

Death Warrant of Colonel John Penruddock of
Compton Chamberlain and Hugh Grove of
Chisbury - 3rd May 1655

Oliver Cromwell

Whereas John Penruddock, Hugh Grove, ~~Richard~~
Richard Rogers, Edward Davy, Thomas Poulton, Edward
Willis, Thomas Hillard, John Haynes, James
Horsington also Huisst, and John Giles also Hobbes were
indicted, convicted, and attainted of high Treason at a
Commission of Oyer, and Terminer, and Gaole delivorie,
lately holden at Exeter in our Countie of Devon, and have
various Sentence to be executed as Traytors, We have
thought fit, and Our selfe good pleasure is that the said
John Penruddock, Hugh Grove, ~~Richard~~
of being hang'd by ~~the neck~~, be put to death by severing their heads
from their Bodies, and that the said Richard Rogers, Edward
Davy, Thomas Poulton, Edward Willis, Thomas Hillard,
John Haynes, James Horsington, and John Giles be onely
hang'd by the neck till they are dead, And that You forbear
all other, and further corporall payne, and execution of
by ~~your~~ ~~power~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~law~~ ~~in~~ ~~this~~ ~~particular~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~said~~ ~~persons~~ ~~above~~ ~~mentioned~~ ~~and~~ ~~for~~ ~~so~~ ~~doing~~ ~~this~~ ~~shall~~ ~~be~~ ~~your~~ ~~Warrant~~ ~~Given~~ ~~at~~ ~~Whitehall~~ ~~the~~ ~~third~~ ~~of~~ ~~May~~ ~~1655~~.

To John Coppleston Esq: High Sheriffe
of our Countie of Devon, or his Deputie.

The Death warrant above signed by Oliver Cromwell sentenced both men to be beheaded at their own request rather than being hanged. Their death sentences resulted from their involvement in the Royalist Uprising against Parliamentary Forces at Salisbury in March 1655. Salisbury was occupied by the Royalists but failed to gather enough support to maintain their hold and were overrun once more by Cromwell's troops. Many Royalists were captured after fleeing to South Molton in Devon. The leaders were tried and faced death by hanging in most cases with many of Penruddock's men being sent to the West Indies as debentured labour.