. Printers and Stationers

J. W. Wright. Politician and Merchant—

Gotham Policeman

Walter M. Burns Pres't Young People's Christian Endeavor

A. O. Bacon Traveling Salesman

N. Bolster Secy. Spokane Bureau of Immigration

C. A. Rogers Real Estate & Loans

A. Worth. Teacher of Music

Walter E. Reed Secretary to Theis & Barrett, Bankers.

N. B. Rundle, Contractor.

L. K. Armstrong { Editor Mining and Secretary Northwest Mining Association

W. E. McCormick Traveling salesman

R. A. Baumann Deputy Assessor

C. W. Ide

Jas. A. Shaw

Box 520, Walla Walla,
Washington, January 16th 1896.

J. H. Shaw Esq.
Spokane,
Washington

My Dear Sir,

Presuming upon the remembrance of the kindness and charity you manifested at the time this terrible disgrace came upon me, and have, I believe, since expressed, I take the great liberty of enclosing you a copy of a petition, which has been prepared on my behalf, and which speaks for itself.

Allow me to earnestly assure you that it is with all due diffidence I take this liberty: I am painfully conscious of the fact that I have absolutely no claims upon you, other than that of a penitent and suffering fellow man.

I feel sure that, could you realize all the circumstances involved, and how very much an early release means to me and mine you would not censure me for making this effort to regain my freedom, and thus to begin my life's work of redeeming, as far as possible, the dread past, and making such restitution as I can to those who may have lost by my misdeeds. The past is mine no longer. I must and shall live in and for the future. I have sinned and Heaven only knows what I have suffered therefor. I say this with all humility and repeat that henceforth I have only one object in life; to redeem, as far as may be in my power, my tarnished name and reputation, that I for so many years held so dear; to overcome and win the battle in the face of whatever obstacles present themselves, and the world's ostracism that I believe to be justly inevitable; to begin life again at the very foot of the ladder, if need be, to live frugally, simply, and honestly; to strain every nerve to succeed in whatever sphere I may be placed; to the end that I may be able to once more hold up my head in the community, and prove to the world that I am not the unclean thing that I am pronounced.

Believe me, I do not underestimate the battle that is before me. It will be a hard fight and a long one, but I am determined to win in the end; I humbly believe that what I have lost in reputation I have gained in Character.

So much for my earnest and sincere aims and determined purpose for the future.

Allow me now to say a few words as to my principal reasons for earnestly desiring my restoration to the world at as early a date as possible.

First: My faithful, uncomplaining, and devoted wife is far from strong, and the constant ~~anxious~~ strain upon her nervous system is undermining her health and constitution. She is eking out a slender subsistence in the east, and works very hard for very little remuneration. But it is not alone the work that is doing her such injury. Those who know her understand her highly nervous temperament, and that she would rather die than give me, and the constant severe strain to which she is subject on account of my disgrace and my position here, is having a very serious effect upon her health. Were I once more free, and employed, no matter in how menial a capacity, the effect would be felt at once, I would be able to help and sustain her and perhaps be able to restore her to health and strength again.

She might then gain the needed strength for the struggle that is before me. She is heart and soul with me in my aims for the future and is, were the present severe strain

removed, and her health restored, eminently competent to assist me in my future tasks. She is, as you must know, one of the noblest and truest of women. She never murmurs or complains. It is fearful to contemplate that in a few short months she may become a confirmed invalid, when, were I given a few months grace I could do so much for her.

I beg of you not to underestimate this point. I cannot do the subject justice.

Second: I have passed the meridian of life, and although I experience comparatively little physical suffering, (having by conscientious attention to duty earned a position of trust) and, had I only myself to think of, could cheerfully endure until the bitter end, but time is passing away, and every day I stay here is as many days lost in my work for the future.

Third: My eyesight is failing and it occasions me much anxiety, as I have had serious trouble in this direction in the past. I would like to get them attended to, as you know so much depends upon them for my future work.

Fourth. My time will naturally expire in November. You can readily realize how hard it would be for a man in a completely impoverished condition to secure employment at that season of the year, whereas, were I released during the spring, or even summer months I could secure work somewhere, at something and by the time the cold weather came have some kind of a place I could call "Home".

I know not what the sentiment of the people may be. It may be that some may feel bitterly towards me and say "He got off only too easily, let him stay every day of the time no matter what may happen". "It serves him right" etc. etc. If they only knew what I have suffered and what I have lost! Is the suffering involved in loss of honor, of friends, of home; of all that a true man holds dear a matter to be lightly considered? Do they think that any physical suffering or degradation can have the effect upon a sensitive nature, that is truly repentant for sins committed when led away in a moment of weakness, that the constant memory of all one (whose moral sense of right and wrong has not left him) has lost by simply having the sentence of the Court passed upon him! Is not the first perpetual consciousness that one has been pronounced by his fellow men a vile and corrupt thing, and declared unfit to associate with decent people agony enough in itself without withholding the few months that are earnestly repentant sinner begs for, to protect and succour a suffering wife, and give him a chance to begin his life again at a better season of the year and before the chilly blasts of winter descend upon him in a friendless and impoverished condition!

Besides, you and others who really know me must be aware that the heaviest and hardest part of my punishment by far, is not what I endure here, but begins on the day I leave this place and face the world. It is easy for those, so disposed, to be hard and merciless when such an appeal as this comes before them. No one can judge by theory of the suffering I have and am every minute of my life enduring - God alone can tell the anguish of the truly penitent heart.

Others, whom I honest to have been true friends, and whom I had a right to consider such may think I deceived them prior to the time I came forward and pled guilty. To this I can say but little. It has occasioned me much self-recrimination and sorrow and has indeed been one of the hardest parts of my punishment. As to the course I took after my arrest and prior to my pleading guilty I can only plead that it was urged upon me by the lawyers who had promised to defend me to the very end, and had

again and again assured both my wife and myself that they would and could acquit me in the criminal court if I followed out the line laid out by them to the letter. I was desperate & did as they said, until my conscience would allow me no longer to occupy the false position I was in towards my friends and myself. I then threw off the yoke, discharged my attorneys, pled guilty to my sin and took my punishment. I was, and am, painfully aware of the position I was in with regard to my friends, and can only plead the frailty of over tempted human nature, in yielding to evil and allowing itself to be conquered by such a vicious environment as a man is seldom surrounded by more than once in his lifetime.

Believe me, I am fully aware of all that is involved in what I ask of you, and that you and others who may be charitably disposed towards me, have all your own troubles, cares, and business worries; and only the needs of the case prompt me to apply to you.

I know how very much you can accomplish if you can consistently take the matter in hand, as you are brought in contact with the most influential portion of the community and are more or less in touch with the officers of the courts, who, I am told, do not feel unkindly towards me. Please do not think I write as I do for effect's sake or that I have any disposition to complain or excuse myself in any way. My heart is far too full of my own unworthiness and shortcomings to feel the slightest bitterness towards any one. I never forget for a moment, and never shall, the terrible stigma that must attach to my dishonored name till my dying day.

My opportunities for writing are limited, and there are points that I cannot touch upon here. They are too sacred. There is much that I must leave unsaid. I have written to you at much greater length than I intended to. It may be that you have become weary already with reading what may appear to you "Vain Repetitions". But I am anxious for you to understand the importance and necessities of the case before you take any action.

I feel this letter is very imperfect, but I have tried to be frank and honest with you. I have no disposition to be otherwise towards any one. Can you conscientiously extend to me a helping hand, unworthy as I am? It means so much to me and mine. I make the request at this early date because I know that considerable time must necessarily elapse before final action be take by the Governor, and every day counts as so much in this direction. You can understand how much it is to me.

I do hope you may see your way to ~~unreasonably~~ heed this appeal; and will overlook anything that you may deem amiss either in the petition or this communication and attribute it only to my earnest desire to accomplish an object that is all-important to me. The petition contains a plain and honest statement of facts and the reasons for which I beg executive clemency. Please let me hear from you soon as to this; and rest assured that whatever course you may take in the matter I shall ever feel deeply grateful both to you and Mr. Borden, for past kindnesses received at your hands and kind words spoken in my behalf.

Yours in distress

W. G. V. Rennick