

Little Bedwyn

Death Warrant of

Colonel John Penruddock of Compton Chamberlain

and

Hugh Grove of Chisbury - 3rd May 1655

Oliver C.

Whereas John Penruddock, Hugh Grove, ~~Richard Ross~~
Richard Ross, Edward Daby, Thomas Poulton, Edward
Willis, Thomas Hillard, John Haynes, James
Horsington als Huisth, and John Giles als Hobbs were
indicted, convicted, and attainted of high Treason at a
Commission of Oyer, and Terminer, and Gaole delivorie
lately hold at Exeter in our Countie of Devon, and have
various Sentence to be executed as Traytors, We have
thought fit, and Our selfe and pleasure is that the said
John Penruddock, Hugh Grove, ~~Richard Ross~~
of being hangd by ~~the neck~~, be put to death by severing their heades
from their Bodies, and that the said Richard Ross, Edward
Daby, Thomas Poulton, Edward Willis, Thomas Hillard,
John Haynes, James Horsington, and John Giles be onely
hangd by the neck till they are dead, And that You forbear
all other, and further corporall paine and execution of ~~the~~
sayd persons aforesaid, And for seeing this shall be your
Warrant: Given at Whitehall the third of May 1655.

To John Coppleson Esq^r 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.