



Virginia Legislative Papers (Continued)

Source: *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, Jan., 1910, Vol. 18, No. 1 (Jan., 1910), pp. 24-44

Published by: Virginia Historical Society

Stable URL: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/4243032>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at <https://about.jstor.org/terms>



JSTOR

Virginia Historical Society is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*

and determining by the Grand Assembly according to Laws and practices of this Colony as yet being no precedent to the Contrary whether their Lordships will please to require that the whole Matter shall be first laid before their Lordships and by their Lordships receive a final decision and that in the Interim Colo. Philip Ludwell and do give Bond for five hundred pounds sterling with good Security for his good Behaviour to the Right Honourable the Governor and likewise that the Bond in the afore cited Order and Bond for One Thousand pounds to be and remain in force till the whole Matter be concluded.

Sir Henry Chicheley, Lieut. Colo. Daniel Park, and Rowland Place Esquire, dissent from all that part of this Order, of the Defendants appeal to the Assembly.

Recorded  Henry Hartwell.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE PAPERS.

FROM THE ORIGINALS IN THE VIRGINIA STATE ARCHIVES.

CONTINUED.

CAPTAIN GIBSON'S¹ TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS.

Sir :

I have the pleasure to inclose you a Letter from Mr. Wythe covering some papers relative to capt. Gibson's Trip to New Orleans, as also a Letter from our Delegates in Congress with a

¹George Gibson was born in Lancaster county, Pa., in 1747. As he lived in that part of the Colony claimed by Virginia, he was long in the Virginia service. At the beginning of the Revolution he raised a company near Fort Pitt, and joined the Virginia line. In May, 1776, an expedition, commanded by Gibson and William Linn, went to New Orleans to secure gun-powder. After many difficulties ten thousand pounds were obtained of which part was brought by Linn up the Missis-

Resolution respecting the settlement of the Continental accounts with this Country.

I have the Honor to be

Sir

Yr. Mo. ob. hble Serv't,

P. Henry, Jr.

22d Nov., 1776.

[Inclosure not found.]

To The hon'ble Edmund Pendleton, Esq'r,
Speaker of the House of Delegates :

[Endorsement]

Letter from Governor ab't Capt. Geo. Gibson's trip to Orleans & other Papers from Delegates at Congress on the subject.

Novem'r 22d. Ref'd to Committee on State of Country.

CASE OF THE SLOOP SPEEDWELL.*

Sloop Speedwell Dr.

To

John Lindsay.

May 23d, 1776. To Wages p. acct. rendered to The Committee of Spotsylvania being for one year & 10½ months from the 9th July 1774 to the 23d May 1776 at the rate of 40 £ p. annum which the Hon'ble Convention sustained by their resolve on Wednesday the 22d June last making the sum £75.

Cr.

By William Cunninghame & Co'y. amount of my account with Walter Colgerhame exclusive of the above wages p. settlement with sum

32.	16.	5½
<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>
£42.	3.	6½

sippi and Ohio, and the rest taken to Virginia by sea, by Gibson. He was commissioned Major, 4th Virginia, March 22, 1777; Colonel, 1st Virginia, State Regiment, June 5, 1777 to January, 1782. At the close of the Revolution he returned to his home in Cumberland county, Pa., and was mortally wounded November 4, 1791, at St. Clair's defeat. (See *Heitman*, and *The Revolution on the Upper Ohio*.)

*The sloop *Speedwell* had probably been confiscated by the Spotsylvania Committee of Safety, who allowed the master his wages out of the proceeds.

From the above state of our accounts it is evident there is a balance due to me of Forty two pounds Three shillings & Six pence half penny : which is ordered to be paid to me by the foresaid resolve of The Hon'ble Convention & which I have assigned to Robert Patton or order. To the truth thereof I am ready to make oath.

Witness my hand this 9th September 1776.

John Lindsay.

Capt. John Lindsay Dr.

To William Cunninghame & C'oy.

June 14, 1776.

To Ballance p. settlement being the sum advanced him of his wages from the 9th July 1774 to the 23d May 1776, £32. 16. 5½.

St. George S. C.

James Robinson Factor for William Cunninghame & Co'y came before me and made oath, that the above Thirty two pounds, sixteen shillings and five pence half penny is the exact sum which were advanced to Capt. John Lindsay in part of his wages as skipper of the Sloop Speedwell from the 9th July 1774 to the 23d May 1776.

Given under my hand this 29th Novem'r 1776.

James Robinson.

James Buchanan.

PETITION OF THE OFFICERS OF THE MINUTE BATTALION.*

To the Honourable the Speaker of the House of Delegates :

Portsmouth, Dec'r 1st, 1776.

Sir :

In expectation of there being a Number of additional Troops Raised, who are to be on Colonial Establishment the officers of the Minute Battalion now in service beg leave to address your Honourable House, on a matter of infinite importance to themselves.

The disadvantages, under which they came into their present Service hath occasioned them to suffer exceedingly in their private Fortunes—especially as they have been continued much longer, than they at first expected—disadvantages which nothing

* See Vol. XVII, 379, 381, 382.

but the calls of an injured Country would have induced their subjecting themselves to.

You will not conceive them trivial when you consider that it was in Midsummer, when every preparation they had been making for Crops, were in their progress to perfection—& lost by their leaving them—Even, under *these* circumstances, it it still their fervent wish to continue in the service of their Country: in posts of equal Rank, with those they have the honour now to fill.

Confined to their duty at this place, they were totally prevented from offering themselves as Candidates in their Respective Counties, by personal application—(the only successful mode) at the choice of officers for the Six Regiments now Raising on Continental establishment.

If your Honourable House should not esteem it improper—the officers of the Battalion wish to be formed, as they now stand, into one of the new Colonial Battalions—this they conceive might be done with Credit to themselves & advantage to their Country—They have it in their power, to enlist their men, with more facility & dispatch than others who may be appointed—& who are not only strangers to the men composing this Battalion, but strangers to service likewise—A considerable part of the Militia from the adjacent Counties, are now in this Garrison—many of whom would be fond of entering into the Colonial Service.

You will conceive it a hardship for the officers of the Battalion; now to be obliged to return to their Counties, fall into the Militia as Common Soldiers & at a future day be called into service, among the common mass—under the command of those, who remained at Home enjoying every conveniency of life—whilst they were sacrificing both happiness & fortune.

These sentiments they take the liberty of communicating through you to your Honourable House—& have the Honour to be

Sir,

Your very H'bl Servants,

R'd James,⁴ L. C.

⁴For Richard James see XVII, 379.

Charles Dabney see XIII, 337.

John Winston was commissioned Captain, 14th Virginia, February 24,

Chas. Dabney, Capt.
 John Winston, Capt.
 Ben. Timberlake,
 Fran's Goode, Capt.
 Geo. Markham, Capt.
 John Overton, Jr.
 John Thompson, Lieut.
 Thomas Trill, Lieut.
 John Winfield, Ensign.
 John Hendricks, Ensign.
 William Hoffer, Capt.
 William Meredith, V. [Q. ?] M.

To The Honourable Edm'd Pendleton Esq'r Speaker of the
 House of Delegates for Virginia.

Endorsement.

A Letter from Officers at Portsmouth.

POWER OF GOVERNOR TO ISSUE WARRANTS FOR MONEY.

Williamsburg, Dec. 6th, 1776.

Hon. Sir :

As by the Act of Government it is directed, that the Governor with the advice of the privy Council shall exercise the executive Powers of Government, a Doubt arises whether the Governor alone may issue a warrant upon the Treasury for the Payment of any money on accounts certified by the Commissioners.—From experience it is found impracticable to attend to many matters of consequence to the safety of the State, if

1777; Captain, 10th Virginia, September 14, 1778; retired February 12, 1781.

Benjamin Timberlake was Captain, Virginia Convention Guards, January 13th to October 12, 1779.

John Overton was commissioned 1st Lieutenant, 14th Virginia, March 10, 1777; of the 10th Virginia, September 14, 1778; transferred to 1st Virginia, February 12, 1781; retired, January 1st, 1783.

A John Thompson as Lieutenant of the 1st Virginia, and another of 7th Virginia.

William Hoffer was Captain, 1st Virginia State Regiment, from January 9th, 1777 to October, 1779.

the Council are, not only to advise the issuing of warrants upon such Certificates, but also to keep Records of the same.

We think it proper to acquaint the General Assembly with these our sentiments, and we beg leave earnestly to recommend it to their consideration, whether it would not be to the advantage of the state if the commissioners were impowered finally to transact this Business, or some other regular mode adopted for the future settling & passing the accompts against the State.

By advice of the Council.

P. Henry, Jr.

To the Hon'ble Edmund Pendleton Esquire Speaker of the Hon'ble House of Delegates.

[Endorsement.]

Letters from the Governor Dec'r 6, 1776, relating to Draughts on the Treasury.

FREDERICK COUNTY VOLUNTEERS.⁵

Frederick, December 12th, 1776.

Sir:

At the request of a number of Gentlemen in this County I am to acquaint you with this desire, of affording such assistance to General Washington, as is now become a Duty incumbent on every well wisher to America.

From the slowness of the officers in recruiting their men for the several new ordered Reg'ts it is supposed that no timely assistance can be from them afforded to the General, in his present truly alarming situation. From this motive I through the Desire of encouraging men to enter into the continental service, there are one hundred volunteers in this County, who

⁵After his disheartening retreat through New Jersey, Washington had crossed the Delaware on the 8th of December. John Smith, who signed the letter, was born May 7, 1750, and died March 3, 1836. He was son of John Smith of "Shooter's Hill," Middlesex county, but removed in 1773 to "Hackwood," a plantation in Frederick county. He was commissioned Colonel of Militia, January 8, 1776, and County Lieutenant of Frederick, March 6, 1777. Later he was in active service in the militia under Morgan and Muhlenburg, was Brigadier and Major General of the State Militia and M. C., 1801-15. See *William and Mary Quarterly*, Vol. IV.

offer their service to join the Grand Army, provided, their proposals meet with the encouragement & sanction of Government, what those proposals are, the enclos'd copy of a petition to me as commanding officer of the County will inform you. It is a matter Sir, that in my opinion will be productive of the greatest good, as I well know the example will be followed by the adjacent Counties.—It will likewise obviate the objection which many with us have of entering into the service, in complaining, that as the Danger of War approaches, men of Fortune refuse to afford that assistance, which is expected from them ; for you must know sir, that these volunteers will in a great measure consist of the principal Gentlemen of the County—should their proposals meet with the desired approbation, whatever orders & regulations, you may think proper to direct shall be faithfully communicated to them by Sir,

Your very humble Servant

John Smith.

At a meeting of the subscribers at Mr. Edmondsons the 10th day of December 1776. The state of the Continental Army being considered. It is the opinion of the meeting that a Comp'y of Volunteers ought to be Immediately Raised in this County to consist of 100 men, who shall when Embodied chuse their own officers and proceed to join the Grand Army with the utmost expedition, and serve therein till the first day of next March, if the Commander in chief shall judge their assistance so long necessary. But that it is proper previously to obtain the sanction of Government. The commanding officers of the Militia is therefore Requested to send express to the Speaker of the House of Delegates and to the Governor, in case the Assembly shou'd be adjourned requesting their approbation, and such provision for the subsistance of the Corps as may be judged a reasonable encouragement for Volunteers, to Inform the said speaker or Governor as the case may be, that it is expected they may be ready to march in three Weeks from this time as the most Effectual measures will from this time be pursued to have them in readiness as soon as the sanction of the Publick Authority can be obtained, and the Commanding officer of the Militia is requested as a proper measure to Expedite the above

mentioned Plan—to call the Militia together at a General Muster to be had at Winchester on Tuesday.

[Endorsement.]

Letter from John Smith Esq.

Dec., 1776.

LETTER FROM CHRISTIAN FEBIGER⁶ AND WILLIAM HETH.

To the Honorable the Speakers & Gentlemen of the General Assembly :

Mr. Febiger & Mr. Heth, beg leave to offer their sincere thanks to this Honorable House, for so unanimous a voice in promoting them to the ranks of Lieut. Colonel & Major in the new Battalions to be rais'd in this Common-Wealth; and to assure this Honorable Body they shall ever entertain a proper sense of the Honor done them;—but as, the peculiarity and delicacy of their situation, will neither admit of their immediate acceptance, or allow them to acknowledge themselves in such terms as they would wish to use,—they can only say,—that whenever they are at liberty to accept of their appointments, and once more step forth in defence of their bleeding and much injured Country—their utmost abilities, and warmest endeavours, shall ever be fully exerted in preserving that Honor, which the Virginians have, in every Instance—during the present contest—most justly acquir'd.

Christian Febiger,
Will. Heth.

[Endorsement.]

A Letter from Christian Febiger and William Heth.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION, MAY 31, 1776,
IN REGARD TO GOVERNOR EDEN, OF MARYLAND.⁷

The presid't laid before the Con'n sundry proceed'gs of the

⁶ Febiger and Heth each became a colonel in the Virginia line and saw hard service throughout the war.

⁷ Sir Robert Eden, Governor of Maryland, 1768-1776. In April of the last year, General Charles Lee and Congress ordered the Baltimore Committee of Safety to arrest him, but the execution of this order was prevented by the Provincial Council of Safety at Annapolis, and the Governor was allowed to embark for England.

Com'ee of the prov'ce of Maryl'd respect'g the lett'rs from Ld. Geo. Germaine to Gov'r Eden which had been intercepted in Virg'a and transm'd to the Maryl'd Council of Safety to give them timely notice of the duplicity & dangerous designs of the s'd Gov'r & resol'ns contain a request & permiss'n to the s'd Gov'r to depart the s'd Prov'ce unmolested w'th his effects with a passport for that purpose under colour of his being obliged whilst he remains to obey the mandates of the british Ministry altho' the presid't of their Council of State upon whom the resol'ns declare the Gov't devolves in the absence of the Gov'r will be equally under the same obliga'n which proves the necessity of chang'g these pres't Goven't instead of continue'g it contrary to the resolves & recomb'n of the Gen'l Con't Congress toget'r with the copy of an address to the s'd Gov'r & a let'r from the presid't of the s'd Com'r to the presid't of the Com'tee of Safety here desires a like passport from Virg'a which being read—

Res'd That this Con'n will immediately resolve itself into a Com'te on the s'd let'r proceedings resol'ns & address.

The Con'n accord'y resol'd itself into the s'd Com'te and after some time spent therein M. Presid't resumed the Chair & Mr. Cary reported that the Com'te had accord'g to order had under their consid'n the s'd let'r proceedings & address resol'ns & had come to the *call* & resol'ns thereupon which he read in his place & afterw'ds det'd in at the cl'ks Table where the same were again twice read & agreed to—

Res'd the s'd proceed'gs resol'ns & address have been obtained thro' the undue influence of the proprietary In't & pres't Govern't of the s'd province of Maryl'd that they tend to dissolve the Union upon which alone the salvat'n of American liberty depends & therefore that this Con'n will not in any manner be accessory to the same nor grant any permiss'n or passport to the s'd Gov'r Eden or his retinue to pass thro' Virg'a—

Res'd also that a Copy of the s'd proceed'gs resoln's & address of the Maryl'd Com'ee toget'r with this resolve be forthw'th printed in Virg'a Gazette.

ORDER FOR CAPT. NEVILL TO TAKE POSSESSION OF FORT
PITT, 1776.

Resolved That John Nevill be directed to March with his Company of one hundred men & take Possession of Fort Pitt & that his Company be in the pay of this Colony from the time of their marching.

 PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE TO THE VIRGINIA DELEGATES IN
CONGRESS IN REGARD TO THE BOUNDARY LINE.

The Committee of the Honourable Convention of the State of Pennsylvania, appointed to confer with the Hon'ble Delegates in Congress from the State of Virginia, on the settlement of a temporary boundary between the said states, are of opinion that the line proposed by the Hon. Delegates will be very wide from the true limits of Pennsylvania according to the charter ; and as the State of Virginia in one of their most solemn acts published as the future form of Government for that State, and intending thereby to lay the most solid basis for union and confederation with the neighbouring States, has "ceded released and forever confirmed to the people of this state all the Territories contained within the charter erecting this Colony, with all the rights of *Property, Jurisdiction and Government, and all other rights whatsoever.*" The proposing a Temporary Boundary, which would cut off so large a part from this State, seems inconsistent with the said full free and absolute release; and instead of being the basis of Union would certainly be the occasion of much confusion; and as the minds of the Inhabitants of that part of the Country are greatly agitated by the disputes between the two Governments, we have reason to apprehend even fatal Consequences should a Temporary Boundary so apparently partial be agreed to.—Even upon the principle mentioned by the Hon'ble Convention of Virginia their Resolve empowering their Delegates to confer on this subject, (supposing it equitable which may be liable to dispute) the line proposed we apprehend cannot be admitted, and we are convinced that Hon'ble body must have been misinformed as to the settlement of that part of the Country which lies between the Temporary Boundary proposed and the true line. We can assure the Hon'ble Delegates that it

is far from the wish of the people of this state to extend the same beyond its due bounds, it is equally far from their wish to establish a temporary Jurisdiction confessedly far within those bounds, as such a temporary Boundary would on many accounts be productive of more Confusion & greater Inconveniences than than if it was permanent and finale—

Therefore as the only means, of restoring peace and unity amongst the Inhabitants of the Frontiers of each state, it is our earnest desire that a Temporary boundary as nearly correspondent to the true one as possible and such as will “do no injury to either party” should be run which may be done in a very short time, and at a trifling expense, with no considerable error by one or more Commissioners appointed on the part of each state—

It will give us great pleasure should this proposal meet with the appropriation of the Hon'ble Delegates a settlement will enable the Inhabitants to join Heart and Hand in the great cause wherein we are all equally interested.

Dav'd Rettenhouse,
Owen Biddle,
Thomas Smith,
Alex'r Lowry,
Jas. Pottea,
Edw'd Cook.

To Honourable the Delegates of the State of Virginia in Congress.

THE NUMBER OF MEN OF MILITARY AGE IN VIRGINIA IN 1776.

^a[Supposed to be the available number of men of age to perform Military duties.]

Albemarle	1314,	James City	190,
Amelia	1100,	King George	400,
Amherst	650,	King & Queen	.....
E. Augusta	2000,	King William	.....

^aThe endorsement was on the original list when the copy was made for publication here.

Bedford	1400,	Lancaster	200,
Botetourt	1600,	Loudon	1600,
Brunswick	1200,	Louisa	600,
Buckingham	650,	Lunenburg	593,
Berkley	.....	Middlesex	300,
Caroline	.....	Mecklenburg	850,
Chas. City	350,	Nansemond	800,
Charlotte	812,	New Kent	448,
Chesterfield	960,	Norfolk	1000,
Culpeper	.....	Northumberland	700,
Cumberland	1000,	Orange	550,
Dinwiddie	.....	Pittsylvania	1438,
Dunmore	800,	Prince Edward	550,
Eliz. City	160,	Prince George	.....
Essex	400,	Princess Anne	450,
Fairfax	1000,	Prince William	1000,
Fauquier	1100,	Richmond	470,
Frederick	1260,	Southampton	750,
Fincastle	2000,	Spotsylvania	500,
Gloster	900,	Stafford	400,
Goochland	520,	Surry	350,
Halifax	1000,	Sussex	660,
Hampshire	700,	Warwick	100,
Hanover	900,	Westmoreland	697,
Henrico	500,	Williamsburg	218.
Isle of Wight	725,	York	300,

SALE OF CAPTURED VESSEL.

The Commonwealth of Virginia

In acct. Saml. Todd Dr.

August

To Crying 4 Vessels & B. Staves taken as
prizes by Capt. Rut'd Taylor £ — s — 15 —
E. E.

Saml. Todd.

[Endorsement.]

to be paid out of the Com'rs allowance the Olive.

DRAFT OF RESOLUTIONS FOR INDEPENDENCE, 1776.⁹

As the humble Petitions of the Continental Congress have been rejected & treated with contempt: as the Parliament of G. B. so far from shewing any disposition to redress our grievances have lately pass'd an act approving of the ravages that have been committed upon our Coasts & "obliging the unhappy men who shall be made captives, to bear arms against their families, kindred, friends, and Country; and after being plundered themselves, to become accomplices in plundering their brethren, a compulsion not practiced on prisoners of war, except among pirates, the Outlaws & Enemies of human Society;" As they are not only making every preparation to crush us, which the internal strength of the Nation & its alliances with foreign powers afford them, but are using every art to draw the savage Indians upon our Frontiers, & are even encouraging insurrection among our Slaves, many of whom are now actually in Arms against us; and as the King of G. B. by a long series of oppressive acts has prov'd himself the Tyrant instead of the protector of his people: We the Representatives of the Colony of Virginia Do Declare that we hold ourselves absolv'd of our allegiance to the crown of G. B. & obliged by the eternal Laws of self preservation to pursue such measures as may conduce to the Good & Happiness of the United Colonies & as a full declaration of Independence appears to us to be the only probable means under Heaven of obtaining that Happiness and of restoring us again to a tranquil & prosperous situation.

Resolv'd, That our Delegates in Congress be enjoined in the strongest & most positive manner to exert their abilities in procuring an immediate clear & full Declaration of Independency.

[Endorsement.]

Rough Resolutions Independence.

⁹The two drafts of resolutions for independence here given, were evidently offered in the committee of the whole on May 14th and 15th, 1776; the first is in the hand-writing of Patrick Henry and the second in that of Meriwether Smith. On the second day the resolutions, as adopted, were offered by Edmund Pendleton. These resolutions have been printed in Henry's *Life of Patrick Henry*. See that work, I, 390-400.

DRAFT OF RESOLUTIONS FOR INDEPENDENCE, 1776.

Whereas, Lord Dunmore hath assumed a Power of suspending by Proclamation, the laws of this Colony, which is supported by a late Act of the British Parliament, declaring the Colonies in North America to be in actual Rebellion and out of the King's Protection, confiscating our Property wherever found on the Water, and legalizing every seizure, Robbery & Rapine, that their people have heretofore committed on us; Resolved, that the Government of this Colony as hitherto exercised under the Crown of Great Britain be dissolved, and that a committee be appointed to prepare a Declaration of Rights, and such a Plan of Government as shall be judged most proper to maintain Peace & order in this Colony & secure substantia & equal Liberty to the People,

Whereas, the Parliament of Great Britain have usurped unlimited authority to bind the Inhabitants of the American Colonies in all cases whatsoever, and the British Ministry have attempted to execute their many tyrannical acts in the most inhuman & cruel manner, and King George the third having withdrawn his Protection from the said colonies, and jointly with the ministry & Parliament has begun & is now pursuing with the utmost violence a barbarous War against the said colonies, in violation of every civil and religious right of the said Colonies—

Resolved, That the Union that has hitherto subsisted between Great Britain and the American Colonies is hereby totally dissolved, and that the Inhabitants of this Colony are discharged from any allegiance to the crown of Great Britain.

 AMENDMENTS PROPOSED TO THE DECLARATION OF RIGHTS.¹⁰

Page 1: Line 5. Strike out the word *born* & insert *in a state of nature*.

¹⁰ Mason's original draft of the Bill of Rights is preserved in the Virginia State Library. The form in which it was offered remains in a manuscript in the writing of Mason and of T. L. Lee. This draft was printed for the use of the members of the Convention, and there is a copy in the possession of the Virginia Historical Society. The amendments in the text were on the printed draft. See Rowland's *Life of George Mason*, I, 229-262, 433-444.

Line 6. Strike out the word *natural*.

Line 7. After the word *which* insert *when they enter into a state of Society*.

Line 7 & 8. Strike out the words *among which are & insert namely*.

Page 2:

Line 4. Strike out from the word *descendible* & insert *rather ought the offices of a Magistrate a Legislator or a Judge to be hereditary*.

At the end of clause 5 add in which all or any part of the former members to be again eligible or ineligible as the Laws shall direct.

See Mr. Pendleton's amendment in his printed copy which was agreed to.

Enacted for avoided as to penal Laws.

At the end of the sixth clause add *and* cannot be taxed or deprived of their property for publick uses, nor bound by any Law, to which they do not assent by their representatives so elected for their common good.

PETITION OF PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY BAPTISTS,¹¹

MAY 11, 1776.

Prince Wm. Baptists.

referred to Comm'ee of Religion.

To the honourable Speaker, and other Members of the honourable Convention of Virginia, the petition of a Baptist Church at Occaquan Pr. William County hereby sheweth, That Whereas, this Colony with others, is now contending for the civil rights & liberties of making the enslaving schemes of a powerful Enemy.

We being convinced that the strictest unanimity among ourselves very necessary in this most critical conjunction of public affairs: And that every remaining cause of animosity and division may if possible be removed, have thought it our duty as

¹¹ Occoquan Baptist Church, Prince William county, was organized in 1776 by Rev. David Thomas. This is the date officially given by the Baptist historian, Semple, though, from the number of signers to this paper, it is evident that there must have been a congregation in Prince William for some time prior to 1776.

peaceable Christians, to petition for several religious privileges which asserts we have not been indulged with in this part of the world. Viz 1. That we be allowed to worship God in our own way, without interruption.

2. That we be permitted to maintain our own Ministers &c. and no others.

3. That we and our friends who desire it, may be married, buried and the like, without paying the Parsons of any other denomination. These things granted, we will gladly unite with our Brethren of other denominations, and to the utmost of our ability promote the common cause of Freedom, always praying for your welfare & success.

Signed in behalf of the Church, this 19th day of May 1776,
by us,

John Peak,	John Dowel,
John Hampton,	Thos. Hookard,
Nicholas Anderson,	Thos. Bland,
James Peak,	James Walden,
Edward Williams,	Charles Smith,
Daniel Mackintosh,	Thos. Dowel,
Wm. Haney,	Peter Cotnel,
John Harper,	Richard Kinsey,
Obed. Calvert, Senr.,	Wm. Bird,
Obed. Calvert, Junr.,	Rolley Calvert,
John Wnite,	Wm. Dowel,
Mordicia Kelley,	Daniel Peak,
Hammond Morris,	Vincen Cooksey,
John Knight,	Wm. Mills,
John Reid,	John Moon,
Daniel Harnet,	Wm. Jacobs,
Jesse Peak,	Joseph Hampton,
Jas. Born Bland,	Jesse Calvert,
William Calvert,	Jeremiah Dowell,
Sammuel Connor,	John Brent,
William Williams,	Robt. Mcsley,
John King,	John Hampton, Senr.,
James Smith,	Gilbert Roland,
Thos. Smith,	John Chisser.
Robert Bird,	

PETITION OF SUNDRY INHABITANTS OF PRINCE EDWARD
COUNTY,¹² OCTOBER 11, 1776.

Oct. 11th.

To the Honourable the President and House of Delegates of

¹²About 1735, and for some years following, there was a large emigration, by way of Pennsylvania, of Scotch-Irish Presbyterians to the neighborhoods, where were soon established churches at Cub Creek in Charlotte county; Buffaloe Creek and Walker's, in the present Prince Edward, and Hat Creek and Concord in the present Campbell. At the time of organization, Cub Creek was in Lunenburg and Buffaloe Creek in Amelia. These settlements were made chiefly through the influence of John Caldwell, who settled at Cub Creek, in what was known as "the Caldwell Settlement," but it is evident that this particular group of Scotch-Irish lived on both sides of the line between the present Prince Edward and Charlotte. As most of these families moved subsequently to the West and South it is not often remembered that there was once such a considerable Scotch-Irish population so far east of the Blue Ridge. John Caldwell removed to South Carolina and was the grandfather of John Caldwell Calhoun. Rev. James Caldwell who was born at Cub Creek in April, 1734, graduated at Princeton and became a prominent Presbyterian minister and Revolutionary patriot in New Jersey. The murder of his wife, by a party of British marauders and Tories in 1780, excited almost as much indignation as the murder of Miss McRea. Indeed all of these Scotch-Irish Presbyterians from Prince Edward and Charlotte, wherever they lived, were ardent supporters of American independence.

In order to escape the dangers of the French and Indian War, Rev. Richard Sankey, accompanied by his congregation, emigrated from the neighborhood of Carlisle, Pa., "They took their abode in the fertile regions on Buffaloe Creek, in Prince Edward, and around the place now known as Walker's Church, lying between Cumberland Congregation and Cub Creek, and one side closely adjoining Briery Congregation, (Foote's *Sketches of Presbyterianism in Virginia, Second Series*, 75.) He died in 1790.

In 1738 John Caldwell, in behalf of himself and a number of Presbyterian families, applied to the Synod of Philadelphia for a minister. The Synod communicated with Governor Gooch, who stated that no minister who complied with the provisions of the toleration act would be interfered with.

As the Scotch-Irishmen whose signatures are attached to the petition in the text were a part of the same community with those of Charlotte (formerly Lunenburg) a paper, which probably gives the names of the heads of families or men of the Cub Creek congregation will be of

the Commonwealth of Virginia, to meet at Williamsburg the first Tuesday in October 1776.

The Petition of Sundry of the Inhabitants of Prince Edward County, respectfully sheweth,

That we heartily approve, and cheerfully submit ourselves to the form of Government adopted at your last session; hoping that our united American States will long continue free and Independent. The last Article of the Bill of Rights we also esteem as the rising Sun of religious Liberty, to *relieve* us from a long night of ecclesiastic Bondage: and we do most earnestly request and expect that you would go on to complete what is so nobly begun; raise religious as well as civil Liberty to the Zenith of Glory, and make Virginia an Asylum for free enquiry, knowledge, and the virtuosity of every Denomination. Justice to ourselves and *Posterity*, as well as a regard to the honour of the Commonwealth, makes it our indispensable Duty, in particular to intreat, That without Delay, you would pull down all Church Establishments; abolish every Tax upon Conscience and private judgment; and leave each Individual to rise or sink according to his Merit, and the general Laws of the Land. The whole amounts of what we desire is, That our Honourable Legislature would blot out every vestige of British Tyranny and Bondage, and define accurately between civil and ecclesiastic authority; then leave our Lord Jesus Christ the Honour of being the sole Lawgiver and Governor in his Church; and every one in the Things of Religion to stand or fall to Him; he being in this respect the only rightful Master.

interest in this connection. It is a deed recorded in Lunenburg and dated April 2, 1751, from William Caldwell to John Caldwell, William Caldwell, Israel Pickens, Richard Dudgeon, James Wachup, David Logan, William Rogers, John McNeese, Thomas Dougherty, John Middleton, Alexander McDaniel, James Rutherford, James Caldwell, George Moore, George Harwood, David Caldwell, William Dudgeon, Francis Grymes, George McDavid, William Weakley, Thomas Rogers, James Logan, Robert Adams, James Bartie, William Nicholas, Isaac Vernon, Henry Pattilo, Henry Caldwell, John McDavid, John Caldwell and Thomas Caldwell, conveying to them one acre of land, including a graveyard, "that now stands on the land of the said Caldwell," for a burial place, with timber for paling the said ground, reserving to himself and heirs a burial place there.

And your Petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray. September 24th 1776.

Rich'd Sankey,	Rob't Johnston,
Hugh Porter,	John Cunningham,
Charles Richey,	Sam'l Cunningham,
Sam'l Baker,	James Graham,
George Thilladay,	James Hatfield,
John Caldwell,	Andrew Baker,
Alex'r Hamilton,	James Morrison,
James Cunningham,	Sam'l Cunningham, Senr.,
James Ewing, Junr.,	John Cunningham,
Samuel Ewing,	Matthew Cunningham,
James McElroy,	Henry Dawson,
William Smith,	Thos. Graham,
Patrick Galaspie,	Robt. Black,
Wm. Galaspie,	Wm. Black,
George Galaspie,	James Black,
Sam'l Baker,	John Martin,
James Donnell,	Rob't Elliott,
John Donnell,	Andrew Elliott,
William Donnell,	Robt. Johnston,
John Porter, Senr.,	Sam'l Johnston,
Natt. Porter,	Wm. Johnston,
Wm. Porter,	Jno. Thompson, Senr.,
John Porter, Junr.,	Jno. Thompson, Junr.,
John Morrison,	Andrew Thompson,
Sam'l Scott,	Jno. Granter,
Jno. Thompson, Blacksmith,	Saml. Hanna,
Adam Calhoun,	Robt. Hanna,
James Calhoun,	Jno. Armstrong,
Jno. Caldwell,	Andrew Dun,
Jas. Read,	Robt. Dun,
Caleb Baldwine,	Jno. Dun,
Wm. Thompson,	Daniel Hays,
Glover Baker,	Wm. Hay,
Robt. Baker,	James McMaken,
Caleb Baker,	Jno. McMaken,
Robt. Hamilton,	Manassa Mcfarland,

Jas. Hamilton,	Sam'l Arbuckle,
Manassa McBride,	Wm. Arbuckle,
Wm. McBride,	Jno. Arbuckle,
Robt. Steel,	Sam'l Porter,
Fran's Hays,	Jno. Black,
John Caldwell, Senr.,	James McCormic,
Jno. Caldwell, Jr.,	Douglas Baker,
Jno. Caldwell,	William Nixson,
David Caldwell,	James Nixson,
Thos. Caldwell,	Tho. Allexander,
James Caldwell,	Jno. Hamilton,
George Caldwell,	Joseph Ried,
Thos. Armstrong,	Jno. Farlin,
Jno. Crockett,	James Fraizer,
Thos. Craig,	Jno. McSwine,
Rob't Craig,	Samuel McSwine,
Robt. Hanna,	James Parks,
Ezekiel Parks,	John Willson,
Joseph Parks,	Joshua Bunkley,
Tho. Scott,	Charles Hagens,
William Scott,	Rich'd Grace,
Wm. Huston,	Edward Clark,
Ro. Martin,	Thom's Marshill,
James Ewing, Senr.,	Ben. Marshill,
Samuel Ewing,	Thos. Paulet,
Wm. Gillespie,	John Hunter,
George Gillespie,	All'x Hunter,
Phillip McTaggart,	Silas Wood,
Lawrance Cook,	Luke Palmer,
James Gillespie,	Seymer Ketichin,
George Shilliday, Jr.,	James Richardson,
Robert Reid,	Charles Wood,
Wm. Hamersley,	Paul Wood,
Jacob Neighbours,	John Clark, Senr.,
Dick Holland,	John Cleaton,
William Baldwin,	Sam'l Marshill,
William Baldwin, Junr.,	Tho. Caplin,
Benjamin Baldwin,	Wm. Caplin,
William Findley,	John Caplin,

Robt. Watson,
 — Porter,
 Francis Clark,
 Wm. Mills,
 Wm. Marshall,
 John Marshall,

John Caplin, Junr.,
 Will'm Watson,
 Dugless Watson, Jr.,
 Wm. Dawson,
 James McMaclim.

Oct. 11, 1776.

Referred to Committee of Religion.

Mr. Dandridge.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

VIRGINIA IN 1654-1656.

(Abstracts by W. N. SAINSBURY, and copies in the McDonald and De Jarnette Papers, Virginia State Library.)

(CONTINUED)

ORDER OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE, JAN. 30, 1653-4.

That twenty shillings custom be paid for every horse that shall be transported to any of the English Plantations in America and the Commiss'rs of the Customs are to proceed accordingly and to call for and receive after that rate all such monies as are due upon any bonds formerly entered into by any person or persons for the custom of any horses already transported as aforesaid.

(*Interregnum Entry Bk., Vol. 103, p. 79.*)

ORDER OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE, MARCH 31, 1654.

That the petition of Samuel Mathews Esq. in behalf of the inhabitants of Virginia touching the planting of English tobacco be referred to the Committee for Treasuries who are desired to consider thereof and to state the matter and to report the same with their opinions to the Council.

(*Interregnum Entry Bk., Vol. 103, p. 200.*)