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JAMES ROOD ROBERTSON, M.A. Ph.D.
Member of the Filson Club.

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FILSON CLUB PUBLICATIONS No. 27

PETITIONS OF THE EARLY INHABITANTS OF KENTUCKY

TO THE

General Assembly of Virginia

1769 to 1792

BY

JAMES ROOD ROBERTSON, M.A.Ph.D.

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DEDICATED TO

THE PIONEERS OF KENTUCKY

Men and women whose courage, endurance, and integrity
laid well the foundations of our first common-
wealth west of the Alleghany Mountains.

PREFACE

THE petitions here printed are offered as a contribution to the early period of Kentucky history. During a visit of the editor to Richmond, Virginia, in the summer of 1910, they were found in the archives of that State. The archivist had recently segregated them from a large mass of other material and an examination of the contents showed their value as a source of information on the beginnings of Kentucky.

The petitions are printed verbatim, with the thought that they will be more useful and interesting to the student of history in the language of the pioneer inhabitants of our first Commonwealth west of the Alleghany Mountains. The editor has added foot-notes which may help to explain the purpose, the subject-matter, and the effect of the various petitions.

The names attached to the petitions have been separated from them and arranged in alphabetical order, with numbers referring to the petitions on which they appear. This saves considerable space, as many of the names are signed to two or more petitions. It also makes reference to them more easy.

The appearance of the original material from which these petitions were copied may be seen in the facsimile

of a petition from the settlers of Lincoln County. This is, however, better than the average in form and state of preservation. Many of the petitions are worn, the writing faded, and the style not so good as the illustration given.

The wording of the petitions, though formal, is full of life and spirit, and in some cases reflects quaintness of expression. There is always a respectful deference for the authority of the Commonwealth of Virginia at the same time that freedom of speech is indulged.

The petitions are printed in chronological order rather than topical, with the thought that the development of community life can best be seen in that way. The first petition is dated 1769 and the last 1831. Only two are earlier than 1776 and six later than 1792. Thus they are seen to pertain to the period when Kentucky was a County of Virginia and those of earlier and later date are logically connected with that period. Thus the collection presents a unity that is valuable.

The collection does not include petitions which were sent to the National Government at Philadelphia or New York which have been used extensively in the printed histories of Kentucky, as they have been more accessible than the ones here printed. Nor is the collection entirely complete, as there are some laws, passed by the Assembly of Virginia, evidently based on petitions which have not been found. The collection, however, is essentially complete, and is fully representative of the activities of the pioneer population.

Preface

I desire to express appreciation to the following for assistance rendered me in the preparation of this book: To William G. Frost, President of Berea College, for encouragement and financial aid in gathering the material; to the late Colonel Reuben T. Durrett, formerly President of the Filson Club, for use of his extensive library; to R. C. Ballard Thruston, President of the Sons of the American Revolution, for his cordial interest and support; to the Filson Club and its officers for publication; to Doctor H. R. McIlwain, Librarian of the State Library of Virginia, and Doctor H. J. Eckenrode, Archivist of State Library of Virginia, for courtesies in use of source material in the Virginia archives.

James Rood Robertson.

Berea College,
Berea, Kentucky.

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INTRODUCTION

The value of this collection of legislative petitions of early Kentucky is general as well as local. Since Kentucky was the first Commonwealth to be established west of the Alleghany Mountains, anything which illustrates the formative growth of society is significant of the subsequent growth of the nation westward. It is believed that these petitions will prove of interest and value for three main reasons: First, as an illustration of the process of petitioning; second, for the subject-matter contained in them, and third, for the list of names attached to the petitions which is a large one and representative of the pioneer population.

The right and the practice of petitioning is an old one, much prized by our English ancestors. It has occupied an important place in the development of liberty and government by the people. It was in use in the Colonies and their records all show to what a large extent it figured. Hence, it may be said that the early settlers of Kentucky, in petitioning, were only doing that which they were accustomed to do east of the mountains.

The petitions here presented are the basis of almost all the legislation of Virginia for her western settlers. The editor has followed them through the various steps of legislation as recorded in the Journal of the House of Burgesses, the Journal of the Convention, the Journal

of the House of Delegates, the Calendar of State papers, and the Statutes as edited by Hening. In many cases the preamble of the bill enacted repeats the substance and in some cases the very phrases of the petition, thus linking the two together in a most interesting and unique manner.

A regular process was followed in the matter of petition. The law required posting for a certain length of time that all might have an opportunity to be acquainted with the contents. Certifications of such posting may be seen to accompany several of the petitions as printed. Then the petition was taken to Williamsburg or Richmond, either by Kentucky's representative to the Virginia Assembly or by a special messenger. Before the outbreak of the Revolution the petition was addressed to the colonial Governor, and after that to the legislative body. Only one of our petitions was thus addressed to the Governor and a second referred to in the Calendar of State Papers. All the others are addressed to the Convention, the General Assembly, or the House of Delegates.

If a western community was not organized it sent its petitions to the most westerly county by which it was forwarded to the capital. Thus the settlers of Kentucky gained access to the ear of the legislative body through Fincastle County. The organization of a body of settlers into a committee to petition was the first step in the formation of civic life in the westward expansion of population.

The petitions presented to the legislative body must, by the law of Virginia, be deposited with the Clerk of the

House of Delegates. The Clerk read the petition and it was then referred to one of the standing committees, of which there were five—on religion, on propositions and grievances, on claims, on courts of justice, and at times on the state of the country. Special committees were sometimes appointed, and often petitions were considered by committee of the whole. These committees were appointed at the beginning of the session and often were composed of the most prominent men of the Commonwealth. Thus the affairs of the distant western settlers were sometimes discussed by such men as Henry Lee, Patrick Henry, James Madison, and Thomas Jefferson.

The House ordered the committees to which the matters were referred to take them under consideration and make a recommendation. In the original documents the course through which the petitions passed is endorsed on the back as they were filed away. These endorsements are given in the notes to the text of the petitions. If the judgment of the committee was favorable the word "reasonable" was written across the back and a bill was generally drawn to conform to the request. If the judgment was not favorable the word "rejected" was written across the back, and no bill was enacted. Sometimes the petitions, if important, passed through quite a long and devious course, as may be seen. In some cases the requests were divided and part were granted and part rejected. The reasons for this action are not on record, though it may often be inferred from the action or the language in the Journals.

The statutes which match these petitions are well known and embody, in general, the substance of the petitions. They consist of a preamble, an enacting clause, and the provisions of the law. The petitions, however, add considerable to our knowledge as they give us the settler's point of view in his own language. Taking the two together it is possible to have as perfect a picture as may be of the relations of the old Commonwealth and her remote inhabitants. That these distant settlers suffered is certainly true; that they were dissatisfied with their parent State is evidenced by the petitions they sent to the Government at Philadelphia; but one can not make a study of the petitions and the laws based upon them without being impressed with the fact that Virginia attended to the affairs of her "good people" on the "western waters." The impression is left of a population self-assertive and resourceful but withal respectful toward constituted authority.

In the second place the petitions are of value because of the light which their subject-matter throws on the early history of Kentucky and the West. It would be difficult to find a more graphic picture of the life of a pioneer population in all its lines of activity, in the expression of difficulties, hopes, and desires. We have too often been content to select some typical hero of frontier life and record his exploits. In these petitions we have set before us the associated life of the community. Allowance must be made, it is true, for extravagance of statement, but even

such phrases are a vivid reminder of the strenuous life of those early state-builders whose sacrifices and efforts made possible the conditions that exist to-day.

The petitions are not all of equal importance. Some deal only with personal affairs or with matters of small account. Others throw light on matters that belong to the field of serious history and are significant. The greatest good can be derived by taking them as a whole, illustrative of the beginnings of a community.

The topics that make up the subject-matter of the petitions may be summed up as follows: The system of landholding, the establishment of courts, the organization of a militia for protection from Indians, the organization of the community into counties and towns, the establishment of communication by ferries and roads, the inspection of tobacco, the building of gristmills, the perfecting of a medium of exchange, the foundation of an educational system, the status of slavery in the western country, the effort to secure better social conditions in the care of orphans and in the performance of marriage rites, and finally the movement of the population toward separation from Virginia.

The question of land naturally occupies a large place in the petitions. The settlers came to the country west of the mountains with certain ideas regarding land which had been worked out through many years of controversy in the colonial period of Virginia. The Journals of the House of Burgesses reflect this struggle. In general it may be

said that the representatives of the people stood for westward expansion, for small grants of land to bona fide settlers, for titles free from quit rents, and for legislative management of land conditions rather than executive.

A resolution of the House of Burgesses of December, 1766, urged upon the administration that settlers who had taken up lands on the waters of the West could not be deprived of their land or compelled to move without a violation of public faith and of law. It showed that the encouragement of settlement to the west would be conducive to the King's service and Colony's interest and the King was urged to rescind his restrictive proclamation and give orders to grant land to "all adventurers" in the accustomed manner. Many of the lands were shown to be unoccupied by Indians and others could be readily secured by purchase.

In 1768 the treaty of Fort Stanwix with the Indians was in line with the wishes of the settlers and seemed to prepare the way for settlement. Our first petition of 1769 is a request for land in the valley of the Cumberland River, to the west of the mountains, and in the same year the House of Burgesses discussed expansion again, urging that the country be opened as far as the confluence of the Ohio with the Mississippi, and a purchase be made from the Cherokees which would add to the King's revenue and the trade and navigation of the western country.

The desire for small holdings is seen in the memorial which asks that the King in his "royal wisdom" be graciously pleased to "discourage all monopolies of those lands" by

granting them "in small or moderate quantities to such adventurers as might incline to seek and settle the same."

The feeling against quit rents may be seen in the opposition to the grants of Lord Dunmore in 1775, when the surveyor of Fincastle County refused to return a survey until it had received the approval of the House of Burgesses and that body inquired, whether "his majesty may of right advance the terms of granting lands in the colony."

The few settlers in Kentucky had not been able to secure from Virginia a title to their lands until the Revolutionary War came on. Petitions Numbers 2 and 3 are requests for such recognition. It was the War which brought the western settlers and the government of Virginia together, through mutual need of one another, the former for money and riflemen and the latter for settled titles to land. Thus the first land act in behalf of the trans-Alleghany settlers was passed by Virginia in response to those petitions, in the latter part of 1776, and curiously enough, is entitled "An act for raising a supply of money for public exigencies."

This law referred to the fact that "great numbers of people had settled in the waste and ungranted lands on the western waters to which they have not been able to secure titles." It resolved that all such settlers upon unappropriated lands, to which there was no just prior claim, should have the "preemption or preference to the grant of such lands" and it gave to all bona fide settlers, previous to June 24, 1776, a right to "four hundred acres for each family." The land thus located was to bear a tax to the colony of Virginia according to the "pound rate."

Introduction

The Transylvania Company, under the lead of Richard Henderson and by the aid of Daniel Boone, had anticipated Virginia by the purchase of the land between the Cumberland and Kentucky Rivers from the Cherokees and had started a colony of a proprietary type with quit rents to the land and features not in accordance with the ideas which had been shaping in Virginia during the period between the close of the French Wars in 1763 and the opening of the Revolution. The petitions are wonderful exhibitions of the tact and skill with which the settlers induced the Commonwealth of Virginia to extend jurisdiction over Kentucky, and thus change the subsequent course of events.

The Land Act of 1776 was in accord with the popular views on the subject and had it remained the law there would not have been the grounds for complaint which many of the petitions so strongly voice. An act of the Assembly in 1779 confirmed the grants as given in the previous law and extended it to all settlers before January 1, 1778. It departed, however, from the first in granting the right to preempt one thousand acres on the condition of erecting a cabin. Another act of the same year established a land office and gave to any person the right "to acquire title to so much waste and unappropriated land as he or she shall desire on paying the consideration of forty pounds for every hundred acres."

These two acts were due to the emergencies of the War and the pressure to secure funds for it. They became,

however, a source of great annoyance to the actual settlers of the West who were bearing the burdens of the day. Petition No. 8 is a pitiful wail by the "distressed inhabitants" of the county of Kentucky, who saw men surveying the thousand-acre tracts, when they had not so much as a hundred and in some cases none at all—"too rough a medicine ever to be dejested by any set of people that have suffered as we have." Petition No. 15 protests against the second act by which every person is "at liberty to purchase without cultivating as much Land as He or She shall think proper." Petition No. 16, though pertaining to the same grievance, is more restrained, and recognizes the acts as emergency acts in the time of war.

To the settler west of the Alleghanies the period just following the War was one of great perplexity. He did not know to whom he should look for security in the title to his land. Petition No. 24 contains an expression of this feeling of uncertainty. Referring to a refusal of Congress to accept the cession of land offered by Virginia and a report of the committee to the effect that Virginia had no just claim to any of the land northwest of the Alleghanies, they assert their right "for it is through them and those they claim as citizens that the greatest part of the western waters is not now in the possession of our most inveterate enimies."

The changes made from time to time by the Virginia laws for perfecting a title to land gave rise to a great deal of trouble and discontent. Some of the settlers did not

conform to the necessary steps by reason of ignorance, some were prevented by absence from the section in service of the country in the War or against the Indians. The death of a sheriff would prevent the perfecting of a title; fraud is sometimes charged, through concealment of the law by "knavish" men who expected to profit thereby; legal processes were forced on settlers who could not stand the expense and would thus lose their land, and finally the separation of Kentucky from Virginia left titles incomplete. These and other complaints are found in Petitions Nos. 22, 23, 88, 93, 102, 106, 109, and 110. With the complaints there is to be found a very graphic and complete revelation of the land question of the early period.

Closely connected with the land question and second, perhaps, in importance in the petitions, was the establishment of courts for the securing of order and for the regulation of the various relations of community life. The county courts were the first to be created and they began with the act by which the Kentucky County was separated from Fincastle in 1776. By this act justices were to meet at Harrodsburg on the first Tuesday of April to establish a court. They were instructed to appoint a clerk and arrange for a permanent place of meeting. The Assembly manifested its appreciation of the difficulties of getting things started in the remote region beyond the mountains by providing that the meetings might be postponed where a majority may have been detained "by bad weather or accidental rise of the water courses."

Introduction

County courts were established in each of the counties as they came into existence, previous to separation from Virginia. In fact the desire for more courts to facilitate the matters of record, land titles, and secure order in the community was the main motive in creating new counties. For example, in Petition No. 12, which is the basis of the first division, we read: "the settled parts of the county of Kentucky is of late growing so extensive that in a Time of peace it would be extremely inconvenient for your petitioners to attend at Court House much more so at present when an inveterate war rages with unremitted violence."

The increase in land troubles was responsible, largely, for a request for a superior court, as shown in Petition No. 16. This was established in 1782, and in Petition No. 17 the settlers of Lincoln County thank the Assembly for the establishment of this court, "the good effects of which we begin already to feel by the discouragement of vice and fraud which was too prevalent among us." That there was opposition may be inferred from the statement of the petition which alludes to a set of inhabitants "who were never friendly to the government of Virginia nor would be pleased with any laws its Legislature can pass."

The act which established the superior court created the District of Kentucky, after August 1, 1782, and it was generally referred to henceforth as a District rather than a County. This court was a supreme court of judicature, separate and independent of all other courts except the Court of Appeals. It had jurisdiction in cases of treason,

murder, felony, crimes, and misdemeanors, except those reserved for the General Court in Virginia. It also had jurisdiction of matters at common law and cases in chancery arising therefrom. There was to be one judge and three assistants, and four sessions of eighteen days duration were provided for each year. It was also to be a court of record, to take cognizance of matters such as probating of wills, deeds, and the granting of letters of administration and cases of escheat and forfeiture. The rates for suits at law were set somewhat lower than in the courts of Virginia and did not always provide sufficient funds to make the court efficient. Several subsequent acts of the Assembly sought to strengthen the court by raising the rates, by using the receipts of custom on the Ohio, and by appointment of "naval officers" for that purpose. Petition No. 59 requests that taxes from which the salaries of court officials were to be met must be paid in specie, and Petition No. 39 requests that the money collected from taxes, so far as it is to be used for officials' salaries, may be kept out from the funds sent to Virginia. This request led to the appointment of a receiver in Kentucky and measures which constantly strengthened his hands.

Requests soon came for the establishment of assize or circuit courts and for the establishment of different places for the sitting of the Supreme Court. These are found in Petitions Nos. 23, 24, and 60. The objections are stated in Petition No. 69, which asserts the principle that "those governments are best who employ fewer officers." Accom-

panying Petition No. 60 is an interesting statement of the business of the Supreme Court with number of cases pending.

The establishment of the local units of government occupies a large place in the petitions. Each county and town required a separate act of the Assembly for its creation. Petitions Nos. 2 and 3 are the basis for the establishment of the county of Kentucky, independent from Fincastle. In the organization of this western county they profess to be following the example of West Augusta County in Virginia, which thus becomes a model in county development. There is a great deal of shrewdness wrapped up in the insinuation of these westerners that "it would be impolitical to suffer such a Respectable body of prime Riflemen to remain even in a state of Neutrality." The act was passed by the Convention granting their request and the boundary is thus described: "all that part therof which lies to the south and westward of a line beginning on the Ohio at the mouth of Sandy Creek and running up the same and the main or northeasterly branch thereof to the Great Laurel Ridge or Cumberland Mountains thence southwesterly along the said mountain to the line of North Carolina."*

The county, thus created, was entitled to representation in the legislative body of Virginia by two delegates elected by free white men, possessing "twenty five acres of land with house and plantation thereon." The first election was delayed and had to be validated by a special act which

* This written description does not correspond exactly with its physical features, as later surveyed.

referred to the election as "fair and open" with "most of the landholders in the county present and voting." Petition No. 12 is a request for a division of Kentucky County in 1780. The details of county administration as provided by the act were essentially similar to those of the first county. By 1785 the three counties thus created were again subdivided. Petitions Nos. 27, 28, 32, 33, 47, 48, 49, 53, 54, 55, 65, 66, and 74 are requests for and against such division. The opponents of division thought such act would weaken the military force, increase expense, and derange public business. They do not seem disposed to make an attempt to "bring the Courthouse and church to every man's door," and they think that "some individuals in such cases ought to give up their private case for the good of the people at large." Division was held to be unnecessary since "their numbers are too inconsiderable to enable them to accumulate expense, without adding either to their convenience or general welfare."

The first request for a town came from Boonesborough. Petition No. 9 gives an interesting summary of the troubles and suspicions of the settlers under the proprietors who first began this settlement, as the capital of the Transylvania colony. They complain of the distribution of lots and selection of trustees. They desire that every settler be allowed to draw a free lot, and that the town be laid out on the south side of the river, as the land at this township "lies much incommoded by hills." The act establishing this town became the model for all that followed. A

board of trustees was provided and lots were to be granted to settlers on condition that they built "a dwelling house, sixteen feet square at least, with a brick, stone, or dirt chimney to be finished fit for habitation within three years from the date of their respective deeds."

Petitions Nos. 11, 14, 19, 26, 34, 36, 41, 46, 57, 62, 76, 80, and 87 bear upon this subject, and provide for towns at Louisville in 1780, Lexington in 1781, Harrodsburg, in 1785, Washington, Charlestown, Hopewell, Maysville, Stanford and Milford. The petitioners for a town at Louisville think it will render them secure from any "hostile intention of the Indians and will induce merchants to bring articles of commerce that the merchants of this western part of the state stands much in need of." When this town was established it was supposed to be on forfeited land but it was later found that part of this land was held by John Campbell, as security for a debt, and this situation gave rise to considerable petitioning before it was straightened out.

The settlers asking for a town at Lexington had at "considerable risque and expence" located there, laid off a town, and selected trustees, depending on an act of the Assembly allowing settlers six hundred and forty acres for such a purpose. They desired to be assured of their right to do this. This place is elsewhere referred to as "most flourishing and best peopled place of any at this time in the District of Kentucky." They wish to encourage "well disposed persons, artisans and mechanicks" to come, "who from motives of convenience do prefer a Town life."

The settlers of Lincoln County had "taken into serious consideration of a Proper place for Trade and Domestic Business and for the more ready procuring of those articles in our precincts that are much wanted in the new country." Their site for a town is described as "sufficiently level, very fertile, and well watered by never failing springs and a large Stream running quite through the same." The town of Hopewell, in Bourbon County, was later changed to Paris by request of the settlers. Maysville was established on a site "intirely exposed to the depredations of hostile Indians." Several petitions ask an extension of time for fulfilling the conditions of building to secure their lots because of their constant struggles with Indians.

The statutes of Virginia show towns established also at Campbellstown, in Jefferson County, New Market in Mercer County, Danville in Mercer County, Warwick in Lincoln County, Beallsborough in Nelson County, Bardstown in Nelson County, Milford in Madison County, and Georgetown in Woodford County, although no petitions for the same were found.

Many of the petitions pertain to the industrial development of Kentucky. More space is given to the provisions for inspection of tobacco than anything else. The statutes of Virginia regarding this product are many and long, thus showing the important place it held in the industrial life. Previous to 1775 the provisions concerning inspection seem to have lapsed and in that year an act was passed reviving several warehouses for the reception of tobacco. This bill

is interesting as illustrative of the legislation on the subject. Subsequent bills provided more detail but along essentially the same lines. Inspection was to be had "at and near the heads of creeks and rivers." The inspectors, after examining and recording the quality of the tobacco, were to issue warehouse receipts and these could be used as currency in certain cases. By an act of 1786 the value of tobacco was fixed at twenty shillings per hundred pounds for Kentucky. The first act for inspection "on the western waters" was passed in 1783. Petitions Nos. 40, 43, 45, 63, 64, 67, 72, 84, and 99 pertain to this subject. Because of the important part that James Wilkinson occupies in the development of the tobacco industry in Kentucky, his petition, No. 99, asking for inspection at Frankfort is significant.

The rise of gristmills suggests the increase in wheat and corn. Petition No. 77 in 1790 is the first request that refers to that subject. The inhabitants of Bourbon County complain that they are obliged "to go from eighteen to twenty five miles to mill," that they are subjected "to grate loss of time," and they wish a mill established on Stoner and Hinkson's Forks of the Licking River. They think that if "either locks or slopes sufficient for boats to pass by the dams with safety" were constructed, "the Stoner and Hinkson would be above ten times the value to Bourbon than what it is at present with only them navagations alone."

In the petitions regarding the mills there is a sharp controversy between the construction of mills and the pres-

ervation of the stream open for navigation. In opposition to the view expressed above is that of Petition No. 78 which strenuously objects to dams and mills. The stream is said to flow "through a fertile soil thickly Inhabited, abounding with a variety of Fish" and "it is the only stream by which the greater part of the county can be relieved from a Difficult Land carriage of many miles." The petitioner in No. 81 has "nearly spent his little fortune" on a mill and its removal would bring himself and family ruin. At any rate the navigation is not so all important a matter as "only one boat has had a safe passage in two years" and several boats "have been obliged to unlode and waggon their loades to other landings more safe and certain"; "some have been overset and their loads lost, some have been drowned and many more have been exposed to the Greatest hardship." Petitioners in No. 82 think their opponents "puffed up with the most romantic expectations of the utility acruing from the free and open navigation of the Stoner and Hinkson."

Intercommunication by land and water was a matter of much importance to the early settlers. In 1779 an act of the Assembly was passed to mark and open a road over the Cumberland Mountains. In the preamble the purpose is thus set forth: "To afford mutual aid and support to one another and cement in one common interest all the citizens of the state a good wagon road through the great mountains into the settlements will greatly contribute." A commission was appointed to examine a route and a guard of fifty

men was provided to protect them from Indians, if necessary. In 1786 another commission was appointed to receive subscriptions for a road from the falls of the Great Kanawha to Lexington. In 1792 an act for better communication expresses the sentiment that "This Assembly are at all times willing to contribute every encouragement to such designs as are represented to be of general utility so far as is consistent with prudence and good economy."

There are many references throughout the petitions to the difficulties of communication by land and requests are made for the improvement of waterways. In Petition No. 78 the inhabitants of Bourbon County request that the navigation of the Licking River be established, "beginning at its junction with the Ohio thence up the south fork to the Junction of Hinkston and Stoner, thence up Stoners Fork to Bramblets Lick."

Ferries were established at an early date. Petition No. 10 is the first request, and was made by Richard Calloway in 1779, for a ferry across the Kentucky at Boonesborough. It states that from the "first seating of This Town both the inhabitants and travilers has Found it very inconvenient to get across the Kentucky River only in dry seasons in the summer time." Because "this Town and country is become very popular and much Resorted to by travilers," he asks the privilege of keeping a public ferry. The right was granted by the Assembly. Calloway later lost his life while working on the ferry which is still in existence and in use. Petitions Nos. 29, 31, 44, 97, and

104 are requests to establish ferries at different points. One across the Cumberland River was especially desired where the "Kentuckey road crosses the same."

In many cases individuals had been carrying people across the water ways and a private service was turned into a public one. One man says that "by request of his neighbors" he had provided a boat and had at "his own Expence set over passengers in the time of high water."

The petitions give occasional hints at other matters of an industrial nature. Petition No. 6 is a request regarding salt. The petitioners had not for some time been able to make salt because of the incursions of Indians and they were feeling the lack of that article of importance to frontier life. Salt springs abounded in the country and could be worked at small expense. They had not been worked by their owners, however, and the request is made that unless works are erected at once the springs be made "publick Property and [salt] be manufactured by Government" to the profit of Virginia as well as the settlers. The request is not so peculiar as it appears at first sight, for the statutes of Virginia show that the Commonwealth had at various times taken an active part in the production of salt. An act of 1775 provided for the erection of salt works in the colony; a later act allowed a bounty for the manufacture of salt, and still another act placed an embargo on the export of salt.

Slavery, of course, is referred to in the petitions. Petition No. 7 asks compensation for a negro killed at the

siege of Boonesborough in 1778, in the famous attack by Indians in September. He was described as very "likely" and his value was estimated as six hundred pounds. The charge is made that he was put in an exposed place purposely. Petition No. 37 requests that the administrator of an estate be allowed to dispose of part of it and purchase a couple of "likely fellows" for the young heiress of the estate.

Petition No. 61 is the request of a slaveholder in 1787, who had come from Maryland, bringing with him his slaves. Through ignorance of the law—passed by Virginia, requiring notice from those bringing in slaves—he had forfeited his property. The Assembly was lenient to his petition, asking relief for "those who have neither education nor leisure to enable them to be acquainted with the Laws of their country." He asks for such relief as "will secure to him the possession of the hard earnings of many years industry."

The law referred to required that those coming into Virginia should give oath within ten days that no slaves were brought from Africa or the West Indies since November, 1778, and that none were brought with the "intention of selling them." The petitioner in this case was allowed extra time to conform to the law, "as such failure hath been chiefly, if not altogether, owing to the impracticability of complying with the said act."

The social relations and development of the pioneer community are suggested in several of the petitions. The

early population was awake to the advantage of schools, and the parent Commonwealth seems also to have had that interest at heart. By an act of 1780 the Assembly had vested some eight thousand acres of lands, forfeited from loyalists in the Revolutionary War, in a board for the cause of "public education." The preamble of the act refers to "the interest of the commonwealth always to promote and encourage every design which may tend to the improvement of the mind and the diffusion of useful knowledge, even among its remote citizens, whose situation a barbarous neighborhood and a savage intercourse might otherwise render unfriendly to science." The land was placed in trust of a body of thirteen trustees "as free donation from the commonwealth for the purpose of a public school, or seminary of learning, to be created within the said county as soon as the circumstances of the county and the state of its funds will admit and for no other purpose whatever." At a future time it was thought these lands might "be a valuable fund for the maintenance and education of youth."

Several petitions pertain to the incorporation of the Board of Trustees for the Transylvania Seminary and the vesting in them of the forfeited land, defining their powers, fixing the number, and increasing their facilities for getting funds. The attitude of the pioneer population toward education may be seen in the words of Petition No. 18: "The solicitous anxiety which discovers itself in the principal inhabitants of this country for having Schools or Semi-

naries of Learning among them that their children may be educated as becomes a civilized people, encourages your Petitioners to hope that the Liberality of Individuals will be extended in aid of the public Donations were Trustees incorporated by Law &c." They are confident that the "Assembly will listen with pleasure to every proposition that has a Tendency to banish Ignorance and Error and to introduce in their room what may polish the manners, encourage the improvement of the mind promote liberality of sentiment and by refining give additional Incentives to virtue."

By Petition No. 50 a request is made for an allotment of one-sixth of the land surveyors' fees to the funds of the institution. This had previously been assigned to William and Mary College, "a Seminary which we greatly respect but from which the Inhabitants of Kentucky are too remote to derive any immediate advantage." This was granted, as also the request that escheated lands should revert to the benefit of education. Petition No. 90 asks the privilege of conducting a lottery to raise five hundred pounds for the erection of an academy, a request which was granted in an act allowing the same privilege to a church and a school east of the mountains. Petition No. 91 also pertains to the educational matters. Petition No. 70 is a request from a descendant of the owner of one of the confiscated estates which had been donated to the cause of education. He had been informed that the Assembly "have always shewn a readiness to give the value

of all confiscated property to the next in succession" and he requests the value of the property. The request is marked as reasonable but no act seems to have been passed.

Social conditions and needs are illustrated, along other than educational lines, by requests made in various petitions. In Petition No. 17 the settlers of Lincoln County ask for the passage of a "few more laws indispensibly necessary for this District." Among these is one seeking "some civil power to solemnize the Rites of matrimony as we have no clergy either of the church of England or Presbyterians, who compose the Greater part of our inhabitants."

This request was granted in 1783 and provision was made that "Where it shall appear to the court of any county on the western waters that there is not a sufficient number of clergymen authorized to celebrate marriages therein, such court is empowered to nominate so many sober and discreet laymen as will supply the deficiency." Those so nominated were to receive a license and could perform the ceremony according to the church of which they were members. Parties to the ceremony were obliged to have a license or a certificate of the publication of the banns made for three successive times.

In the same petition was a request for a law to provide for the "orphans of poor people as we have no church wardens to bind them out." The law of Virginia required that orphans should be bound out to a master or mistress under certain conditions. An act of 1785 provides that they must "be taught some trade, art or business;" also reading,

writing, and if a boy, arithmetic, including the rule of three. Monthly reports had to be made by the overseers who had the authority to bind out the orphans.

A large number of the petitions are claims of various kinds. Such are Petitions Nos. 5, 13, 35, 83, 85, 89, 92, 94, 95, 100, 103, 105, 106, 107, 108, and 110. Three of these requests are from George Rogers Clark. In No. 13 he refers to his services in Illinois in the War, speaks of a grant of land adjoining the Falls on the northwest side of the Ohio River, of an extent of thirty-six thousand acres "which he could not refuse without giving umbrage," given by the Indians with the request that he live among them. Though claiming no title by virtue of this gift he asks the Commonwealth to confirm the title, as it would save the State the expense of purchase and would reimburse him for what he had lost through his service to the country.

In Petition No. 100 Clark asks half pay for life or full pay for five years for debts "arising from past Military services or from advances of the better part of his Fortune for the credit of the state"; for debts incurred in "the necessary maintenance of your Troops under my Command in the Western country, troops (it behooves me to say) who with a fortitude, fidelity and martial hardihood, perhaps unexampled, have braved heroically and with successful effect every kind of want and every Species of peril to preserve the very fairest portion of your State and indeed of the whole Union"; debts for "having, from my own funds,

supplied your Garrisons and those heroic Troops with bread to feed on."

There are many personal claims presented of various kinds. Petition No. 5 is a request from the impulsive Hugh McGary, who figured so prominently later in the defeat of the settlers at the battle of Blue Lick. He asks pay for his services as a messenger to Pittsburgh, as bearer of a list of horses stolen by the Indians that they may be recovered by an expedition about to start for the recovery of stolen property. Petition No. 35 is a request for bounty as a reward for three years in the service. Petition No. 83 is a request for extension of time to present claims to the commission appointed to hear them. Petition No. 110 is the request of a member of the regiment of Clark, in the Illinois campaign, for land. The petitioner gives account of the difficulties of the campaign; says he was at the taking of Lieutenant Governor Hamilton and acted as his guard part of the way to Kentucky, and the rest of the way he served as spy. He had received a discharge from the army but had lost it. He could have shared in the lands allotted to the followers of Clark but he had lived in isolation "in the hills and mountains detached from almost every community or opportunity for information."

Petitions Nos. 85 and 103 are requests from scouts for consideration. Petition No. 89 is the request of a quartermaster in control of supplies for the Illinois division of the army under Clark for three years. The memorialist had drawn bills of exchange on the State for some of the bills,

they had been protested, and he was in "a very disagreeable situation not only on account of these bills but by being charged with monies paid him during the time he was in the office and no credit allowed him." Petition No. 92 refers to a suit brought in the High Court of Chancery for payment of salt purchased by a public agent of Virginia. Petition No. 94 is the claim for payment as compensation for the keeping of Indian prisoners. Part of the bill had been paid but the amount had been reduced in the later months and petitioner could not get rid of the Indians. Petition No. 95 is a claim for service in raising a company on the Holston, supplying them with arms, provisions, bags, pack horses, and marching them to the Falls of the Ohio in 1779, for the reduction of Illinois under Colonel Clark. The amount had once been allowed by the commissioners, but some person had been making trouble by stating that the petitioner was "enimical to the United States" when he was a captive at Detroit where he was taken in 1780. Petitions Nos. 107 and 108 are requests for payment for horses impressed into the public service.

The petitions, lastly, are valuable as a means of determining the feeling which the settlers west of the mountains had for the parent State and the gradual movement toward separation. We have already seen that there was a population unfriendly to the jurisdiction of Virginia, even from the beginning. The Revolutionary War, however, had led them to prefer her jurisdiction to any alternative. There were many causes for dissatisfaction which were due to

the necessities of the case rather than intentional neglect. As the War drew to a close and the new system of Federal Government was established, expectation turned toward a separate existence as a State.

Petition No. 15, May, 1782, contains the first expression of that feeling in this collection of petitions. It grew out of the discontent of the settlers with the land policy of Virginia, especially the grants to absentee purchasers. The petitioners had proposed the setting aside of tracts of land for actual settlers; they referred to considerable dissention among them as the result of a pamphlet in circulation on the "Public Good" and asked the Assembly to create them "a power sufficient for the Controul and Management of all Civil and Military affairs in this Country" or else to grant them "a Separation with your Intercession with the Honourable the Continental Congress for their incorporation with them." The request is respectfully worded and they speak of "a proper deference to your wise Determinations, Reposing special Trust and Confidence in you." Part of their request was rejected, but "so much thereof as prays for the establishment of some kind of controuling power for the better management of their civil and military affairs is reasonable."

Petition No. 16, June, 1782, renews the same complaints and asks in definite terms for the passage of an act for cultivating and improving the lands and the creation of a superior court which will "carry us towards that stage of maturity when with the tenderness of a kind parent to a

departing child, you will direct us to form a constitution and act for ourselves." They refer, in Petition No. 24, to the unsatisfactory conditions, mention a resolution of Congress denying Virginia's title to lands northwest of the mountains, but express loyalty in the words: "When your memorialists through your Honble. house make a request to Congress for a new state and are received into the Union, They are then and not before subject as another state"; and again they say, "your memorialists have ever considered themselves and country as part of Virginia and were happy in being so. Her laws suited them and do yet suppose it to be their interest to be Governed by Her, untill it shall appear for their mutual advantage to separate at which period it is expected there will be no objection." The creation of a superior court in the same year seems for a time to have satisfied the requests of previous petitions.

Petition No. 25, October, 1785, is the request of a convention for separation. It was called "to take into consideration the General State of the District and especially to decide the expediency of making application to your Honorable Body, for an Act of Seperation." They give various reasons for their request; they say they have waited patiently "the hour of Address nor ever ventured to raise their voices in their own cause, Untill Youth quickening into manhood hath given them vigor and Stability." If their application is granted they count it "a new spectacle in the History and Politicks of Mankind. A Sovereign Power, solely intent to bless its People, agreeing to a dis-

memberment of its parts, in order to secure the Happiness of the Whole," the beginning of a movement which "we persuade ourselves is to diffuse throughout the World the inestimable blessings which mankind may derive from the American Revolution." Their request was considered in committee of the whole by the Assembly, referred then to a special committee, and a bill was passed which provided for the calling of a convention at Danville, to consider the matter of separation. Three bills were passed before the separation actually took place.

The opposition to separation is seen in Petition No. 58, which says: "An augmentation of states under the general government, by the erection of a new government here which will be clothed with no new national power" will only serve "as one of Pharos lean kine to devour our liberty whilst it can be of no security to our property." They ask for a repeal of the act of separation lest it "injure us until time shall be no more."

The general tone and tenor of the petitions here printed is considerably different from that of the petitions sent to Philadelphia or New York, now in the Library of Congress and which have been referred to and quoted in the printed histories of Kentucky.

The list of names attached to the petitions is the third and last source of value to be mentioned in this introduction. The signatures of the larger part are autograph which adds to their worth. Many of the lists of early pioneer populations have been gathered secondhand and often

from the sound of the name. Thus the army rolls of the Virginia soldiers found on pay-rolls or official papers are often incorrect. In some cases it is evident that the list of names attached to a petition was copied in one handwriting and in some cases names have been written for the petitioner, but in most cases the autograph signature appears on one of the petitions if not more. The editor spent over a month on the names, examining them with a magnifying glass and copying them. In this way it was possible to gain a familiarity with them. Where the name appeared several times, as most of them do, it was possible to check and come to a judgment as to the proper form. Variations of spelling have been preserved in order to make the list of as much value as possible. The same name occurring on different petitions does not necessarily indicate the same person. No effort has been made to go beyond the preservation of the name in this work.

Facsimile reproductions have been made of some of the signatures by way of illustration. Not all the autographs are so good as these. Many are barely legible, but there were very few that could not be made out after some study. Surely this list of names is abundant proof that the pioneer population of Kentucky was not illiterate.

The list of names is important for two main reasons, first, it throws light on the racial composition of the early population of Kentucky, and second, it is of use for the study of genealogy.

The earlier petitions show a decided preponderance of Scotch and Scotch-Irish names with a large number of

English and a few German, Dutch, and French. The number of English names increases in the later petitions. The large number of religious names indicates the nonconformist character of much of the population.

While the list will not give much detail to aid the genealogist, it fixes the existence of a certain name in a locality at an early period and thus gives a clue that may be followed further.

Text of the Petitions

Verbatim transcript with editor's emendations in brackets
only when meaning requires the same.

TEXT OF THE PETITIONS

NUMBER 1.

To the Right Honble. Norborne Baron de Botetourt His Majesty's Lieut. and Governor General of Virginia and Vice Admiral of the Same and the Honble. Council Thereof:—

The Petition of Joseph Cabell, Junr., Nicholas Cabell, William Megginson, William Horsley, Robert Horsley, John Horsley, Wm. Hopkins, Jas. Hopkins, Saml. Burks, Cornelius Thomas, John Thomas, Jas. Thomas Junr., Henry Hopson, Samuel Hopson, John Hughs, Joseph Hornsby, Edward Harris, John Harris, Thos. Harris, John Davis, John Warberton, Benj. Warberton, Gary Wilkinson, Emanl. Taylor, Joseph Turner, Wm. Cabell Junr., Sanders Cabell, Hector Cabell, Frederick Cabell, John Cabell Junr., George Cabell, Frederick Cabell, Hugh Innes, Robert Innes, Harry Innes, Jas. Innes, James Buchanan, Tavener Beal, Abraham Hite, Isaac Hite, the Younger, Abraham Hite Junr., Joseph Hite, Thos. Harmon, Benj. Hains, Joseph Hains, Ebenezer Severn, Philip Ross, Felix Seymour, Isaac Hite, Isaac Hite, Junr., John Mc. Donel, Abel Randle, Garret VanMeter, humbly sheweth that his Majesty's Title to the Lands situate on the east side of the Ohio having lately been recognized by the six nations of Indians, your Petitioners humbly pray that they may have leave to take up and survey sixty thousand acres of Land to begin at the Falls of the Cumberland River and extend down the said River for compliment in one or more surveys and your Petitioners will pray.

(December, 1769. According to Calendar of State Papers.)

In the Calendar of State Papers reference is made to a Petition of April 25, 1772, asking for a large grant of land in the valley of the Louisa River; in the Journal of the House of Burgesses for May 25, 1774, reference is made to a Petition from several persons on the Western Waters; in the Journal of the Convention reference is made to several Petitions: on May 21, 1776, to a Petition from settlers in West Fincastle; on May 30, to a Petition from John Craig, a settler in Transylvania; on June 15, 1776, to a Petition from Richard Henderson and his associates of the Transylvania Company; and on June 10, 1776,

Rodgers Clark, and hope ye Honorable the Convention will receive them as our Delegates from this the Western parts of Fincastle County. And as we sincerely concur in the measures established by the Continental Congress and Colony of Virginia, And willing to the utmost of our abilities to support the present laudable cause, by raising our Quoto of men and bear a proportionable share of Expense that will necessarily accrue in the support of our common Liberty. And that good order may be observed we proceeded to Elect a Committee consisting of Twenty one members, already some in West Augusta and which precedent we rely upon to justify our Procedings to the world, for without Law or authority, Vice here could take its full scope having no Laws to Restrain or Power to Controul. Upon the whole we Cheerfully submit to the Authorities and Jurisdiction of this House, not doubting but you will take us under your protection, and give us such direction by our Representatives, as you, in your great Wisdom may think Best, and your petitioners as in duty Bound &c.

Herrodsburg, June 7—15th. 1776

Signed by order of the Inhabitants

Abraham Hite Jr.
Clerk.

This was sent first to the committee of Fincastle County and by them to the Convention.

NUMBER 3.

To the Honourable the Convention of Virginia:

The Humble Petition of the Committee of West Fincastle of the Colony of Virginia, Being on the North and South sides of the River Kentucke (or Louisa) Present John Gabriel Jones Esqr. Chairman, John Bowman, John Cowen, William Bennett, Joseph Bowman, John Crittendon, Isaac Hite, George Rodgers Clark, Silas Harland, Hugh Mc. Gary, Andrew Mc, Connel, James Herrod, William Mc. Connel, and John Maxwell, Gent'n.

To the General Assembly of Virginia

The Inhabitants of this Frontier part of Virginia who are equally desirous of contributing to the utmost of their power to the support of the present laudable cause of American Freedom, and willing to convince and prove to the world that tho they live so remote from the seat of Government that they Feel in the most sensible manner for their suffering Brethern; and that they most ardently desire to be looked upon as a part of this Colony, notwithstanding the Base proceedings of a Detestible, Wicked and Corrupt Ministry to prevent any more counties to be laid off, without the Inhabitant would be so pusilanimous as to give up their right of appointing proper persons to represent them (in Assembly or) in Convention; And as we Further conceive that as the Proclamation of his Majesty for not settling on the Western parts of this Colony, is not founded upon Law, it cannot have any Force, and if we submit to that Proclamation and continue not to lay off new Counties on the Frontiers that they may send Representatives to the Convention, its leaving an opening to the wicked and Diabolical designs of the Ministry, as then this immense and Fertile Country would afford a safe Asylum to those whose Principles are inimical to American Liberty. And if new Counties are not laid off, as Fincastle County now Reaches and already settled upwards of Three Hundred Miles from East to West it is impossible that two delegates can be sufficient to Represent any such a Respectable Body of People, or that such a number of Inhabitants should be bound to obey without being heard. And as those very people would most cheerfully cooperate in every measure tending to the Publick Peace, and American Freedom, They have delegated two Gentlemen who was chosen by the Free voice of the People, and which Election was held Eight days at Harrodsburg (on the Western waters of Fincastle on Kentucke) after the preparatory notice of Five Weeks given to the Inhabitants and on the poll being closed Captain John Gabriel Jones and Captain George Rodgers Clark, having the majority were chosen and not doubting the acceptance of them

as our Representative by the Honorable the Convention, to serve in that capacity; as we conceive the precedent Established in West Augusta will justify our Proceeding; and we cannot but observe how impolitical it would be to suffer such a Respectable body of prime Rifle men, to remain (even in a state of Neutrality) When at this time a Certain set of men from North Carolina, stiling themselves, proprietors and claiming an absolute right to these very Lands taking upon themselves the Legislative authority, Commissioning officers, both Civil and Military, having also opened a Land office, Surveyors General and Deputies appointed and act, Conveayances made and Land sold at an Exorbitant Price many other Unconstitutional practices, tending to disturb the minds of those, who are well disposed to the wholesome Government of Virginia, and creating Factions and Divisions amongst ourselves. As we have not hitherto been Represented in Convention; And as at this time of General danger we cannot take too much Precaution to prevent the Inroads of Savages, and prevent the Effusion of Innocent Blood. We the Committee after receiving a message from the Chiefs of the Delawares who are now settled near the mouth of the Waubash, informing us that a Treaty was to be held at Opost, by the English and Kiccapoos Indians, and that they would attend to know the purport of the same, and if their Brothers the Long Knives would send a man they could rely on, they would, on their return, inform him of the same, as they were apprehensive the Kiccapoos would strike their Brothers the Long Knives, therefore we thought it most prudent, and shall send immediately a certain James Herrod and Garret Pendergrass to converse with them on the same. And as its the request of the Inhabitants that we should point out a number of men capable and most acquainted with the Laws of this Colony to act as Civil Magistrates, a list of the same we have enclosed. And for other matters relative to the country we conceive that Captain Jones and Captain Clark our Delegates will be able to inform the Honourable the Con-

vention, not doubting but they will listen to our just petition and take us under their Jurisdiction, And your petitioners as in Duty Bound &c.

Signed by order of the Committee, Herrodsburg, June 20th. 1776.

J. G. Jones Chairman
Abraham Hite Jnr. Clerk.

This was sent first to the committee of Fincastle County and by them to the convention.

The division requested was made and West Fincastle created into the Kentucky County by an act entitled, An act for dividing the county of Fincastle into three distinct counties and parishes of Botetourt into four distinct parishes. Henings Statutes, Vol. 9, 257.

"Whereas, from the great extent of the county of Fincastle many inconveniences attend the more distant inhabitants thereof on account of their remote situation from the courthouse of the said county and many of the said inhabitants have petitioned this present general assembly for a division of the same; Be it therefore enacted &c."

The division was to take effect after December 31, 1776, and the boundaries are thus described: "All that part thereof which lies to the south and westward of a line beginning on the Ohio at the mouth of the Great Sandy Creek and running up the same and the main or northeasterly branch thereof to the Great Laurel Ridge or Cumberland Mountain, then southwesterly along the said mountain to the line of North Carolina shall be one distinct county and called and known by the name of Kentucky."

A system of administration was provided for the county to consist of a court to meet the first Tuesday of every month. They were to give bond and could appoint a clerk and select a place of meeting. The court was to meet for the first time at Harrodsburg. Any appointment had to be by majority of the justices and could be postponed "where such majority shall have been prevented from attending by the bad weather or accidental rise of water courses."

The right of franchise was vested in "every white man possessing twenty-five acres of land with house and plantation thereon . . . and having right to an estate for life at least in the said land in his own right or in the right of his wife."

NUMBER 4.

To the Honorable the Speaker & Gentlemen of the house of Delegates of Virginia.

The Petition of Thomas Slaughter on behalf of himself & the other inhabitants situate near Kentukke humbly sheweth; That the said Inhabitants are exposed to the incursions & depredations of the Indians & from the small number are incapable of protecting themselves. & this inconvenience is greatly increased on Account of the melitia's not being im-

bodyed. The Petitioner therefore humbly prays that some method may be fixed on to protect & defend the said inhabitants, & if in the meantime military Commissions were issued for training the militia of the place a smaller number of men to act in conjunction with the said militia would answer the end desir'd.

Your Petitioner humbly submits the Premises to the consideration of the honorable house & hopes such relief will be affoarded as the exigence of the Case requires.

Thos Slaughter.

Endorsement on the back of the petition: Thomas Slaughter October 11th. 1776. Ref'd to Com. on state of the country.

NUMBER 5.

To the Honble. the Speaker & Gentlemen of the House of Delegates:

Hugh McGary humbly sheweth, That in the months of March and April last the northern Indians invaded the County of Kentucky, killed many of the inhabitants, destroyed part of their stock & took off upwards of two Hundred horses. News arriving that Government had ordered an Expedition against the Towns of the Enemy Indians from Pittsburg The Commanding officer at Kentucky sent your petitioner thither as Express with a List of Horses lost & their descriptive marks in order that they might be recovered to the Owners. Your petitioner hath obeyed his Orders which are hereto subjoined with General Hand's Receipt & a Certificate of his return to Kentucky & the Distance he rode. Your petitioner only prays the customary allowance to Expresses if this honble House thinks proper & shall pray &c.

Fort Pitt 22th June 1777 reced of Hugh Mcgary Express from Kentucky, a List of the Horses, taken by the Northern Indians at or near Harrodsburg.

To the General Assembly of Virginia

This is to Certify that sd Hugh McGary was sent express by me to Pittsburg the Distance Seven Hundred & Fifty Miles
Given under my hand Harrodsburgh 22d Augst. 1777.

G R Clark, Cmd.
Edwd Hand Brigadr Genl.

this is to Certify that Mr Hugh McGary is appointed by me as Express to Pittsburg I do request all persons to assist him as such
Given from under my hand at Harrodsburgh May 17. 1777

G R Clark, Cmd.

Endorsement on the back of the petition: Hugh Mc.Gary Pet.n. Decr.l. Ref'd to claims. reasonable . Alld. for 750 miles at lbs. 28- 2-6.

NUMBER 6.

To the honourable House of Delegates for the Commonwealth of Virginia—

The Petition of the Inhabitants of the County of Kentucky humbly sheweth, . . .

That your Petitioners are and have for some time past been almost destitute of the necessary Article Salt. That by reason of the Incursions of the different Nations of Indians this year past we have been prevented from making what Quantities would be necessary for ourselves and Families as we formerly did, for small Parties would be in great Danger of being cut off and larger ones could not be spared from the defence of the Families.

That as bountiful Nature hath plentifully furnished this Country with Salt Springs where at a small expence Salt might be made in abundance many of which are claimed by Persons resident in this State who have never been at any Pains or Expence to errect Manufactories at them which if done would be very Beneficial to not only adjacent Settlers but also interior Inhabitants of this Commonwealth—

Now your Petitioners humbly pray that if the Claimants do not immediately errect Salt Manufactories at the different Springs claimed by them The honourable House would take it into their consideration and Order that the said Springs should be made publick Property and be Manufactored by Government by which Means Government would be profited & your Petitioners have speedy relief and your Petitioners in duty bound shall ever pray

[Names.]

Endorsement on the back of petition: Petition of Inhabitants of Kentucky. 1777, Nov. 25. Ref'd to Propns. ref'd to next session of Assembly. 1st (Rejected)

The importance of a conservation of salt and the encouragement of its production may be seen from the following acts bearing upon the subject and passed at different times by the Assembly:

An ordinance for erecting Salt works in the colony and for encouraging the making of Salt. Henings Statutes Vol. 9—122. An Act for encouraging the making of Salt. Henings Statutes Vol. 9 —310.

An Act authorizing the seizure of Salt in the same manner as provisions for the use of the army. Henings Statutes Vol.9. 381. An Act to supply the inhabitants of the commonwealth with salt upon reasonable terms. "Whereas divers ill disposed persons have possessed themselves of large quantities of Salt, which they have not only refused to sell at any reasonable price, but to enhance the valuc of their own salt&c." An embargo was placed on the shipment and the freeholders might seize salt upon warrant issued by a justice of the peace.

NUMBER 7.

To the Honorable the General Assembly of Virginia.

The Humble petition of Nathaniel Henderson Sheweth, that on or about the Eleventh day of Septer last, in defending fort Boon in the County of Kentucky against an attempt of the Indians, your Petitioner had a valuable negro fellow[ed] killed—That the said negro was ordered by the Commanding officer to take a gun, and place himself in a dangerous post and to keep watch & fire on the Indians, which he accordingly did and was killed—That if the said negroe had been suffered to remain within his Cabbin, he could not have been hurt, That the loss of so valuable a slave together with the many other losses sustained by your petitioner in that Country distress him very much—Therefore hopes, that the Assembly will order a recom-

pense—and that the value of the said slave may be paid to your petitioners, who as in duty bound shall ever pray &c
Wmbg. Novr. 21. 1778. Nathaniel Henderson

The Deposition of Captain William Buchanan of lawful age, being first sworn on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God, deposes and says, that in the month of September last Fort Boon was attacked by a party of Indians, to the number of about three hundred and forty, at which time there was not more than sixty men in the Fort, including the Garrison Soldiers, & all the settlers; that arms & ammunition were given to the negroe men in the said Fort, and stationed by the commanding officer in such a manner, so as to make the best defence possible; that a certain negroe man the property of Nathaniel Henderson (who was then absent) had taken post on the outside of the Fort, as directed by the Commander, and in consequence thereof, the said negroe fellow was killed by the Indians; the Deponent further says, that the said Negroe was very likely, about twenty four years of age, and in his opinion worth upwards of Six hundred pounds—and further sayeth not—
Wmsburg. Novr. 28th 1778 W. Buchanan
Sworn to before
Edwd Charlton

Endorsement on back of petition. Ref.d to Claims Nov.24 1778 rejectcd—to be rcported especially—recommitted— rejected— reportcd Decr. 10th.

NUMBER 8.

To the Honourable House, of Assembly, for the state of Virginia.

The petition of the Destressed Inhabitants of the county of Kentuckky, Humbly, shweth, That whereas we your distressed petitioners, situate in this remote part, exposed to all the Barberous ravages of inhuman savage, whose savage disposition, being animated by the rewards of Governour Hamilton has

enabled, them to hold up a constant war this four years, which term has reduced many, of us so low that we have scarce cattle amongst us to supply, our small Family's and many of us that brought good stocks of both Horses and cows, now at this juncture have not left so much as one cow for the support of our familys, which to our great disadvantage may plainly appear to every spectator, we have thought proper to present you with a just estimation of our losses in settling and defending this extensive country, which we hope will contribute much to the benefit of the common charge, by virtue of the late act of Assembly, in opening and establishing a Land office. tho at the same time we your depressed petitioners many of us will be intirely deprived of the opportunity of geting so much as one hundred acres of land, notwithstanding the loss of our properties and so many of our lives which we have expended in Defence of this country, except we your petitioners get speedy redress by this our petition, (this must be the unhappy event) we must lie under the disagreeable necessity of going Down the Mississippi, to the Spanish protection, or becoming tennants to private gentlemen who have men employed at this junction in this country at one hundred pounds per Thousand for, running round the land, which is too rough a medicine ever to be dejested by any set of people that have suffered as we have, you the Honourable House of Assembly in whom rests our most sacred rights and priviledges, justice at this time loudly calls your attention we your petitioners hope that the extensive distance of our situation will not create a negligence of this nature, but rather a curious reflection, on our inabilities, we think it expedient to show you the reasons why some of us who first setled in the country will be deprived of geting amends for our losses and troubles first. that many, of our inhabitants both married and single, have been taken by the Indians and carried to Detroyt others killed and their wives and children left in this destitute situation not being able as yet even to support their indigent family's some of

which never marked or even choose a piece of Land in the country, we your petitioners think four hundred acres two small a compensation, which will be all we have in our powers to procure. Secondly those who have setled since the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven who have suffered equally as much as they that first setled, who could only loose their all; is now deprived of the opportunity of securing any land except four hundred acres and that at the state price which is fair from many of our capacities to be able to comply with the terms proposed to us by act of Assembly, by our being reduced so in coming to the country and loosing what we had after we got to it by the Indians. Thirdly those who have been in the country before the year, one Thousand seven hundred and seventy eight and only raised a small cabbin perhaps never stayed, three weeks in the country never lost to the amount of one shillings worth yet they are intituled to their choice of one Thousand Acres at State price. If no alteration be made it had been well for us if we had all been such cultivators and never come to settle in the country untill there had been a peace. We have long united on the opening of a Land office hoping each sufferer to receve some compensation in Land for his loss trouble and risk, and we your petitioners are still in hopes that when this our petition comes under your consideration, and a mature reflexion is cast upon the whole, that you will find that our loss is at this juncture to the great advantage of this state. On a reflection of your justice & mercy we congratulate ourselves that a good cause never suffered in the hands of just men, we cheerfully refer the whole of our grievances to do as you in your wisdom may think right, and we your petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray &c

[Names.]

Endorsement on back of petition: Octr.14th.1779—Referred to Propositions — Novr.5th to be heard— reasonable.

The first action recognizing the rights of settlers to titles in the land is found

in an act entitled, An Act for raising a supply of money for public exigencies. Hcnings Statutes, Vol. 9, 349.

The grievances of the settlers led to the passage of an act entitled, An Act for adjusting and settling the titles of claimers to unpatented lands under the prcsent and former governments previous to thc establishment of the commonwealth's land office. Hcnings Statutes, Vol. 10, 38.

"And whcreas great numbers of people have settled in the county upon the western waters, upon waste and unappropriated lands for which they have been hithcrto prevented from suing out patents or obtaining legal titlcs by the king of Great Britain, proclamations or instructions of governmcnt, and the present war having delayed until now, the opening of a land office and the establishment of any certain terms for granting lands and it is just that those settling under such circumstances should have some reasonable allowance for the charge and risk they have incurred and that the property so acquired should be sccured to them, Be it enacted," etc.

All bona fide settlers after January 1, 1778, were allowed to have four hundred acres even though they had laid off a less amount.

The right to buy an indefinite amount of land was granted by an act entitlcd, An Act for establishing a land office and ascertaining the tcrms and manner of granting waste and unappropriated lands. Henings Statutes, Vol. 10, 50.

"Be it therefore enacted that any person may acquire title to so much waste land as he or she shall dcsire to purchase, on paying the consideration of forty pouuds for every hundred acres," etc.

NUMBER 9.

To the Honourable House of Assembly for the state of Virginia.

The petition of the Distressed Inhabitants of Boonsfort Humbly sheweth, that whereas the late act of Assembly has reserved in this county of Kentuckky six hundred and forty acres of Land for the use of a Town that is not to be entered or surveyed by any private individual untill a true representation of our case is laid before you the Honourable House of Assembly, the better to inable you the Honourable House of Assembly to be compitent judges of the cause, we your petitioners are now laying before you, we your petitioners think it expedient at this time to set forth to you the Honourable House of Assembly the plan and form that this fort and Township was first settled on, and also the methods that has been used by some of those gentlemen that first pretended a claim to this country by a purchase from the Cherukee Indians, and also the names of every person kill'd and taken belonging to this sd fort since the time of its being first settled, with the dates as near as can be calculated at this time, which we hope will enable you the Honourable House of Assembly to judge

who has suffered in setling this place. In the first place after Richard Henderson & Company had made purchase from the Indians they applyed to Daniel Boon who was to be their pilot to this country they further desired to know the most convenient place for a Town on the Kentuckky river sd Boon Directed them to this place letting them know the length and breadth of the low grounds as near as he could, upon his information it was resolved that this was the spot. they would place the Town on, and in coming to the place the company agree'd to lay it off into two acre tending lotts which was to be given up the next year for the use of a Town and Town common's tho at the same time this would entitle every man to draw a free lott in Town and also, entitle him to his Bounty Land altho he had made corn on his own entry as the proprietors proclamation run thus that every man that made corn in this country in the year one Thousand seven hundred and seventy five should be entitled to five hundred acres of Land at this time of all the men raised corn here the first year there is now but three at this fort. after the people that has made corn the first year had gone into the Inhabitants and times began to grow somewhat difficult sd Colo. Richard Henderson had the fence that was made by the people broke and took the rails and fenced in betwixt twenty and thirty acres of the most convenient ground next the fort which has been held under sd Henderson ever since except the value of one or two acres that was taken for gardians for people in sd fort, we your petitioners think it a grand Imposition that sd Henderson should hold such a quantity of Ground whilst some of us your petitioners have been under the necessity of clearing ground at the risk of our lives and tending our crops round sd Hendersons slaves. In the second place John Luttrel one of the Gent, proprietors enterd on the S W. side of sd Township and improved on the Land, first allowed by sd proprietors for a Town. In the third place Nathaniel Heart another of the sd proprietors entered the upper half of the Town Land which was cleared and fenced by the

people who tended corn the first year, there may perhaps be one hundred acres within the fence and the one half of that clear'd this sd Nathaniel Heart finding his entry under sd proprietors would not entitle him to the Land sd Heart came out last spring to this country and warmly recommended to the Inhabitants of this fort to lay off a Town which some of the Inhabitants agreed to in some measure, they thought it would be well for every man to know his own ground as the Land convenient was held by two or three men. without the least notice given for an election for trustees the Drum beat to arms and these names read over by one of these trustees to wit. Richard Callaway Nathaniel Heart George Madin, James Estill & Robert Cartright and these questions was ask'd, Gentlemen has any of you any objections to these gentlemen to be trustees for this Town. to which little or no, Answer was made our silence taken for conscent. they proceeded to Business. in the first place they reserved five hundred acres of Land for the use of a Town & Town commons two hundred acres on the south side of the Kentuckky and three hundred on the north side which three hundred acres on the North side is not of the least advantage to this Town by reason of a large steep hill that binds all that side of the river opposite to this town and the hill so steep that it will be with great difficulty to get timber down from any place on that side. what could be the motive of these men to reserve Land on that Inconvenient side we are at a loss to know except some private views incited this sd Nathaniel Heart in order to obtain the upper half of this Town Land which sd Heart unjustly claims as circumstances seem to make it appear, in the first place it could not be supposed had we been left to our choice that we would have choose men that were intire strangers to us as three of these men were and not even settlers in the country & especially men that was deeply interested as Capt. Heart was, the terms that the tolls were let upon was entirely out of the power of several of them that suffered most for them and Especially

widowes who in justice ought to have the greatest indulgence there was not the least Distinction made, for they that had been here but two days had the same previledg to draw a lott as they that first settled so that they complyed with the terms which was, that, every lott holder should build upon his lott one House twenty by sixteen with hew'd or sawed loggs with a shingled or clapboard roof with a brick stone or mud chimney by the first day of February next, and they that did not comply with these terms was to forfeit their lott, which must certainly be the case with several of us your petitioners who have not left so much as one Horse even to Draw Timber. Upon information that the late Act of Assembly intituled the Inhabitants of this Township to six hundred and forty acres of Land, we your petitioners Assembled ourselves called upon Colo. Richard Callaway being one of the Trustees in the first appointment and Desired that a fair Election should be held and that he would still serve as a Trustee but he utterly refused to serve any other way, than by the first appointment and seemed much Disaffected at our proceedings however as it is impossible for some of us your petitioners to subsist with our Family's unless we have some convenient pice of ground allowed us at this Township we your petitioners pray that the sd six hundred and forty acres of Land be established for the use of this sd Township by the Name of Boonsborough and that you appoint James Estill Capt., David Gass Capt, Jno. Holder, John South Pemberton Rawlings Stephen Hencock & Jno Martin Trustees for the same being unanimously [Chosen] for that purpose we your petitioners further pray that every Actual settler at this Township may be entituled to Draw a free lott; and in the lemitation of three years make such improvement as before Directed, the lotts to consist of half acre in lott and five acre out lott as the Indians is so frequent amongst us that we cannot settle any other way than in Forts or Townships, at this time and whereas several single men from convincing circumstances have resided with us with no other motive than

to give their assistance that we might not become a prey to our Enemies which was nearly the case with all the assistance we had in Septr seventy eight when the Indians laid close seige Eleven Days to our fort we your petitioners pray that every such single man be intituled to a lott upon the like terms upon applying to the trustees for the same we your petitions pray that the sd Six hundred and forty acres of land allowed to the Inhabitants of this sd Township be laid upon the south side of the Kentuckky river and that the lines may be Directed by the late Trustees Elected, as the land at this Township lies much incommoded by hills and that we your petitioners may have, the previledg of running the land as may be most convenient for the use and benefit of sd Township as there is no claim prior to the Township claim and we your petitioners as in Duty bound shall ever pray &c

[Names.]

Endorsement on back of petition: October 16th. 1779— referred to Propositions — reasonable.

Land for the purpose of settlers in towns was provided by the act in Henings Statutes, Vol. 10, 39. To those settling in towns for the purpose of protection six hundred and forty acres were to be set apart for such use until a true representation could be made to the Assembly.

The town of Boonsborough was created by the act entitled, An Act for establishing the town of Boonsborough in the county of Kentucky. Henings Statutes, Vol. 10, 134.

"Whereas it hath been represented to the present assembly that the inhabitants of the township called Boonsborough, lying on the Kentucky river, in the County of Kentucky, have laid off twenty acres of land into lots and streets and have petitioned the assembly that the said lots and streets together with fifty acres adjoining thereto may be laid off into lots and streets and established a town for the reception of traders and that six hundred and forty acres of land allowed by law to every such township for a common may also be laid off adjoining thereto, Be it enacted," etc.

The trusteeship was vested in Richard Callaway, Charles Thruston, Levin Powell, Edmund Taylor, James Estil, Edward Bradley, John Kennedy, David Gist (Gass?), Pemberton Rawlings, and Daniel Boone.

The plan of the town was to be recorded with the court of the county. Lots were to be conveyed to applicants "subject to building on each a dwelling house, sixteen feet square at least with a brick, stone or dirt chimney to be finished fit for habitation within three years from the date of their respective deeds."

The same general plan was followed in the creation of all towns while the Kentucky County lasted, and until separation was granted.

NUMBER 10.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

The petition of Richard Calloway of Boonsborough Humbly sheweth that from the first seating of This Town both the inhabitants and travilers has Found it very inconvenient to get across the Kentucky River only in dry seasons in the summer time, and as both this Town and country is now become very popular and is much Resorted by travilers: I therefore pray that your Hone. House will pass an Act of Assembly That shall intitle me to keep a publick ferry across the Above said River from the Town Land to the land of this state and your petitioner as in duty bound will pray &c

Richard Calloway

Endorsement on back of petition: Octor.25.1779 — Ref'd to Propositions—reasonable—drawn.

This request was granted by an act entitled, An Act for establishing several new ferries and for other purposes.

"Whereas it is represented to this present general assembly, that publick ferries at the places hereafter named will be of great advantage to travellers and others, Be it therefore enacted, etc." ". . . at the town of Boonsborough, in the county of Kentucky across Kentucky river to the land on the opposite shore, the price for a man three shillings and for a horse the same; the keeping of which last named ferry and emolument arising therefrom are hereby given and granted to Richard Callaway, his heirs or assigns, so long as he or they shall well and faithfully keep the same according to the directions of this act. And for the transportation of wheel carriages tobacco, cattle and other beasts at the places aforesaid the ferry keeper may demand and take the following rates; that is to say, for every coach charriot or wagon, and the driver thereof the same as for six horses; for every cart or four wheeled chaise and the driver thereof the same as for four horses; for every two wheeled chaise or chair the same as for two horses; for every hogs head of tobacco as for one horse, for every head of neat cattle as for one horse; for every sheep goat or lamb one fifth part the ferriage of one horse; and for every hog one fourth part the ferriage of one horse and no more." Henings Statutes, Vol. 10, 196.

NUMBER 11.

TO THE HONOR. THE SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

The petition of the inhabitants of the County of Kentuckey living at the falls of the River Ohio Humbly sheweth, that your petitioners have at great risque and expence removed to this remote part of the state and from the advantageous situa-

tion of the place, both for Trade and Safety was induced to settle here, and having laid out a Town under directions of persons appointed for that purpose by the Court of Kentuckey (a plan of which we have sent to be laid before you) and when laid out we cast lotts for the choice of the Lotts in the said Town, have improved & settled on some of the Lotts, and some have sold their houses & Lotts to persons that have come here since the Town was laid out who are still adding to our improvements, but the uncertainty of the title thereto prevents some from settling here that are inclined thereby making us less secure from any attack of the Indians, for we are informed the land that we have laid out for a Town above the mouth of a gutt that makes into the river opposite the falls was surveyed & patented for Connelly who we have understood have taken part with the Enemies of America, and agreable to a late act of Assembly the Land we expect will be escheated and sold; we are well assured that a Town established at this place will be of great advantage to the inhabitants of Kentuckey, and think the plan on which the Town is now laid out will conduce towards its being a populous Town and of great advantage to us, as many of us have built houses according thereto; and will render us secure from any hostile intention of the Indians & will induce Merchants to bring articles of commerce that the inhabitants of this Western part of the State stands much in need of, we therefore pray that an act may pass to establish a Town at the Falls of the Ohio river agreable to the plan sent, and that the present settlers & holders of the lotts in the said Town may have them confirmed to them on paying a compensation that may be thought reasonable to any one having a right thereto if thought requisite or to the Commonwealth; and not let us be turned out of houses we have built and from lotts we have improved & are about to build on & thereby loose the labour we have preformed at the risque of our lives,— all these several matters we your petitioners beg leave to lay before your Hone. House and hope, you will comply with our

request in [a]dopting the prayer of our petition, or some other method that you in your wisdom may think proper, that will conduce to the Interest and Security of this exposed part of the State, and we as in duty bound shall ever pray &c. &c. &c. May 1, 1780.

[Names.]

Endorsement on back of petition: Reasonable—Propositions—May 1st. 1780.

This request was granted by an act entitled, An Act for estahlishing the town of Louisville at the falls of the Ohio. Henings Statutes, Vol. 10, 293.

"Whereas sundry inhahitants of the county of Kentucky have, at great expense and hazard settled themselves upon certain lands at the falls of the Ohio, said to be the property of John Connaly, have laid off a considerahle part thereof into half acre lots for a town, and having settled thereon have preferred petitions to the general assemhly to establish the said town Be it enacted," etc.

Following were trustees: John Todd, Jr., Stephen Trigg, George Slaughter, John Floyd, William Pope, George Meriwether, Andrew Hines, James Sullivan, and Marshen Brashiers.

The grant was onc thousand aeres of the forfcited land of John Connelly adjoining the land of John Camphell.

Lots were to be sold at auction and if they brought $30 the money was to he put into the treasury of the Commonwealth.

NUMBER 12.

To the Honble the Speaker, and Gent. of the House of Delegates,

Your petitioners Inhabitants of the north side of Kentucky humbly represent

That the setled part of the County of Kentuckey is of Late grown so Extensive that in a time of pace it would be extremly inconvanient for your petitioners to attend at the Courthouse mutch more so at present when an invetorate War rages with unremited violance.

That the Militia Inhabitants of the north side of Kaintucky Amount to about four hundred with Eleven fortified posts—That a place Central to Every post might be fixed upon Distant from the farthest not more than fifteen miles—That the nearest settlement to the Courthouse is at least forty miles and the farthest about Seventy miles at present That the River Kentuckey is rendered impasable half the year by

high waters & is ever inconveniant and Dangarous by Reasons of its Craggy and precipitate Bancks Thus severed by nature from our felow Citizens of the Southside of the river and Compactly situated in a fertile Land where aditional adventurers bid fair for a farther population your petitioners conceive themselves ripe for a Separation and pray

That the said County be Divided by a Line begining at the mouth of Kaintuckey River runing up the same and its midle fork to the head thence South East to Washington Line —Your petitioners farther pray that Comissioners be apointed to colect the sentements of the people upon the properest place for holding a Court & invested with authoraty to purchase Lands for a town to be laid off under such regalations as your Honarable House shall please to derect & your petitioners as in Duty bound shall pray &c—Signed in behalf of Lexington Station Signed in behalf of McConnells station

[Names.]

The Inhabitants of Unity Station twenty in Number unanimously desired this Petition to be signed in their behalf by
May 1st 1780. Levi Todd

To the Honble the Speaker and Gent. of the House of Delegates,

The Petition of the Inhabitants at and near the Falls of the Ohio Humbly sheweth that your Petitioners are situated generally near one hundred Miles from the Court house of this County in a compact, rich settlement. That so great a Distance from holding Court, General-Musters render all Civil & Military Regulation altogether ineffectual—that the Number of Setlers at present amount to (at least) eight Hundred & are daily increasing.

To remedy the Disorders ever attendant upon the Want of Law & render the Administration of Justice less Burdensome; Your Petitioners pray: that all that Part of the south side of Kentucky River which lieth below Hammonds Creek and the Beach-Knobs, may be erected into a seperate County, and that all the Priviledges & Advantages of other Counties within the

Common-Wealth, may be granted to its Inhabitants, and your Petitioners.—

shall ever pray &c.—

[Names.]

Endorsement on back of petition: Reasonable—Propositions.

The division of the county of Kentucky is provided in an act entitled, An Act for establishing three new counties upon the western waters. Henings Statutes, Vol. 10, 315.

"Whereas the inhabitants of the county of Kentucky are subject to great inconveniences for the want of due administration of justice, arising principally from the great extent of the county and the dispersed situation of the settlements Be it enacted," etc.

The names of the new counties were Jefferson, Fayette, and Lincoln. Court was to be held in each alternately on the first, second, and third Tuesdays of the month. Fayette was to try all cases in equity not settled to date. County seats to be at Louisville, Lexington, and Harrodsburg. The surveyors of Kentucky could choose the county they preferred.

NUMBER 13.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,

HUMBLY SHEWETH.

THAT your petitioner, soon after the Discovery of the fine lands upon the Kentucky and the adjacent waters of the Ohio River, removed into that Country, where he determined to lay out and risk all his little Fortune, and accordingly was deeply engaged in settling, building on, and improving Lands there, according to the Custom of the Country; expecting thereby to secure considerable Quantities of Land; but finding, during his Residence there, that the Inhabitants in that Quarter, and other parts over the Alleghany Mountains, were constantly exposed to the Incursions and Depredations of the Indians on the North west side of the Ohio, instigated and aided by the British Garrisons at the Kaskaskies near the Mississippi, and at St. Vincents upon the Obache, and Experience having proved it extremely expensive and difficult, if not impracticable, to protect so extensive a frontier against the Savages by troops

stationed among the Settlements, He formed the Design of surprising and reducing the before mentioned British Garrisons; thereby to prevent the evil Consequences of their Influence upon the Indians, and by establishing military posts of our own Troops in their Country, to deter them from distant Expeditions against our frontier Inhabitants on the South East of the Ohio, and by Degrees bring them over to the American interest. Deeply impressed with these Sentiments, he, at his own Expence, sent confidential persons, in the Character of Indian Traders, to reconnoitre and examine those places, and sound the Disposition of the French Inhabitants; and having made himself perfectly acquainted with the strength and situation of the said posts, and other material Circumstances, he was thoroughly convinced of the practicability and success of a secret Expedition against them, and of its great importance to the public, and therefore determined to lay his plan before the Governor and Council, and relinquishing all his undertakings and Improvements at Kentucky, to devote himself to the service of his Country, by engaging in the said Expedition (if it should be approved) either as an Officer, or a Voluntier; or in any other Character in which it should be thought he could do most Service.

That upon the said Expedition being approved, the Governor and Council, unsolicited by your Petitioner, were pleased to appoint him to command it; by the Blessing of divine providence, and the bravery of his fellow Soldiers, he has been able to carry it into effectual execution, and in the ample and honourable testimony he has received of the public Approbation, enjoys the most pleasing of all Reflections—of having discharged the Duty of a good Citizen, and thro' Scenes of uncommon Difficulty and Danger, rendered essential Service to his native Country. Your petitioner, in his Negotiations and Treaties with the numerous Indian Tribes settled in those parts, has spared no pains in endeavouring to alienate them from the British, and fix them in the American Interest, wherein he

flatters himself he has in a great measure succeeded. In the Course of these Treaties, the Indians inhabiting the Country on the Obache, and the adjacent parts of the Ohio, express the most earnest Desire that your Petitioner should continue to reside among them, and as a proof of their Affection and Attachment, insisted upon giving him a Tract of Land, adjoining to the Falls, on the North West Side of the Ohio River, of seven miles and a half square, and containing about thirty-six thousand Acres, which he could not refuse without giving them umbrage and forfeiting the Influence he had acquired among them; they accordingly made him a Deed of Conveyance in the French Language, which being registered in the Records of the Court of St. Vincents, the Original is humbly submitted herewith to the Consideration of the General Assembly.

Your Petitioner is sensible, that the Commonwealth hath, and ought to have, the exclusive Right of pre-emption from the Indians of all Lands within its own Territory, and therefore presumes to claim no Title, under the said Deed to the Lands therein mentioned, unless the same shall be confirmed to him by the Legislature; but he begs leave to observe, that this Deed will save to the public the Expence of hereafter purchasing the same Land; and as his Fortune was at best small, the greater part of which he had expended in improving Lands at Kentucky, which by engaging in the service of the Public, at the time and under the circumstances before mentioned, he was obliged to abandon, and has been disabled from carrying into Execution the Improvements and Settlements he had begun, so as to entitle him to Certificates for anything considerable under the late Land Law, whereby he hath, in a manner, lost his All; Confiding therefore in the Liberality of his Country, he is induced to hope, and humbly prays, that the General Assembly will be pleased to grant him the Lands contained in the said Deed—according to the Bounds therein expressed,

upon such Conditions and Terms, as they, in their Wisdom shall think fit—

And your Petitioner shall ever pray.

George Rogers Clark

Endorsement on back of petition: Petition of Colo. Geo. Rogs. Clarke— May 27 1780— Referred to Propositions—Reported.

There is no act showing that this was done, but the following is a resolution for a cession of the lands on the northwest side of the Ohio to Clark's regiment. Henings Statutes, Vol. 10, 564.

"As Col. Geo. Rogers Clarke planned and executed the secret expedition by which the British posts were reduced, and was promised if the enterprize succeeded a liberal gratuity in lands in that county for the officers and soldiers who first marched thither with him, that a quantity of land not exceeding one hundred and fifty thousand acres, be allowed and granted to the said officers and soldiers and other officers and soldiers that have since been incorporated with said regiment, to be laid off in one tract the length of which is not to exceed double the breadth, in such place on the northwest of the Ohio as the majority of the officers shall choose, and to be afterwards divided among the officers and soldiers in due proportion according to the laws of Virginia."

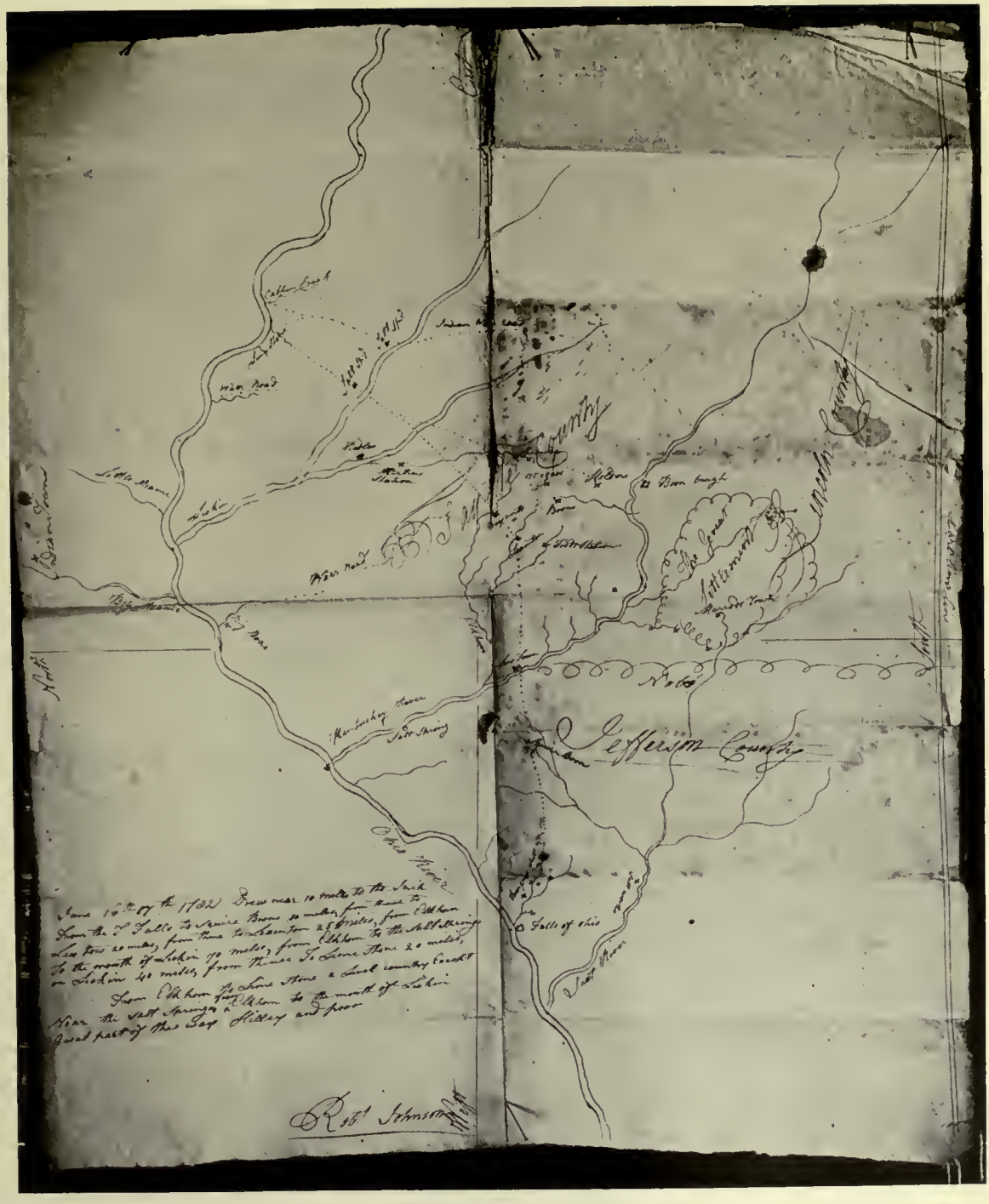
This reservation is preserved in an act entitled, An Act to authorize the delegates of this state in Congress to convey to the U. S. in Congress assembled all right of this commonwealth to the territory northwestward of the Ohio. Henings Statutes, Vol. 11, 326.

NUMBER 14.

To the honorable the Speaker of the House of Delegates—

The Petition of the Subscribers, settlers at Lexington in the County of Fayette humbly sheweth—

That they at a considerable risque and expence settled themselves at this place which was then and still is unappropriated and unclaimed by any private person, That from an Act of Assembly passed in May 1779 intitled An Act for adjusting and settling the Titles of claimers to unpatented Lands, under the present and former Government, previous to the Establishment of the Commonwealth's Land Office. they were induced to expect a Grant of Six hundred & forty acres, in confidence of which they elected Trustees who proceeded to lay off a Town, including the said Quantity, a plot of which is hereto annexed, making condition at Lines with adjacent claimers, a suitable square is reserved for the publick Buildings



FACSIMILE OF MAP

A Surveyor's Sketch Map of Kentucky.

From photograph of the original in Archives of Virginia.

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60

of the County and a Sum of money granted by the Trustees for said Buildings, a considerable part of the Land is divided among the present settlers, upon the most equitable and just Terms, a part reserved to be disposed of to future settlers to create a fund for making necessary Improvements in the Town and encourage Settlers in future. That they have purchased Seventy acres being part of a Survey made for John Floyd to augment the Quantity and add to the convenience and benefit of the Inhabitants a former Petition to the same purpose for reasons unknown to your Petitioners having been unanswered raises in us an anxiety to know the Determination of your honorable House, Your Petitioners therefore pray that the said 640 acres together with the adjoining purchase be vested in Trustees for a Town that the present Lot holders be confirmed in their Titles and subjected to such Reasonable requisitions towards settling and improving thereon as to your honourable House shall seem just & we in Duty bound shall ever pray

[Names.]

Fayette County Court

We do certify that we have no Objectson to the confirming to the Lexington Trustees the Survey of the Town Lands agreeable to the within plat & that no person hath any just claim to said Lands to our knowledge

J. N. Todd
Levi Todd
atty. for John Maxwell
R. Patterson

April 14—1782.

Map and the following:—

June 16th 17th 1782 Drew near 10 miles to the inch From the T Falls to Squire Boons 30 miles from thence to Leeston 20 miles from thence to Lexinton 25 miles, from Elkhorn to the mouth of Lickin 70 miles, from Elkhorn to the Salt Spring on Lickin 40 miles, from thence to Lime stone 20 miles

From Elkhorn to Lime stone a level country except near the Salt Springs and from Elkhorn to the mouth of the Lickin great part of the way Hilley and poor

Robt. Johnson

Endorsed on back of petition: Dec. 7th 1781—Referred to Propositions—June 6th 1782—Reasonable—Repd.

The request is granted in the act entitled, An Act to establish a town at the courthouse in the county of Fayette.

"Whereas it is represented to the assembly that six hundred and forty acres of unappropriated lands in the county of Fayette whereon the courthouse of the county stands, have been by the settlers thereon laid out into lots and streets for a town and that the said settlers have purchased seventy acres of land contiguous to the said six hundred and forty acres, being part of a survey made for John Floyd. And whereas it would tend greatly to the improvement and settling the same if the titles of settlers on the lots were confirmed and a town established thereon, Be it enacted," etc.

The trustees were: John Todd, Robert Patterson, William Mitchell, Andrew Steel, William Henderson, William McCowwald, (?) and William Steel. Henings Statutes, Vol. 11, 100.

NUMBER 15.

To the Honourable speaker and the General Assembly of Virginia.

We your Petitioners Inhabitants of Kentuckey, Humbly beg leave to address you as their Legislative Body, imploring you to take into consideration our grievances; considering us as faithful subjects to the Republick and equally intitled to the Common Privileges with our fellow Citizens who pay a due reverence to the Constitution, and a proper regard for the preservation of it.

Your Memorialists thro' the Paternal Tenderness they have for their Infant Families, the obligation which Nature binds to provide for them, Removed from the Interior parts of the Country through a Wilderness infested with the most Savage and cruel Enemies, combating with the greatest Difficulties, and yet continue to be Invaded by the Merciless Banditty, continually Harrased, confin'd to stations, and even debarr'd from applying the necessary means for the support of their Families, and have thought proper first to have recourse to redress through your Honourable Body, as Duty calls us to pay all Imagenable

Deference to your Paternal Authority and Guardianship over us which your Memorialists are bound to observe while you Act for their safety and defence.

Your Memorialists humbly beg you to have a Retrospect to the year Seventy nine, at which time your Honourable House thought proper to open a Land office for the Population of the Country & the megration of Foreigners, as Express'd in the Act of Assembly, at which time and ever since, every person was at Liberty to purchase without Cultivating as much Lands as He or She should think proper, which has been very injurious to the Indigent Inhabitants, and of but small advantage to the commonwealth, it has not only prevented sufficient Immigration, but has been Destructive to all Ages Sexes and Conditions of Existence, which has occasioned a continual Demegration, with those exterminated out of being by the Savage Barbarians that your Memorialists find their Number of Fighting Men considerably deminished since the year seventeen Hundred and Eighty, notwithstanding the small continued Immegrations since that Time.

Your Memorialists beg leave to point out a way for the Emolument and happiness of the Indigent Inhabitants, as also the most easy and Indubitable way of defending this Country, unless you can without an Infringment of the Rights of the People, Revive the antient Cultivation Law which seems very difficult to your Memorialists after such Lands has been appropriated with Reserve.

Your Memorialists beg leave to inform you that the Persons granted Land by the Act of May Session in Eighty one, in Consideration of their setling here since Seventy nine, and for other causes, have been prevented from acquiring such Lands by an Inundation of Warrants being in the County where the Land office continued open before the county courts issued certificates, but there being great Quantities of Waste and unenter'd Lands yet in the other Counties in the District of Kentuckey which your Memorialists Conceives may be held in

Reserve for the aforesaid setlers, as also for the Immediate Peopling of this Country, and such megrants to be allowed according to Antient Custom, who shall immediately cultivate such lands or become Inhabitants with your Memorialists, as all other means has hitherto been found inadequate to the happiness and Safety of this Country, your Memorialists conceives this Method to be the most easy and least injurious to the Publick weal, and as the Depretiation of Land Warrants being equal to that of the Paper Currency has become a Publick notority, and that the one Exchanges for the other without being in credit for scarcely any other Commodity. And your Memorialists must beg leave to add that the moneys in their hands died being in this Exterior part, they conceive this Mode if adopted, will quickly raise a Fund sufficient for the Redemption of such Warrants upon the same Terms they shall Receive for their Paper Currency. Your Memorialists wish to have their Locations secured to them who came early into this Country, and many of them through illetrisy, and unable to ascertain the true meaning of the Law with the Troubles of Indians, have not Enter'd their Lands so special and precise as the Law Requires—many of whose Entries have been Reenter'd by others, which without the kind interposition of your House, will produce Tedious Letigations.

Your Memorialists pray you to take into consideration their Scatter'd Situation, which is neither Eligible nor happy, and neither Aids nor any apparent Redress of their Grievances has appeared, which has produced Considerable Desentions amongst them, which an Inflamatary Pamphlet intitled publick Good has augmented which, we pray you to take into Consideration and Create them a power Sufficient for their Controul and better Government, as well as for the Controul and Management of all Civil and Military affairs in this Country which they only claim according to the Rights of Constitution, or otherwise that you will grant them a Separation with your Intercession with the Honourable the Continental Congress

for their Incorporation with them, at the same time they pay a proper Deference to your wise Determinations, Reploring [Reposing?] special Trust and Confidence in you. And your Petitioners as in Duty bound shall ever pray &c.

[Names.]

The Committee of the Courts of Justice to whom the Petition of sundry Inhabitants from Kentucky was referr'd, has gone thro' the same and come to several Resolutions thereupon, as follow.

Resolved, That so much of the said Petition as relates to the revival of the ancient cultivation Law be rejected.

Resolv'd, That so much thereof as relates to the claims of poor persons under the act of May Session 1781 and prays for the Liberty of locating their Claims in other Counties, is reasonable; and that where other Entries on Warrants of a subsequent Date should be offer'd at the same time for the same Land, such claims shall have the preference.

Resolv'd, That so much thereof as prays for all other unappropriated Lands to be set apart for encouraging the Settlement of the Country be rejected.

Resolv'd, That that part which prays a confirmation of former Locations, tho' not made with that exact precision which the Law directs, provided they are so describ'd as that the Location can be known and that the Claimants shall not be at Liberty to lay off their Land in such a manner as to injure any one adjoining Claim in order to favor another or to make a vacancy adjoining thereto for themselves or others, is reasonable.

Resolv'd, That so much thereof as prays for the establishment of some kind of controuling power for the better management of their civil and military affairs, is reasonable.

Endorsement on back of petition: May 30th 1782—Ref'd to Courts of Justice—Security for their Entries—do. for poor persons—in having civil and military Govermt. ref'd to Propositions. June 13th 1782—Some parts Reasonable —Other parts rejected—Reported.

The request for some kind of controlling power was provided in an act entitled, An Act for establishing a District Court on the western waters.

"Whereas the mode of administering justice has become exceedingly inconvenient and burdensome to suitors living westward of the Alleghany mountains, Be it enacted," etc. Henings Statutes, Vol. 11, 85.

The act provided that Jefferson, Fayette, and Lincoln counties should be united into one district after August 1st, for a supreme court of judicature of original jurisdiction separate of all other courts except the Court of Appeals. It was to have jurisdiction in cases of treason, felonies, misdemeanors and crimes, except those triable in the General Court according to the Constitution. Also all matters in common law and equity arising therefrom. There were to be three judges, four sessions of court to be held each year on the first Monday of March, June, September, and November, lasting eighteen days exclusive of Sunday. Three days were set for criminal matters, five for chancery and the remainder for other cases.

The court was to be a court of record, was to take cognizance of matters relating to probating of wills, deeds, and the granting of letters of administration, escheat, and forfeiture, and caveats.

A grand jury of twenty-four was to be chosen at the beginning of each term. The court appointed a clerk and gaoler and the attorney of the Commonwealth was selected by the Assembly.

A tax of twenty shillings was charged at the beginning of a suit and the judge at the close was to receive fifty pounds. Assistants received twenty shillings a day for attendance, the attorney for the Commonwealth received thirty-seven pounds and ten shillings a quarter and the remainder was to go toward buildings, etc.

The court was to be held at Harrodsburg and could adjourn to places thought proper.

NUMBER 16.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES—

We the Inhabitants of the three Counties of Kentuckey, beg leave with reverence & freedom to address your honorable house—

The former favours shewn by the Government of Virginia to the Inhabitants of this Country thro the various stages of its population, till now, call forth our warmest acknowledgements—When we were weak we were assisted with aids of men and money, until by the blessing of providence we have arrived to a considerable degree of strength, but just as we emerge from a state of obscurity & Indigence we find ourselves and our dear bought possessions to become a subject of noted controversy.—But we place our entire confidence in your honorable house, having no person or power on earth, in whome to rely, but under shelter of the Government of Virginia—

To the General Assembly of Virginia

When our parent state was engaged in an expensive war, and taxes on all the articles of luxury and husbandry proved insufficient to raise supplies, we never once murmured that the Lands around us, as well as those we possessed, should be seized as a sinking fund and offices opened for disposing of it, tho' we were aware that the Land System adopted would at first cause very unequal distribution of Land by giving enormous Quantities to those who could advance most money, yet we apprehended that the fertility of the soil, and the former acts of assembly enforcing a Cultivation proportionate to the Quantity, would induce the adventurer to become a settler.—But Mr. Speaker, Experience! sad Experience! pròves that without further compulsory acts, the Engrosser will neither settle himself, nor dispose of it to those who will.—We are surrounded by numerous savage nations, Disjoined from every other settlement in the united states, and amounting to only fifteen hundred men here a tract of Country of five Million of acres of Tillable Land nearly secured under rights from Virginia to defend for those whome ease & Cowardice prevent settling—Usual supplies of men seem just expended, and the fury of war yet unabated.—Such is our melancholy situation—We fly to your house for redress, To whome else shall we apply? We know by experience that Kentuckey has friends in your house, and we now call on them with an Importunity that becomes distressed Citizens to espouse the use of justice for us—

We therefore humbly Petition

That the act of assembly for Cultivating & Improving Lands may be declared in force—

That all Lands as well those granted under the old Military and Treasury rights as the new, be subject to such regulations—

That a superior Court competent to the decision of these as well as all other Land disputes be established in this Country.—

These regulations we have, will carry us still towards that stage of maturity when with the tenderness of a kind parent to a

departing child, you will direct us to form a constitution and act for ourselves.

[Names.]

Endorsement on the back of petition. June 1st. 1782—To lie on the table.

The act for establishment of a District Court is referred to in previous petition.

NUMBER 17.

To the Honble the General Assembly of Virginia.

The Petition of sundry inhabitants of the county of Lincoln humbly sheweth—

That your Petitioners have the highest sense of, and acknowledge with thankfulness the attention which your Honourable Body paid the Trustees of this remote corner of the State in the last May Session, in establishing a court of general Judicature in this District, the good effects of which we begin already to feel by the discouragement of Vice & fraud which was too prevalent among us—and we cannot help expressing our concern to understand that there are some people in Kentucky lost to virtue, honesty & good order as to wish for its repeal—We cannot but believe that those are a set of people who never were friendly to the Government of Virginia, nor would be pleased with any law that its Legislature can pass—We therefore hope your Honourable House will pay no regard to any Petitions which may be sent to you by a disaffected few whose wishes are rather to overturn, than support your Government.

Encouraged by our former success we now petition for the passage of a few more laws indispensibly necessary for this district. and first. That our militia may be put on a footing that may more effectually defend us against our savage Enemy.

2ndly—A Law to dispose of the orphans of poor people; which cannot be done at present, as we have no church Wardens to bind them out.

3rdly—A particular law respecting Strays—it being impossible to put them in the Gazettes according to the present Law.

4thly—A Law authorising some Civil power to solemnize the Rites of matrimony—as we have no clergy either of the church of England or Presbyterians who compose the Greater part of our inhabitants

These requests we make no doubt you will grant, because it is the Interest of our whole District—But where we may be of different Interests, we wish no new laws to pass or amendments to be made until you know the sentiments of a majority of our District because frequent alterations in the Laws are very inconvenient to our remote corner of the State

[Names.]

Endorsement on the back of petition. May 21st. 1783—Referred to Courts of Justice—June 19th 1783—Referred to consideration of the next session of the Assembly.

The request for the right to perform civil marriage is provided in an act entitled, An Act to authorize and confirm marriages in certain cases. Henings Statutes, Vol. 11, 281.

"Whereas it hath been represented to the present General Assembly that many of the good people in the remote parts of the commonwealth are destitute of any persons, authorized by law to solemnize marriages amongst them, Be it enacted," etc., "That where it shall appear to the court of any county on the western waters, that there is not a sufficient number of clergymen authorized to celebrate marriages therein, such court is empowered to nominate so many sober and discreet laymen as will supply the deficiency."

Those so nominated were to receive a license to perform the act in accordance with the church of which they are members. Parties to be married must produce a certificate showing that the bans had been thrice published. Previous marriages might be confirmed in a similar manner.

NUMBER 18.

To the Honorable the General Assembly of Virginia.

The Petition of several of the Trustees in whom certain escheated Lands in the County of Kentucky were vested for a public School, humbly sheweth,

That the General Assembly, sensible of the Advantages resulting to Society from the general diffusion of Learning in the various parts of the community; at the May Session, 1780, vested certain escheated Lands amounting to eight thousand acres, late the property of Robert M'Kinsie, Henry Collins and

Alexr. M'Kee in Trustees as a free Donation from the Commonwealth for the purpose of a public School or Seminary of Learning to be erected within the County of Kentucky as soon as the circumstances of the Country and the state of its Funds will admit. That your Petitioners (a majority of the surviving Trustees) having convened for the purpose of carrying into execution the laudable design of the Legislature, and finding themselves greatly embarassed as to the manner of executing the Trust reposed in them, inasmuch as the Law does not declare whether a majority of the Trustees are sufficient to act, nor in case of the Death of any of the members, how vacancies are to be filled up, and as it does not appear that the Trustees have power under their present appointment to receive Donations from Individuals or in any respect to forward so desireable an Institution, without the Interposition of the Legislature; have unanimously come to the Resolution of petitioning the Assembly, for an amendment of the Law, & an enlargement of the Powers of the Trustees; not doubting but that the same benevolent disposition which actuated the Assembly when this Donation was made will influence the present Members of the Legislature chearfully to contribute as far as in them lies to the noble designs of diffusing useful knowledge and cultivating the unimproved minds of the South in every corner of the State. The sollicitous anxiety which discovers itself in the principal Inhabitants of this Country for having Schools or Seminaries of Learning among them that their Children may be educated as becomes a civilized people, encourages Your Petitioners to hope that the Liberality of private Individuals will be extended in aid of the public Donations, were Trustees incorporated by Law with power of perpetuating their Succession, and authorized to purchase Estates, to receive Donations, make sale and conveyances of Land and to legislate for the Seminary in such Cases as are customary and under such restrictions and limitations as may be prescribed by Law.

Impressed with this hope and the full persuasion that the Assembly will listen with pleasure to every proposition that

has a Tendency to banish Ignorance and Error, and to introduce in their room what may polish the manners, encourage the improvement of the mind, promote liberality of sentiment and by refining give additional Incentives to Virtue. Your petitioners pray that the said Law may be amended in the several Cases herein before recited, and some fixt plan and Form adopted which may be most conducive to the welfare and success of the Institution, and your Petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray etc.

[Names.]

Endorsement on the back of petition: June 3rd. 1783.—Bill pursuant to Peto. —by Mr. Wallace; Avery; A. White; C. M. Thruston; Ct. Jones.

The process of forfeiture is provided for in a measure entitled, An ordinance for establishing a mode of punishment for the enemies to America in this colony. Henings Statutes, Vol. 9, 101.

"Whereas the most dangerous attempts have been made by some persons in the colony to subvert the rights and liberties of the inhabitants," etc., "Be it enacted," etc.

"All persons in arms within two months after the ordinance and all persons aiding the enemy by enlisting soldiers, giving intelligence, furnishing them with arms, provisions, or naval stores may be imprisoned, and their estates will be placed in the hands of persons chosen by the committee and subject to the determination of the Convention."

Escheated or forfeited lands were set apart for public education in an act entitled, An Act to vest certain escheated lands in the county of Kentucky in Trustees for a public school. 1780. Henings Statutes, Vol. 10, 287.

"Whereas it is represented to the General Assembly, that there are certain lands, within the county of Kentucky formerly belonging to British subjects, not yet sold under the law of escheats and forfeitures which might at a future day be a valuable fund for the maintenance and education of youth, and it being the interest of this commonwealth always to promote and encourage every design which may tend to the improvement of the mind and the diffusion of useful knowledge, even among the most remote citizens, whose situation a barbarous neighborhood and a savage intercourse might otherwise render unfriendly to science, Be it therefore enacted," etc.

"That eight thousand acres of land within the said county of Kentucky, late property of Robert Mc.Kenzie, Henry Collins and Alexander Mc.Kie, be and the same are hereby vested in William Fleming William Christian, John Todd, Stephen Trigg, Benjamin Logan, John Floyd, John May, Levi Todd, John Cowan, George Meriwether, John Cobbs, George Thompson, and Edmund Taylor, as a free donation from the commonwealth for the purpose of a public school or seminary of learning to be created within the said county as soon as the circumstances of the county and the state of its funds will admit and for no other use or purpose whatsoever."

The fund above referred to was made over to the trustees of Transylvania Seminary in an act entitled, An Act to amend an act eutitled an act to vest certain escheated lands in the county of Kentucky in trustees for a public school.

The act refers to the forfeited land and says that representations had been made that private donations might be obtained were the trustees incorporated and such privileges granted as would enable them to carry into effect the intention of the Legislature.

Transylvania Seminary was incorporated with the following board of trustees: William Fleming, William Christian, Benjamin Logan, John May, Levi Todd, John Cowan, Edmund Taylor, Thomas Marshall, Samuel McDowell, John Bowman, George Rogers Clark, John Campbell, Isaac Shelby, David Rice, John Edwards, Caleb Wallace, Walker Davie, Isaac Cox, Robert Johnson, John Craig, John Mosby, James Speed, Christopher Greenup, John Crittenden, and Willis Green.

The escheated land was vested in the above board of trustees and was exempt from taxation. Future escheats were to revert to the trustees and professors and students were to be free from military duty.

Henings Statutes, Vol. 11, 282.

NUMBER 19.

To the Honorable the General Assembly of Virginia—

The Memorial of John Campbell Respectfully Sheweth—

That in your last session a Law was passed for suspending the Sale of Lotts in the Town of Louisville and also the Sale of Land adjoining which was Escheated as the property of John Connolly. That nevertheless the Trustees of the Town have proceeded to sell on Credit several Lotts within the same altho no single Lott heretofore disposed of is built upon and saved according to the Conditions of the Act of Assembly

That the Land laid out into a Town is Mortgaged to your Memorialist and his former partner in Trade Joseph Simon—

That half of the land Escheated is the property of your Memorialist and great Damage may accrue to him if the Appropriation made by the Assembly be confirmed—

That some of the Title Deeds of the same are Defaced and not recorded others tho duly executed and Intire have not yet been recorded owing to the Confusion of the Times to their being executed in another State and the long Captivity of your Memorialist

Your Memorialist therefore prays that the Act for Establishing the Town of Louisville be repealed—That the Lines of Division between his Lands and the Escheated Lands be run agreeable to the Deed of Partition between him and John

Connolly That the Deficiencys of the Title Deeds may be remedyed as far as their authenticity deserves, Or any other Relief be granted to him which may seem meet and your Memorialist in Duty bound will ever pray &c.

Endorsement on back of petition: December 1st, 1783—referred to the courts of Justice—December 8th, 1783—Reasonable and Reported, by Charles Hay.

The request was met by an act entitled, An Act for repealing in part the act for establishing the town of Louisville. Henings Statutes, Vol. 11, 321.

The act states that the line had not been run between the land of Connolly and Campbell; that money was not yet paid for which Connolly gave mortgage; that it was unjust to deprive Campbell of his security. The act was repealed so far as it effected the land of Campbell and Simon, and surveyors of the county were to run a line between the land of Connolly and Campbell.

NUMBER 20.

TO THE HONBLE. THE SPEAKER & GENN. OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

The Petition of John Morton humbly representeth—

That your Petitioner was captur'd by the Indians at the battle of the Blue Licks whilst a soldier under Capt. Daniel Boon, was taken by them to their Towns, from there to Detroit where he remained sometime & from thence was carried to Canady where he was confin'd in close Gaol for upwards of Two years—That previous to your Petitioner's Captivity he had acquir'd a right of Preemption in the County of Fayette & that shortly after his releasment, went out to the Western Country laid his claim before the County Court of Fayatte & obtained a Preemption Certificate for One thousand Acres of Land which Certs. is hereunto annexed and that upon application for a preemption Warrant is inform'd, that your Honble House did at their last Session of Assembly pass a Resolution forbidding the issuing any Treasury Land Warrants untill the further order of the Genl. Assembly, Which has deprived your Petitioner of the Benefit of his Location. Your Petitioner therefore prays that your Honble House will take his Case

under Consideration & grant him such relief as you in your Wisdom shall think just—And your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray &c.

Endorsement on back of petition: May 26th, 1784—Refd. to props. Moved to be discharged—June 10th 1784—propositions discharged and referred to a committee of the . . . on the state of the Commonwealth.

NUMBER 21.

To the Honourable the Speaker & Gentlemen of the House of Delegates—

The Petition of Patrick Doran Humbly sheweth that your Memorialist is entitled to a right of Preemtion to a tract of land in Lincoln County which will apear by a certificate issued November 1783. by the Court of the said County of Lyncoln—

Your Memorialist prays that your honourable house will so order that a warrant may Issue on his certificate & he as in duty bound will pray &c.—

Endorsement on back of petition: May 28, 1784—Refd. to props—(rejected) (repd.)

NUMBER 22.

To the Honourable Speaker and house of Delegates for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Petition of William Lytle of Kentuckey Settlement humbly Sheweth, That Your Petitioner in the year 1775 hired a Certain Ash Emerson to make an improvement for him in Kentuckey at a Certain place called the dry run, for which he made him full satisfaction as by his Certificate herewith sent will appear. Also that your Petitioner came by Water, and landed at the falls of Ohio with his family in the Spring of the Year 1780, a few days before the term of the Court of Commissioners Expired, then siting at Herodsburgh 70 or 80 miles Distant from the falls, shortly after Landing your Petitioners horses Strayed away, and having a wife and large family of small Children to provide for was compelled to stay till he could make some shelter to protect them from the weather and before

he could find them to enable him to proceed to the Commissioners to lay in his claim, their powers Expired and he being unacquainted with the law and reduced to such Circumstances by Sickness & Misfortunes, as rendered him unable to apply to the general Court to make good his Claim within the time limited by law, Your Petitioner was therefore advised to apply to the County Court wherein his claim lay for redress, the Court was of opinion his case did not come under the Description prescribed in the law for their Cognizance, Whereby your Petitioner is deprived of his just right, & Claim, Your Petitioner therefore most humbly prays that you will be pleased to take his unfortunate case under your Serious Consideration, and Grant him Such redress by a law, or otherwise as you in your wisdom and Judgment may think just and reasonable and your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray.

William Lytle.

April 14th 1782—

We the undernamed Subscribers, Inhabitants of Fayette County, in Virginia, being made Duly sensible of the truth of every circumstance Your Petitioner has herein mentioned, do humbly pray your honourable House his behalf, to grant him his petition, and we your Petitioners as in duty bound shall pray—

Willim. M Connell
James McConnell
James January
William Steel
Levi Todd

This is to certify that I Ash Emerson made an improvement for the youse [use] of William Little in the year 75 in Cantucky on a run called the Dry Run above my owne improvement for which he made me full satisfaction pr me Ash Emerson.

Endorsement on back of petition: June 4th 1784—referred to propositions—(rejected) (rept.)

NUMBER 23.

To The Honourable the General Assembly of Virginia,

The petition of the Inhabitants of the District of Kentucky humbly sheweth, That your petitioners from a variety of Incidents which have accrued and will still accrue in acquiring property in Land in this Western Country, are like to be overwhelmed in Litigation; which will not only create discords amongst us, but ruin hundreds of poor Families, who being opprest and stript of almost their whole Substance by the Indians, have not the Means of defraying the Expences of a Law Suit upon the present Establishment. In this State of Indigence we have the additional mortification to find that not a few of those who have been more fortunate are taking possession of our just Claims knowing that we are not able to make Opposition. Such of your Honourable House as have not been Eye Witnesses can form no Idea of the Distresses which many of your petitioners have suffered for a Series of Years from the cruel and vindictive Hand of the Savages; and now on the back of these Distresses to be compelled into a Court of Judicature, by those who are endeavouring to avail themselves of our poverty and that Ignorance of the Law which was unavoidable in our remote Situation, will complete our Ruin: If we prosecute our Claim the last Cow and Horse must be sold to maintain the Suit; or if we decline the Contest, the Land upon which we had Hopes of supporting ourselves and Families in peace during the Remainder of our Lives will be wrested from us.

Your petitioners are therefore induced to pray that Circuit Courts may be established for the special purpose of trying Caveats, to be held by the Judges of our Supreme Court at such stated Times and places in each County as they shall think most convenient to the people, where they shall proceed in a summary Way to hear and determine according to Law and Equity all Caveats in the respective Counties where the Lands lie. These Courts to be attended by the Sheriff of the County

and his Deputies, and by the Clerk of the Supreme Court who shall keep record of the Business relating to Caveats in each County in separate Books:

In all other Respects the Court and their officers shall exercise the same powers, observe the same Rules of procedure, and be entitled to the same Fees as are now prescribed by Law in the Case of Caveats; save only, that a Jury need not be summoned and empannelled unless the Nature of the Cause shall make it necessary, or either of the parties contending shall require it; and as the pleadings are not to be had in writing, if Counsel shall be thought necessary at all, we presume that the Fee heretofore allowed to Attorneys for conducting Land Causes in County Courts will be sufficiently adequate.

We are encouraged by the former Benevolence of the Legislature in appointing Circuit or District Commissioners in a Case nearly Similar, to submit this plan to the Consideration of the General Assembly, which if it can consistently be adopted, will curtail the greater part of the Expence of Litigation and at the same time render equal Justice to the Litigants; and we flatter ourselves that in Compassion to our many and complicated sufferings, this or some other Mode suited as far as possible to our Circumstances will be established for the Trial of Caveats, which at present are like to be the great Source of Contention amongst us.

And your petitioners shall ever pray &c.

[Names.]

Endorsement on back of petition: June 5th 1784—referred to propositions—(rejd.)

Relief was given to complainants in two acts entitled, An Act for giving further time to enter certificates for settlement rights and to locate warrants upon preemption rights and for other purposes. Henings Statutes, Vol. 11, 291.

An Act to give further time for the probation of deeds and other instruments of writing and for other purposes. Henings Statutes, Vol. 11, 294.

NUMBER 23.

To The Honourable the General Assembly of Virginia,

The petition of the Inhabitants of the District of Kentucky humbly sheweth, That your petitioners from a variety of Incidents which have accrued and will still accrue in acquiring property in Land in this Western Country, are like to be overwhelmed in Litigation; which will not only create discords amongst us, but ruin hundreds of poor Families, who being opprest and stript of almost their whole Substance by the Indians, have not the Means of defraying the Expences of a Law Suit upon the present Establishment. In this State of Indigence we have the additional mortification to find that not a few of those who have been more fortunate are taking possession of our just Claims knowing that we are not able to make Opposition. Such of your Honourable House as have not been Eye Witnesses can form no Idea of the Distresses which many of your petitioners have suffered for a Series of Years from the cruel and vindictive Hand of the Savages; and now on the back of these Distresses to be compelled into a Court of Judicature, by those who are endeavouring to avail themselves of our poverty and that Ignorance of the Law which was unavoidable in our remote Situation, will complete our Ruin: If we prosecute our Claim the last Cow and Horse must be sold to maintain the Suit; or if we decline the Contest, the Land upon which we had Hopes of supporting ourselves and Families in peace during the Remainder of our Lives will be wrested from us.

Your petitioners are therefore induced to pray that Circuit Courts may be established for the special purpose of trying Caveats, to be held by the Judges of our Supreme Court at such stated Times and places in each County as they shall think most convenient to the people, where they shall proceed in a summary Way to hear and determine according to Law and Equity all Caveats in the respective Counties where the Lands lie. These Courts to be attended by the Sheriff of the County

and his Deputies, and by the Clerk of the Supreme Court who shall keep record of the Business relating to Caveats in each County in separate Books:

In all other Respects the Court and their officers shall exercise the same powers, observe the same Rules of procedure, and be entitled to the same Fees as are now prescribed by Law in the Case of Caveats; save only, that a Jury need not be summoned and empannelled unless the Nature of the Cause shall make it necessary, or either of the parties contending shall require it; and as the pleadings are not to be had in writing, if Counsel shall be thought necessary at all, we presume that the Fee heretofore allowed to Attorneys for conducting Land Causes in County Courts will be sufficiently adequate.

We are encouraged by the former Benevolence of the Legislature in appointing Circuit or District Commissioners in a Case nearly Similar, to submit this plan to the Consideration of the General Assembly, which if it can consistently be adopted, will curtail the greater part of the Expence of Litigation and at the same time render equal Justice to the Litigants; and we flatter ourselves that in Compassion to our many and complicated sufferings, this or some other Mode suited as far as possible to our Circumstances will be established for the Trial of Caveats, which at present are like to be the great Source of Contention amongst us.

And your petitioners shall ever pray &c.

[Names.]

Endorsement on back of petition: Junc 5th 1784—referred to propositions—(rejd.)

Relief was given to complainauts in two acts entitled, An Act for giving further time to enter certificates for settlement rights and to locate warrants upon preemption rights and for other purposes. Henings Statutes, Vol. 11, 291.

An Act to give further time for the probation of deeds and other instruments of writing and for other purposes. Henings Statutes, Vol. 11, 294.

NUMBER 24.

To the Honble the Speaker and the General Assembly of Virginia

That whereas a memorial was presented by the representatives and others on their behalf in December last to the Honble Assembly then sitting, praying for a court of assize &c for the better government of your memorialists. And they finding a matter of that very great importance to the reciprocal interest of the State in general, neglected, or at least not attended to agreeable to their wishes as part of the state, more particularly at this critical conjuncture of affairs, when the interest of the indigent inhabitants so loudly call for some ease or indulgence; Your memorialists would wish to observe that the very great distance from them to the seat of Government render it impracticable for those in poorer circumstances to maintain their Just rights to lands, and next to impossible for the civilist to punish offences of the most criminal nature, a number of other evils might be enumerated to prove the utility of the exersize of laws—under the authority alluded to, or some other similar thereto

Your memorialists must beg leave to observe that they have been lately alarm'd at finding that Congress has not only refused the Cession offer'd them by a former Assembly, But a committee of that August body appointed for the purpose of Enquiry have resolved, "That Virginia, has not any just right to land, Northwest of the Alleghany mountains, That with pamphlets we have seen and now conceive to have been written for the purpose of prejudicing the publick against the claim of Virginia, and to prepare your memorialists for paying twenty pounds sterling pr hundred for their own lands, Your memorialists do conceive from the very principal of the constitution of America, that if the country they possess does not in right belong to Virginia, the prosperity [property] of course must be vested in themselves, and that congress has no right to any part thereof, and when your memorialists through your Honble house make a request to Congress for a new state and are

received into the union, They are then and not before subject as another state, Those are reasons they think necessary to offer to your Honble house, But your memorialists have ever considered themselves and country as part of Virginia and were happy in being so. Her laws suited them and do yet suppose it to be to their interest to be Governed by Her, untill it shall appear for their mutual advantage to separate, at which period it is expected their will be no objection, What your memorialists at present wish is Virginia protection to them as part of the State intitled to all its privileges or an information of what they may expect; Justice is what they claim, and that the Equity of their pretentions will allow them, they view themselves as Virginians, and as such they hope what is alluded to will not be given up without their consent—They allso know that it is through them and those they claim as citizens of their detached country that the greatest part of the western waters is not now in the possession of our most inveterate enimies, and could easily prove the importance they have been to the interest of the United States—Your memorialists therefore hope that your Honble house will take their case into consideration & grant them such relief as to you may seem Just & reasonable

[Names.]

NUMBER 25.

To the Honorable the General Assembly of Virginia.

The Subscribers resident, in the Counties of Jefferson, Fayette, Lincoln, and Nelson, composing the district of Kentucky, being chosen at free Elections, held in these Counties respectively, by the Freemen of the same, for the purpose of constituting a Convention to take into Consideration the General State of the District, and espressly to decide on the expediency of making application to your Honorable Body, for an Act of Seperation—: deeply impressed with the impor-

tance of the measure, and breathing the purest filial affection,— Beg leave to Address you on the momentous Occasion.—

The Settlers of this distant region, taught by the arrangements of Providence, and encouraged by the conditions of that Solemn Compact, for which they paid the price of Blood, to look forward to a Seperation, from the Eastern parts of the Commonwealth, have viewed the subject leisurely. at a distance and examined it with caution on its near approach; irreconcileable as has been their situation to a connexion with any Community beyond the Apulachian Mountains, other than the Federal Union Manifold as have been the grievances flowing therefrom, which have grown with their growth, and increased with their Population; They have patiently waited the hour of Address nor ever ventured to raise their voices in their own cause. Untill Youth quickening into manhood, had given them vigor and Stability.—

To recite minutely the causes and reasoning, which directed, and will justify this Address, would we conceive be a matter of impropriety at this Juncture; It would be preposterous for us, to enter upon the support of facts and consequences, which we presume are incontestible; our sequestered situation, from the seat of Government, with the intervention of a mountainous desart of two hundred miles, always dangerous, and passable only at particular seasons, precludes every Idea of a connexion, on Republican principles; The Patriots who framed our Constitution Sensible of the impracticability of connecting permanently, in a free Government, the extensive Limits of the Commonwealth, most wisely made provision for the Act which we now Solicit—. To that Sacred Record we Appeal.—

'Tis not the ill directed or inconsiderate Zeal of a few, 'tis not that impatience of Power to which ambitious minds are prone, nor yet the baser consideration of Personal Interest, which influence the people of Kentucky; directed by superior motives, they are incapable of cherishing a wish unfounded in justice, and are now impelled by expanding evils, and irremedi-

able grievances, universally seen, felt and acknowledged, to obey the irresistible dictates of self preservation, and seek for Happiness, by means honourable to themselves, honourable to you, and injurious to neither.—

We therefore with the consent and by the authority of our Constituents, after the most Solemn deliberation being warned of every consequence, which can ensue, for them, for ourselves and for Posterity unborn—do Pray—That an act may pass at the ensuing session of Assembly, declaring and acknowledging the Sovereignty & Independence of this district.—

Having no object in view, but the acquisition of that Security and happiness, which may be attained by a Scrupulous adherence to principles of private justice and public Honor, we should most willingly at this time, enter into the adjustment of the concessions, which are to be the condition of our Seperation, did not our relative situation forbid such negotiation, anxious however to bring this interesting part of the transaction, to a Speedy Issue, we have appointed the Honble George Muter & Harry Innes Esquires to present this Address, and in our behalf to enter into & ratify such engagements, as may ascertain the general Principles, on which the final adjustment of the conditions of Seperation is to be established.—

Our application may exhibit a new spectacle, in the History & Politicks of Mankind—A Soverign Power; solely intent to bless its People agreeing to a dismemberment of its parts, in order to secure the Happiness of the whole—and we fondly flatter ourselves from motives not purely Local, it is to give Birth, to that catalogue of great events, which we pursuade ourselves, is to diffuse throughout the World. the inestimable blessings, which mankind may derive from the American Revolution.—

We firmly rely, that the undiminished Lustre of that Spark, which kindled the flame of Liberty, and guided the United States of America to Peace & Independence, will direct the Honourable Body, to whom we Appeal for redress of Manifest

grievances, to embrace the Singular Occasion, reserved for them, by Devine Providence; to Originate a precedent, which may Liberalize the Policy of Nations and lead to the emancipation of enslaved millions.—

In this Address we have discarded the complimentary stile of adulation & insincerity—it becomes Freemen when speaking to Freemen, to imploy the plain, manly unadorned Language of Independence . . . .[?]

September 23d 1785.

[Names.]

Endorsement on back of petition. Octo. 1785—Refd. to Whole as Com.—November 14th 1785—Committee of Whole discharged and referred to Ths. Madison, Henry Lee, Bullit, Ronald, Carrington, Alexr. White, Corbin, Page, Th. Smith, and Prentis.

The first action looking toward the creating of Kentucky into a separate State is found in an act entitled, An Act concerning the erection of the district of Kentucky into an independent state. Henings Statutes, Vol. 12, 37.

"Whereas it is represented to be the desire of the good people inhabiting the district known by the name of the Kentucky District that the same should be separated from this Commonwealth whereof it is a part and be formed into an independent member of the American Confederacy and it is judged by the General Assembly that such a partition of the Commonwealth is rendered expedient by the remoteness of the more fertile which must be the more populous part of the said district and by the interjacent impediment to a convenient and regular communication therewith, Be it enacted," etc.

A convention was to be held at Danville on the fourth Monday of September made up of delegates from the seven counties, five from each. The call was to be posted twenty days and the election was to continue five days to give full opportunity for expression of opinion.

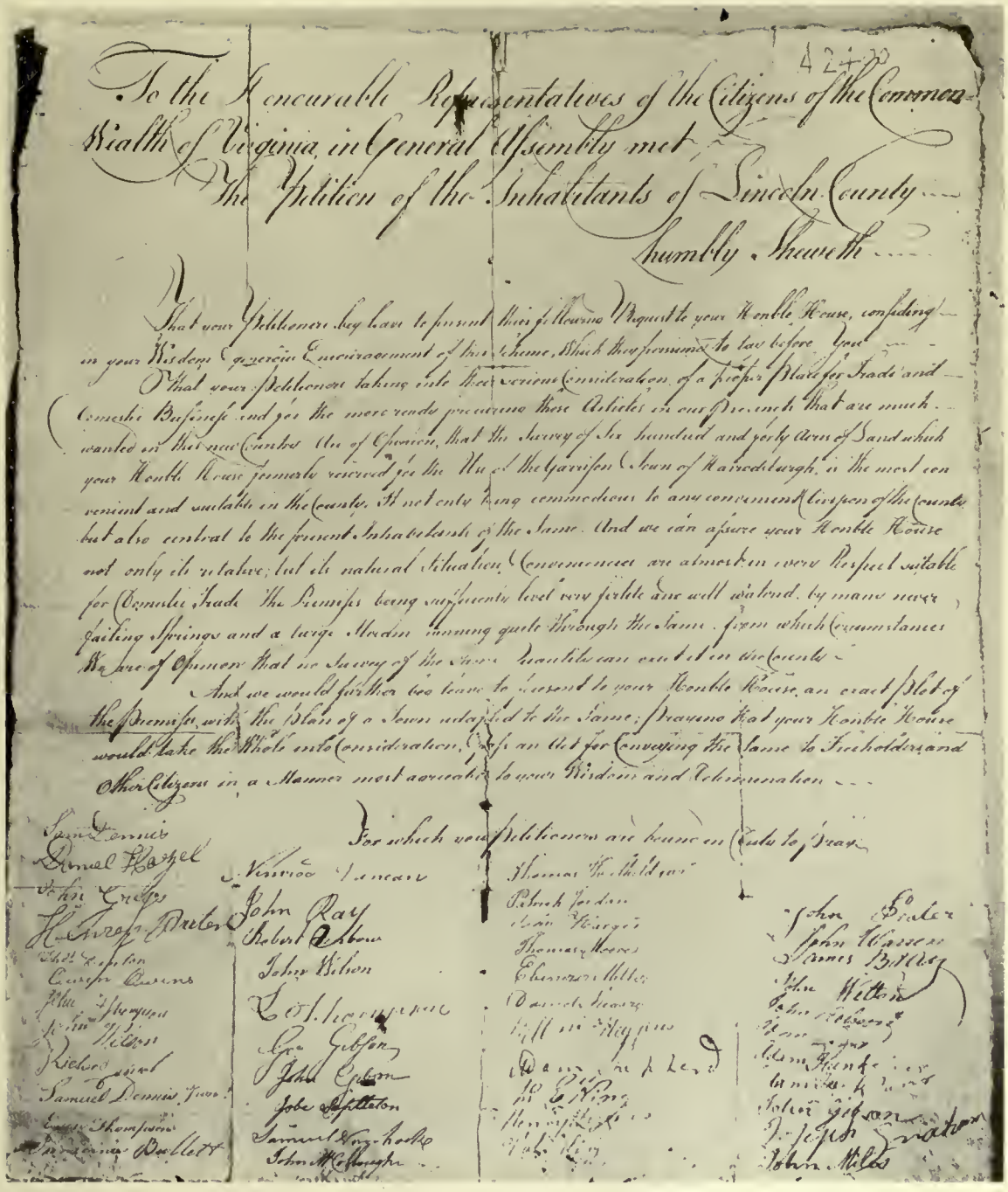
The boundary was to be unchanged, the new State was to assume its just proportion of the debt, the lands of non-residents were not to be taxed above those of residents, grants of land by the new State were not to interfere with grants made by Virginia, lands set apart for soldiers were subject to grant only by Virginia, up to 1788, the use of the Ohio River to be common, disputes between Virginia and Kentucky to be settled by a commission, and assent of United States Congress to the separation necessary.

NUMBER 26.

TO THE HONOURABLE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CITIZENS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY MET—

The petition of the Inhabitants of Lincoln County—humbly sheweth—

That your petitioners beg leave to present their following Request to your Honble House, confiding in your Wisdom &



CUT OF FACSIMILE PETITION

Photograph of a petition from Lincoln County to the General Assembly. Illustrative of the source from which the book is made.

generous Encouragement, of this Scheme; Which they persume to lay before You—

That your petitioners taking into their serious Consideration, of a proper place for Trade and Domestic Business, and for the more ready procuring those Articles in our precincts that are much wanted in the new Country; Are of opinion, that the Survey of Six hundred and forty acres of Land, which your Honble House formerly reserved for the Use of the Garrison & Town of Harrodsburgh, is the most convenient and suitable in the County, It not only being commodious to any convenient Division of the County, but also central to the present Inhabitants of the same; And we can assure your Honble House not only its relative; but its natural Situation & Conveniences, are almost in every Respect suitable for Domestic Trade; The Premises being sufficiently level very fertile and well watered, by many never failing Springs and a large Stream running quite through the same; from which Circumstances We are of opinion that no Survey of the same Quantity can excel it in the County—

And we would further beg leave to present to your Honble House, an exact plot of the premises, with the plan of a Town adapted to the same; praying that your Honble House would take the whole into Consideration, & pass an Act for Conveying the same to Freeholders, and other Citizens in a Manner most agreeable to your Wisdom and determination—

For which your petitioners are bound in duty to pray—

[Names.]

Endorsement on back of petition: Lincoln Pets. for a Town—(reasonable).

The request for a town in Lincoln was granted in an act entitled, An Act for establishing a town in the county of Lincoln. Henings Statutes, Vol. 12, 223.

"That six hundred and forty acres of land allowed by law, including the said village or township, shall be and the same is hereby vested in William Christian, John Brown, Robert Mosby, Samuel Lapsley, peter Casey, John Smith, Samuel Taylor, John Cowan, John Gilmore, James Harrod, Abraham Chaplaine, William Kennedy, and Benjamin Logan."

NUMBER 27.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA—

The petition of sundry inhabitants of the county of Lincoln humbly sheweth—

That they labour under great inconveniences from the large extent of said county and number of inhabitants therein; and that the vast number of litigants whose causes must of necessity be determined in the court of said county renders it very tedious and expensive attending the same for the calling of their causes and oppressive to the justices who determine them—

Your petitioners beg leave to represent to your honourable house that the aforesaid Grievances may be redressed by laying off two distinct counties to be taken from the county of Lincoln to be bounded as follows, viz. The first county—By a line beginning at the confluence of sugar Creek and Kentucky river thence proceeding by a direct line to John Crows sinking spring, the mouth of Clark's Run, thence a straight line to Wilson's Station in the fork of Clark's run thence the same course continued to the line of Nelson County—Thence with said line to the line of Jefferson county, thence with that line to the Kentucky River, Thence up said river to the Beginning. For one distinct county—The second county—By a line beginning at the confluence of Kentucky river and sugar creek, thence up said creek to the fork James Thompson lives on, thence up said fork to the head thereof, thence a straight line to where an East course from John Ellis's will intersect the top of the ridge that divides the waters of Paint Lick from the waters of Dicks river, thence along the top of the said ridge southwardly opposite Harman's lick, thence 45° East to the main Rock Castle river, thence running up said river to the head thereof, thence with the ridge that divides the waters of Kentucky river from the waters of Cumberland river to the line of Washington county, thence along said line to the main

fork of Kentucky river that divides Fayette from Lincoln county, thence down the said river to the Beginning for one distinct County.

We your petitioners in reliance upon the propriety and the Justice of your prayer, hope that you in your wisdom will duly consider the premisses and that our request will be attended to—and your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray &c.

[Names.]

Lincoln, to wit:

I hereby certify that it has been publickly advertized within the said county that a petition would be presented to the next session of Assembly for a division of the county of Lincoln by a line to run as proposed in the within petition. Given under this 26th day of September 1785.

(Copy) Willis Green Clk. L. C.

Endorsement on back of petition: Novcmber 23rd. 1785—Refd. to Props.

The request was granted in an act entitled, An Act for dividing Lincoln into three distinct counties. Henings Statutes, Vol. 12, 118.

The division was to date from August, 1786. The counties were Mercer and Madison.

NUMBER 28.

To the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Delegates—

The petition of Sundry Inhabitants of the County of Fayette Humbly sheweth

That from the extensive Boundaries of this County it subjects many of its Inhabitants to great Inconveniences, In Transacting their necessary business at their County Court, Many of your Petitioners have at least Sixty five miles to Lexington their present Court House; and most of the way being uninhabited render it dangerous to your petitioners In going to and from Court, from the frequent Incursions of Hostile Savages, And as your petitioners conceive, that in all governments the obtaining of Justice should be made as safe

& easy as possible to all its Citizens, and as no persons can possibly receive any Injury from the Division of this County; And your Petitioners acquire an Imediate Benefit. Pray, that your Honorable House will at the next Session pass an act for the Division thereof In manner following—

Beginning at the mouth of Uper Howards Creek on Kentucky River runing up the Main fork thereof to the Head thence with the Dividing Ridge between Kentucky & Licking Creek untill it comes opposite the Head of Eagle Creek, from thence a Direct Line to the nearest part of Ravin Creek a Branch of Licking, Down Ravin Creek to the Mouth thereof, thence with Licking to the Ohio—thence with the Ohio to the mouth of Sandy Creek, Up Sandy to the Cumberland Mountain with sd Mountain to Lincoln Line thence with the Lincoln Line & Down Kentucky River to the Beginning, And all that part within the Lines above described, be Established into a seperate County. And your petitioners shall ever pray &c.

[Names.]

Fayette County to wit

I Levi Todd Clerk of the Court of the County aforesaid do certify That an advertisement setting forth (that a Petition praying for a division of the County aforesaid nearly (if not quite) agreeable to the plan mentioned in this Petition would be presented to the next Session of the General Assembly) On two different Court days at the Courthouse of the said County.

Test Levi Todd

Endorsement on back of petition: Nov. 25th. 1785—Refd. to Props.—(reasonable)

The request was granted in an act entitled, An Act for dividing the County of Fayette. Henings Statutes, Vol. 12, 89.

The division was to date from May, 1788. Bourbon Co.

To the General Assembly of Virginia

NUMBER 29.

To the Honourable the General Assembly for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Petition of James Hogan Humbly sheweth

That your Petitioner at the request and solicitations of a number of the Inhabitants in the Kentucky District has provided himself with a Boat, Hands &c for the purpose of keeping a Ferry across the Kentucky River from Lands of his own in Lincoln County to his Lands in Fayette County at the mouth of Hickmans Creek where the publick Warehouses are ordered to be erected. Your Petitioner therefore prays this Honorable House to pass an Act for establishing the same a publick Ferry and fixing the rates of Ferriage. And whereas the keeping of a Ferry across the Kentucky River will be attended with more trouble and inconvenience than is usual on Rivers of that size owing to its peculiar situation & its being fordable generally six or seven months of the year your petitioner is induced to ask your Honble House for such as Augmentation to the general rates of Ferriage as may enable him to attend and serve the publick faithfully—

And your Petitioner shall ever pray etc.

James Hogan
October 1st 1785—

Fayette County

I Levi Todd Clerk of the County aforesaid do certify that James Hogan did legally advertise that he intended presenting this Petition at the ensuing Session of Assembly. Given under my Hand this 13th day of September 1785—

Levi Todd Cl.

Lincoln to wit:—

I hereby certify that James Hogan did advertise at the Courthouse of said County on two several Court days that he intended to prefer a Petition to the next Session of Assembly

for establishing a Ferry across the Kentucky at the mouth of Hickman. Given under my hand this 4th day of October 1785—

Willis Green

Endorsement on back of petition: Nov. 29th. 1785—(Refd. to Props) (reasonable)

This and subsequent requests were granted in an act entitled, An Act for establishing several new ferries. Henings Statutes, Vol. 12, 83.

NUMBER 30.

To the Honorable the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Petition of David Crews Humbly sheweth That at the request of sundry Inhabitants of the County of Lincoln & others Your Petitioner was induced to build a Boat for the purpose of Transporting passengers across the Kentucky River near the mouth of Jacks Creek from Lands of his own in Lincoln County to other Lands which he claims in the County of Fayette to which place Roads are now clearing and generally adjudged the most convenient crossing place on the Kentucky River above Hickmans Creek.

Your Petitioner prays that an Act may pass your Honorable House establishing the same as a publick Ferry and to ascertain the rates of Ferriage.

And your Petitioner shall ever pray &c

David Crews
Oct. 1st 1785—

Lincoln County Sct.

I do hereby certify that an Advertisement was set up at the Courthouse Door of this County at the July and August Courts last. notifying that an application would be made to the next General Assembly for the within purpose signed by David Crew.

Teste Willis Green Cl. L. C.
Oct. 7th 1785—

Endorsement on back of petition: Dec. 9th, 1785—(Refd. to Props) (Reasonable)

To the General Assembly of Virginia

NUMBER 31.

To the Honble the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia—

The Petition of William Steele Humbly sheweth

That your Petitioner has furnished himself with proper Boats for the purpose of keeping a Ferry across the Kentucky River at a place called the Stone lick from Lands of his own in Fayette to the Land supposed to belong to John Craig in Lincoln County, to which place a Road is now opening from Lexington. Your Petitioner prays that an Act may pass your Honble House for establishing the same a publick Ferry And shall pray &c.

Will Steele

Notice is hereby given to all whome it may concern that a petition will be presented to the next General Assembly to obtain an act for Establishing a publick ferry across the Kentucky River from the Lands of William Steele on the uper side of the mouth of the Stone Lick branch in Fayette County to the lands opposite in Lincoln County Oct. 11th 1785

This day came before me David Henderson and made oath that the within was set up on Fayette Court House two Courts.

Given under my hand this 11th day of Oct. 1785—

Wm. McConnell.

Endorsement on back of petition: Dec. 10 1785—Refd. to Props—(Reasonable)

NUMBER 32.

To the Honorable the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Delegates

The petition of sundry inhabitants of the County of Bourbon humbly sheweth, That a Number of your petitioners are settled in that part of the said County of Bourbon which is commonly known by the name of Limestone Settlement about forty miles distant from the place agreed on for holding the Court

of the said County, and which is not only a distinct settlement at present from the part of the said County but must remain so for many years by the Intervention of a Mountainous tract of Barren Land running down on each side of the main branch of Licking Creek. that cannot be inhabited. And exposes your petitioners to be surprised & murdered by the savages who frequently infest such places. And the main branch of Licking being a considerable and Rapid Water course often obstructs a convenient communication with the other part of the County and renders it inconvenient and expencive to suitors and others to attend the present Courthouse. And altho it may be objected that the number of Inhabitants in the neighborhood of Limestone are too inconsiderable to be separated from the other part of the County at present. Yet when it is considered that one of the principal inlets for Emigrants into the Country is at this place, and from the Rapid Settlement that is now making. There is no doubt but a sufficiency of Inhabitants will soon be collected. Your Petitioners therefore pray that your Hon. House will take their situation into consideration, and Erect all that part of the said County of Bourbon, which lies North of the main branch of Licking, To begin at the mouth of the said Licking Creek, thence up the main branch thereof to the Head thence a direct line to the Junction of the Maddison & Russell County lines thence along the Russell line to Bigg Sandy, thence down the same to the mouth, thence down the Ohio River to the Beginning into a distinct County, and your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray

August 25th 1786 [Names.]

I do hereby certify that advertisements have been exhibited according to Law for them shewing the Intention of the within petitioners In presenting the same to the next General Assembly

John Edward Cl

Endorsement on back of petition: Octo. 26. 1786—Refd. to Props.—Rejected —recommitted next session.

NUMBER 33.

TO THE HONORABLE THE SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES OF VIRGINIA.

The Petition of Sundry Inhabitants of the County of Bourbon humbly sheweth that advertisements have been exhibited at the door of their Court House ever since the May past at which time the Court of Bourbon took place for dividing the same into three Counties, and as your Petitioners conceive that such Division if granted will not only derange all the public business of the County which has been very much the Case by the late Division to the great injury of individuals, but must so weaken the militia of the present County as to render them incapable of defending themselves as well as of paying their County Levy; the County having now in all not more than four hundred effective militia, and your Petitioners further conceive that as the Erection of Kentuckey into a free independent state will most undoubtedly take place and that the good people of the said District may divide the same into Counties as they think proper: And as your Petitioners conceive that the Petition to be presented to your Honorable House for the Division of the County of Bourbon, if it takes place may be very oppressive to your Petitioners who pray that no such Divisions may take place, but that the same may be postponed until the next session of Assembly or until it is known whether the District is erected into an independent State and your Petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray

[Names.]

Endorsement on back of petition: Octo. 26th. 1786—Refd. to Props—reasonable—recommitted.

NUMBER 34.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

The petition of sundry inhabitants of the county of Bourbon humbly sheweth, that the most of them are settled in a new

Village called Washington in the settlement of Limestone in the Cty aforesaid, where there are upwards of Seven hundred Acres Land laid off for in & out lots for the use of sd Village, and where there are now settled upwards of Fifty families among whom are Mechanicks of divers kinds, and the prospect of a rapid settlement being made to the great advantage of village & Country. The sd Village is also judged to be situated in the most central & convenient place to the adjacent County, and that it would be the most proper place for erecting publick buildings for the use of a County as soon as one is laid off. We therefore humbly pray that your honourable House will establish the said Village into a Town by the name of Washington and your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray &c

August 22d 1786—

[Names.]

I do hereby certify that advertisements according to Law have been Exhibited shewing the Intention of the petitioners In presenting the same to the next General Assembly.

John Edward Cl. B. C.

Endorsement on back of petition: October 27th. 1787—Refd. to Props—(Reasonable)

The request was granted in an act entitled, An Act for establishing a town in the County of Bourbon. Henings Statutes, Vol. 12, 361.

The name was to be Washington. The trustees were Edmund Lyne, Edward Waller, Henry Lee, Miles W. Conway, Arthur Fox, Daniel Boone, Robert Rankins, John Gutridge, William Lamb.

NUMBER 35.

To the Honourable the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Delegates,

the petition of James Holloway humbly sheweth,

That he entered the Service in March 1776, in the fourth Virginia Regiment and continued as an officer in sd. Regiment untill the engagement at White Plains, Sept. 1778, at which time he became a Supernumerary. After returning home he raised a company of militia and fought in the battle of Guilford

under command of Gen. Lawson, who had been Commander of sd 4th Regiment. During the service, your petitioner was in the following engagements, viz, at Trenton, Princeton, Brandewyne, German-Town and Monmouth.

As it has been allowed to several persons in similar circumstances to receive the bounty in lands which was stipulated for three years service; and as your Petitioner continued more than that time in the duties of a soldier on every opportunity of action, and still continues to act his part in defending the Western Frontiers in present expeditions against the Indian Tribes; it is the prayer of this petition that your Honourable House will take his case into consideration and indulge him with such recompence as his conduct may seem to merit, such as has been conferred in like cases, and such as may have been requested or obtained by several whose circumstances rendered them less proper objects of liberality to their Country: And your Petitioner, as in duty bound shall ever pray &c.
Fayette County, Sept. 21 1786

Endorsement on back of petition: Holloways Rep.—October 27th. 1786—Rejected.

NUMBER 36.

THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER & GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

The petition of Sundry of the Inhabitants of Lincoln County humbly sheweth—That the Courthouse of the said County Now is and heretofore has been on the Land of a private Individual. In consequence of which no person could undertake to Build houses and provide proper accomodations for those whose business obliges them to attend the said Court of said county.—That Colo Benjamin Logan the proprietor of the Land whereon the courthouse now stands, has given up and conveyed twenty six acres of Land to the Court of said County for the purpose of laying off a Town and Building a courthouse and prison thereon for the Use of said County. In consequence

of which conveyance, the Court of said County have proceeded to lay off the said 26 acres of Land into Lotts and streets, and have made sale of the Lotts some of which are considerably improved.

The said 26 acres of Land lies within one half mile of where the courthouse now stands, and as near the center of the County as any place can be had with Equal advantage, The Roads to and from the place where the Courthouse now stands being easyly turned in a Direction to any part of the 26 acres of Land,—

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that a Law may pass for establishing a Town of the said 26 acres of Land, to be called Stanford and that John Logan, Benjamin Logan, Isaac Shelby, Henry Pauling, Walker Baylor, Wm. Morrison and Alexander Blair—Be appointed Trustees of said town that the Court of said County be empower'd to remove the Courthouse and prison of said County to the Town of Stanford; Or to Erect new ones as to them shall seem most expedient for the holding of Courts in said County for the future and your petitioners shall ever pray &c.

[Names.]

Lincoln to wit

I hereby certify that it has been publickly advertised at the Courthouse of said County on two several Court days, that the within Petition would be preferr'd to the next Session of Assembly Given under my hand this 28th day of September 1786.

Willis Green.

Endorsement on back of petition: Octo. 27. 1786—Refd. to Props. (reasonable)

The request was granted in an act entitled, An Act to establish a town on the lands of the late Benjamin Logan, in the county of Lincoln and to fix the place of holding court therein. Henings Statutes, Vol. 12, 396.

The following were to be the trustees: Benjamin Logan, John Logan, William Montgomery(?), Henry Pauling, Isaac Shelby, Walker Baylor, Alexander Blane.(?)

The amount of land was twenty-six acres and the name of the town was Stanford.

To the General Assembly of Virginia

NUMBER 37.

To the Honorable the General Assembly of Virginia—

The Petition of Jane Todd widow and relict of John Todd late of the County of Fayette deceased, and also Executrix of the said John Todd; and Robert Todd Excr. of the said John Todd Humbly sheweth

That their Testator upon the opening of the Land office in the year 1779 vested the greatest part of his personal property in Land Warrants and settlements & Preemption Claims, which were located in the District of Kentucky, but before titles could be obtained for the Lands to which he was intitled, he was killed by the Indians in an engagement with them, in the County of Fayette, as is supposed, he not having been heard of since—

That none of the said Lands were surveyed in the Lifetime of the Testator, and Since his decease your Petitioners have been obliged to pay the expence of surveying & obtaining Titles for the said Lands and to discharge Debts due from the Testator to a much greater amount than the Personal Estate

That there are a number of Debts still due from the Estate of the said John Todd and other claims upon the Estate for Lands sold by the Testator, for which Titles cannot be made and for the payment of which the few slaves belonging to the Estate consisting of two Women only, must be sold but which will not it is supposed be sufficient for that purpose.—

Your Petitioners beg leave further to observe that the Testator has only one Child Mary Owen Todd living, who is about five years old, and that the Estate would be very sufficient to support her genteely, & to pay all Taxes upon the Lands could a Sale of Part of the Lands be made, and after discharging the Debts a Sum not considerable be applied to the purpose of purchasing Slaves for her, as she has several very valuable Tracts of Land—That your Petitioner Jane who is entitled to Dower would chearfully join in a sale of any part thereof for

the purpose aforesaid and would be satisfied to take her Dower in the slaves to be purchased, in lieu of her Dower in the Lands—

Your Petitioners therefore Humbly Pray that an act may pass, appointing Trustees to sell & convey as much of the Lands belonging to the Estate as will pay off the Demands thereupon and purchase two likely young negro fellows and one wench to be vested in the said Mary Owen Todd & your Petitioner Jane as aforesaid—

And they as in duty bound will ever pray &c.

Endorsement on back of petition: Octo. 28th. 1786.—Refd. to props.—(Reasonable)

The request was granted in an act entitled, An Act appointing trustees to sell part of the lands of John Todd, deceased, for the payment of his debts and for other purposes. Henings Statutes, Vol. 12, 369.

NUMBER 38.

To the Honble The House of Delegates

The petition of Mary Ervin most humbly sheweth That your petitioner's Son John Askins served as a soldier in the continental service for three years and afterwards as a captain of the militia in the District of Kentucky and always distinguished himself as a good and faithful citizen of the United States in general and of Virginia in particular. That he, in common with the rest of his fellow soldiers, received an opportionment of Land in the District afsd as a Reward for his services and to the great distress of your Petitioner lately died—leaving neither wife nor children nor any person so nearly related to him as your Petitioner—That during his life time he sold fifteen hundred Acres of the above mentioned Land to sundry persons whose titles have not been confirmed—Now your Petitioner most reluctantly sheweth to this Honble House That her afsd Son John Askins was not born in lawful wedlock and therefore by the laws of this Commonwealth his property escheats.

But your petitioner most humbly prayeth that in consideration of her being the nearest and dearest Relation to the deceased, your Honble House will compassionate her situation and permit a Law to pass relinquishing the Right of the commonwealth to the Land afsd. and vesting the Title in her, reserving nevertheless the equitable Rights of the purchasers afsd. and your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray.

Monongalia County SS. Before Me one of the Justices of said County came Mary Ervin you worships [?] Petitioner & made oath that the above mentioned John Askins was her son and was illegetmate Born & is Dead and Died without Being Tested or having any Heirs at Law

her
Mary X Ervin
mark

Sworn & Subscribed this 11th Day of Oct 1786
Dal McCollum

Endorsement on back of petition: Octo. 30th. 1786—Refd to props—(Reasonable)

The request was granted in an act entitled, An Act to vest the land whereof John Askins dicd seizcd in Mary Arvin, [Ervin] his mother. Henings Statutes, Vol. 12, 363.

NUMBER 39.

To the Honourable the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia—

The Petition of Christopher Greenup Humbly sheweth That your Petitioner being appointed Clerk to the Supreme Court for the District of Kentucky, is obliged by virtue of his office to transmit an Account, and pay into the publick Treasury, all Taxes arising on Process and other Law proceedings instituted, or admitted in the said Court, That the distance of his residence from the seat of Government is so great, he cannot possibly attend in person to make the Payments, but is under the necessity of applying to and trusting such Persons as he can procure to do that business for him, by which he is constant-

ly exposed not only to considerable expence and inconvenience but the risk of incurring the Penalty inflicted by Law on Delinquent Clerks

Your Petitioner begs leave further to Represent to your Honourable House, that he is entitled to draw money from the Treasury annually for his Ex offico Services, which is also attended with inconvenience and Risk, and might in a great measure be remedied if he was authorized to retain in his hands so much of the money arising on Taxes as wou'd satisfy his demand, and also the Expence of procuring Record Books and other incidental charges of the said Court (the Same being first Liquidated and Certified by the Judges, to be just) and the Treasurer authorized to receive such claims in discharge of those Taxes—

Your Petitioner therefore prays that your Hon'ble House will so far indulge him as to settle his publick account of Taxes in the manner herein pointed out, or such other mode of indulgence as your Honors shall deem Just And your Petitioner will pray &c

Christr Greenup
September 26th 1786

Endorsement on back of petition: Novr. 6th. 1786—Refd. to Props.—(Reasonable)—(rept.)

The request was granted in an act entitled, An act for further amending an Act intitled, an Act for establishing a district court on the western waters. Hennings Statutes, Vol. 12, 704.

Provision was made for a receiver to avoid the nccessity of judges and other officials applying to counties for salarics.

NUMBER 40.

To the Honorable the Speaker and Gentlemen of the house of Delegates

The petition of Sundry of the Inhabitants of the county of Fayette, humbly sheweth, that from the situation of your petitioners they think it highly convenient that an Inspection of Tobacco be established on the North side of the Kentucky

River at the mouth of Hickman Creek, your Petitioners therefore prays this honorable house to take the same under their consideration and to pass a law for the purpose aforesaid. And your petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray &c.

[Names.]

Fayette County Virginia to wit—

I Levi Todd Clerk of the Court of the County aforesaid do certify that an advertisement was set up at the door of the Court house of the said County on the Court days in the months of July and August notifying that a Petition would be presented the next Session of the General Assembly praying that a Warehouse may be established on the North side of Kentucky River at the mouth of Hickmans Creek. Given under my hand this Seventeenth day of September 1787.

Levi Todd

Endorsement on back of the petition: October 19th. 1787—Refd. to propositions—(reasonable) (repd)

The request was granted in an act entitled, An Act for establishing several new inspections of tobacco and reviving and establishing others. Henings Statutes, Vol. 12, 580.

This act provides inspection in Fayette, Mercer, Mason, Madison, and Bourbon counties.

An earlier act provided for inspection of tobacco, entitled, An Act for establishing inspections of tobacco on the western waters. Henings Statutes, Vol. 11, 345.

This was in October, 1783, and provided inspection in Fayette, Lincoln, and Jefferson counties.

The provisions generally included in the inspection acts may be seen in a general act entitled, An Act for reviving several public warehouses for the reception of Tobacco and other purposes. Henings Statutes, Vol. 9, 153.

Several acts previous to this had expired in 1775, and it was now "thought expedient that some temporary method should be provided for the reception and inspection of tobacco at or near the heads of the rivers and creeks."

Among the details of inspection it is provided that "if the inspectors, upon breaking open a hogshead, shall agree that the same is merchantable they shall weigh such tobacco and the cask, entering in their books and stamping on the cask the mark, number, gross, tare, and new weight thereof, and give to the owner a note or receipt for the same," etc.

These notes of the warehouse "shall pass in payment of levies, officers fees, and other tobacco debts payable in the counties," etc. Forging and counterfeiting tobacco notes renders liable "to suffer death without benefit of clergy."

NUMBER 41.

To the Honorable the Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia—

The Petition of Ignatius Mitchell humbly Sheweth—

That your Petitioner is possessed of a Tract of Land lying on the River Ohio, at the mouth of Lawrence's Creek about Six miles below Limestone, a Spot remarkably advantageously situated for a Town, it is well known, to have an excellent Bank on the River, and from accurate Surveys a road far preferable to any other, may be obtained: Your Petitioner conceives it unnecessary to detail the advantages of this Spot, and begs leave to refer your Honbl House to the Representatives of Bourbon and Fayette Counties, for particulars.—

Your Petitioner prays that a Town by the name of Charles Town may be established by an Act of your Hona House at the aforesaid Spot, subject to such regulations as your wisdom may direct; And your Petitioner as in duty bound shall ever pray &c.

We the Subscribers are of opinion, that the Spot, before described, is well calculated for a Town; and a good road may be made thereto,

[Names.]

Endorsement on back of petition: 20th. October. 1787—Referred to propositions—(reasouable) (Repd.)

The request was granted in an act entitled, An Act to establish a Town on lands of Ignatius Mitchell, in Co of Bourbon. Henings Statutes, Vol. 12, 608.

The trustees were John Grant, Charles Smith, Jr., Thomas Warren, Miles Withers Conway, Henry Lee, John Machir, Robert Rankin.

The name of the town was to be Charlestown.

NUMBER 42.

To the Honourable the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Delegates.

The petition of the Subscribers Inhabitants of the District of Kentucky humbly sheweth That the Commissioners appointed to settle the pay rations and other claims accruing from two Expeditions carried on in the year 1786 under General Clark and Col. Logan have sat in different parts of the District

and issued certificates for claims to them preferred for such Services & property as is enumerated in the Law under which they acted But it appears there are some Claims which have not been offered for settlement owing to the inattention of the claimers and their not having Knowledge of the Law and in some instances Certificates have issued for Property supposed to be lost which has since come to hand, and as there was Property necessary for the army which is not particularly mentioned in the Law such as Liquor, Vessels for the transportation of the Troops and stores, some Tents, & a few other articles which tho necessary for the army but not being enumerated in the Law. The Commissioners did not think themselves justifiable to issue Certificates therefor—Your Petitioners therefore pray that the Law may be amended authorizing and directing the County Courts upon due proof being made to grant Certificates for claims yet unsettled for all necessaries furnished or Impressed for the use of the said armies, and where it is made appear that the property for which a Certificate is issued is tendered or restored to the original owner that he may be called on and compelled to deliver to the commanding officer of the County or some other person such property or Certificate of the same value under such penalty and regulation as the Honorable Houses of Assembly may judge proper or that such other method may be desired that may render equal Justice to the Inhabitants of the District and we in Duty bound will ever Pray &c.

[Names.]

We are of opinion this Petition is just and reasonable witness our Hands this 19th day of Septr 1787.

Edmund Lyne
Isaac Shelby
Rich. Taylor

Endorsement on the back of petition: 22nd, October 1787. Referred to Propositions.—County Courts to finish business—not to extend allowances—(rejd.)

The request was granted in an act entitled, An Act to amend the Act for appointing Commissioners to liquidate and settle the expenses incurred in two expeditions carried on from the Kentucky District against the neighboring Indians and for other purposes. Henings Statutes, Vol. 12, 521.

By the act the powers of the Commissioners were extended. They were authorized to settle claims, grant certificates to pay militia necessary to defense of frontier during 1786 and 1787 and for removing arms and ammunition from Limestone to Lexington, and from Blockhouse to Danville.

The act first creating the board of commissioners is an act entitled, An Act for appointing Commissioners to liquidate and settle the expenses incurred in two expeditions carried on from the Kentucky District against the neighboring Indians. Henings Statutes, Vol. 12, 231.

"Whereas the citizens of this Commonwealth in the District of Kentucky have lately carried on two expeditions against the neighboring tribes of Indians and it is reasonable that such services should be rewarded, Be it enacted," etc.

The commissioners were Edmund Lyne, Isaac Shelby, Richard Taylor.

The lands of officers and soldiers in the Kentucky District were to be exempt from taxation until further direction of the Legislature.

NUMBER 43.

To the Hon'ble the Speaker and Delegates of the General Assembly of Virginia—

The Petition of Sundry inhabitants of the County of Fayette and those contiguous to Steeles ferry, near the mouth of Stone Lick on the Kentucky River. Sheweth to your honors that your Petitioners are desirous of making Tobaco to pay their taxes and for other purposes and have not at this time any Convenient warehouse or Inspection to receive it when made, they therefore pray that your honors may pass an Act to establish Inspections on the Land of William Steele, who has already a convenient house erected for the purpose at his landing near his ferry on the said River, it being a very convenient place for the reception and shiping Tobaco, and convenient to a large number of the Inhabitants of the said County, and your Petitioners shall pray &c &c.

[Names.]

Fayette County Virginia to wit

I Levi Todd Clerk of the Court of the county aforesaid do certify that it was publickly advertised at the Door of the Courthouse of the County aforesaid at the Courts held in the months of July and August that a Petition would be presented to the next General Assembly for the Establishing a Warehouse

for the reception of Tobacco at or near Steels landing near the mouth of Stone Lick

Given under my hand this 12th day of September 1787.

Levi Todd.

Endorsement on back of petition: 22 October 1787—Referred to Props.—reasonable—(rept.)

The request was granted in an act entitled, An Act to enable the citizens of this Commonwealth to discharge certain taxes, by the payment of tobacco. Hennings Statutes, Vol. 12, 258.

Notes for inspected tobacco were to be used and rated at twenty shillings for one hundred pounds. They were good in payments to superior judges, and expenses of government due to public treasury in case of surplus.

NUMBER 44.

To the Honorable the General Assembly of Virginia

the petition of James Buchanan of the County of Bourbon humbly sheweth that your Petitioner having acquired at a great expence the claim of one half the lower blue Licks on Licking Creek of a certain James Parberry of Henry County & hath lately had the same divided and conveyed by Deeds in Fee Simple which were acknowledged and recorded according to Law: Your Petitioners part of the said Tract or parcel of Land includes the only good place for a Ferry across said Creek on the road leading from the mouth of Limestone to Lexington & your Petitioner at the request of many of his Neighbours hath provided a Boat & hands at his own Expence & set over passengers in time of high water from many of whom he has neither received Fee nor reward therefore your Petitioner prays that a Ferry may be established on his Lands on the one side of Licking Creek to his Lands on the opposite Shore. Your Petitioner lately alarmed by an advertisement set up at the door of the Court House of this County by said Parberry declaring his Intentions of applying to the next General Assembly for the establishment of a Ferry on what he calls his Lands on the said Creek running parallel with your Petitioner's which Place your Honorable House may be assured is a rapid and entirely unfit for a Ferry & therefore he can derive very little advantage to himself but would do much Injury to your Peti-

tioner who hath for some Time lived with his Family on the Place much exposed to the Indians: Your Petitioner in support of the above allegations hath obtained a certificate of Colo James Garrard Surveyor of the said County who run the dividing Line by Consent of the Parties which Line stands as the Boundary mentioned in the Deed To which Certificate your Petitioner hopes your Honorable House will give the highest credit he being no way interested. Your Petitioner begs Leave further to inform your Honorable House that the said Parberry had prior to the Sale of the one Half sold to your Petitioner disposed of his other Half of the said Claim unto William Buchanan at the same time giving sufficient writings for the Conveyance of the Same and receiving full value in Lands lying on Holstan's river which obligations have since been assigned over and now become the claim of Mr. James French of the District of Kentuckey. And your petitioner for the better Information of your Honorable House hath inclosed a true copy of the Articles of agreement between William Buchanan and sd Parberry & your Petitioner humbly hopes that your Honorable House will take the same Into consideration & grant him the said Ferry & your Petitioner as in duty bound shall ever pray.

James Buchanan

This is to certify that being call'd on by Mr. James Parberry to Divide the Tract of Land that contains the lower Blue Licks and having run the Dividing Line through the two Licks, one on each side of Licking Creek and having View'd the situation of the Landings proper for a Ferry are of opinion that the Lands of Mr James Buchanan is by far the most proper for a ferry By reason of a short Break of the Hills which forms a perfect Eddy and secure Landing when the Creek is past fording which runs rapidly over Mr. Parberrys Landing, and I do further certify that I am not Interested any way in the Establishment of the ferry at the Lick, only as a Citizen Given under my hand this 15th day of Sept 1787.

James Garrard, Surveyor Bourbon C.

To the General Assembly of Virginia

I John Edmund Clerk of Bourbon County do Certify that the within Petition was advertised according to Law

John Edmund C B C
September the 20th 1787.

Endorsement on back of petition. 27th October 1787—Referred to Propositions—(rept.)

NUMBER 45.

To the Honble the Speaker and Delegates of the Genl Assembly of Virginia

The petition of Sundry inhabitants of the County of Fayette and those Contiguous to the Mouth of Craigs Creek on the River Kentuckey sheweth to your Honors that your petitioners are desirous of making Tobacco to pay their Taxes and for other purposes and have not at this time any Convenient Warehouses or Inspection to receive it when made they therefore pray that your Honors may pass an act to establish inspections on the Land of Genl Scott near the mouth of Craigs Creek on the said River it being the only place for a considerable distance on the River where the banks are acceptable we farther pray your Honours to establish a ferry upon said Scotts Land at the same place & your petitioners shall pray &c &c

[Names.]

Fayette County Virginia to wit

I Levi Todd clerk of the Court of the County aforesaid do certify that it was publickly advertised at the door of the Courthouse of the County aforesaid on two several Court days to wit in the months of June & July 1787 That a Petition would be presented to the next General Assembly for the Establishing a Ferry and also a Ware house for the Inspection of Tobacco on the Kentucky River on the Lands of Genl. Charles Scott near the mouth of Craigs Creek In witness whereof I have hereto set my Hand this Twelfth day of Septr 1787.

Levi Todd

Endorsement on back of petition. Nov. 6. 1787—Referred to Propositions—reasonable—reported.

NUMBER 46.

To the Honble the General Assembly of Virginia

The petition of the Inhabitants of the Town of Lexington and County of Fayette most humbly sheweth

That whereas the said Town being well designed and commodiously, situated in the midst of a fertile country; and haveing met with the earliest attention and approbation of your Honorable body as will appear by the Act establishing the same, hath continued to increase in population and improvement, so that it is the most flourishing and best peopled of any at this time in the District of Kentucky.

And as we are persueded that a Strict attention to the internal police of the same, which like that of Similar bodies require perticular rules, for its regulation, would greatly contribute to the comfortable accommodation of its inhabitents; and consequently be an inducement to well disposed persons, artizans and mechanicks who from motives of convenience do prefer a Town life to come and settle among us. And believing that the true interest of our Country will be greatly promoted by such. Your Petitioners therefore Humbly pray that the Honorable the General Assembly will be pleased to take these matters into consideration, and if they should deem it expedient, pass an Act erecting the said Town into a body Corporate, with such rights and priviledges as other inland Towns which are Incorporated, within this Commonwealth have and possess, as the most effectual means of produceing those desirable ends above specefied. And your Petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray &c. [Names.]

Endorsement on back of petition: Nov. 6th. 1787.—Referred to propositions —rejd.) (repd.)

The request was granted in an act entitled, An Act concerning certain regulations in the town of Lexington and county of Fayette. Hcnings Statutes, Vol. 13, 191.

Trustees were to be elected by all living within a mile, owning twenty-five pounds of property, and having lived there six months, except negroes and mulattoes.

Trustees could erect market house, appoint clerk of market, repair streets, impose taxes under one hundred pounds, and make ordinances.

To the General Assembly of Virginia

NUMBER 47.

To the Honourable the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

We your Petitioners Sundry of the Inhabitants of the counties of Fayette Bourbon & Madison humbly sheweth, that from the late Division of the counties of Fayette & Lincoln, the remote and detach'd, situation of a number of Inhabitants on the extreame parts of the new counties conceive ourselves greatly discommoded and a large number are excluded the advantage and benefit of an easy and convenient access to the place of publick Resort, therefore the good Intension of the Legislature is not fully extended to the community in general tho a much larger expense incur'd Pray a division of that part of the counties of Fayette & Bourbon & Madison (and the court house to be fix'd, in the Town of Boonsborough) to witt Beginning at the mouth of silver creek thence up the same to the mouth of Taylors fork thereof, thence a strait line to saltpetre cave near Capt. David Gases, thence a strait line to the uper Blue Lick, thence a southeast course to Russel county line, thence with said line so far as a Northwest course will strike Bramlets lick on Stoners fork of Licking creek, thence down the same so far as a southwest course will strike the head of the main branch of Boons Creek, thence down the same to the Kentuckey River thence Down said River to the mouth of Silver Creek the Beginning—

And your Petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray &c

[Names.]

This is to inform the publick that there will be a petition presented to the next General Assembly of Virginia for a Division of part of the counties of Fayette, Bourbon & Madison to be added into one county as followeth viz—

Beginning at the mouth of Tates Creek, thence up the same to Taylors fork thereof thence a strait line to a salt petar cave near Capt. Gass's—Thence a strait line to the Blue Lick—,

thence a southeast course to Russel county line thence with said line so far as a northwest course will strike Bramblet lick on Stoners fork of Licking creek. Thence down the same so far a south west cours will strike the head branch of Boons Creek, thence down said creek to the Kentucky River, then down said River to the mouth of Silver Creek the Beginning

This was advertised two Courts at Lexington.

Levi Todd Cl

Endorsement on back of petition: Nov. 6. 1787.—Referred to propositions —reasonable—reported. See note to Petition No. 54.

NUMBER 48.

To the Honourable the Genl. Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia

The Petition of the People of Limestone; and other Inhabitants of the County of Bourbon Humbly sheweth that your Petitioners on account of their detach'd situation; subject to much danger inconvenience and expence; in having to attend their transactions of their County Business at the distance of forty miles from their habitations (for the most part surrounded with all the horrows of a Savage Enemy.)

Petitioned your Honourable house at their last Session for a division of the sd County of Bourbon; which for reasons appearing to them, they thought proper to postpone the consideration of till the present Session. That your petitioners finding the inconveniences greatly increased; and that it is to your honorable house only they are to look up for relief. Beg leave to recall your attention to their disagreeable situation; and to crave the indulgence of your honorable house in laying before you a state of their grievances.

Your Petitioners humbly observe that Twelve or fifteen miles of the way they must travil to their Courthouse is thro a Barren Country unfit for Cultivation that this aggrevates their danger as it is and may remain a secure Asylum to the Savages who infest the road, that for the most part it is unsafe to travil

it in the Summer time unless in Companies of armed men, and that in the Winter time, the journey to or from Court cannot be perform'd in much less time than two daies, And that there are several considerable & rapid water courses, which often obstructs a convenient communication with the other part of the sd County. Which renders their attendance at Court extremely expensive & inconvenient, that they are often under the indispensible obligations of attending Court being subject as they become freeholders to attend on Grand Juries & other necessary duties which as Citizens they are liable to. That from being so much expos'd to the inroads of the Savages they have not a horse left for every tenth man. Neither can they on these accounts attend their Elections, which will ever be oppressive; as it will be in the power of the Inhabitants, South of Main Licking, to send members to the Genl. Assembly; opposed to a division who may be unwilling to become advocates for our distress, or not feeling the inconvenience we labour under unable to represent them;

That your Petitioners while attending Court are obliged to leave their dearest connexions exposed to the Merciless attack of a Cruel enemy, and that the division of Fayette hath afforded them little or no relief in any of these cases, And that the Clerks office being kept almost at the extremity of the sd County. Subjects them to additional inconveniences as recourse thereat is absolutely necessary in many Cases.

Your Petitioners are duly sensible of the Inconsistancy of dividing Counties where the numbers are so few as there is at present but humbly conceive their situation to be peculiarly distressing; And that a division might be a means of speedy strengthing their frontiers whereas few will ever risk their lives & property under the present disadvantages; Your Petitioners also expect that the Erection of the district of Kentucky into an Independent State will soon take place; and that they must continue to groan under their present Burden, till a Legislative body is formed here; unless relieved by your honorable house,

this they humbly conceive to be another cause of remonstrance, and for reasons already appearing they will not have a representation in forming the Constitution, to which their property, their lives and happiness will be subject.

Your Petitioners therefore pray your honorable house to take their case into consideration, and grant them a division of the sd County of Bourbon as follows, Beginning at the mouth of Licking, runing up the main branch thereof to the head, thence a direct line to the nearest part of Russell County line, along the Russell line to Bigg Sandy, & down the same to the mouth, thence down the Ohio River to the Beginning into a distinct County. And your Petitioners as in duty Bound will ever Pray &c.

[Names.]

September the 19th 1787.

I do hereby certify that an advertisement of the within Petition was set up at the door of Bourbon Court House.

John Edward C. B. C.

NUMBER 49.

To the Honorable the General Assembly of Virginia

The petition of sundry Inhabitants of the County of Bourbon, humbly sheweth that your petitioners warned by two advertisements one from the neighborhood of Limestone, and the other from the County of Madison proposing to petition your honorable house for the devision of Bourbon County. The first to divide the County by a line running up the main fork of Licking, The other to run from the head of Boon's creek near the Kentucky river a North East course untill it strikes Stoner's fork the south branch of Licking and up the same until a south east course shall strike the Russell line. Your Petitioners beg leave to observe the division proposed from Limestone will leave this County very weak and will render both Counties (should a division take place) very deficient both as to the judiciary as well as to the military departments. They further shew that

the settlements of Limestone do not contain more than one hundred and thirty militia, nor more than one hundred and fifty Tithables, Their taxable property under the revenue law does not amount by the last return to 100 £ as strength and wealth altogether inadequate to the expences of a new County, but as inconsiderable as it is, it will greatly distress the remaining part should a division take place, we beg leave to observe the division proposed from Madison to include a part of this county will run within four miles of Bourbon courthouse, and take fifty settlers, and drag them across the Kentuckey river through clifts and hills almost impasible to the proposed courthouse at Boonsborough amoungst whome are many of your petitioners who are living near twenty miles from the proposed courthouse and within six miles of the present, Your petitioners beg leave further to observe that the good people of the present County of Bourbon is sufficiently distressed already with the payment of their County and the whole military strength of the County as it now stands doth not exceed four hundred, Therefore your petitioners hope that your honourable house sensible of the detached small Bodies of settlers in all new frontier Counties, and that it is impossible to bring the Courthouse and church to every mans door and that some individuals in all such cases ought to give up their private case for the good of the people at large untill such time as the county may populate and such division become necessary, Your petitioners therefore pray that no such division may take place at present.—And as in duty bound shall ever pray &c

[Names,]

Endorsement on back of petition: 1st. November-1787—Referred to Props. —Rejected—(reasonable in House) (bill drawn)

NUMBER 50.

To the honorable the General Assembly of Virginia

The Petition of the Trustees of the Transylvania Seminary humbly sheweth.

That the one sixth part of all legal Fees received by Surveyors, are by the Law appropriated to the University of William & Mary, a Seminary which We greatly respect but from which the Inhabitants of Kentucky are too remote to derive any immediate Advantage; And as the Legislature have repeatedly manifested their benevolent Disposition of providing the Means of Education within this district, We are induced to pray that you would be pleased to direct that the One Sixth part of the said Fees hereafter arising within the said District may be paid by the several principal surveyors therein to the Trustees of the Transylvania Seminary for the Use and Support thereof

We also beg leave to represent that many Entries and Surveys of Land have been made in the district which may become justly liable to be escheated thro' the default of Heirs or otherwise; But as it is supposed that such Lands cannot be regularly escheated before Grants have been obtained, for which no Person is authorized to apply, such Lands will lapse or become forfeited in such a way as that other private adventurers may reenter and obtain Grants for the same to the great Injury of the Transylvania Seminary, the Trustees of which are empowered to appropriate to its use twelve thousand Acres of escheatable Lands. We therefore pray that an act may pass declaring, That Claims to unpatented Lands may be escheated in the same manner and for the same Reasons as are prescribed by Law in the Case of Lands for which the Titles have been compleated, and that it may be particularly directed, how & by whom such escheatable Lands may be surveyed, or the surveys returned to the Register's office so that a proper Grant may issue.

And your Petitioners shall ever pray &c
Signed by order & in Presence of the Board—
Test: Harry Innes Ck.
Ebenezer Brooks, Clk.

Endorsement on baek of petition: 22d. November 1787.—Referred to Propositions—Survey's fees rejected—eseheatable survey's rejd.—(repd.)

NUMBER 51.

To the honorable the Speaker and members of the house of Delegates,

the petition of Sundry inhabitants of the County of Fayette and District of Kentucky humbly sheweth,

That from their local situation, they find it very inconvenient, and attended with considerable expence, to send their Tobacco to any of the warehouses for the reception of Tobacco, now by Law established, and that there is a place on the Lands of William Steele near the mouth of the Stone Lick Creek, where a warehouse might be established, which would be very advantagious to them and to many of their neighbours, and where there is one of the most convenient landing places on the river Kentucky.—

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that an act may pass by the Assembly, establishing a warehouse for the reception of Tobacco, on the lands of William Steele near where the Stone Lick Creek emptys into the Kentucky: And your petitioners as in Duty bound shall pray—

[Names.]

Fayette County Virginia to wit

I do certify that it was advertised at two different Court days at the Door of the Courthouse in the County aforesaid that a petition would be presented to the next General Assembly agreeable to the purport of the within Witness my hand this 10th Sept. 1788—

Levi Todd Cl

Endorsement on back of petition: 23 October—Referred to propositions—(reasonable) (repd.)

NUMBER 52.

To the honourable the General Assembly of Virginia

The petition of the subscribers Inhabitants of Fayette County humbly sheweth that we conceive a Division of our County would be highly condusive to the convenience, safety & public Interest of a great Number of its Inhabitants.

Many of our Magistrates as well as litigants live so remote from Lexington where our Courts are held that they cannot attend without Incuring a greater expense than they can sustain & from the great Number of Inhabitants in the . . . County our Docket which is already crouded must shortly be so far in arrears as greatly to Delay the due administration of Justice.

Our Militia have been formed into three Batalions and before the Division we wish for can take place there will probably be more than four which in our scattered situation prevents us from exerting our strength against the savages with the same unanimity & vigour as if the extent of the County was less and our Commanding officers more contiguous to each other

We beg leave also to present that our County contains three times the Number of Inhabitants as any other County within the District and unless it is Divided it will destroy every idea of equality in representation.

For these Reasons we humbly pray that the County of Fayette may be Divided by a line to begin on the Kentuckey River at Todds Ferry to run a direct course to the south Fork of Elkhorn opposite Abraham Bowmans house thence down the Creek to the old Road from Lexington to the surveyers office thence a Direct line to the five mile tree on the Leestown Road thence a straight line to Run one mile below Wm. Russells to the line of Bourbon.

N B since our advertisement we are inform'd the Division line propos'd is disagreeable to some of the Inhabitants of our County unless the following alteration is made (viz) From Todds

Ferry to run a straight line to the six mile marked tree on the Leestown Road thence a direct course to cross North Elkhorn three miles below Wm. Russells to the line of Bourbon which alteration we have no objection to if the Honourable Assembly think proper to redress our grievances

And your petitioners shall ever pray—

[Names.]

We the Subscribers do certify that the proposd alteration in regard to the Division of Fayette viz. From Todds Ferry to run a straight line to the six mile markt Tree on the Lees Town Road thence a Direct course to cross North Elkhorn three miles below William Russells to the Bourbon Line, that we think the Division reasonable and necessary and that we wish our Delegates to use their endeavours to carry the same into Execution.

Septr 17th 1788—

Robt Todd
Robt. Johnson
Wm. McConnell
Richd Young
Andrew Gatewood
Lewis Craig
Wm. Henry
Benjn Craig
Jn. Clark
Richd W Shippy
Laban Shippy
Colby Shippy

This is to certify that I was aganst the first proposed division of Fayatte & had signd a petetion against the proposed plan but I am now willing that the county may be devd agreeable to the above direction, which I think reasonable & wish the above Devision to be granted as witness my Hand this 18th of Sepr 1788—

Edwd. Payne.

Fayette Sct.

Coleby Ship of this County made oath before me one of the Justices of said County that he saw publickly advertized at the Court house of the aforesaid County at August Court the Division of Fayatte as set forth in the petition for that purpose and that he personally applyd to Levi Todd Clerk of sd county Court for a certificate of the same and that he refused to give one, application was made this day

Sworn to before me this 22d day of Sepr 1788

Richd Young

Endorsement on back of petition. 24 October, 1788.—Referred to props—(rejected) (reasonable)

Request was granted in an act entitled, An Act for dividing the county of Fayette into two distinct counties. Henings Statutes, Vol. 12, 663.
Woodford County.

NUMBER 53.

To the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia—

The petition of Sundry Inhabitants of the County of Fayette, humbly sheweth—

That your petitioners deeply interested in the welfare of their County, cannot but express their disapprobation of the artifices made use of by Individuals, to bring about a division of their County, and would suggest the impropriety of entering upon this business circumstanced as our District is with respect to the State of Virginia—

They conceive the proposed division highly improper at this period, as the infancy of their County, renders it entirely unecessary and as their numbers are too inconsiderable to enable them, to accumulate expense, without adding either to their convenience or general welfare—

They would therefore hope, that your Honble. House would not assent to the division of their County at this period—And as they conceive it unecessary to detail the reasons in opposition

to the division beg leave to refer your Honb. House to the Delegates from their County—

[Names.]

Endorsement on back of petition. 24th October 1788—Referred to Propositions—reasonable—rejected.

NUMBER 54.

To the Honourable the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Delegates.

The petition of Sundry inhabitants of the County of Bourbon; humbly sheweth. That your Petitioners heard with great concern the rejectment of their petition to your last session for a Division of their County. Your petitioners are induced again from the hardships and disadvantages they labour under to approach your honourable house; and to lay before you the grievances they labour under; by being connected with the County of Bourbon. (viz) your petitioners live in the Limestone settlements near the Ohio River and are detached from every other Inhabitant of said County—at least thirty miles, except a small settlement at the Blue Licks, they have forty miles to Court, thirty of which is thro, a verry dangerous Wilderness exposed in every part to the attacks of the savages and there are four large Creeks to Cross; which in all rainey Seasons are not fordable.

These things it is hoped will be sufficient inducements to your honourable house to Grant to your petitioners a division of their County; especially also; When your honourable house is informed that the settlements near Limestone are lately greatly increased by a number of respectable Inhabitants; so that there are now Two hundred and six Families & three hundred and fifty Tithables; and as Limestone is the inlet for Emigration by Water to this Western Country; there is a prospect of the settlements being rapidly increased and largely extended which will be greatly promoted by your honourable

house granting to your petitioners the priviledges and authority of a County. We your petitioners therefore pray that a division of sd County of Bourbon may be made in the following manner—Beginning at the Junction of Licking with the Ohio runing up the main branch of Licking to the head, then a direct course to strike the nearest part of Russell County line, thence along said line to Bigg Sandy, and down the same to the Ohio River, thence down the Ohio River to the Beginning—all which part of said County lying on the North side of the main branch of Licking—to be a New and distinct County—

In full confidence that your honourable House will do us every act of Justice; We as in duty bound shall ever pray &c.

[Names.]

Bourbon County

I do hereby certify that I have the above petition for the Division of Bourbon was advertised according to Law
Test John Edwards Clerk of Bourbon.

This will notify the publick that a petition will be presented to the next general assembly for the purpose of forming a New County out of the Counties of Bourbon, Fayette and Madison, Viz, Begining at the mouth of Silver Creek, thence up the same to the mouth of Taylors Fork thereof, thence a direct line, to a saltpeter Cave, near Capt. David Gasses thence a strait line to the Blue Licks, thence a South East Course to Russell County line, thence with said line so far as North West Course, will strike Bramlets lick, on Stoners forks of licking Creek, thence a strait line to the head of the main Branch of Boons Creek thence down the same to the Kentuckey River thence down the River to the Beginning:—

August the 25th 1787 I do hereby Certify that this advertisement have been set up according to Law at Bourbon [Court] House.

John Edward Clerk Bourbon Co.

August the 28th 1787 I do certify that the within has been advertised as the Law directs.

Will Irvine Clk, M C

Endorsement on back of petition: 25 Octo. 1788.—Refd. to Props.—For a Division—repd.

The request was granted in an act entitled, An Act for dividing Bourbon. Henings Statutes, Vol. 12, 658. Mason County.

The last two paragraphs were filed with this petition but belong to No. 47.

NUMBER 55.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

The petition of Sundry Inhabitants of Bourbon County South of Main Licking Humbly sheweth—That your petitioners being notified by an advertisement at the Court House Door that a petition would be presented to your Honourable House praying for a Division of Bourbon County by Main Licking beg leave to observe that a petition of this Kind was rejected at your Last Session as your petitioners are informed for the want of a sufficient number in that part of the County praying a Division your petitioners can affirm with confidance that the number of Titles North of Main Licking does not by the Last return amount to more than One Hundred and Seventy a number altogether inadequate to the Expence of a County and your petitioners cannot but express their astonishment when they find a clause in their petition praying that the monies paid by them for erecting the Public Buildings in the County should be repaid by your Petitioners this part of their petitions is as unreasonable as the other part is designing the whole calculated to gratify the ambition & averice of a few Individuals; Your Petitioners therefore pray that no such Devision may be granted. but should a Division be thought reasonable that your petitioners may not be obliged to refund any money paid toward erecting the public buildings & Your petitioners shall ever pray &c.

[Names.]

Endorsement on back of petition: 25th Octo. 1788—Referred to props.—rejected.

NUMBER 56.

To the Honorable the General Assembly of Virginia—

The Petition of Sundry Inhabitants of the county of Bourbon Humbly sheweth that Every other county in the District of Kentucky have been indulged with the advantages of Publick warehouses for the reception of Tobacco and that your Petitioners living near the Courthouse & on Licking Creek in the most populous part of said County—too far remote from either of the other—Inspections to remove their Tobacco by Land without much labour and Expence. and your petitioners fully sensible of the disposition of your Honorable House to do Justice & upon all occations to afford relief to such of the community as you conceive is intitled to your patronage we your petitioners therefore pray that an inspection for the reception of Tobacco may be established on the South fork of Licking Creek at the Confluence of Stoner and Hinksons forks of said Creek and in the fork near Isaac Ruddles Mill which your petitioners conceive will be of great publick utility and of singular advantage to them provided the article of Tobacco should continue to be of value and your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray

[Names.]

July 1788 I do hereby certify that the within Petition has been legally advertised at the Door of the Courthouse the several days required by Law given under my hand.—

John Edwards Clerk Bourbon County

Endorsement on back of petition: 25th Octo. 1788. Referred to propositions —reasonable—on Isaac Ruddles land—(repd.)

The request was granted in an act entitled, An Act for establishing an inspection of tobacco on the lands of Isaac Ruddle, in the county of Bourbon. Henings Statutes, Vol. 12, 677.

According to this act it was not lawful to build houses within fifty yards, in which fire was to be used.

NUMBER 57.

To the Honourable the General Assembly

A petition for Establishment of the Town of Bourbon Courthouse [One of several papers circulated.]

[Names.]

I do hereby certify that a petition for the Establishment of a Town at Bourbon Courthouse was advertised at said courthouse according to Law

Test John Edwards Clerk Bourbon County Court

September 2d 1789 John Edwards

NUMBER 58.

To the Honourable the General Assembly of Virginia.—

The petition of sundry inhabitants of the District of Kentucky Humbly sheweth.—That whereas in consequence of an act of the legislature in their session of Octr 1788 intitled an act concerning the erection of the District of Kentucky into an independant State: a convention met at Danville under the strongest conviction as your petitioners conceive that it was not the will of the good people of said District that the same should be erected into an independant state: and we are pursuaded that to have voted the same in the affirmitive would have been too glareing a violation of the trust reposed in them when brought into contrast with their avowed sentiments previous to their election; Notwithstanding which they have petitioned your Honourable body to make certain amendments to the terms proposed in the late act of separation. Your petitioners therefore beg leave to suggest that although the objects complained of, might greatly injure a fiew of the sons of liberty yet their amendments can be of no importance to an independant sovereignty. Your petitioners further beg leave to express their apprehentions (which is) that the smallest alteration may be thought sufficient to santify the prosecution of a separation after cloaking their designs with a ficticious

zeal for the public good, should the present convention be continued, to consider the same: Your petitioners beg leave further to observe that as no special powers were given the convention to sue for terms; but only to determine on the expediency of said separation on the terms in said act contained therefore the evasion of said determination has tacitly confirmed that truth, which your petitioners and the good people in General both wished, and expected to have been declared, in positive terms.—Your petitioners therefore conceiving that an augmentation of states under the general Government, by the erection of a new Government here, which will be clothed with no national power and which will only serve as one of Pharos lean kine to devour our liberty, whilst it can be of no security to our property, Therefore your petitioners in full faith, hope and confidence request that the general Government will secure everything which the most sanguine can desire: and that a separation may injoure us until time shall be no more do pray that the tacit acknowledgement of said convention be confirmed and the will of the people be established by a repeal of the separation Act: and your petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray &c.—

[Names.]

No endorsement appears on the back, but the request is based on an act entitled, An Act concerning the erection of the district of Kentucky into an independent state. Henings Statutes, Vol. 12, 788.

The Convention provided for previously had been hindered from meeting and another had been provided for in August of 1787, according to an act entitled, An Act making further provision for the erection of the district into an independent State. Henings Statutes, Vol. 12, 240.

NUMBER 59.

To the honourable the General Assembly of Virginia,

The Memorial of the Subscribers respectfully represents,

That notwithstanding the attention of the two last Assemblies to the support of the Supreme Court for the District of Kentucky, their favourable designs are like to be frustrated.

To the General Assembly of Virginia

By the late Laws appointing Commissioners to settle and adjust certain Claims in that District, the Certificates granted by them are made receivable in discharge of any of the Taxes which should afterwards become due therein: and this privilege is supposed by many still to extend to all or to most of the Taxes which since have been appropriated to the payment of the Salaries of the officers of the said Court. This will probably give rise to tedious litigations between the Collector of these Taxes and those from whom they are due; and in the meantime the officers of the Court will be obliged to sell their Certificates at a large discount, or at still greater loss and delay apply to the Treasury at Richmond for payment. Therefore we hope, that on this representation, the intention of the Legislature in the Case will be more explicitly declared; and that all the Taxes for which the several Clerks in the District are accountable may be either made payable in Specie only, or that some other fund may be established for defraying the Expences of the said Court.

And your Memorialists shall ever pray &c.

George Muter.
Saml. McDowell
Caleb Wallace
Harry Innes

Endorsement on back of petition: Petition referred to Courts of Justice—22d. October 1789—Reasonable—Law of 1786 to be amended—Reported.

The request was granted in an act entitled, An Act to amend the Acts for appointing Commissioners to liquidate and settle the expenses incurred in two expeditions, carried on from Kentucky district against the neighboring Indians and for other purposes. "Be it enacted," etc. Henings Statutes, Vol. 13, 2. "That from and after the passing of this act the tax on law process and alienations and also the tax on tobacco receivable within the district of Kentucky, shall be paid and accounted for in specie only, any law to the contrary notwithstanding."

This was to take the place of certificates issued by the Commissioners.

NUMBER 60.

To the Honorable the General Assembly of Virginia.

The Petition of a number of Inhabitants of the District of Kentucky, humbly sheweth;

That whereas a very great expence and inconvenience attends the sitting of the Supreme Court only at one place in this District, the greater part of which expences and inconveniences may be obviated by appointing additional places for holding the said Court: We therefore pray your Honorable body to take the same into your serious consideration, and should you in your wisdom think our prayer reasonable, that you appoint the two following places in addition to the former (to wit,) the one at Lexington, in the County of Fayette, and the other at Baird's Town, in the County of Nelson; and we as in duty bound shall ever pray &c.

[Names.]

[There are about fifteen or twenty printed sheets with the above paragraph on them, and each one of them has a number of names on it—over eight hundred in all.]

Endorsement on back of petition: Referred to Props.

Danville Augt

Sirs

Agreeable to your request I herewith give you a Statemt. of the business in the Supreme Court as it will stand at the ensuing September Term.—together with some past statemts concerning Wits attendance

State of the Docket to Septr

Caveats now on the Court Dock (of which 82 have been upwards of 4 yrs depending)	Amt 96

N B near one half of these depend on the priority of Location. Specialty of Entry or written agreements which will require few or no Witnesses.—

Chancery causes for hearing 23
Chancery References & apprs. on the Rule Dockett 132
Common Law Issues 146
New Issues & References &c on Rules 140

NB. of the above 286—there's about 139 for Debt which do not require Witnesses 90 in Case of which 11 are for Slander—21 for Batteries & the residue are for breach of Covt Detinues, Trespaser & Ejectmts—

Pleas of the Commonwealth 13

An Acct. of Witnesses attendance for 1789—

March Term 18 days No of Wits	90	1300	50
June Term 24 days	109	400	50

NB More Witnesses Attende entered these Courts [than] were entered in any two courts before

State of the office

There is lodged in the present office of the Supreme Court, Books containing the copies of all the Entries for Settlements & preemptions granted by the commissioners of the Kentucky District and that promiscously as they were entered without regard to County

There is lodged in the same office 5637 entries from the county surveyors pursuant to a late law—Also I am well informed that the surveyor of Jefferson has copied all the old Kentucky entries to be lodged as the said Act directs

Four large blank Books lately procured by the clerk for the use of the sd Court & not immediately wanted

NUMBER 61.

TO THE HONORABLE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA.

The Petition of the Subscriber humbly sheweth, That in the year 1787 Your petitioner removed from the State of

Maryland into the District of Kentucky and brought with him a few Negro Slaves; but doth most solemnly aver that he never was informed, or heard that it behooved him to take any oath concerning the importation of his Negroes into the State of Virginia until sometime in May in the present year 1789, when he was informed that by neglecting to take the Oath prescribed by law his Negroes were entitled to freedom, and himself liable to heavy penalties; and that then it was too late even to avail himself of the indulgences granted by an Act of the last Session of Assembly to persons in his situation: He was also informed that the Plea of Ignorance would be of no Avail in a Court of Justice: and that his only prospect of relief was from the Legislature. For those who have neither education nor leisure to enable them to be acquainted with the Laws of their Country, their only prospect for impunity is an honest inoffensive deportment; and in the prospect of absolute ruin, it is some Consolations that their misfortune does not arise from any wilful fault or neglect. But your petitioner conceives his case to be peculiarly hard, as the ruin with which he is threatened will be produced by Laws which it cannot be supposed he was acquainted with before he became a Citizen; and during the short period he has been in the State, it has required his most vigorous exertions to procure Shelter and Sustenance for a numerous Family, and in the meantime he has been necessarily secluded from the opportunities of information. Therefore your petitioner hopes and prays that the peculiarity of his situation may be taken into Consideration, and such relief granted as will secure to him the possession of the hard earnings of many Years industry, and deliver his beloved Wife and Children from that povorty which otherwise will be unavoidable.

And as in duty bound he will ever pray &c.

Benjamin Stevenson.

To the General Assembly of Virginia

District of Kentucky, August 1789—

At the request of Mr Benjamin Stevenson, the Subscriber to the within Petition, We certify—That since he came into this Country we are well assured he has supported Character of a good Citizen;—That he has applied himself with great diligence in building, clearing, and farming on a small tract of Land on which he has settled:—And that from his established veracity, as well as from the circumstances of the case, we verily believe the Allegations of his Petition to be strictly true.

[Names.]

Endorsement on back of petition: October 28th. 1789—Refd. to Courts of Justice.

The procedure regarding slaves referred to in the petition is found in an act entitled, An Act concerning the importation of slaves into the District of Kentucky. Henings Statutes, Vol. 12, 713.

"Whereas many persons who have removed from some other parts of the U. S. into the District of Kentucky and have become citizens of this Commonwealth, have failed within ten days after their removal into the same to take the oath or oaths, prescribed by two acts of assembly, the one intituled 'An act for preventing the further importation of slaves,' the other intituled, 'an Act concerning slaves to be taken on the importation of the same,' Although they might with great truth have taken the oaths; and whereas such failure hath been chiefly if not altogether, owing to the impracticability of complying with the said acts, Be it enacted," etc. Henings Statutes, Vol. 12, 713.

The act provides that those already removed may take the oath on or before May 1st. and those going to Kentucky after the act shall take the oath within sixty days. The act is not to affect the right of a slave to freedom when so entitled.

NUMBER 62.

To the Honourable the Virginia Assembly

the petition of the Inhabitants of Bourbon County Humbly Sheweth that the Land whereon our present Courthouse now stands to the amount of two hundred & fifty acres is laid off in Lotts by the Propriator, for the purpose of setling a Town which Lotts are principly bought up by those who are now living on & improving them and have erected a number of very convenient buildings—on sd Lotts we your petitioners conceiving it realy necessary that sd Town be established by Law pray your Honorable body that a Law pass for the establishment of a Town agreeable to the manner the Lotts are

now laid off and that Trustee be appointed for the purpose of suprintending & Regulating of the Building of sd Town and in duty Bound we pray—

[Names.]

Endorsement on back of petition. Octo. 28th. 1789.—Refd. to props. (reasonable) (repd.)

The request was granted in an act entitled, An Act to establish a town in each of the counties of Madison, Albemarle, and Bourbon. Henings Statutes, Vol. 13, 87.

The town for Madison was Milford, and for Bourbon it was Hopewell.

The trustees were Notley Conn, Charles Smith, Jr., John Edwards, James Garrard, Edward Waller, Thomas West, James Lanier, James Little, and James Duncan.

NUMBER 63.

TO THE HONORABLE THE SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

The Petition of sundry of the Inhabitants on the North side of the River in the district of Kentucky Humbly begs leave to Represent; that they experience many dificulties in carrying their Tobacco to the Warehouses already establish'd by Law at Jacks Creek on the South side of the River Kentucky and at the mouth of Hickmans Creek, owing to the danger of discending the cliffs, the badness of the Roads and the Risque of crossing the River. That there is a Comodious and conveniant place for an Inspection below the mouth of Tate Creek on the Lands of Michael [Bedinger] & nearly where the Main Road leads by an easy, and safe discent down the Hill to the said River of Kentucky

We your Petitioners therefore pray, that you would be pleased in consideration of the Premisses to pass a Law, establishing a Warehouse on the Lands of the said Michl Bedinger about three fourths of a mile below the mouth of the aforesaid Tates Creek, under such Regulations and Restrictions, as you, in your Wisdom may deem fit and Proper.

And your Petitioners as in duty bound, will ever pray &c

[Names.]

Endorsement on back of petition: 2nd. Novr. 1789.—Refd, to Props—Nov. 4th. 1789—Props discharged.

To the General Assembly of Virginia

NUMBER 64.

TO THE HONORABLE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

The petition of Sundry Inhabitants of the District of Kentucky humbly sheweth that your petitioners are much surprised to find many petitions in circulation and which we apprehend will be presented to your Honorable house prayg the Establishment of a number of Inspections of Tobacco on the Kentucky River Exclusive of those already Established and we conceive the principles of said petitions is founded on neither Justices or good policy; but wholy Calculated for the Interest & Convenience of a few Individuals because the Kentucky River is so inclosed with Hills & pricepeces [precipices] that it is in very few places that any kind of access can be had to said River or situations for public buildings your petitioners humbly pray that the said petitions may be rejected and that your Honorable house will vest a power in the Supreme or County Courts within the said District to Establish Inspection of Tobacco by appointing Disinterested free holders as Commissioners to view the different places proposed, and that not more than two shall be established in any one County & those where it is most Conveniant for the people in General as your petitioners humbly conceive that more than two will be injurious and . . . [torn off] because we are not able to build the necessary houses and furnish weights and scails for a greater number and a greater number will Certainly devid [divide] the attention of the people so that they must fall and your petitioners will ever pray &c.

[Names.]

Endorsement on back of petition: 3d. Novr. 1789—Refd. to Props. (reasl.) (repd.)

NUMBER 65.

To the Honourable General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia—

The Petition of us the subscribers of the Counties of Fayette and Bourbon whom it doth concern humbly sheweth, That your petitioners conceive it to be expedient and necessary that the upper parts of Fayette and Bourbon Counties be struck off, for the purpose of forming a new County, in the following manner (to wit) Beginning at the mouth of Boones Creek, and running up said Creek to the mouth of Bogg's fork, thence a Direct line to the Junction of Welch's fork, with the main fork, known also by the name of Robinson's fork of said Creek; thence up said Welch's fork and the longest branch thereof to the head; thence a direct line to strike Mason County line one mile below the upper Blue licks on main Licking Creek; thence with said Mason County line to Madison County line; thence with said Madison County line to the beginning which Division we conceive wou'd be very advantageous to the Inhabitants of the proposed new County, and not disadvantageous to the Counties of Fayette and Bourbon, we therefore Request that you will grant the prayer of our Petition, and your petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray &c

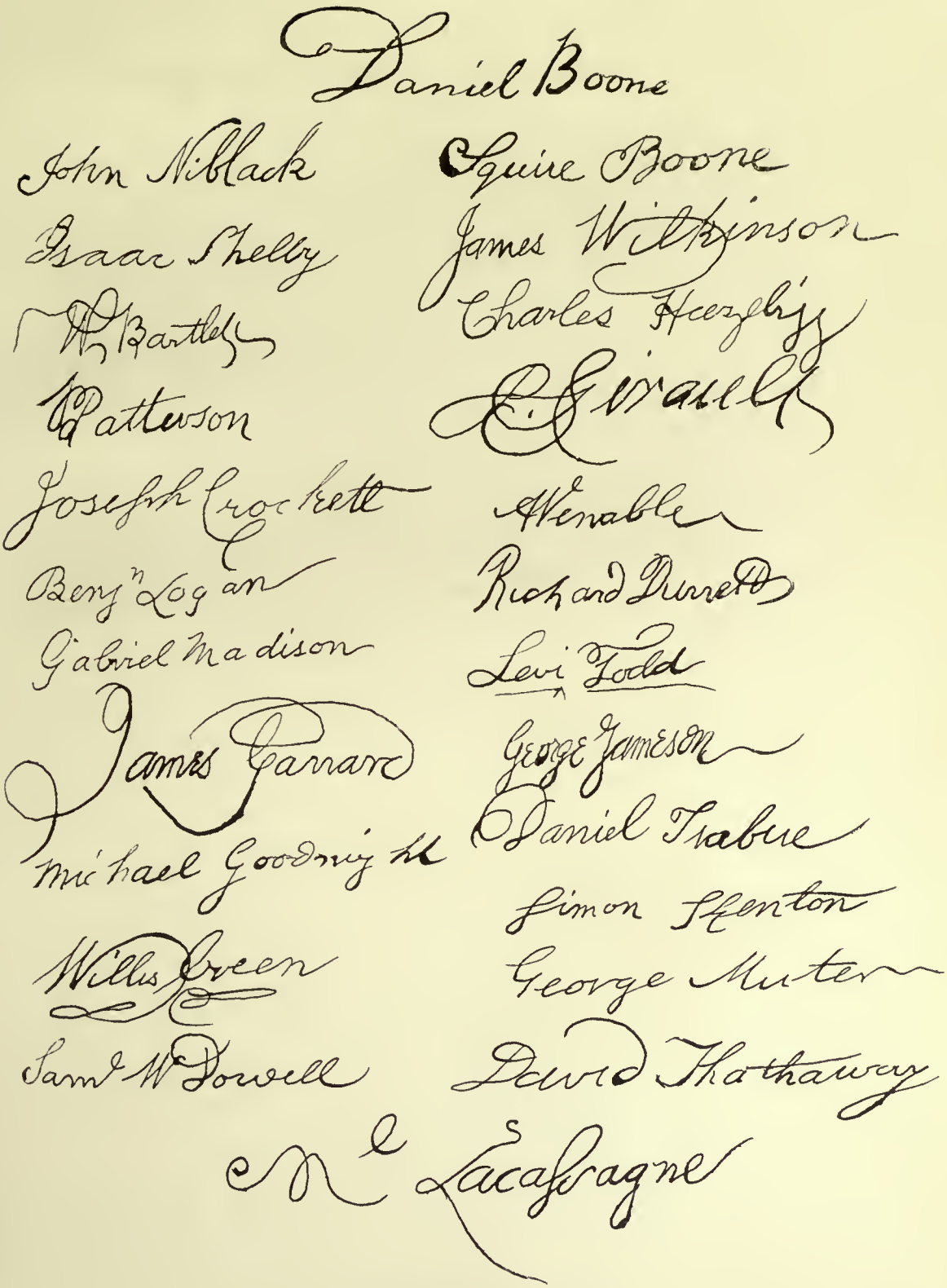
[Names.]

I do certify that notice of the same purport of the within was publickly set up at two different Courts previous to September Court in the present year at the Court house in Bourbon County Given under my hand this 8th day of Septr. 1789.

John Edwards C B C

I do certify that Notice of the same purport of the within was publickly set up at two different Courts previous to September Court in the present year at the Courthouse in Fayette County Given under my hand this 8th day of Sept. 1789.

Levi Todd Cl. Co. F.



FACSIMILE SIGNATURES

Tracings made from characteristic signatures found on the petitions herein printed

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To the General Assembly of Virginia

Notice is hereby given that a Petition will be presented to the next General Assembly, praying that the upper parts of the Counties of Fayette and Bourbon be struck off, for the purpose of forming a new County in the following manner (to wit) Beginning at the mouth of Boones Creek and running up the same to the mouth of Boggs fork thence a direct line to the Junction of Welch's fork with the main fork, known by the name of the middle fork of said Creek; thence up said Welch's fork and the longest branch thereof to the head, thence a direct line to strike Mason County line one mile below the upper blue Licks on main Licking Creek, thence with said Mason County line to Madison County line, thence with said Madison County line to the beginning.

Endorsement on back of petition: 6th Novr. 1789—Refd. to Props.—Rejeeted.

There are five copies of this petition cireulated in different plaees.

NUMBER 66.

To the Honorable the Speaker and General Assembly of Virginia

the petition of Sundry inhabitants of the County of Bourbon humbly sheweth that a petition for the Division of said county is to be presented to the General Assembly at their next setting contrary to the wishes of the majority of the inhabitants of said County, but being earnestly pressed by a few settlers in the upper end of Fayatte whose views can be no other than pecuniary ones which is proved by naming themselves for certain offices. They have prevailed upon a few scattered setlers in the upper end of this County who is amused with having the Courthouse among them; The amount of whom does not exceed one Militia Company amongst whom together with the inhabitants of said intended County in the upper end of Fayatte few or none have been found qualified for the office of civil or other department. The Line intended by said petition will destroy the very center of the now county of Bourbon

and cause a removal of the Court house, as it will not run more than six Miles from the same and on that side which the body and extent of Good Land lies, the Two other sides is barred by the line of Fayatte and Hills unfit for cultivation, The setlers in this county so much injured by their detached situation is not almost above Sixteen or Seventeen Miles from the Courthouse and those who are so amazingly anxious for a County in Fayatte are from about twelve to Eighteen Miles from that Court house—Now your petitioners would inform your honorable house that the only thing they can urge in favour of the Division is that Mr Jacob Moyers is forming a setlement on State Creek twenty four miles from the upper settlement where it is said he intends erecting Iron works and there is still an extent of country above that place after the population of which your honorable house may decide with propriety with respect to the bounds of said Counties and leave each in possession of a number of men sufficient to administer Justice to the Citizens thereof—and your Petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray &c.

[Names.]

Endorsement on back of petition: 6th. Novr. 1789—Refd to Props.

NUMBER 67.

The petition of Sundry Inhabitants of The County of Fayette in the district of Kentucky humbly beg leave to Represent, that from their remote situation they experience many Inconveniences on getting their Tobacco to the Different Warehouses Established by Law, Oweing to the Badness of the roads and the difficulty in descending the Clifts down to the river Kentucky on which the said Warehouses are already established; that there is a commodious and convenient Place for an Inspection on the Land of Eli Cleaveland Gentleman on the said river Kentucky, to which an Exceeding good road may

be made and an easy and safe descent down the Clifts to the river.

Your Petitioners therefore pray that you would be pleased in consideration of the premisses to pass a Law Establishing a Warehouse on the Lands of the aforesaid Eli Cleaveland gentn. on the said river . . . and in your Wisdom may deem fit and proper.

And your Petitioners as in Duty bound will ever pray &c.

[Names.]

NUMBER 68.

To the Honorable the Speaker & House of Delegates of Virginia.

The petition of the Inhabitants of the Town of Louisville, humbly sheweth.

That your petitioners, from the Number of Difficulties which the Settling of a new Country must unavoidably expose people to, from the savage Incursions, from the Want of materials and more particularly from the very great scarcity of Species, have hitherto been prevented from making the Improvements, as required by an act of your Honble House, on their several lots in the said Town of Louisville; your petitioners cannot but acknowledge your kind Indulgence in giving them Time still to make the necessary Improvements; which Time will expire on Jany next, we therefore humbly pray That you will farther extend your kindness to us and give us the farther Time of three years from the Expiration of the former act, to make such Improvements.

Your petitioners also beg leave to observe, that they are very much aggrieved by the appointment of new Trustees instead of the former ones in Louisville. That the present Trustees are Gent, who reside some distance from the Town and that very few of them have any Interest in lots therein. Which in the opinion of yr petrs occasions a very great Inattention in them to the Business of the Town. That there are

numbers who are in want of Deeds for their lots, which they cant obtain by Reason of the present Trustees not attending,— Your petrs also think that the Town & its Interests wou'd be much better regulated by men who live in it.—We therefore humbly pray that an act may pass appointing such men as you in your wisdom shall approve, (who reside in Louisville) to be and act as Trustees to said Town, to all Intents & purposes instead of the Gent last appointed.—

[Names.]

Jefferson County Sct.

I William Johnston clerk of said county do hereby certify, that notice hath been twice publickly set up at the Court House Door of said County, on two several Court days, previous to this date, of the within petition's being to be presented to next Genl. Assembly of Virginia. Given under my Hand & seal August 25 1789.

Will. Johnston (seal)

Endorsement on back of petition: Nov. 12th. 1789—Refd. to Props.—further time to improve—reasonable—Present Trustees to be displaced—Rejected—Additional Trustees to be added—any to act.

The request was granted in an act entitled, An Act for appointing trustees to the town of Romney and for adding trustees to the town of Louisville in the county of Jefferson. Henings Statutes, Vol. 13, 90.

Trustees: Buckner Thruston, James Wilkinson, Michael Lacassange, Alexander Scott Bullitt, Benjamin Sebastian, James Felty, Jacob Reager, James Patten, Samuel Kirby, Benjamin Erickson, and Benjamin Johnson.

NUMBER 69.

To the Honourable the General Assembly of Virginia.

The petition of Sundry inhabitants of Kentucky Humbly sheweth that whereas petitions are handed about for Subscribers, seting forth their desire to have the Seat of the Supreme Court for the District of Kentucky removed, from the place where it is now held, to some other part of the said District & also others to have the business carried on by District Courts—

your petitioners conceive it their duty to lay before your Honourable body the Reason upon which they found their dislike of both measures—being convinced that if they have any weight, you will not Grant such a removal or such division of the business of this District,

Your petitioners will observe that Kentucky is settled now *Generally speaking* in two lines one from North to South about ninty miles, & another from the Extremity of that Line west about the same Distance, that the point of that angle, is the place where the Court is now held—That Removing it either to Lexington or Bairds [Bards] Town as proposed, a distance from Danville between thirty and forty miles, will subject the setlers of one of those corners, to travil that distance in order to favour with the same distance the setlers of the other Extremity, which partiality your petitioners, hope you will not countenance—

Your petitioners will further add that they do not think it at present a proper time to remove the Seat of the Court, as it would force us to Expences for the new buildings, & that a most Rigid plan of Economy suits best our present circumstances.—

This last mentioned Reason for not allowing the removal of the Supreme Court to any other place will stand still better for not allowing three buildings in lieu of one, in case District Courts should be granted—

it is thought that those Governments are best who employ fewer officers, but the Creating District Courts will necessarily increase that number—

there is another Evil attending any alteration of that kind, which your petitioners beg leave to mention—the books of commissioners for settlement & previous Rights, those of Entries with the diferent surveyors are lodged with the present court—in case you Grant District Courts, copies of those books, must be had at a very great Expence & loss of time & business must Stagnate & have an End

Your petitioners know full well the ostensible pretence of those other petitioners is to make it more convenient to the parties concerned, & their Witnesses, but that pretence are far from being founded on truth, as the Constant Removals [of] our Setlers make it to them one day more Disadvantageous & the next more convenient.—

We see with pain that the . . . of those petitions Grumble at the Distance which they must travil, when several of the Districts of this Commonwealth contain no more square miles than the settled parts of Kentucky do at present with more anxiety we observe that the consequence of District Courts, in lieu of expediting business will effectually retard it by double the time which is now required to obtain redress and what will humanity feel when it is considered that in Criminal Causes it Lengthens doubly the dreadfull punishment of a . . . in a country where the Laws show indulgence to the very Culprit who has infringed them—as your Honble body is to take a full view of the community at large & promote the greatest good possible to the greatest number,

Your petitioners hope, that you will not Grant those petitions, which tend only to favour a very small portion of this District, at the Expence of the far greater number & they shall ever pray &c.

Endorsement on back of petition: Novr. 14th 1789—Refd to Props.

The request was granted in an act entitled, An Act for further amending the act establishing a Supreme Court in Kentucky District. Henings Statutes, Vol. 13, 66.

By this act the power of the receiver was increased. He had joint authority with the auditor and treasurer to settle with sheriffs. Taxes were to be payable in any article receivable in other parts of the Commonwealth, and also in certificates granted by the Commissioners for service against the Indians. There were to be three sessions of the Supreme Court.

To the General Assembly of Virginia

NUMBER 70.

To the honorable the general Assembly

The petition of William McKenzie humbly sheweth: that by an act of the legislature of this commonwealth, certain lands in the district of Kentucky belonging to Robert McKenzie were confiscated and granted to a public school: That your petitioner is the nearest in blood to the said Robert; and being informed that your honorable body have always shewn a readiness to give the value of all confiscated property to the next in succession, your petitioner prays, that such value may be allowed to him.

And as in duty bound he will ever pray &c. &c.

Extract of Law—

Whereas it is represented to the General Assembly, that there are certain lands, within the County of Kentucky formerly belonging to british subjects, not yet sold under the law of escheats and forfeitures, which might at a future day be a valuable fund for the maintenance and education of youth; and it being the interest of this common wealth always to promote and encourage every design which may tend to the improvement of the mind and the diffusion of useful knowledge, even among its most remote citizens, whose situation a barbarous neighborhood and a savage intercourse might otherwise render unfriendly to science: Be it therefore enacted that eight thousand acres of land within the said county of Kentucky, late the property of Robt. McKensie, Henry Collins, and Alexd McKie, be, and the same are hereby vested in Wm. Fleming, Wm. Christian, John Todd, Stephen Trigg, Benjamin Logan, John Floyd, John May, Levi Todd, John Cowan, Geo. Meriwether, John Cobbs, Geo. Thompson, and Edmund Taylor, trustees as a free donation from this Commonwealth for the purpose of a publick school, or seminary of learning, to be erected within the said county as soon as the circum-

stances of the County and the state of its funds will admit, and for no other use or purpose what so ever: Saving and reserving to the said Robert McKensie, Henry Collins, and Alexd. McKie, and of every of them, and all and every person or persons claiming under them, or either of them all right and interest to the above mentioned lands, or any part thereof to which they may be by law entitled and of which they shall in due time avail themselves, any thing herein contained to the Contrary notwithstanding. . . .

The Land Bounded as followeth—On the South side of the Ohio 8 miles above the Falls, on the upper side of the mouth of Harrods Creek—3000 acres.

Endorsement on back of petition: 16 Novr. 1789.—Refd. to Courts of Justiec —Reasonable.

NUMBER 71.

To the honorable the general Assembly of Virginia.

The petition of Anne Craig humbly sheweth:

That a certain James Douglass, now deceased, put his only daughter, Jessy Douglass, to board with your petitioner, and promised to make her ample compensation for the same: that she continued with your petitioner for several years; the board for which amounted to more than one hundred and thirty pounds: that your petitioner trusted the said James Douglass in contemplation of certain lands, which he held in Kentucky and other parts of Virginia: that the said James Douglass and the said Jessy Douglass are now dead intestate and without an heir: whereby the said lands are escheatable to the commonwealth.

Your petitioner therefore prays, that the right of escheat, now vested in this commonwealth, may be so far released, as to permit the said lands to be sold for the payment of the just debts of the said James and Jessy Douglass.

And your petitioner, as in duty bound will ever pray &c, &c.

Endorsement on back of petition: 16 Novr. 1789.—Refd. to Courts of Justice —Rejected.

To the General Assembly of Virginia

NUMBER 72.

To the Honourable the General Assembly of Virginia

The Petition of a number of Inhabitants of the County of Fayette Humbly sheweth—

That whereas a very Great Expence and Inconvenience attends the Ferriage of Tobacco over the River Kentucky to the Town of Boonsborough the greater part of which Expences and Inconveniances might be obviated by appointing Inspections on the North side of the said River at Two Distinct places to be attended by one appointment of Inspectors, as the Precipices of Howards will not admit of a waggon Road, we therefore pray your Honorable Body to take the same into serious consideration and should your Wisdom think our prayer reasonable that you appoint the Two following places, the one nearly opposite Boonsborough on William Bushes Land and the other on the west side of Howards Creek on John Holders Land and we as in Duty Bound shall ever pray &c

[Names.]

Notice is hereby given, that a Petition will be presented to the next General Assembly, praying that an Inspection be established for the Reception of Tobacco, on Colo John Holder's land on the Kentucky River, below the mouth of lower Howard's Creek, at the place called Holder's landing, also another Inspection on the land of Capt. William Bush, on the Kentucky River, above lower Howard's Creek, and nearly opposite to the Town of Boonsborough, to be included under one Inspection.

Fayette County

William Bush before me upon oath says that the within notice was publickly set up at the door of the court house of said county on two several Court days within the present year Sept. 9, 1789.

Robt. Todd

Endorsement on back of petition: 30 Novr. 1789—Rejected.

NUMBER 73.

To the Honorable the Speaker and Members of the Genl. Assembly

The Memorial of the Convention for the District of Kentucky Sheweth, that by an Act of the last Session of the Assembly, the terms on which the sd District of Kentucky, may be erected into a seperate and independant State, are materially different from those heretofore offered by Virginia, and agreed to by a former Convention on the part of the sd District; and that the alteration in one of the terms is more particularly injurious to your Memorialists as it forever precludes them, tho declared an Independent and sovereign state from excessing [exercising] this right of sovereignty over part of the Lands contained within their own boundaries without the consent of the legislature of Virginia, a situation degrading to your Memorialists, as they would thereby not lie on equal footing with the other States in the Union and injurious, as it would prevent them from making the advantage of the surplus Lands within their boundaries, which in Equity they are intitled to.

From which circumstances your Memorialists find that they cannot at present determine whether it is expedient for and the will of the people that the District shall be erected into a seperate & independent State.

Your Memorialists reflect with gratitude on the generous and disinterested conduct pursued by the Legislature with respect to the wishes of the People of this District for a seperation and relying with the fullest confidence on the Justice and generosity of the present Assembly, they now request that the Act concerning the erection of this District into a seperate and independent State may be so amended that the terms offered by the Legislature of Virginia to the people of this District, respecting the Seperation of the District from Virginia, and its being erected into a seperate State may be made equal to those offered by former Acts of Assembly (except such part of the seventh Article of the Act of 1785 as relates to the concur-

rent Jurisdiction of the Ohio with the States that may possess the opposite shores of the sd River) and agreed to on the part of the District by a former Convention. And your Memorialists as in duty bound shall ever pray—

A copy. Saml. McDowell Prest

Endorsement on back of petition: Novr. 1789.—Refd. to Whole on Co.—For Govr. Moreland of Kentucky.

The request was granted in an act entitled, An Act concerning the erection of the district of Kentucky into an independent state. Henings Statutes, Vol. 13, 17.

"Whereas it is represented to the present General Assembly the act of the last session intituled 'An Act concerning the erection of the district of Kentucky into an independent state' which contains terms materially different from those of the act of October session 1785, are found incompatible with the real views of the Commonwealth as well as injurious to the good people of the said district, Be it enacted," etc.

The act provides for a convention at Danville July 26th, selected as in previous acts. The seven conditions are similar to those of the act of 1785. The authority of Virginia over Kentucky was to end at date posterior to November 1, 1791. The objectionable features were omitted.

NUMBER 74.

To the Honourable the General Assembly of the State of Virginia.

The Petition of the Inhabitants of Lincoln County residing on the reserved Lands for the officers and Soldiers of the State aforesaid on the Waters of Cumberland River and Parts adjacent doth Respectfully shew.—

That your Petitioners find themselves sensibly aggrieved by their distance from Courts of Justice, it being near two hundred miles from this Settlement to Lincoln Court House, by which, when Business renders our attendance indispensably necessary, we are frequently exposed to much Danger in Travelling, through an uninhabited Country; being subjected to Fines, and other Inconveniances, when from High Waters, Enemies near our Frontiers; or other Causes it is Impossible to attend.—

We therefore most humbly Pray the General Assembly, to grant a County to be laid off including these settlements in the

reserved Land for the officers and soldiers, on the south of Green River, and to the Coloney Line, thence to the Ohio, and your Petitioners as in Duty bound will ever Pray &c.—

[Names.]

Endorsement on back of petition: 21st. Oct. 1790.—Refd. to Props.—Reasonable—(rcpd.)

NUMBER 75.

To the honorable the General Assembly of Virginia.

The petition of Jane Todd and Robert Todd Executors of the Estate of John Todd deceased humbly sheweth—

That whereas an Act of Assembly passed in the year of our Lord 1786 appointing Trustees to sell a part of the Land of John Todd deceased for the payment of his Debts and for other purposes, vested power in four Trustees therein named to carry the same into execution reserving the Tract of Land in the County of Fayette where on the said John Todd resided at the time of his death, That the said Trustees found it difficult to act under the said Law as the decedent at the Time of his death resided on a lot in Lexington, that on the North West side of the Town he had a military claim of 130 acres and on the South East lands claimed by Settlement and preemption—

To remove which uncertainty, and to give the Trustees power to sell a part of the said military survey, one other act of Assembly was passed in the year 1787 reserving the Tract whereon his widow Jane Todd then resided, which was in the bounds of that part of the Land which was obtained by Virtue of the Decedents Settlement and adjoining to which there was 2400 acres procured by other Rights, which reservation strictly construc'd prevents the Sale of any of the said Tract and frustrates the good intent of the Legislature as we conceive the whole of the 130 acres ought not to be sold or if sold would prove insufficient to answer the purpose, and excepting this

and the Tract before mentioned there is no land that belonged to the decedant that would sell unless to great [advantage.]

Your petitioners therefore pray that the said Trustees may be authorized to sell and convey any Lands of the Estate of the said decedant, for the purposes mentioned in the said recited acts, and to carry the same into full execution, excepting and reserving the four Hundred Acres obtained by virtue of the said decedants actual settlement and none other, and provided that the part sold shall not exceed one fourth of what the sd decedant died possessed of.

And as one of the Trustees before appointed is dead and other removed from the County so that it will be difficult to procure his attendance we pray that two additional Trustees may be appointed vested with the same powers as those first appointed and that any three may be authorized to act and we in duty bound will ever pray &c—

Jane Todd
Robt. Todd

Endorsement on back of petition: 21st. Oct 1790—Refd. to Courts of Justice —Reasonable—Bill drawn.

The request was granted in an act entitled, An Act to amend two acts of the assembly appointing trustees to sell part of the lands of John Todd, deceased, and other purposes. Henings Statutes, Vol. 13, 231.

The added trustees were Percival Butler and Robert Barr.

NUMBER 76.

To the Honble. The General Assembly of the State of Virginia—

The Petition of Sundry Inhabitants of the Town of Lexington (in the County of Fayette) and its vicinity; humbly sheweth That your Petitioners anxious for the welfare of the Town afsd and feeling sensibly a variety of inconveniences under which they labor, beg leave to request the interference of your Honble Body in their behalf.

They would pray that the Legislature would invest a certain number of Inhabitants of said Town and its vicinity, with the

following powers & authorities—the appointment of officers by your Honble Body or by Election of the Inhabitants of said Town as your Wisdom sees fitt.

1st—To levy, collect, and appropriate such sums of money as the persons appointed for that purpose, may conceive necessary for the following uses—

2.—To regulate and improve the Market, the streets & Highways of the Said Town and its vicinity—

3.—To establish and preserve the peace and good order of the Town afsd & its vicinity—

4.—A power to remove & prevent Nusances—

In fine your Petitioners humbly pray that your Honble Body would invest the persons before referred to, with such powers & authorities as your wisdom may direct, for the more effectually promoting & preserving the hapiness of said Town &c.

Your Petitioners would beg leave to suggest to your Honble House, their wish, that the limits within which the said powers may be exercised shall be extended to one mile in each direction from the Court House in said Town.—

And your Petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray &c

[Names.]

Endorsement on back of petition: Octo. 23d 1790.—Refd. to Props.

The request was granted in an act entitled, An Act concerning certain regulations in the town of Lexington and county of Fayette. Henings Statutes, Vol. 13, 191.

Trustees were to be elected by all within one mile possessed of twenty-five pounds in property, except negroes and mulattoes. Trustees could erect market houses, appoint clerk of market, repair streets, and impose taxes not exceeding one hundred pounds.

NUMBER 77.

To the Honble the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Delegates—

The Petitioners of Sundry Inhabitants of the County of Bourbone Humbly sheweth that your petitioner & resident on the waters of Stoner and Hinksons forks of Licking are desti-

tute of Every advantage resulting from water Grist mills except what must be erected on branches of said Stoner and Hinkson which does not afford water sufficient to grind longer than the middle of April your petitioners therefore are necessiated to go from eighteen to twenty five miles to mill and even then under the disadvantage of frequantly being disappointed which subject your petitioners to grate loss of time and your petitioners are very confident that if mills was suffered to be built on stoner and Hinksons forks of Licking with ither good locks or slopes sufficient for boats to pass by the dams with safety that the said Stoner and Hinkson would be above ten times the value to Bourbone than what it is at present with only them navogations alone we therefore pray that Stoners fork and Hinksons may have mills on every Convenient place for erecting them but for all mills that is built on said Stoner and Hinkson to have a good lock or slope fixed for boats to pass and we in duty bound will pray

[Names.]

Bourbon County
I do hereby certify that the within Petition has been advertised at the Door of the Court house agreeable to Law, Given under my hand this 27th day of Aug. 1790

John Edwards Clk.

Endorsement on back of petition: Octo. 22d. 1790.—Refd to props—(in opposition)—(repd.)—Rejected H.L.

NUMBER 78.

To the Honourable the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Delegates

the Petition of Sundry Inhabitants of the County of Bourbon Humbly sheweth That in the year one thousand Seven Hundred and eighty eight there was an inspection of Tobacco established at the Junction of Hinkson & Stoner fork of Licking and that Stoners fork has been found by trial made as navigable

a very considerable Distance above the Junction and for as large Boats, as it is below; and as long in the year and that it makes its way throug the center of the County, through a fertile soil thickly Inhabited, abounding with a variety of Fish, and that it is the only stream by which the greater part of the County can be relieved from a Difficult Land carriage of many miles, in exporting of their produce, and that an attempt is made for obstructing the same by the Court of sd County granting an order for a mill without any restricktions whatever, when granting two others the one prior & the other posterior to the former, obliging the owners to keep a passage for boats forty feet by twelve; the validity of which will evidently appear by the certificates attending this Petition from the Clerk of the County; Now being convinced that the obstructing the navigation of sd River would be highly injurious, and contrary to the Interest of the County; and also that your Honourable House are fully possessed of the advantages from a water carriage. We therefore pray that your Honorable House will take the same into consideration and remove all obstructions that shall be made across Sd River; and establish the navigation of Licking Beginning at its Junction with the Ohio thence up to the mainfork, thence up the South fork, to the Junction of Hinkston & Stoner thence up Stoners fork to Bramblets Lick in such manner as in your wisdom you may think best and we your Petitioners shall ever pray

[Names.]

Endorsement on back of petition. Octo. 22d. 1790.—Refd to props.

NUMBER 79.

To the Honourable the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Delegates.—

The Petition of Sundry Inhabitants of the County of Bourbon Humbly sheweth &c—That in the year 1788 There was an Inspection of Tobacco established at the Confluance of Stoner

and Hinkstons fork of Licking; And that the south fork, which is called Stoners fork, is found by Experiance navigable a very considerable Distance above the Junction; even up to Bramlets Lick; for large Boats, and that it is the only Stream by which the greater part of the Inhabitants may be relieved from a Land Carriage of Many Miles in the Exportation of their produce, We therefore pray that the Navigation of said River may not be obstructed by Mill Dams or Fish Dams or the like &c and we your Petitioners shall ever pray

March 28th, 1790. [Names.]

NUMBER 80.

To the Honble the General Assembly of Virginia.

We the Trustees of the Town of Hopewell in the County of Bourbon Humbly sheweth that doubts have arisen with the purchers. of the Lots in said Town, whether Lawrance Protzmon may be found the real proprietor at a future day of the Lands laid of for said Town, your petitioners together with said purchasers having been notified of claims to the said Lands obtained from the Court of said County under an Act of Assembly authorizing and vesting said Court with powers of Commrs to hear and determine all disputes between claimants for Land, by right of settlement and for lands by right of Preemption on Improvement &c for granting certificates to all those who had been detained in the Service of this Commonwealth and also that a part of the Lots or lands laid of for said Town is yet unsold. Therefore your petitioners conceive they have not a power vested in them to sell or make conveyance of said lots or any part thereof, and that the Good people of said Town may be secured from future claimants And that every encouragement may be given to the population of said Town, which will be of Public utility, by reason of its situation on navigable water and the only stream by which the Inhabitants of said County could Export their produce. We your petitioners

therefore pray your honble house will take the same in consideration and condemn said Land, vesting the same in trustees so as to give Security to the holders and purchasers of said Lots, as also the Laying of and making conveyance of such Lots as yet remains unsold and that you will devise such ways and means for the good of said holders as in your wisdom you may think best reserving to the real Proprietor the Value of said Lands as unimproved and your Petitioners further prays that said Town may no Longer retain the name of Hopewell, but may be called and known by the Name of Paris and your Petitioners shall ever pray &c.

[Names.]

Resolved that the petition of the Trustees of the town of Hopewell in the county of Bourbon, setting forth, that many doubts have lately arisen who is the real proprietor of the Lands on which the said town is established, in consequence whereof the present holders of the same are much disquieted, & the trustees cannot proceed in the sale thereof, And praying that they may be authorized to sell the said Lands—reserving the money arising from such sale, for the person who shall hereafter appear to be the real proprietor, and that the name of the said town may be altered, is reasonable.—

Endorsement on back of petition: 25th. Oct. 1790.—Refd. to Courts of Justice.—Reasonable—Bill.

The request was granted in an act entitled, An Act to amend the act establishing the town of Hopewell in the county of Bourbon and for altering the name of the said town. Henings Statutes, Vol. 13, 176.

The name was changed from Hopewell to Paris.

NUMBER 81.

To the Honorable the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Delegates.

The Memorial of Laban Shipp of the County of Bourbon, District of Kentucky, Humbly sheweth,

That your Memorialists Resident on Stoners Fork of Licking being impressed with the Great inconvenience of himself,

and others for the want of water Grist mills was induced to apply to the county court of Bourbon for an order to Build a water Grist mill on the said fork; which was granted your memorialist without any other restrictions than to pay the Damage any person might sustain from the building of said mill; your memorialist immediately proceeded to and at the Expence of his little fortune which is nearly exhausted has got the mill nearly compleated: Your memorialist notwithstanding he has nearly spent his fortune in erecting this usefull Building felt himself happy in a prospect of being Usefull to his country and family; having proceeded under the sanction of the laws of his country thought himself safe and his property secure. It is with concern that your Memorialist finds a number of Persons have prepared a Petition to your Honorable House praying that the navigation of Stoners fork of Licking may not be obstructed but the subject of the navigation of this little stream has called the attention of most of the Inhabitants of this County; and many of them fully convinced of the Impropriety of attempting such a navigation have petition'd your Honorable House to permit the erection of Water Grist Mills on the said fork; However this subject may be agitated by the differant parties no other Inconvenience can arise to either of them than the mortification of being outdone by the other; but the case is materially differant with your Memorialist; his fortune has been laid out on this usefull building and if your Honorable House should oblige him to remove her for the precarias & Dangerous navigation; certain ruin must possess him and his family that the navigation is precarias apears from hence, near two years has elapsed since the Navigation was first attempted and but one boat has had a safe passage several Boats has been obliged to unlode and waggon their loads to other landings more safe & certain; that it is dangerous, is equally clear; several vessels have been overset & their loads lost, some men have been drowned and many more have been exposed to the Greatest

hardship; from these facts your Memorialist trust your Honorable House will make no law to affect his property in the premises & Yr. Memorialist as in Duty Bound shall ever &c—

Laban Shipp—

Endorsement on back of petition. Octo. 27th. 1790.—Refd. to props—Reasonable—(repd.)

NUMBER 82.

To the Speaker & Gent of the House of Delegates

The Petition of Sundry Inhabitants of the County of Bourbon Humbly sheweth, that your Petitioners resident on the waters of Stoner and Hinksons forks of Licking are destitute of every advantage accruing from Water Grist Mills except what must be erected on said streams, every other stream failing to furnish a sufficiency of water to grind longer than to the middle of Aprl. Your Petitioners therefore are necessitated to go from eighteen to thirty miles to mill and even then under the disadvantage of frequent disappointment, which subjects us to great loss inconvenience, and labour. Your Petitioners are very confident if mills were suffered to be built without restricting the builders thereof to erect Locks &c for the passage of Boats numbers wou'd be encouraged to build mills sufficient to grind all the Grain of the Citizens of the County. But some of our fellow citizens puffed up with the most romantick expectations of the utility accruing from the free and open navigation of Stoner and Hinkson have prepar'd a Petition to your Hon House praying that the navigation of Stoner may be kept open and that no mills may be erected thereon; Your Petitioners beg leave to lay before you the following statement of facts, the distance of Strodes fork a branch of Stoners fork (the head of the propos'd navigation) to the junction of Hinksons and Stoners forks is not more than ten miles of Land and on the meanders of the Creek not less than thirty five or forty miles This stream being confind within narrow banks rises and

falls so quick in the Winter Season (for in no other season is it navigable) that the water is generally exhausted before it can reach the confluence of the said Streams and what boats have attempted to navigate the fork of Stoner have been either wrecked injur'd or obliged to unlode for want of a water to continue Their passage These are facts so well authenticated that they cannot be contested. By an Act of Your Hon. House passed in October Session An Inspection of Tobo. was established at Ruddles at the junction of Hinkson and Stoners forks, from thence your Petitioners believe after a considerable expence to open the navigation that boats of small burden may navigate to the mouth of Licking perhaps as many as five or six times a year provided they manage with care and attention. Your Petitioners conceive that the erection of Water Grist Mills on said Streams will be of far greater benefit than the casual uncertainties of navigation can possibly be. We therefore pray that a Law may pass at the ensuing Session appropriating the afore mentioned Streams for the Building of Grist Mills &c to any person who may build according to Law. And that the navigation be open'd from the confluence of the forks to Main Licking by such ways and means as the Hon. the Legislature may [think] expedient and your Petitioners in Duty Bound will ever Pray &c

[Names.]

Endorsement on back of petition. Octo. 27th 1790. Refd. to props.

NUMBER 83.

To the Honorable the Speaker & members of the General Assembly of the State of Virginia.

The Petition of Sundry Claimants to portions of Land, contained in the Illinois Grant & others—Inhabitants of the District of Kentucky, humbly complaining sheweth.

That the Time limited for the Claimants to exhibit their Claims before the Commissioners appointed to settle and determine the claims of Persons entitled to portions of Land in the Illinois Grant was so short, that a number of Claimants &

Infants Heirs at Law to deceased Claimants from their distant and dispersed situations in different parts of the United States have been prevented from having their several Claims, settled and determined according to the Act of October Session 1786 Your Petitioners further shew unto your Honorable Body that the Commissioners appointed under the aforesaid Law conceive that they have no power to grant Deeds for Claims that have already been settled & determined after the first day of September 1789 by which means a number of Claims already settled which have been assigned to innocent purchasers, & which are held by Infant Heirs at Law of deceased Claimants, who are dispersed in different parts of the United States & from a want of knowledge of the aforesaid Law are intirely prevented from receiving the benefit of their respective Claims or completing their Titles thereto, which your petitioners conceive is contrary to every principle of Equity and Justice. Your Petitioners therefore pray that you will pass an Act at the ensuing Session directing them to grant Deeds for all Claims that have heretofore been settled and determined when application shall be made therefor by the respective Claimants Assignees of Claimants or Infant Heirs at Law to deceased Claimants. And your Petitioners shall ever pray &c.

[Names.]

Endorsement on back of petition: 28th Oct. 1790.—Refd. to C. of Justice.—Reasonable.

The request was granted in an act entitled, An Act giving further time to the Commissioners for surveying and apportioning the lands granted to the Illinois regiment, to execute deeds for the same. Henings Statutes, Vol. 13, 178.

NUMBER 84.

To the Honorable the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Delegates.

The Petition of Sundry Inhabitants of the County of Bourbon Humbly sheweth—

That we your petitioners labour under much inconvenience for the want of an inspection of Tobacco in our County town—

The town is situate upon Stoners fork of Licking which has been found navigable by large Boats loaded, navigating the same from the sd town—Now this being the most convenient for the County in general and the navigation is as good as tis risky Miles below we are convinced it will be of Publick utility and tend much to the Ease and Convenience of the good people of sd County We therefore [request] that an Inspection may be established upon the lots of Land set aside by the proprietor Laurance Protsman for that purpose and we your petitioners shall ever pray

[Names.]

Endorsement on back of petition: To land inspection—Reasonable H. L. —repd.

NUMBER 85.

THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA,

the petition of William Bruce and John Lin Humbly sheweth that your petitioners served as scouts in the county of Bourbon for the year 1789 and was discharged legally and had their accounts setled with the auditors of publick accts & by certificates from the county Lieutenant of said county for particulars your petitioners must refer you to Mr Conn a member of your Honorable House—some time in the latter part of November in the same year Col John Edward Lieutenant of said county was seting out for Richmond by whome your petitioners hoped their money would be sent, and applyed to him to fetch the whole or any part he could get, and do the Best he could for them as they were in Great want, having made no crops the ensuing season on account of their being in the service of the State—the aforesaid Lieutenant recd 45 pound of the money and on his return to the District of Kentucky was attacked by a number of Indians well armed in two Boats prepaired for the capturing of the vessels of Emigrants on the Ohio river, and was obliged to dessert his Boat and make his Escape

leaving considerable amount of his own property, his saddle bags and the money of your petitioners, which fell into the hands of the Enemy to the great Distress of your petitioners, who being well informed of the Justice & humanity that has hitherto marked the conduct of your Honorable House are Induced to ask a restoration of that money taken by the Enemy before it came to their hand which money they think in Justice they ought to receive in the country where they did the service—therefore your petitioners prays that your Honours would take the same into consideration and make such provision for them as in your wisdom may seem best and your Petitioners shall ever pray.

William Bruce
John Linn.

Endorsement on back of petition: 28th Oct. 1790.—Refd. to Claims—rejected —reported 3rd November '90.

NUMBER 86.

To the Honourable the Representatives of the State of Virginia in General Assembly met

the petition of James Smith Humbly Sheweth, that your petitioner spent Eleven months in Exploring the Kentuckey Country as Early as the year 1767 and in the year 1773 made an improvement on the Waters of Licking River, and sold the Chief of the land he then possessed in pennsylvania in order to move his family to Kentuckey, But as the War with Brittain at that Post Commenced your petitioner was Called upon to Serve his Country, and Continued in publick Business During the whole of Said War either as a Deligate in the House of Assembly or as a melitia officer in the Jersey State or against the Indiens on our fronteers or on Expeditions against the Indien towns; During this time your petitioner was obliged by the legal tender act to take Depreciated Congress money as pay for his land—in the year 1786 he came to Kentucky and aplied for his Right of preemtion but the Court would not

admit of his proving his Right of preimtion as he had not been in the Regular Service immediately under Congress—in the year 1787 your petitioner moved his family to Kentuckey and being much reduced by the Depreciation of the Congress paper money could only purchas one hundred acres of land which is the only land he now possesseth (as an Evidance of what he has said he sends the following papers), and as the land he improved in the year 1773. is not yet occupied, your petitioner Humbley prays that he may be yet admitted to prove his Right of preimtion, your petitioner would not at this time trouble the House with this Singular petition were it not that he looks on his Case altogether Singular, and he makes no Doubt but the Honourable Hous will Do what is Just and Right and your petitioner as in Duty Bound shall ever pray—

James Smith.

Bourbon County July the 15th 1790.

Jas. Smith setting forth—that in the year 1773 he acquired a preemption right to a Tract of Land on Licking River in the Ky-district—That he afterwards removed into the state of Pennsylvania in the year 1786 returned into this State: That upon application to the Court of the County in which the Land lieth they for reasons unknown to the Petitioners refused to admit his claim and praying that it may be permitted to prove his preemption Right to the sd Land

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Endorsement on back of petition. Octo. 30th. 1790. Refd. to Ct. of Justice —Rejected.

NUMBER 87.

To the Honorable the Speaker and members of the House Delegates of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Petition of Sundry Inhabitants of the Town of Maysville, Humbly sheweth; that your petitioners being settled in the said town of Maysville, which is situated on the Ohio River at the mouth of Limestone Creek and is a Frontier

intirely exposed to the depredations of the Hostile Indians, which reasons alone has put it [out] of the power of your petitioners; to Compleat the necessary buildings for Securing their lotts within the time limited by an Act of Assembly Intitled an Act for establishing a town in the County of Bourbon;—Your petitioners therefore pray that your Honorable House will grant them such further time for Compleating their building as to you shall appear just & reasonable & your [petitioners] will ever pray &c

[Names.]

Endorsement on back of petition: 1st. Nov. 1790. Refd. to props.—Reasonable—(Repd.)

The act establishing the town referred to is entitled, An Act to establish a town in the county of Bourbon. Henings Statutes, Vol. 12, 633.

The name of the town was Maysville and the trustees were Daniel Boone, Henry Lee, Arthur Fox, Jacob Boone, Thomas Brooks, George Milford.

The town was on Mays land.

NUMBER 88.

To the Honorable the speaker and general assembly of Virginia—

The petition of a number of the inhabitants of the County of Bourbon In behalf of themselves and others most humbly sheweth that there is a number of Deeds in the County for Land that is not recorded there being no Court in said County from July until January in consequence of the Death of the high Sheriff of said County in which time deeds run out of date and the persons who made those deeds are some of them mov'd out of Kentuckey others of them dead and their heirs under age so that new deeds cannot be obtained, your petitioners therefore prays your honorable House to take their care into consideration and pass a Law to give a Longer time for Recording those deeds that was lawfully obtained in the year 1789 and your petitioners as in duty bound shall pray

[Names.]

Bourbon County

I do hereby certify that the within Petition was advertised at the door of the Court house according to Law Given under my hand this 25th day of Aug. 1790.

John Edwards Clk B. C.

Endorsement on back of petition: 1st Novr. 1790—Refd. to Cts of Justice—reasonable—Bill drawn.

The request was granted in an act entitled, An Act authorizing the Court of Bourbon Co. to admit the recording of Deeds in certain cases. Henings Statutes, Vol. 13, 150.

NUMBER 89.

To the Honorable the Speaker and members of the General Assembly of Virginia—

The Petition of William Shannon.

Sheweth.

That in the month of March 1779, your petitioner was appointed Commissary and Quarter Master to the Illinois a Western department under the Command of General Clark, and continued to transact the duties of his office for upwards of three years, had employed several deputies to assist him, and during that period purchased and issued Sundry supplies to the troops in that department, which purchases and issues are accurately entered on his books of Accounts, for which books and Accounts he has receipts, (by order of the board of Commissioners appointed to settle the business relating to that department) ready to be produced.

That your Petr. in order to obtain a settlement of his Accounts, laid them before the said Commissioners, at their meeting at the Dutch-station—near Louisville, but the Commissioners conceiving them necessary for the purpose of settling other claims in the same department, kept them in their possession, without coming to any decision thereon, and appointed a meeting at Colo. Bowman's in Lincoln County, where your Petrs. attended, hoping the said accounts wou'd then be finally

settled, but the said Commissioners hearing of your Petrs intention to travel thro' the Wilderness they declined to take up the said accounts, and appointed another meeting at Botetourt Court house or Richmond, at which places your Petr also intended to be present, but unfortunately for him, he had his Leg broke on his way to Botetourt, which prevented his carrying his intention into execution, (as will appear by sundry papers in his possession) whereby he has not been able to have his accounts settled, or to receive any Compensation for his services or the services of his deputies.

Your petr further shews, that in procuring the necessary supplies for the said troops, he became indebted to Sundry persons, and in order to discharge the same, drew bills of Exchange on the Treasurer of this State, several of which are protested, and others not paid, so that your petr remains in a very disagreeable situation, not only on account of those bills, but by being charged with monies paid him during the time he was in office, and no credit allowed him, either by the supplies furnished or his pay for his services or those of his deputies.

Your Petr therefore requests, you will be pleased to pass a Law appointing some person or persons to adjust and settle his Accounts, and to authorise the auditor to issue warrants for the amount of what shall appear due to your Petr. for his pay and depreciation as Commissary and Quarter Master in the said department, and also for what may appear to be due to his deputies, and he will Pray.

Jefferson County Sct.

This day Docter Samuel Culbertson personally came before me (James F. Moore) one of the Justices of the Commonwealth for the County aforesaid, and made oath on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God that in the month of April 1783 Capt. William Shannon of Lewisville, passed by Field's Station (where the Deponant then lived) on his way to the settlement

as he said to meet the commissioners appointed to settle the accounts of the Illinois Department and that he the said Shannon unfortunately broke his leg at Crows Station that this Deponant was sent for to set the bone which he did and attended him during his illness, but the bone was so fractured that he was not able to proceed on his journey that season and further this deponant sayeth not—Sworn to before me this 21st Sept. 1790.

James F. Moore

We certify that when the Commissioners for Western accounts sat in the neighbourhood of Louisville in the year 1783 Capt William Shannon who by appointment from Genl. Clark had for some time acted as Commissary General to the Illinois Regiment presented his accounts to have them settled; But the Board finding that his Books which appeared to be regularly kept would be helpful in adjusting the accounts of the other officers of that department detained Capt Shanon from about the middle of January to the last of February when it was found that more accounts had been presented and would be presented than could possibly be adjusted before the time it would be necessary for the Commissioners to return through the wilderness, and in the investigation of which Capt Shannons books would also be needed and finding that Capt Shannon intended to travel to the eastward about the same time, his books were detained and he directed to attend the Board when it should set in Botetourt County or at Richmond to have his accounts finally classed. But Capt Shannon by having his Leg bone broken before he set off was rendered incapable of the Journey; so that his accounts were never settled by the Commissioners and he informs us that the Auditors have hitherto declined a settlement by which he is suffering great loss. Therefore we take the liberty of making this representation of facts and beg lieve further to observe that as far as we can recollect, his Books appeared to be accurate & just,

only in some instances paper money contracts were not distinguished from specie, which he assured the Board he did not know to be necessary when the entries were made, but that he should be able to make the distinction when it would be requisite. We further beg leave to represent that We understood that complaints had been made against Capt Shannon in the execution of his office. In order to examine into that matter the Board of Commissioners notifyed their Intentions to the publick of hearing all the charges that could be brought against him relative to his conduct as Commissary and appointed a time for exhibiting them—But that no charges were brought forward and supported nor anything made appear to his prejudice in the execution of his office given under our hands this 26th day of June 1790—

Saml McDowell
Caleb Wallace.

Endorsed on back of petition: Novr. 2d. 1790.—refd to Claims—reasonable —1st Reso: refd. to Executive—2nd Reso: that the Auditor of Public accts deliver him his papers—reported 8th Nov. 90.—19h pasd.

The request was granted in an act entitled, An Act granting a sum of money to William Shannon and others. Henings Statutes, Vol. 13, 211.

The Auditor of Public Accounts was instructed to issue certificates to those holding Shannon's drafts and to Shannon two thousand and twenty-six pounds, six shillings and one penny.

NUMBER 90.

To the honorable the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Petition of the Trustees of the Transylvania Seminary humbly sheweth

That notwithstanding the Indulgence and encouragement they have hitherto experienced from the Legislature with the laudable design of propogating Science in this District they find the funds still so low as to be unable to errect any suitable Buildings

Encouraged by the favourable disposition to promote Education that has ever marked the proceedings of your

honorable house we are Induced to pray that a Law may be passed authorizing the Board of Trustees for the Transylvania Seminary to raise by Lottery the Sum of five hundred pounds for the purpose of erecting an Academy Under such regulations and restrictions as the Legislature may judge proper and we in duty bound shall ever pray

[Names.]

Endorsement on back of petition: Nov. 6 1790.—Refd to Props—Reasonable —Repd.

The request was granted in an act entitled, An Act authorizing several lotteries and the sale of certain lots in the town of Portsmouth. Henings Statutes, Vol. 13, 173.

"Be it enacted by the General Assembly, That it shall be lawful for the trustees of Transylvania Seminary, or a majority of them, to raise by one or more lotterics, a sum not exceeding five hundred pounds, for the purpose of erecting an Academy."

The samc bill allows a lottery to build a church, roads, and other academies in other places east of the mountains.

NUMBER 91.

To the Hble the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia

The Petition of the Members composing the Board of Trustees of the Transylvania Seminary humbly sheweth

Your Petitioners feeling sensebly an inconvenience under which they labor as a body constituted by Act of Assembly for conducting the business of the said Seminary, beg leave to request the interferrence of your Hble House in order the more effectually to enable them to carry into effect the Trust reposed in them.

They would suggest to your Hble House that one essential inconvenience to which they are subjected arises from the great number of members which by Law are required to constitute a board for the transaction of business as they are so widely scattered thro the district: And would pray that the number necessary to conduct the business of said Seminary

should be reduced to seven or such number as the wisdom of the House may direct and your petitioners in duty bound shall ever pray.

[Names.]

Endorsement on back of petition: Nov. 6 1790.—refd. to props—Reasonable —Repd.

The request was granted in an aet entitled, An Act concerning the Trustees of Transylvania Seminary. Henings Statutes, Vol. 13, 147.

Seven trustees were henceforth sufficient to do business at the two annual meetings provided by law.

NUMBER 92.

To the Honble the speaker and Members of the General Assembly

The Petition of Henry Banks humbly sheweth

That during the latter period of the War your Petitioner was engaged in very considerable mercantile Transactions, as is well known to many honble members of the House, when it became absolutely necessary for him either to appropriate a large capital in the purchase of Land Warrants, otherwise a large sum would perish in his hands, being paper money

That your Petitioner was appointed the Sole agent of the House of Hunter Banks & Co. who had had very considerable Transactions with different public agents, and found that they had a demand for 800 Bus Salt, for which payment had never been made or a Certificate granted by which payment could be required, and that after attempting in various Instances to obtain payment without success your Petitioner was at length advised to bring a Suit in the High Court of Chancery against the Honble the Atty General, which suit has in due Course been referd to William Hay esqr. master Comr to the Honble High Court of Chancery, and he has reported and certified a Balance of One Thousand Sixty Six pounds 13-4 to be due to your Petitioner but the final decree for the same is suspended until March next

That in Consideration of the necessary purchase of Lands as aforesaid your Petitioner has created a large demand ag.

himself for fees, without the Payment of which in advance, he is not permitted to enter the surveys in the Registers office, that in Consequence of some Misfortunes your Petitioner is not prepared with certain funds to pay those expences, and is therefore in great fear that he will loose some of them

Your Petitioner is well aware of the impropriety of asking a payment of the aforesaid money until it is established by a final decree, and therefore only prays that this Honble House will pass a resolution requiring the Register of the Land office and the Depy Register of Kentuckey be directed to receive the warrants which may be issued for the aforesaid claim, when finally ascertained or that this Honble House will grant to your Petitioner any other relief respecting the Premises which may be reasonable, and your Petitioner in duty bound will pray &c

Henry Banks.

that the petition of the said Henry Banks praying that any warrants which he may receive from the Aud. of public Accounts by virtue of the said Decree may be received by the Register of the Land office & Depy Register of Kentuckey in discharge of fees due for entering surveys & be reasonable the petitioner for grants [?]

Commissioners Office November 15 1790

Hunter Banks and Company_____Plfts.

against

Turner Christian Richard Morris, James Innes Attorney General, and John Pendleton Auditor of public accounts_Defts_

Pursuant to the Direction of James Innes on Behalf of the Commonwealth in these Words, to wit. Sir, whereas there is a Suit now depending, in the honourable the high Court of Chancery, Hunter Banks and Company against myself as Attorney for the Commonwealth and others, it was my Intention to have consented that it should be sent to you for settle-

ment at the last Term, but my Indisposition prevented, I do now consent on Behalf of the Commonwealth, that you do examine state and Report thereon, & that you ascertain what is due to the Complainants as soon as possible. Witness my Hand and Seal at Richmond the ninth Day of November one thousand seven hundred and ninety.

James Innes

To William Hay, Esq.

Your Commissioner, having examined the Papers and considered the claim of the Plaintiffs, is of opinion that they are intitled to one thousand and sixty six Pounds thirteen shillings and four pence for the eight hundred Bushels of Salt mentioned in the papers which is at the Rate of one hundred Pounds paper money pr Bushel, reduced by seventy five the scale in 1780, and he submits it to the Court whether they should be allowed Interest from Decbr 1780.

Wm. Hay, M. C.

Commissioners fee	0.7.6
Copy	1.6
	0.9.0

a copy

Wm. Hay, M. C.

Endorsement on back of petition. 20 Nov. 1790—refd. to props. Reasonable —Repd.

The request was granted in an act entitled, An Act giving further time to owners of entries on western waters to survey the same. Henings Statutes, Vol. 13, 120.

NUMBER 93.

To the Honourable The General Assembly for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Gentlemen—

We your Petitioners of the District of Kaintucky, do humbly petition for further time to fulfil, an Act passed last Session; obliging every person, to return their Plots of Surveys to the register's Office before the — day of August 1791—Our Delegates brought no account of such an Act having passed,

And the Acts of Last Session coming late to this District fell into the hands of a few individuals; who either from Design or inattention never communicated to the publick, that such an Act was in being, Till the time of complying with it, was past, Therefore your Petitioners knew nothing of the Act till after the time was expired. And as advantages will now be taken by designing men; not only against your Petitioners, but against many of the good and industrious Citizens of this District. And Schemes entered into by persons, who support themselves, by fradulent and knavish practices, not only to the great damage of your Petitioners, but to the immense loss of many of the good people of this District. Therefore we petition for longer time to comply with the Act. And look up to you as the Guardians and Supporters of our lives liberty and property. Firmly relying on the justice and Equity of your honourable house so often experienced and which we are ever bound to acknowledge and your Petitioners will ever pray. September the 9th day 1791.—

[Names.]

Endorsement on back of petition: Oct. 22 1791—Refd. to Props—Reasonable —Repd.

The request was granted in an act entitled, An Act for the relief of persons owning surveys returned to the registers office, on which no patents can issue in consequence of the erection of Kentucky into an independent state. Henings Statutes, Vol. 13, 526.

Warrants were to be issued in cases of certificates of survey sent to the land office of Virginia previous to separation.

NUMBER 94.

To the Honorable The General Assembly of Virginia

The Petition of John Crow humbly Sheweth

That your Petitioner did keep in victuals & . . . . the Indian prisoners from the time they were put into his possession untill the tenth of May 1788, for which expenses of his, he has been paid in full according to his account.

That from the tenth of May 1788 untill the twelfth of September following your Petitioner still continued to keep

those prisoners, & presented his account which was allowed likewise, but curtailed. Still he had his pay, according to the Curtailment.

That your Petitioner finding himself a considerable loser by this Curtail of his account resolved to get rid of the said prisoners as soon as possible; but it was the fifteenth of January 1789 before he could write to Colonel Benjamin Logan to take them away; that his account has been since stated before the Executive who thought it convenient to reject it.

That by the answer of Col. Logan Your Petitioner was obliged to take care of said prisoners from the 15th of January to sometime early in April, when at last they were taken away, which expence your petitioner hath not charged to Government.

That your Petitioner conceives he has as much right to be reimbursed his expences for Nine Indian Prisoners from the thirteenth of September 1788 untill the fourteenth of January 1789 as he had for the two former accounts, and That whatever compensation he may have received from the beginning to the twelfth of September 1788 does not invalidate his claim for his expences posterior to that last date, as he would still have had the same compensation, in case the Indians had been taken away at that time.

That your Petitioner refers your Honorable House to the letter of John Brown Esqr & the order of Council to shew that his just claim has been rejected; & to the letter of Col. Benjamin Logan to prove that your petitioner was still forced to keep the prisoners at his own expence from January till April when they were taken away from him.

That on considering the whole, your Petitioner begs of your Honorab Body that an order may pass ordering the payment of his expenditures from the thirteenth of September 1788 till the fourteenth of January 1789, as he is Justly intitled to; and as to your Wisdom shall seem meet.

And your Petitioner shall ever pray &c.

John Crow

To the General Assembly of Virginia

In Council October 15, 1789
On consideration of the Claim of John Crow for maintenance of Nine Indian prisoners & for Barracks hire—He is advised that the same be rejected—

The Gov. orders accordingly.

Extract from the minutes.

A Blair C. C.

The Commonwealth of Virginia to John Crow Dr

To the keeping of nine Indian Prisoners from the thirteenth Day of Septr 1788 till the fourteenth Day of January 1789—at 1 S pr Ration also Barracks at the Rate of £10 pr year—

John Crow.

State of acct according to the prayer of the Petitions

To 1007 Rations for 9 prisoners 123 days—9 Rations pr day	£50--7--0.
Barrack hire--------4 mo £10 pr an---------	3--6--8.
	£53--15--8

Dear Sir

I have considered the situation of the Indians in your posession I have just Reason to think when you received them People you intended to have the profits arising from suporting them then you must know every person would supose any Deficences in Government ought to fall on you before it should be fixed on any other indeviduel as you have been liberaly paid for suporting them part of there time but I think you had better set them over the Ohio or leve them under the eye of those in the service of the United States I think this will be making the best of a bad bargain

I am yours Benjamin Logan

February 16 1787

Staunton Novr. 3d 1789

Sir

Some Business which I did not expect when I left Kentucke made it indispensably necessary for me to pass through Win-

chester on my way to New York & consequently put it out of my power to call at Richmond to obtain a settlement of your Acct But on my arrival at N. York I inclosed your Acct. Colo. Logans Certificate & a power of Atty to Mr. Saml. McCraw requesting him to make application for a settlement on your behalf He did so but the Executive rejected your Claim supposing you had already recd. a Compensation adequate to your trouble & expence I inclose you a Copy of the Order of Council upon this application—I am sorry the determination was not more favorable—Had the Claim been my own I should not have done otherwise with it than I did—

I am Sir

Your Mo. Hble Sevt.

J. Brown.

Mr. John Crow.

Endorsement on back of petition: Oct. 22. 1791—Refd to Claims—Mr. Todd (of Nelson) rejected—reported 2d qre. 1792.

NUMBER 95.

To the Honourable the Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Delegates

The petition of Isaac Ruddle Humbly sheweth, that your petitioner In the year 1779 was appointed to the Command of a Compy for the Reduction of the Illinois under the then Colo. Clark, that He raisd a Company on Holstain and supplied them with the necessary arms Provision Bags and pack Horses, for the falls of Ohio to which place he Marchd them; that in the Beginning of March 1780 your petitioner with His Company was ordered on Duty to a frontier station on Licking By John Bowman the then County Lieutenant of Kentucky County, that your petitioner with His Company was on the 24th of June 1780 Captured by a party of British and Indians under the Command of Capt Bird from Detroit, to which place they were taken and their remaind in Captivity till the 3d Nov. 1782. when He returnd—to the District of Kenty where

He Has since Resided, that after the return of your petitioner to the District of Kentucky He made out a pay role for the time of His last Services and Captivity for which He recd £497..0..0 as will more fully appear Referance thereto being Had, that your petitioner on His return also made application to the Commissioners for setling The western Claims for the Liquidation of His Accounts for His first Services, that they Did settle His account and that their appeard to be Due to your Petitioner the sum of £442..10..03-5 which will more fully appear by the Inclosd Copy of their proceedings that your petitioner also furnishd for the service of the District two Horses which were Valued at £65 which will more fully appear by the Inclosd affidivate of Colo Bowman that at the time of settlement some Evil Disposd person informd the Commissioners that your petitioner while a prisoner was Enimical to the united States they then gave it as their Oppinion that no Certificate should Issue without Orders from Govornment that prior to those proceeding your petitioner on His way from Detroit stood a trial in the County Court of Fredrick for the above Crime where all His accusers were, and was accquited, which will appear by the Inclosd. proceedings and Certificate which your petitioner could not procure till the Commissioners had rose and there Powers Had Expird your petitioner therefore prays that His accounts may be fully and fairly Settled and that your Honourable body will Direct your Auditors of public accounts to Issue warrants for the principal and Interest due thereon in such manner as you in your wisdom shall think fit and your petitioner as in Duty bound shall ever pray

Isaac Ruddle.

Endorsement on back of petition: October 26th 1791—Rcfd. to Claims—rejected—repd. 9th. qre. 1791 (?) Voucher delivered to Mr. Waller.

NUMBER 96.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES—

The Petition of Levi Todd Clerk of Fayette County, on behalf of himself and the other clerks of Courts within the

District of Kentucky, Humbly sheweth, That by reason of your Petitioners remote situation from the seat of Government, The acts of the last Session of Assembly did not come to his hands untill a very late period—

That your Petitioner being entirely ignorant that Laws had passed to repeal those Laws which imposed a Tax on the Clerks of Courts, and to repeal in part the act imposing new taxes—did on the 9th day of last March pay to Thomas Marshall Treasurer of the District of Kentucky for taxes which he supposed to have become due under the said Repealed laws, but which were in fact abolished by the said Repealing laws, £23.7-7 That your Petitioner has great reason to believe that many other clerks within the said District, have for want of information made similar payments He therefore Humbly prays that a Law may pass authorising and directing the said Treasurer to repay any monies which may have been so paid to him by mistake as aforesaid—

Levi Todd

Endorsement on back of petition: 1st Nov. 1791—Refd to Props—Reasonable—rept.

The request was granted in an act entitled, An Act concerning the clerks within the District of Kentucky. Henings Statutes, Vol. 13, 313.

The receiver was authorized to pay Todd twenty-three pounds, seven shillings, and seven pence, which he paid on account of tax imposed on clerks subsequent to law repealing such tax.

NUMBER 97.

To the Honble the Speaker and members of the House of Delegates of the Commonwealth of Virginia now setting

The petition of Joseph Martin humbly sheweth that there is a very great necessity for a ferry across the Cumberland River where the Kentuckey road crosses the same from the land of your petitioner on the South side to the land—on the opposite shore claimed by William Hord Your petitioner therefore prays that this Honble House will take the same into consideration & prays an act may pass for establishing a ferry

at the said place to be called & known by the name of Martins ferry & your petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray &c.

Endorsement on back of petition: 7th Nov. 1791—refd. to Props—Reasonable—reported.

NUMBER 98.

To the honorable the Speaker & house of Delegates.

The Petition of James McAfee humbly sheweth

That he did in the years 1780 & 1781 furnish the Troops at the falls of Ohio with money Provisions and whisky for which he received Bills drawn on the Executive for the several supplies.

That in the year 1782 he sent these papers to be laid before the Commissioners in the District of Kentucky and then went to New Orleans, from thence to the West Indies, from whence he did not return to America before the expiration of the Law for settling such Claims. That since his return the original papers have been delivered to him, with the information that no settlement with the State had been made. Your Petitioner therefore prays your honorable House to take his case under consideration and make him such compensation as shall be just

The bills No. 1, 2, 3 being drawn by persons not authorized by Government and not having been Reported on by the Western Commrs the Auditor cant act on them—The other Vouchers being in the latter situation the Auditor cant admit them

I Pendleton

Audrs Office
15 Nov. 1791.

Endorsement on back of petition: 7th Novr. 1791.—Refd to Claims—rejected —reported 18 qre. 91.

NUMBER 99.

To The Hon'ble The Speaker & Members of the Virginia Assembly.—

The petition of James Wilkinson sheweth

That the Lands now called Frankfort were some years ago called and known by the name of Lees Town bottom. That in the Year 1783 an Act passed for establishing an Inspection

of Tobacco at the said Lees Town. That your Petitioner in the confidence and belief that the distance of half a mile or three quarters would make little or no difference in the site of the said inspection proceeded to erect a Ware House at Frankfort. That the County Court of Fayette being also of the opinion of your petitioner proceeded to appoint inspectors who were duly commissioned by the Executive & proceeded to Act. Large quantities of Tobacco have been inspected thereat but doubts have arisen whether the Tobacco there inspected are Legal Tenders in Contracts or for officers fees. Your petitioner therefore prays that an Act may pass for the Inspection at Frankfort to be established by the name of the Frankfort Inspection & your Petitioner &c.

Endorsement on back of petition. 11th. Novr. 1791—Refd. to Props—Reasonable, H. L.—Reported.

The request was granted in an act entitled, An Act to establish an inspection of tobacco in the county of Woodford, on lands of James Wilkinson, at Frankfort. Henings Statutes, Vol. 13, 272.

NUMBER 100.

To the Honorable The Legislature of the State of Virginia—

The Memorial of George Rogers Clark, late a Brigadier General in the Troops of the State, and Commandant throughout the Western Jurisdiction of that Commonwealth—

Sheweth:

That your Memorialist, relying on the Justice, Magnimity & Indulgance of your venerable Body, experienced at all times by himself, and ever bountifully extended, in every instance, to those of your officers & Privates of the late war who, to say no more, as advantageously to the public weal as they could, have faithfully complied with their duty—now presumes as one among them, by this Instrument, to lay before your House, as well through devotional deference, as with modest confidence, his General Statement of claims, Debts, or Arrearages, with authenticated Vouchers substantiating the same,

due to him from your State—, debts of long standing, and vitally detrimental to your Memorialist's affairs, from their having been thus long pending & unliquidated—, debts arising from his past Military Services, or from advances of the better part of his Fortune for the credit of the State, when that of the State itself (in the instance, at least, in which these advances were made) had been prostrate—, debts insured by a free Gift of your own to the officers of your Establishment for the necessary maintenance of your Troops under my command, in this Western country, troops (it behoves me to say) who with a fortitude, fidelity & martial hardihood, perhaps unexampled, had braved heroically, and with successful effect every kind of want, and every Species of peril, to preserve the very fairest portion of your State, and indeed of the whole Union—, debts of commutation for my half-pay, and debts for having, from my own funds, supplied your Garrisons & those heroic Troops with Bread, to feed on.

To say more on a topic so tissued with every incident that can have a rightful claim to the Equity & Humanity, not to talk of the Gratitude of any Government—, on a theme so well known to the existing Generation of our Countrymen—, on a subject so advantageously to be felt, in its consequences, not only by those who inhabit the various settlements now checquering the face of that wide-extended portion of our Empire, those redeemed from the Foe, but by the many Millions who, in the progression of not very many years, must cover it—; to say more, I say, on a Subject so teaming with past, present, and future benefits to the citizens of this Commonwealth itself, as well as to those of the Confederacy in general, would (in your Memorialist's humble opinion) derogate from his own, as well as the universal Sense of men, on a *Legislature of the State of Virginia.*

Your Memorialist, therefore, thinks it sufficient, at this Juncture, to have humbly requested, as he does, the attention of your venerable House to his *General Acct*, and to every

Document vouching for or relating to the same as herewith transmitted in detached Papers, Nos 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8—; and only to add: that the difficulty of collecting the aforesaid enumerated Papers of document from the different & remotely resident Persons who had held them, was the sole cause of your Memorialist's not having made an earlier application, for his claims, to the Legislature of Virginia.—

Signed G R Clark

Gloster Town 28th Dec 1796

My friend

I reached this place on the 27th Inst. I found those for whom I felt the tenderest respect and affection well; but found myself impressed with that kind of Gloom which arises on returning to a country once the seat of grandeur and munificence but, now alas, exhibiting the most striking proofs of poverty. But my spirits were revived on seeing the refined buties of my fair relation. Indeed King I sincerely lament that fortune has so frowned on relation so dear to me. Come down my friend & lament with me that worth and beauty are now become a secondary object with the male sex. Will you do me the favour to leave the enclosed letter with Boyd & Carr and will encrease my load of obligation by applying to Mr Hay for Genl Clarks papers

Adieu John Thurston

I have no wafr seal the enclosed J T

Endorsement on back of petition: 11th Novr. 1791—p. 111. Refd to Claims —rejected 70,000 Flour—Reasonable—Bill Exche.—repd 24th qre 1791. 1 Decr. 1791—p 225-6.

NUMBER 101.

To The Honorable the General Assembly of Virginia

The Petition of John Campbell in behalf of himself & the Inspectors of Campbells Warehouse Sheweth:

That in the Year 1783 an Act passed for establishing an Inspection of Tobacco at the Falls of Ohio on the Lands of the

said John Campbell without any condition restriction or exception. That in consequence thereof the said Campbell hath built a Ware House and Inspectors have been legally appointed thereto that in the last Year the Quantity of Tobacco shipped falls short £23. 15 that the said Campbell hath applied to the Auditor for settlement thereof which he refuses alledging that if the Inspection doth not support itself it is therefore discontinued your petitioner thinks and is certain the Inspectors believed they were to receive their Wages as no orders from the County Court had issued to suppress or discontinue the said Inspection which is the only one in Jefferson County and the only one on Ohio River within the Kentucky District and one that is essentially necessary as it often happens boats are wrecked on the Falls and the Tobaccoes cannot be transported to any other inspection without great expence and decrease in the Value which will readily appear by considering that an Inland carriage of many miles & a carriage back again to the river must be very expensive & distressing to the unfortunate sufferers Your Petitioner therefore prays the Honorable the Assembly to take the same into consideration & direct the Auditor of Publick Accounts to settle & certify the said accounts in the usual manner or to grant any other relief which to you may seem just & your Petitioner &c.—

The Auditor thinks that as the Inspection has never produced any surplus the Act under wch it is established will not suffer him to give a warrant on the public treasury for the deficiency and See Revisal Page 217. Chap. XXVIII—Sect 3d.

I. Pendleton.

Audrs office
11 Nov. 1791.

Endorsement on back of petition: 12 Novr. Refd to Props—(rejected.) (repd)

NUMBER 102

THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

the petition of John Stuart Heir at Law to Henry Stuart Decd Humbly sheweth that the Decedent did in the year 1775 go down the river Ohio in the Company of Joseph Irwin James Cornahan James Campbell and others in order to improve lands in the District of Kentucky that the Decedent did make an Improvement on the waters of Hinksons fork of Licking after which he returned to the Monongahala Country that in Jany 1776 He Inlisted in the 13th Virginia regiment under the Command of Colo Wm Russell for During the war and that the Decedant Died in Service—

That in the year 1785 your petitioner then an Infant made application to Joseph Irwin who was going to Kentuckey to procure His right to the said land as Heir to the Decedant that the said Irwin did in April or May 1785 make application to the County Court of Fayette, in behalf of your petitioner that the said Court did grant your petitioner a right of settlement for 400 acres and a pre-emption of 1000 acres of Land adjoining that after this the said Irwin made application to the register of the land office who granted your petitioner a warrant for the land above mentioned. that the said Irwin Engagd to locate the same that on His way to Kentucky a difrance arose in which the said Irwin Killd His antagonist and fled Down the Misisipia river, that on His flight he left the Warrant and other necessary papers in Kentucky in the Hands of Major Moroson that Before your petitioner arrivd at the age of 21 years the time for Entering Certificates for settlement rights and locating Warrants on preemption rights had Expired your petitioner therefore prays that a Law may pass Impowering Him to Enter & Survey the same & your petitioner as in Duty Bound shall ever pray John Stewart.

Endorsement on back of petition: 12th Nov. 1791. Refd. to Cts of Justice— 15th Nov. 1791—Reasonable—provided not to interfere with rights of any other person, or persons—Reported—

The request was granted in an act entitled, An Act for giving further time to John Stewart to locate and survey certain lands.
Henings Statutes, Vol 13—304.

To the General Assembly of Virginia

NUMBER 103

To the Hone. the Speaker & House of Delegates—

The petition of James Gilmore and Stephen Huston, Humbly sheweth—

That your petitioners was employed in Lincoln County By Capt. John Martin and Capt. Samuel Kirkham as scouts to Discover the approach of the Indian Enemy That they served as such from the 25th Day of April untill the 2d day of July in the year 1781 and that they never Received any Compensation for their services—and prays that your Honorable Body may take their case into Consideration and grant them such Relief as you may think Just and Right

And your petitioners in Duty Bound shall ever pray

The Auditors office does not afford any check on these claims the Vouchers being in the hands of the State by Commr for setling the continental Account . . . [illegible].

Endorsement on back of petition: Gilmour & Huston Pets. 12 Nov. 1791. Ref. to Claims. Reasonable Vouchers to Col. Logan repd 25th Ex 91 Lincoln.

NUMBER 104

To the Speaker of the Honorable House of Representatives met in General Assembly

Whereas I am inform'd that a Petition will be presented, praying the Establishment of a Ferry upon the Lands of John Kimburlin, with liberty to Land on the oposite shore, across Pattersons Creek at the Town of Frankfort on the main ford leading from Winchester to Fort pitt, now your Petitioner Humbly sheweth that the Land calld in the aforesaid Petition the Land of John Kimburlin is the real Property of your Petitioner, and that your Petitioner hath never given, or is under any obligation to give the sd Kimburlin any title to sd Land, any further that sd Kimburlin is in possession thereof by virtue of a Verbial Contract; and your Petitioner further

sheweth that he is very desirous to have a Ferry Established over the sd Creek in his own name and is always ready to comply with the sd Virtual Contract with sd Kimburlin; But your Petitioner Humbly prayeth that the General Assembly may at this time delay the establishment of sd Ferry, if they cannot consistantly establish the same in the name of your Petitioner who is the real owner of the Land on both sides of the Creek, and as in duty bound shall ever pray—

Frankfort Sep. 22d 1792. [Name.]

Endorsement on back of petition: 4 Oct. 1792.—to Props.—(next Session)

NUMBER 105

TO THE HONORABLE THE SPEAKER & HOUSE OF DELEGATES

The Petition of George Rogers Clarke humbly sheweth that he entered the service of this State the second day of January 1778 and commanded the Troops raised for the defence of the Western frontier from that period until the end of the War, in the rank of Brigadier General.

Your Petitioner therefore prays the consideration of the House and that they will allow him half pay for life or a commutation of five years full pay in lieu thereof.

The Commutation has not been paid to the Petitioner.

I. Pendleton

4 Nov. 1793.

Endorsement on back of petition: 4 Novr. 1793—Claims—Reasonable—Special—22d qre. 93.

NUMBER 106

TO THE HONORABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF BOTH HOUSES OF ASSEMBLY

The Petition [of] Daniel Boone Humbly sheweth, that your petitioner paid into the Treasury of this Commonwealth the sum of One thousand and five pounds, & was thereby entitled to a Land office Treasury Warrant, to amount of Six Hundred and Twenty Eight Acres of Land, as by Certificate obtained from the auditors of Publick accounts Dated on the 21st Day

of February 1783 will fully appear,—your petitioner begs leave to represent that this certificate was obtained for him by a certain Samuel Pattison, who shortly after the Date thereof Departed this life, and lay amongst the said Pattisons papers untill some short time ago, when your petitioner applied therewith to the Register for a Land Warrant, who refused to Issue the Same, Your Petitioner therefore prays this General Assembly to pass an act Directing that the Register Issue to your Petitioner a Land office treasury Warrant for the quantity stated in the said certificate—and your petitioner will pray &c

Endorsement on back of petition: Novr. 24th 1794—Refd. to Props—(reasonable) (repd)

NUMBER 107

To the Honble the Speaker and Members of the Legislature of the commonwealth of Virginia

the Petition of James Bullock of the State of Kentucky Humbly sheweth that your Petitioner sometime in the year 1781 obtained from the Auditor of Public Accounts two certificates of twenty five pounds each for a Horse impressed into the public service: that some time in or about April 1788 the said certificates were lost or destroyed: your Petitioner therefore prays that an act may pass directing the Auditor of Public Accounts to issue to him Duplicates of the said certificates on his complying with the necessary requisites—And your Petitioner as in duty bound will pray &c—

Endorsement on back of petition: Dec 7, 98—Claims—Reasonable Reported

NUMBER 108.

The Honorable the General Assembly of the State of Virginia.

Your Petitioner William Bledsoe in the year 1782 had a beast taken into the service in an expedition against the Indians as by Reference to a certificate granted at St. Asaphs the 11th of April 1783 by the Bord of Commisioners will appear Your

petitioner was Intitled to twenty pounds as a satisfaction for sd Beast that furthermore your petitioner was informed that an auditered certificate issued in favour of your petitioner By the name of William Bledsoe which certificate never came to the hands of your petitioner; Your petitioner caused due proof to be made to the court of Lincoln county then a district of the State of Virginia that sd certificate was the property of your petitioner and that the same was casually lost or mislayed upon which your petitioner entered into bond and Christopher Greenup esqr. Security to Indemnify the commonwealth of Virginia from the payment of sd Certificate in case a duplicate should issue that a duplicate has been applied for and your petitioner is informed that no Law exists in favour of issuing sd duplicate: forasmuch as your petitioner had sd Beast arrested from him and lost in the service of the State of Virginia to the hardship and detriment of your petitioner and not yet payed for your petitioner prayes that a Law may pass authorising your petitioner to call on the auditor for his warrant on the Treasurer for the aforesaid sum of twenty pounds or grant such other Relieff as may appear Just and Right and Your petitioner as in duty Bound will pray &c.

William Bledsoe

February 1st 1799—

Your petitioner not having a safe oppertunity to forward this petition in time hopes this his petition will be received and acted upon on its Receipt with the voucher and bond certified.

William Bledsoe.

NUMBER 109.

To the Honorable the General Assembly of Virginia

The petition of Edmond Southard and Sarah his wife, formerly Sarah Thornton respectfully sheweth:

That on the 19th of April 1783 there issued from the Land office of this commonwealth, a Land office Treasury Warrant

(No 15. 524) to the Revd Thomas Thornton the father of your petitioner Sarah for 1462 acres which warrant, was lodged at the time of the death of the said Thornton, and had been previous thereto, in the Land office of the Western District for location.

That the said Thomas Thornton died early in the year 1792 having first made a will by which he left the said warrant to your petitioner Sarah as will appear by a copy of that will herewith presented: That the Erection of the State of Kentucky into an independent government, and its consequent division from this state, and other causes, which are set forth in the letter of Major Charles Ewell also herewith presented, prevented the location of the said Warrant, and it remains unappropriated to this day, as will be seen by the accompanying certificate from the Registers office, and your petitioners consequently deprived of the most material and important part of their patrimony. Your petitioners have had no agency in bringing upon themselves this lamentable state of things: Their parent has paid his money to the state for a land right which the State by its own act has prevented the execution of, and which act leaves your petitioners "poor indeed"—An affectionate parent on his death had comforted himself with the belief that he had made provision for an infant daughter; but the operation of the Laws of the Commonwealth has deprived that daughter of the hope of ever enjoying a parents bounty—She throws herself upon the justice and magnammity of the Legislature of her Country, and asks at its hands some compensation for the loss she has sustained—She begs the Legislature will remember that money laid out in 1462 acres of Land in Kentucky in the year 1783 would now produce no small fortune—She asks that it will remember that lands have greatly appreciated, and money greatly depreciated since that period; and although she will not ask full price for her land, she asks a reasonable compensation either in money or other lands—She asks the Legislature to redeem her in some measure from the gaping

jaws of poverty—to relieve her from the situation which her dying father had never anticipated she would be in, and she thinks she asks all this not without some reason. Your petitioners have now a numerous offspring to provide for, or they might not so strenuously press their claim, and they do not exagerate when they declare they are "poor indeed"—They hope therefore that the Legislature will hear their prayer, and grant them such relief as the nature of their case demands and they will ever pray &c.

Edmund Southard.

Land office Treasury warrant No 15,524 issued to The Revd Thomas Thornton for 1462 acs Apl. 19th 1783—no appropriation stands charged on the Register of said warrant. That is no survey is founded on said warrant. Searched from the year 1783 to the year 1793 and find no survey or grant in said Thorntons name.

On further examination no survey appears to have been returned to this office in his name.

In Case Mr Thornton in his lifetime should have made a location on said Warrant in Kentuckey and nothing further down therein, which might have escaped his recollection: By writing to some person who is acquainted with the nature of such things perhaps information might be obtained. If the warrant can be produced an Exchange warrant can issue for whatever appears due on same.—No location can be made on a Land office Treasury warrant or Exchange warrant & that bears date on or before Feby. 2nd 1804—"such warrants exchangeable." "By act of 1815 ch: 30. Entries *after 31 December* 1816 on such warrants were inhibited."

John Davenport clk.

Land office
May 5th 1824.

In the name of God amen I. Thomas Thornton of Fredericksburg [clerk] being weak of body but of sound and perfect mind and memory, do make and ordain in this my last will and testa-

ment hereby revoking all former wills by me made, first I recommend my soul to God who gave it in hopes of a Joyful resurrection to eternal life though Jesus Christ our Lord and the worldly Goods and estate wherewith it hath pleased a gracious God to bless me I give and devise as follows. Imprimis I give and devise to my loving and well beloved wife Mary Ann Bertrand Thornton two tracts of land lying situate and being in the County of Prince William given unto me by her father Colo Bertrand Ewell containing by estimation four hundred and three acres be the same more or less to have and to hold to her during her natural life she making no waste or destruction thereupon and after her decease I give and devise the same to my Son Thomas Thornton Jun. to have and to hold to my said Son his heirs & assigns as an absolute estate of inheritance in fee simple forever. I further give and devise unto my said wife all that tract of land lying situate and being in the county of Prince William aforesaid which I bought of David Reno to have hold occupy and enjoy the said tract with the building thereon until my said Son Thomas shall attain unto the full age of twenty-one years she making no waste or destruction thereon and after the end and expiration of the said Term, that is to say when my Son Thomas shall attain unto the Said full age of twenty one years I give and devise the said tract of land unto him my said Son Thomas his heirs and assigns as an absolute estate of inheritance in fee simple forever. It is my will and desire that all my stock of horses, cattle, sheep, Hogs, &c and all my household furniture and planatation utensils be kept together for the joint use of my wife & children until my said Son Thomas shall attain unto the full age of twenty one years and then I give and bequeath the same unto my said wife and my said Son Thomas to be equally divided between them to their own use & behoof forever. I further give unto my said wife the following negro slaves viz: Lotto Senr. Winny Senr. Vernon Squire Tom the Son of Winny Senr. and Maryann the daughter of Ralph and Mary to her own use & behoof

forever. Item. I give and bequeath unto my said Son Thomas four negro slaves, viz: Ralph, Mary, Lotto Jun. & Billy the Son of Ralph & Mary. all the books I shalt die possessed of one enameled gold ring in memory of Colo. William Goldsborough, also all my plate viz: one silver watch one large two handed cup and cover, two pint cans, two large sauce boats, one soup ladle, one soup spoon, one silver cup, or lamp four salts with their glasses and shovels, eleven Table spoons, twelve tea spoons, one spoon strainer and one pair of sugar tongs. Item. I give and bequeath to my daughter Ann Thornton the following negro slaves, viz: Ben Johnston Sarah and her other two children, Sam and Harry, which she had by Ben Johnson and her two children Lucy and Jack which she had by Col Taliaferro Randall to her own use and behoof forever. Item I give & bequeath to my daughter Sarah Thornton three negro slaves viz: Abraham, Davy and Winny to her own use and behoof forever and I further give and devise to my said Daughter Sarah Thornton a land office Treasury warrant No. 15.524 drawn in my favor by the Register of the land office for fourteen hundred and sixty two acres now lodged in the land office of the Western District for location hereby assigning unto my said Daughter all the right title or interest which I have in the same or which may accrue therefrom and to hold to her her heirs and assigns forever. Item. I give and bequeath unto my said wife my said Son Thomas and my said two daughters Ann & Sarah three loan office certificates, issued from the land office of the United States, in the State of Maryland the twentieth of October seventeen hundred and ninety viz: No 8 for the sum of nine hundred and ten dollars and fifty cents bearing interest of six per cent per annum from the first day of January seventeen hundred and ninety one. Also No 8 for the Sum of four hundred and fifty five dollars twenty five cents bearing interest at six per cent per annum from the first day of January One thousand eight hundred and one, also No 9 for the Sum of nine hundred and sixty two & eighty four cents

bearing interest at three per cent per annum from the first day of January Seventeen hundred and ninety one also two other certificates issued December the thirtieth from the loan office of the State of Virginia Seventeen hundred and ninety both numbered One hundred and four One for the Sum of Sixteen dollars & eighty four cents bearing interest at six per cent per annum from the first day of January seventeen hundred and ninety one, the other for the Sum of eight dollars and forty three cents bearing interest at six per cent per annum from the first day of January Eighteen hundred and one to be equally divided between them together with the interest that has or may arise from the same to their own use & behoof forever, and I do hereby constitute & appoint my said wife to be Executrix and my worthy and esteemed friend Doctor Robert Wellford to be Executor of this my will & testament & joint Guardians to my said children. In witness whereof I the said Thomas Thornton have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty fourth day of March in the year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and ninety one.

Thomas Thornton (seal)
March 24th 1791.

Fixed and sealed and declared by the said Thomas Thornton to be his last will and Testament in presence of
Chilton Randell
W S Stone
Thomas Garnett

At a District court held at Dumfries the 17th day of May 1792 This will was proved by the oath of Thomas Garnett a witness thereto at a District Court held at Dumfries the 19th day of May 1792 the same was further proved by William Stone another witness thereto and ordered to be recorded. And at a District Court held at Dumfries the 21st day of May 1792 On the motion of Mary ann Thornton the Executrix herein

named who made oath & executed & acknowledged bond as the law directs certificate is granted her for obtaining a probate thereof in due form

Teste G. Brooke C. C.

A copy teste
M. P. Sinclair C. P. W. S. C.

Endorsement on back of petition. Decr. 4th 1824—Rcfd to Claims—1825 Jany 1 Rejected—Jany. 3 Reported

NUMBER 110.

To the Honorable the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia at Richmond assembled

The petition of Berry Cawood a citizen of Harlan County State of Kentucky and former resident of Washington County & State of Virginia

He represents and Humbly sheweth to your Honorable body that in fall of 1778 your petitioner enlisted with a Captain John Williams who was commanded by Col George Clark and marched on a campaign of seven months servitude and was at the taking of Lt. Governor Hamilton at the Opost also garded him to Herods station Kentucky part of the way as a gard & the residue of the way as a Spie and at which place sometime in the month of April 1779 your petitioner obtained a Discharge from his officer and afterwards lost or mislaid the same and returned to the aforesaid Washington county Virginia and lived in an Extream of the said County in the hills and mountains detached from almost Evry community or oportunity of information and has ultimately been kept out of his wages and Land bounty.

Your petitioner begs leave further to state that his former occupation was that of a hunter and being a man of little or no information but made repeted enquiry how to come at his rite his directions that he got were from such vague sources and such a contrast of opinions that he has hitherto been kept in the dark We presume there has been lands laid off near the

falls of Ohio in the now Indiana state for Colo Clark and his soldiers & by refferance to the Acts of Congress you will discover the same but supposes your petitioners lott of Land has been otherwise appropriated and finely lost.

Your petitioner begs leave further to state it is given up by both officers and soldiers of the revolutionary war who was acquainted with that section of Country that Clarks campaign was amongst the hardest that was been performed enduring the revolutionary war as they had to travel a number of miles through inundated Lands and water cold.

Your Petitioner begs leave further to state that he is far advanced in years which the dates of the aforesaid campaign will justify the same and from the result of that Expedition together with divers other hardships through life has rendered him infirm & is left without the necessary means of support.

Your petitioner will further state that he would be willing that your Honourable body would contribute land in some section of country not far distant from this place otherwise its value thereof. We the undersigned subscribers do trust that the magnanimity of your Honorable body will hear your petitioners prayer and Extend your benevolance and in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray &c

[Names.]

State of Kentucky
County of Harlan

I Berry Caywood aged sixty eight years do upon oath testify and declare that in the year 1778 I enlisted for the term of seven months in Captain John Williams Company in the regiment Commanded by Colonel George Clarke of the Virginia and that I continued in the service aforesaid during the term of seven months afsaid was at the taking of Lieut Governor Hamilton and guarded the said Hamilton to Herod station in Kentucky at which place I was discharged regularly and said

discharge is lost or mislaid and that I have not received any compensation for said services nor has any person been authorised by me to receive the same.

Berry Cawood

Sworn to and subscribed before the undersigned a justice of the peace for the County afsd this 7th day of November 1831.

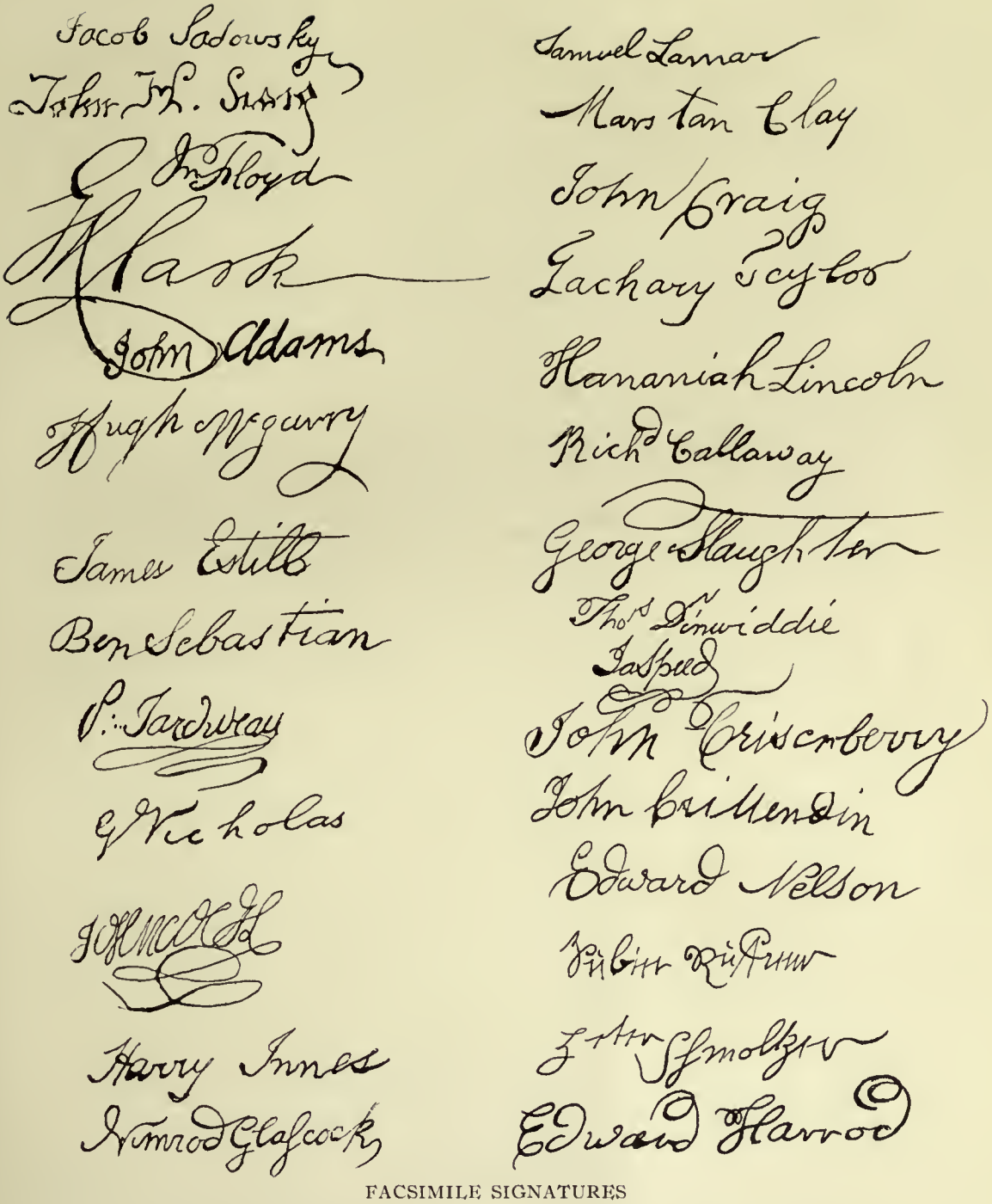
John Noe J. P.

Harlan County State af Kentucky January 9th 1830

This day personally came before me Luke Noe One of the commonwealths justices of the peace for the County aforesaid William Hudson of the county of Clay & state aforesd and made oath that in the year of 1779 he saw Berry Cawood on an Expedition under the command of Colo George Clark & perhaps in the company of Capt John Williams and the said Cawood was at the taking of Lt Governor Hamilton & further the said Cawood held an Indian scalp in his hand and it was said that the said Cawood killed the Indian sworn to & subscribed this date above written

William Hudson
Luke Noe J P

Endorsement on back of petition. Decr. 21st 1831.—Refd. to Revy. Claims.



FACSIMILE SIGNATURES

Tracings made from characteristic signatures found on the petitions herein printed

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