

## **Samuel A. Riggs to Governor Charles Robinson**

Samuel A. Riggs, District Attorney of the Fourth Judicial District of Lawrence, writes Governor Charles Robinson of Topeka concerning William Ford who was convicted of 1st degree murder and sentenced to hang on September 1, 1862. Riggs notifies the governor that Ford has filed a petition requesting a reversal of his death sentence due to possible errors committed during the trial. Riggs considers this a fair request and recommends postponing the sentence until such errors can be considered by the Supreme Court. In 1862, the State Legislature reactivated a death penalty for 1st degree murder originally enacted in 1859. The legislature passed a death penalty for treason against the state the previous year.

Creator: Riggs, Samuel A.

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## Samuel A. Riggs to Governor Charles Robinson

To his Excellency  
Hon Chas Robinson,  
Gov. of State of Kansas.

By certificate of  
Clerk of Supreme Court dated August 5<sup>th</sup> 1862  
it appears that William Ford, Convicted of Mur-  
der in 1<sup>st</sup> Degree at last Term of Dist. Court  
in & for Cnty of Anderson and sentenced to be  
hung on 5<sup>th</sup> day of Sept. next, has filed in  
said Supreme Court his petition in Error pray-  
ing a reversal of the judgment of Conviction.

Whilst I am of opinion that there was no er-  
ror in proceedings of the Court below, yet that  
the Defendant may have the benefit of any  
Error that may have been committed, and of  
all reasonable doubts, I would interpose  
no objection to the application of the  
said William Ford, praying a respite of  
sentence until such time as the questions of  
alleged error may be passed upon the  
Supreme Court.

Sam<sup>l</sup> A. Riggs  
Dist Attorney of  
Fourth Judicial Dist  
of Kansas.

Lawrence, Aug 6<sup>th</sup> 1862.