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### Sixty seven petitions : sixteen hours and ten minutes archives work

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HISTORY TERM PAPER

SIXTY SEVEN PETITIONS  
SIXTEEN HOURS AND TEN MINUTES  
ARCHIVES WORK

BY  
ADA D. ARTHUR

-Ada D.Arthur 123.

Sixty seven Petitions.

Sixteen hours and ten minutes.

Archives Work.

County	Date	No. of Sig.	Content
Northampton	Dec 1831	191	<p>The petition states that there <i>were</i> by the last census 3573 whites and 3734 slaves and 1334 free persons. <del>All these free persons.</del> All these free negroes were detrimental to the life of Northampton. They were inferior in intelligence and information, and degraded by the stain of their color. Being <u>ostracized</u> they could not expect the negro to be loyal to the Government or sympathetic with the people. They were bound <sup>by</sup> <del>to</del> sympathy and otherwise to the slaves, and not to the free men. Dangerous intrigues had taken place and the situation looked melancholy. The people of Northampton were not safe because they were away from other counties who could help them. The following resolutions were adopted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. "That these people should be removed from this county."</li> <li>2. "The people of Northampton will make it as easy as possible."</li> <li>3. "They will not send them <del>to</del> any other</li> </ol>

county."

4. "They should be sent to Africa"
5. "A Committee of eighteen men should be appointed and a sum of \$15000 should be raised by a tax and given to this committee"
6. "Another committee was to be appointed to make this known to the negroes".
7. "That the representatives from this county devote themselves zealously to the cause".
8. "After their removal this county will have no more dealings with free negroes".
9. "That they were willing to rely upon their own resources"

Fauquier

<sup>7th</sup>  
Dec<sub>7</sub> 1831. 92

The petition states that the citizens of this county believe the time has arrived when it is expedient that the General Government should pass the power to raise and appropriate money to transport free persons of Colour to the coast of Africa, and also, the power to purchase slaves and transport them. ~~likewise~~. They desire the Legislature to take the earliest and most effectual means to procure an ammendment to the Constitution of the United States, which will give

the Congress of the Union power to pass the necessary Laws to carry into effect the above slated objects.

Isle of Weight-Dec<sup>7</sup><sup>th</sup> 1831-62

The petition states that the humanity of Virginia has left such people in the state who are neither free nor bound. There is no place for them, and hence they have become vicious. They are a burden to the community. They are as a part of the community, supported by the community. They are not busy and hence are planning wild schemes. Isle of Weight must take care of society. The free negroes are ill fated and can never have the respect and intercourse which are essential to happiness and improvement. But in other lands they may become enlightened and orderly, and be the instruments of diffusing those blessings over a barbarous and benighted county. Isle of Weight made no definite plan for Legislature, but she asked that they be speedy in doing something which would keep the county's prosperity, morality and peace.

Culpeper Dec<sup>8th</sup><sub>1</sub> 1831 59

The petitioners state their desire that masters be prohibited from allowing slaves to own dogs or hogs, since they are obnoxious to the community, and have destroyed some property.

Westmorland Dec<sup>8th</sup><sub>1</sub> 1831 190

Identically the same petition as that of Isle of Weight County. No. 3

Page Dec<sup>8th</sup><sub>1</sub> 1831 36

Identically the same petition as that of Fauquier County. No. 2

Augusta Dec<sup>9th</sup><sub>1</sub> 1831 88

Identically the same petition as that of Fauquier County. No. 2

Culpeper Dec<sup>9th</sup><sub>1</sub> 1831 116

The petitioners ask for a law prohibiting any slave, free negro, or mulatto from being placed as an apprentice<sup>OR</sup> in any manner whatsoever to learn a trade or art. And they desire a penalty placed on the owners of a slave, and also a penalty on a white person who trains a slave. They argue that they are monopolizing good positions, and thus driving the desirable population to the west.

Southampton

<sup>12<sup>th</sup></sup>  
Dec, 1831 4

This petition is in behalf of three slaves who were killed in an insurrection in the county. One was eighteen, another thirty three, and the last twenty four years of age. All likely young men. They were each worth four hundred dollars. The Petitioners desired that the State recompense for the loss.

Southampton

<sup>17<sup>th</sup></sup>  
Dec, 1831 4

This petition is in behalf of a negro slave of Levi Waller who was killed in the Insurrection which originated in the county of Greenville. He was shot and brutally treated. The Petitioners asked that the State recompense for the slave.

York

<sup>12<sup>th</sup></sup>  
Dec, 1831 43

Petition identically as that of Isle of Weight. No. 3

Hanover

<sup>14<sup>th</sup></sup>  
Dec, 1831 9

The petition states the evil influence of slavery and the desire to be rid of the curse. The free slaves and mulattoes have increased in greater rates than the white population. The total increase of



whites over blacks in this district for the past forty years is 106,176. It is sending the desirable population elsewhere. Some will say that what we propose is less expensive. But it will be better to do it now that to wait until you have to drive them out by force. Let <sup>it</sup> be an indiscriminate removal of this annual increase. Then in thirty years half of this number could be removed each year. Let there be a tax on the free negroes and slaves to the extent of securing enough for the purchase of a few hundred annually of the young and healthy of both sexes and remove them.

Let no individual free a slave without a condition of removal out of the State.

Although it will help humanity, it will be hard for the said Petitioners to give up their slaves. Yet they are willing.

We, the Petitioners, believe that the citizens and friends of Virginia

show that they believe:

1. That we have departed from the law of Justice and Humanity. And this is the cause of our present difficulty. The race is deeply injured and in their behalf we place before the Legislature the consideration of buying a Colony for these persons of Colour and to aid in their removal.

Goochland

<sup>15<sup>th</sup></sup>  
Dec 1831

85

Identically as that of Isle of Weight. No. 3

Buckingham

<sup>16<sup>th</sup></sup>  
Dec 1831

The represent that the Insurrection of the colored population of Southampton has given them considerable alarm. Their number <sup>(negroes - trees)</sup> is increasing. Blacks east of the Blue Ridge insrease more rapidly than the whites. It will still be more when the Southern states cease to <sup>buy</sup> ~~bring~~ the Virginia slaves . Soon the large slave holder will be compelled to purchase the land of a non slave holder, and the latter will immigrate west. Soon the commonwealth can do nothing

about it. The increase of the Blacks is fifteen percent more. We wish to advise that the slaves be trained to a useful age, and then shipped to Africa. However the infant is so worthless the master would give it up. This is Mr W.M. Jefferson's suggestion.

Fauquier

<sup>17<sup>th</sup></sup>  
Dec, 1831

3

Three slaves were suing for their freedom. They lost the case. The Sheriff had to take them and keep them until they were sold. He is making a plea to the state to pay the bill of their keep.

Washington

<sup>17<sup>th</sup></sup>  
Dec, 1831

17

A petition for the removal of all free negroes, since they are a menace to society, and make slaves discontented. Also to make provisions for the ~~their~~ gradual reduction of slaves in the Commonwealth. The Petitioners would be willing that an ammendment be made to the constitution of the United States.

The Masters are no longer <sup>Responsible</sup> for the

about it. The increase of the Blacks is fifteen percent more. We wish to advise that the slaves be trained to a useful age, and then shipped to Africa. However the infant is so worthless the master would give it up. This is Mr W.M. Jefferson's suggestion.

Fauquier      <sup>17<sup>th</sup></sup>  
Dec, 1831      3

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Washington      <sup>17<sup>th</sup></sup>  
Dec, 1831      17

A petition for the removal of all free negroes, since they are a menace to society, and make slaves discontented. Also to make provisions for the ~~the~~ gradual reduction of slaves in the Commonwealth. The Petitioners would be willing that an amendment be made to the constitution of the United States.

The Masters are no longer <sup>Responsible</sup> for the

good behavior of their slaves under the law. Why should a slave be the only human being who is allowed to be lawless in a community?

Nelson                      <sup>17<sup>th</sup></sup>  
Dec<sub>1</sub> 1831              81

Identically the same as that of Fauquier. no. 2

Dinwiddie                      <sup>20<sup>th</sup></sup>  
Dec<sub>1</sub> 1831              82

This petition says that no white man wishes to work beside a negro. Also that agriculture is their trade and that they are best at it. They get into mischief often in the trade of Mechanics. Any owner ought to be able to hire the slave, or prevent him from working. They believe that a white man should always superintend any work which they do. The Master may have all power in making bargains concerning his slaves. They are unwilling that slaves should ever become master workmen. We wish to prohibit every owner to allow a slave to establish a shop and carry on any Mechanical art, unless there be a white man as master workman.

The owner should make all

contracts concerning the slave.

All people should be prohibited from employing a slave unless the conditions are as those ~~as~~ above mentioned.

Powertan      <sup>20<sup>th</sup></sup>  
Dec, 1831      107

A certain negro Abraham Depp was freed in 1801 and the deed<sup>of</sup> emancipation is defective. "We beg that he may be freed since he is honest and deserving."

Henrico      <sup>20<sup>th</sup></sup>  
Dec, 1831      3

"The American colonization society sprang from certain resolutions passed by the Virginia Legislature to get rid of the free colored population. They proposed a colony on the North African coast. The plan was adopted. An auxiliary society helped in many parts of the United States. There was a colony established by some who believed in the scheme. The colony has not only become progressive, but<sup>also</sup> prosperous. It w suppressed slave trade.

One half of the annual cases in the

court are free negros." They begged that the free negros be sent back to Africa at the descretion of the Legislature.

Fauquier Laudon	<sup>20<sup>th</sup></sup> Dec 1831	16	Same as Fauquier Dec 1831. No. 2
Nansemond	<sup>27<sup>th</sup></sup> Dec 1831	29	Identically with that of Isle of Weight. No. 3
Laudon	<sup>19<sup>th</sup></sup> Dec 1831	8	<p>They wish to state in this petition (Although they have but a few slaves) that ;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The labor of slaves is the most expensive of all.</li> <li>2. It tends to lay waste in the region in which it subsists.</li> <li>3. It fills with apprehension those who employ them. They believe that the Assembly will do what is best. Furthermore they resolve that: First</li> </ol> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The deeply sympathize with the citizens of Southampton in their sorrows. They wish that some effectual means will be brought</li> </ol>

to guard prosperity against this evil.

2. That these people should be removed from the commonwealth and that no time should be lost in so doing.

3. That the continuation of slavery be forbidden.

4. That a committee of nine be appointed by the chairman of this meeting to prepare a memorial addressed to the General Assembly in conformity with the statements expressed in these resolutions.

That the editors of the News Papers of Lynchburg publish these provisions.

Powatan	<sup>23rd</sup> Dec 1831	95	A copy of the petition of Isle of Weight. no. 3
James City	<sup>27th</sup> Dec 1831	96	A copy of the petition of Isle of Weight. no. 3
Charles City	<sup>27th</sup> Dec 1831	62	"The free negros who work in the mill are a great grievence because of their dishonesty." This county wishes that it be made a law that



every miller be a white man, and that no man be appointed without a redcomendation from the county concerning his good character.

<sup>28<sup>th</sup></sup>  
Frederick Dec, 1831 58

Same as that of Isle of Weight.

<sup>27<sup>th</sup></sup>  
Russell Dec, 1831 27

' In 1816 a certain colored woman was given her freedom. Fourteen years hence at this later date she is forty years of age, According to the law, she can not remain in Virginia." The Petitioners desire that a change be made in the laws so that she may stay in Virginia among her friends.

<sup>18<sup>th</sup></sup>  
Fauquier Dec, 1831 60

Same as Isle of Weight. no. 3

<sup>30<sup>th</sup></sup>  
Fauquier Dec, 1831 38

Same as Isle of Weight. no. 3

<sup>31<sup>st</sup></sup>  
Amelia Dec, 1831 68

Same as Isle of Weight. no. 3

<sup>4<sup>th</sup></sup>  
Botetout Jan, 1832 41

Same as Isle of Weight. no. 3

<sup>7<sup>th</sup></sup>  
Fairfax Jan, 1832 195

Same as Hangover (Dec 1831), no. 1

<sup>11<sup>th</sup></sup>  
King William Jan, 1832 22

Same as Isle of Weight. no. 3

Surrey                      Jan, <sup>13<sup>th</sup></sup> 1832      157

Same as Isle of Weight. no. 3

Fairfax                    Jan, <sup>18<sup>th</sup></sup> 1832      22

Same as Isle of Weight. no. 3

Buckingham               Jan, <sup>19<sup>th</sup></sup> 1832      63

This petition states that many slaves steal, and do many other things against the law. The masters are not made responsible of for them. The State has to take care of the expense of arresting them, etc. Also the masters often encourage them to steal, and some masters live off of the goods stolen by their slaves. Also if a master has a grudge against his neighbor he will tell the slave to harm the neighbor's barn. The slave can not pay a fine and the master is not held responsible. It will not only reduce the crime but it will save money for the state to pass a law, making the master responsible for his slave.

Augusta                   Jan, <sup>19<sup>th</sup></sup> 1832      63

The Ladies of Augusta plead that slaves shall no longer exist among

them. Although it will be very hard to do the work which the slaves are doing, ~~but~~ they fear not that hardship, as much as the danger to themselves and to prosperity of this existing evil. They desire that slaves shall be excluded from the commonwealth.

Northumberland Jan<sup>17<sup>th</sup></sup> 1831 31

The Petitioners request that all the free Negroes be sent to Africa, since they shirk their duty and commit crimes.

Caroline Jan<sup>20<sup>th</sup></sup> 1831 78

Same as Hanover. (No 12)

Fauquier Jan<sup>24<sup>th</sup></sup> 1832 17

Same as Fauquier. (No 2)

Besford Jan<sup>27<sup>th</sup></sup> 1832 107

Same as that of Isle of Weight (No 3)

Hanover Jan<sup>30<sup>th</sup></sup> 1832 36

This petition urges that Legislature will not consider freeing slaves. The masters can not possibly receive compensation. The too will have to pay heavy tax in order that the state may

buy their slaves. It is buying from themselves. No plan put forward is reasonable. Besides slaves are content unless some one takes the pains to mention their freedom. They are attached to their masters. The only way land in the South can be cultivated is by slaves. If slaves are removed immigration will continue. The Legislature should not let it be known that the question of freeing negroes was even thought of. And they shall debate the question in secret.

Isle of Wight Feb<sup>13<sup>th</sup></sup> 1832 1

" During the Insurrection of slaves in Soughampton there were not enough horses for the troops. A certain Mr Boykin was ordered to take his mothers horse and go<sup>TO FIGHT</sup>. The horse died. His mother was a widow, and in moderate circumstances. The Petitioner begged that the state return to his mother the sum of \$75 in payment for the horse.

Fauquier

<sup>20th</sup>  
Feb, 1832 119

The Petitioners believe that free negroes are dangerous to slaves. For the interest and perhaps the safety and peace of slaveholders, if not of the entire white population and the welfare of the slaves themselves. They wish that a law be made to exclude free negroes from the county, except those permitted to remain by a special act of the Assembly, and any who remain after January 1837 shall be subject to public sale for the benefit of the literary fund of our state.

Scott

<sup>8th</sup>  
Dec 1832 291

The Petitioners desire that Jacob and Scealy Woods be allowed to remain in the state . They are free negroes and are very worthy.

1. They were very faithful on the frontier Indian massacres.
2. A fire broke out and they helped to put it out.
3. Jacob discovered Indians waiting to kill the people and by his

warning they were saved.

These negroes are very old and have made enough money to purchase their own freedom. They should be allowed to remain in the territory where they are endeared to many people.

Stafford      <sup>17<sup>th</sup></sup> Dec, 1833      46

" Free Negro-Henry Lewis and wife-must leave the commonwealth of Virginia under the law. It is where they have been raised, and they love their home. They are industrious and good. The trade of Henry Lewis is very essential to his neighbors since he is a good carpenter. The Petitioners beg that he be allowed to remain. Several Petitioners declare that they are good negroes. They assure the assembly that they will never give any trouble.

Rockingham      <sup>27<sup>th</sup></sup> Dec, 1832      24

A certain man of colour about fifty five years of age has proven himself to be quite worthy.

Scbtt

<sup>12<sup>th</sup></sup>  
Dec 1832 34

The Petitioners desire that he be allowed to remain in the state.

A certain negro girl was liberated by her master. The masters wife died, leaving an infant only a few days old. The said negro and her own child went back to the home of her master to take care of the child, She has lived with her master ever since and desires to continue to do so. The Petitioners desire that the law be made to allow this free negro to remain in her own territory. She is a good character. There are only six free negroes in this territory, and there will be no danger in allowing this one to remain.

Nelson

<sup>17<sup>th</sup></sup>  
Dec 1832 332

These Petitioners believe the colored free people are a problem, but not one which can not be remedied. Were these people removed there would not be enough laborers. We can not say that our ancestors handed it down to us and

it a curse<sup>of</sup> which we can not rid our  
selves. . . They can not get rid  
of it in a short time, but the  
Petitioners believe in a gradual  
emancipation by the masters, and  
they hope that the Legislature  
will pass an act which will rid  
the county only of the increasing  
free negros.

Chesterfield

<sup>20<sup>th</sup></sup>  
Dec, 1832 1

This petition states that a certain  
slave named John was placed in  
jail and afterwards sold for two  
dollars and fifty cents. The  
expense for his keep while in  
prison was \$24.76. Also a nother  
negro was sold for less than his  
expense in jail, leaving a balance  
of \$19.22. Therefore the  
Petitioners desire an act which  
will give the said county \$43.98.

Buckingham

<sup>21<sup>st</sup></sup>  
Dec, 1832 4

The Petitioners desire the removal  
of free negros of colour to Africa.  
Those in this county are idle and  
mischievous, while those two  
thousand who have already been sent



to Africa by the American Colonization  
society are entirely happy.

Norfolk      <sup>22<sup>nd</sup></sup>  
Dec<sub>1</sub> 1832      12

The Petitioners desire that a  
certain colored man, Billy, be  
emancipated, and also be allowed  
to remain in Virginia. From his  
hire he has give \$6000 to the  
poor.

Henrico      <sup>28<sup>th</sup></sup>  
Dec<sub>1</sub> 1832      (Am.Col.  
Soc.)

The Society begs that an  
appropriation will be made to the  
society for the further removal  
of free      negros. Those  
already removed are satisfied,  
happy, and prosperous in Tiberia.  
And all that is lacking is money.

Norfolk      <sup>5<sup>th</sup></sup>  
Jan<sub>1</sub> 1833      3

The Petitioners beg that an  
appropriation of money be made by  
the Stete Legislature to aid the  
colonization society in sending the  
free negros back to Africa.

Fauquier      <sup>8<sup>th</sup></sup>  
Jan 1833      75

The Petitioners beg that the  
Legislature appropriate money to  
send more free negros to Tiberia

since the colonization society has been so successful in its plan hitherto.

Orange

<sup>9th</sup>  
Jan<sub>1</sub> 1833 3

This Petition asks that the State pay the worth of a slave who was executed.

Stafford

<sup>19th</sup>  
Jan<sub>1</sub> 1833 40

The Petitioners desire that a certain Wharton family be allowed to remain in the state since they are three fourths white and their partialities are much like the whites. Also if they go to another state they will settle as white people and very probably come back here as whites later on.

29

The Petitioners beg that a law be passed allowing a certain free colored man to remain in the state until he can make enough money to buy his wife and children. He is not only upright, but useful to society.

Norfolk

<sup>22nd</sup>  
Jan<sub>1</sub> 1833 185

The Petitioners beg that the state issue money to send more free

negros to Africa, since it seems that Providence has provided this adequate means of ridding Virginia of these free negros. It would be unkind to send them to another state, and yet they must go somewhere.

Patrick

<sup>24th</sup>  
Jan, 1833 13

The Petitioners wish that a certain free negro be allowed to remain in the county in which he was born.

Hardy

<sup>1st</sup>  
Feb, 1833 8

The Petitioners beg that a certain Brene family-free negros-consisting of five members, be allowed to remain in Virginia, instead of being made to go to a "howling wilderness" or a "troubled ocean".

Nansemond

<sup>2nd</sup>  
Feb, 1833 64

The Petitioners beg that the Legislature appropriate money to aid the American Colonization society in sending free negros back to Africa.

Henrico

Feb <sup>5<sup>th</sup></sup><sub>1</sub> 1833 8

The Petitioners beg that a certain free colored woman and her children be allowed to remain in Richmond until her husband obtains his freedom. She is a worthy negro.

Halifax

Feb <sup>7<sup>th</sup></sup><sub>1</sub> 1833 38

The Petitioners beg that three free colored people be allowed to remain in Virginia. They have been given by their former master, 180 acres of land and other wealth. They declare that they will not be of any trouble to the state if allowed to remain.

Elizabeth City Feb <sup>12<sup>th</sup></sup><sub>1</sub> 1833 37

The Petitioners requested that an annual appropriation be made by the state to send free Negroes back to Africa. The Petitioners think it well.

Halifax

Feb <sup>12<sup>th</sup></sup><sub>1</sub> 1833 70

The Petitioners beg that three free negroes by the name of Leanords, be allowed to remain in the commonwealth.