

[Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Petition of John Hancock VAS1851 3
 Charles Williamson VAS1851
 John Smith VAS1851
 Transcribed by Will Graves 4/9/15

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[From [Digital Library of Virginia](#)] Princess Anne County Legislative Papers

To the Hon. Mr. Speaker & Gentleman of the House of Delegates
 The Memorial of Sundry Inhabitants of the County of
 Princess Anne humbly representeth,

That Messrs. John Hancock, Charles Williamson & John Smith, firm & active Friends of the American Cause, & Inhabitants of the said County of Princess Anne, were by the enemy captivated [sic, captured] & carried to New York at the time of the last Invasion of the Towns of Portsmouth & Norfolk, & the Country adjacent; & have ever since been kept under close & strict confinement, & Mr. Hancock in particular from the latest accounts, vigorously imprisoned under the Provost Guard.

Your Memorialists further represent, the enemy declared the motives which induced them to captivate the above named Gentlemen, Messrs. Hancock & Williamson were, that they acted as Commissioners under the Act for sequestering British property & had with too much diligence executed their Office: & as to Mr. Smith, he being a Lieutenant in the Militia, the Enemy were introduced to take him, by his having become very obnoxious to a certain John Cramonds in obeying the Commands of his Commanding Officer, and taking up the said Cramond for repeated Acts of Toryism.

Your Memorialists further represent that the Friends of the above confined Gentlemen represented their Case on to the Governor & Council, & desired, if possible, an Exchange might be effected: Upon Which representation the matter was taken under consideration, by them the Governor & Council, & men accordingly sent once or twice in order to procure an Exchange; but the Enemy absolutely refused to exchange the three Gentlemen unless one Jacob Ellegood, a commissioned Officer of the Rank of colonel in the British Service, & who is now upon his Parole in some part of the Country was exchanged, & for whom they avowed they kept them; & declared that for him they would deliver up all three, together with some other Prisoners they have captivated [captured] during the Invasion, or would if he was suffered to reside on his Plantation in Princess Anne on Parole, allow them the same Indulgence to reside at their respective Homes.

Your Memorialists therefore humbly hope, that from these state of Facts, this Honorable House will take the unhappy Case of these three unfortunate Gentlemen under Consideration &

Relief [relieve] them in such manner, as you may in your great wisdom & Humanity conceive & Judge best; but if you should not be able to effect [affect] their Relief, that then you will direct the Law of Retaliation to be put in Execution against said Ellegood; by the Address of whose Friends your Memorialists have abundant Reason to believe [believe] the above Gentleman [i.e., Ellegood] are held in captivity, & which Friends upon understanding the Treatment being retaliated on their Friend Ellegood, will Interest themselves, in all probability, to soften the now too vigorous Treatment of the above Gentlemen, who are suffering a cruel confinement for having executed their Duty as Officers of the Commonwealth.

And your Memorialist shall in duty bound ever Pray &c

Jacob Huling [could be "Keeling"]	Lemuel Thorowgood, Capt.	William Thorowood Senior	Will Wishart Col.
Henry Keeling	[Illegible] Walker	Edward Moseley Junior	James Thompson
John Chapel	Edward Cannon	Charles Sayer	Anthony Lawson
Edward [illegible name]	Robert Keeling	John Whitehurst Capt.	William Robinson Major
Isaac [indecipherable name]	Phil. Woodhouse [?]	John Edmond Lieut.	Adam Keeling Lieut.
Moses Brock [?]	William Woodhouse	Drew Whitehurst	Henry Comick [?] Capt.
Isaac Cary	John Tipling	Hilary Moseley	William White
Henry Cavender	George Cox	Simon capstone	Perrin Smyth
Amos Weeks [?]	Thomas Banks	Chris Whitehurst	Thomas Keeling
John Forrest	Henry Gasking	Edward Moseley, Senior	Tully Robinson
Blain Vatgiven [?]	Joel Cornick	William Nimmo	John Kenline Capt.
	John Keeling	Enoch Whitehurst	James Nimmo

Handwritten signatures of the names listed in the table above, arranged in four columns corresponding to the printed names.