

To the Honorable General Assembly of Virginia,
The Petition of
Robert Wright a free man of color resident in the County
of Campbell respectfully sheweth:
That your petitioner in the
year 1806 in pursuance of a license obtained for that
purpose from the Clerk of Campbell County, was married
by a certain William Heath a regularly licensed
minister of the Gospel to a certain Mary Godby,
a free white woman - That since the said intermar-
riage your petitioner hath always demeaned him-
self towards the said Mary as a kind and affection-
ate Husband - and for several years enjoyed great
domestic comfort, and felicity in her society - That
sometime in the year 1814 the said Mary became ac-
quainted with a certain William Arthur a free
white man who by his artful, and insidious atten-
tions entirely supplanted your petitioner in her af-
fections - That on the 14th day of January 1815 the said
Mary unknown to your petitioner secretly eloped
with the said William Arthur carrying with her a
negro girl and other property belonging to your peti-
tioner - That on their route as is believed to the western
Country they were overtaken in the Town of Liberty
your petitioner's property recovered, and the said
Mary prevailed upon to return to the Home, and
the Husband she had so ungratefully, and cruelly
abandoned - That notwithstanding this infidelity on
the part of the said Mary, your petitioner after

Her return still continued to her that affection, and protection which she had of right forfeited, and hoped that time, and a course of affectionate conduct on his part would reconcile her to her situation and restore her to happiness - But in this just expectation your petitioner was disappointed - That the said Mary on the 30th day of November 1815 again secretly, and unknown to your petitioner eloped with the said William Arthur, and as your petitioner is credibly informed, and verily believes is now living in a state of adultery with the said Arthur in the town of Nashville, & state of Tennessee - That your petitioner is advised, that although the law inflicts a penalty on the minister of the Gospel who shall marry a white person with a negro or mulatto, and subjects the white person so married to fine, and imprisonment, yet such marriage is to all intents and purposes valid and binding between the parties - Your petitioner under the circumstances herein already set forth, prays your Honorable Body for the passage of an act divorcing him from his said wife Mary, and as in duty bound he

Stephen Perrow
Chas. Gilliam
Lewis Franklin

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Campbell County to wit,
This day Lewis Franklin
Steven Perrow and Charles Gilliam
of lawful age personally appeared
before me a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid
and made oath that they have examined the
foregoing petition, that they have been well
acquainted with the petitioner for many years
past, being his neighbours, and that they have
every reason to believe, and so believe
that the material facts set forth in the said
petition are true - that the said petitioner
so far as their observation has extended,
has conducted himself with propriety, and
that he always treated his wife with
kindness. They also believe that the said
Mary Wife of the said Robert did elope in
the way mentioned in said petition, and are
credibly informed that she is now living
in adultery with the said William or then
in Nashville Tennessee - Given under
my hand this 4 day of November 1816.
The Dixon J.P.

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

Robert Wright
Nov: 16th 1816
Campbell Co Va

We the subscribers have been well acquainted
with Robert Wright the petitioner in the above
signed petition for many years past and do with
pleasure certify that we consider him an
honest upright man, and good citizen - and
we do further certify that from the best in-
formation we have been able to collect on the
subject, his petition contains the truth -

Robert Strange	Samuel Harris
Geo. Harris	John Dickey
William	Stephen Bradley
William George	Henry Blankenship
Lindsay Call	Barrett Baugh
Wm. Melm	John Flay
Wm.	Elijah Garwin
Wm. Gardner	Young Davidson
Sam. Davidson	John Stratton
Charles Fitch	Sealy Campbell
Stephen Martin	Thomas Duval
Godson Gammond	Patent Ragley
Joseph Burks	John
Wm. Dinwiddie	Re

Subscriber name,	subscriber name,
C. Blount jr	John H Bell
James Dalton	Wm Bell
James F. Clarke	John P. Roy
Howel Lewis	Charles Deason
Daniel E. Dantz	Wm Bell
Jr Thompson	Hezekiah Harman
Daniel Jarvis	William Thurmon
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Sam. Austin	
James Miller	
John Davis jr	
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James Wiley	

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