

**Warrant to transfer Angus Smith, Arisaig, to Inverness Jail as dangerously
insane, 1796
(GB0232/L/INV/SC/41/3ii)**

To the Honorable Sheriff depute of Inveness-shire or his substitute

The petition of Archibald McLachlan Procurator Fiscal of the F.William district of said shire.

Humbly sheweth,

That Angus Smith work man or labourer in the farm of Drumnadarroch of Arisaig parish of Ellan Finan & shire of Inverness did since the month of September last, show strong symptoms of insanity, & these by several fits increased to such a degree of violence as threatened imminent danger to his own wife and children his neighbours & to society at large by making repeated attack on several individuals & attempts to destroy himself.

That his neighbours was under the necessity to bind his hands & feet to secure his person to prevent his destroying himself or others for several weeks of the months of September & October last but being tired of that charge & no hopes of his recovery they called a meeting of the gentlemen of the country to consult what should be done, when Mr John McDonald of Borrodale with much humanity took him to his own family appointing two of his own servants to attend him night and day where after attending him for several weeks with every lenity and calmness to recover a man in his unhappy state to no purpose, his fits of insanity returning so frequent upon him, that he endangered the lives of his family therefore he & his neighbours stated the unfortunate man's case to the justices of peace of the shire in inverness & who accordingly upon the thirteenth day of December Int laid a precognition of the said Angus Smith's insanity by which it appears the unhappy man tho at times calm & recollected, yet his madness recurs upon him so often that there is little hopes of his recovery in the country & not only attempted to destroy himself but also to take the lives of several other individuals & even the life of his own mother. The Justice of Arisaig therefore on the application of the inhabitants, found themselves under the necessity of sending the said Angus Smith by their warrant, handcuffed by a party of their constables to F.William where he arrived the sixteenth instant as the said application precognition taken thereon & their said warrant herewith produced more fully bears.

That the Garrison of Fort William being only a jail for state criminals & not a proper prison for persons in the said Angus Smith's present unhappy state as insane in mind; the petitioner is under new necessity to address your [Lordship?] in this manner.

Praying that you may be pleased to consider this petition with the proof and procedure of the Justice of Arisaig herewith produced & grant warrant to majors & officers of court with the assistance of a party of the troops at Fort William to convey the person of the said Angus Smith prisoner from Fort William to the county jail of Inverness or other madhouse there fit for persons in this unhappy state there to ly at the expense of the county until he is found to recover of his insanity or otherwise liberated in due course of law according to justice & humanity & the [?] of the leiges.
Fort William 17th December 1796.

Archibald MacLachlan Procurator Fiscal

Colin Campbell Sheriff Substitute of the Fort William district of Inverness-shire having considered the foregoing petition with the warrant & procedure before two of this Majesty's Justices of the Peace of the said County for the Arisaig District, addressed [?] desire reasonable & grant warrant accordingly so. Mayors and Officers of the said County, Collectors and Secretaries to call on the Commanding Officer at Fort William for a party of the Troops to their assistance & to receive the person of the said Angus Smith prisoner from Fort martial at Fort William and to convey & escort him from thence prisoner to Fort Augustus and with the assistance of the troops quartered there, from thence to the county jail at Inverness; requiring that the magistrates of Inverness and keepers of their prisons or madhouse to receive and detain the said Angus Smith as a person insane in mind in some prison and captivity until he is found to recover of his present madness or otherwise liberated in due course of law for the doing thereof this shall be their warrant given under my name at Fort William the seventeenth day of December 1796

Inverness 21 December 1796

The magistrates having considered the preceding petition and warrant refuse receiving Angus Smith as a prisoner in terms of the warrant in the jail having no madhouse or place for persons in his unfortunate situation, but from [?] of humanity and to give him the benefit of medical assistance and at the request of the Sheriff Depute of Inverness they agree to detain him in a cell in the prison for a space not exceeding one month under the care of the jailers or other persons to be employed and upon condition that he is to be otherways disposed of within the said space or returned to the [?] from whence he came under a guard at the expense of the county.