To the Honourable the Speaker & House of Delegates

Charles Lynch Humbly sheweth that in May 1777 he presented a Memorial to this house setting forth that in May 1776 the Negroes then in the Public gaol [jail] was Ordered to him for the purpose of making Salt Petre [saltpeter] and that for his encouragement he should receive some sum of Money Out of the Public Treasury not Exceeding 500£ which together with a reasonable hire for said Negroes was to be Paid in gun Powder at 6/pd and prayed the house would let him know what the hire of said Negroes should be which was accordingly Tabled, and that your Memorialist should keep the Negroes until the last Day of November 1778, unless they were before removed by order of the General Assembly or the Executive Power. – Your Memorialist now beg leave further to represent that in April last the Negroes were removed by the Executive Power to the Lead Mines [probably the Chiswell Lead Mines], which together with the incursions of Indians, put it out of his Power to Make any considerable Quantity of Salt Petre or Powder. – Your Memorialist having not paid the whole in Powder Prays that the said contract may cease, and that he have Leave to Pay the balance of said Moneys with interest into the Public Treasury, as the said Negroes are still wanting for the Lead Mines & your Memorialist shall Pray &c

Lynches Memorial referred to proprs [sic] November 917 78
Referred to Props [?]
referred to next Session
(reasonable)
shall petitioner be allowed
for 150th [?] Stolen
have the public discharged
When was the Memorial presented?
State the contract with the Convention in 1776
State the number of Negroes with their hire