The Massacres



David Henderson, Account of the Indian Murders (Lancaster, December 27, 1763). Haverford College Quaker and Special Collections.

The first accounts of the Paxton murders published between December 1763 and January 1764 did not look favorably upon the Paxtons. In a letter written after the attack on the Lancaster workhouse but before the march to Philadelphia, David Henderson emphasizes the injustice of the Paxton murders.

John Penn. *Proclamation* (Philadelphia, January 2, 1764). Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Governor Penn calls for the immediate arrest of the Paxton murderers in this proclamation. This broadside reflects the governor's second condemnatory proclamation, the first printed on December 22, 1763, after their massacre at Conestoga Indiantown but before their attack on the Lancaster jailhouse.



COPY OF A

LETTER

From CHARLES READ, Efq;

TO

The Hon: JOHN LADD, Efq;

shad his Afficiate, Jeffier of the Pears for the Concey of GLOUCESTER.

PHYLABELPHIA: Printed and fold by Asperse Strugger, at the Hobbit-in-Heart, in Second-direct (17the 3 side Pennad) 1766.

Charles Read, Copy of a Letter from Charles Read (Philadelphia, 1764). Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

This early account the Conestoga massacres anticipates arguments that Franklin popularizes with *Narrative of the Late Massacres*. Read presents the Paxtons as the real savages, murderers who should suffer punishment under the law. He holds that the Conestogas are subjects of the crown and entitled to security, an argument less grounded in ethics than economics.