To the Hon. Mr. Speaker and Gentleman of the House of Delegates

The Petition of James a Williams Humbly Sheweth, –

That from the Good Disposition and Regard Your Petitioner had for the Liberty, defense and security of his Country, against the Assaults and depredations committed by the British Army upon the good People of his Country; Your Petitioner enlisted in the year 1778 into the State Garrison Regiment at Williamsburg for the term of three years, & in the course of his Servitude, your Petitioner had the misfortune to lose the sight of both of his Eyes; which undoubtedly rendered your Petitioner incapable to serve his Country any longer. Whereupon your Petitioner obtained a Discharge from said Regiment –. That your Petitioner has a family to support; and that the loss of his Eyesight renders him entirely incapable of supporting the same; –

Prior to this your Petitioner has ventured his life in the desert parts of this Country against the invasions of Cruel and Savage Indians through heats and Colds, and great Fatigues, under the command of Col. Byrd and Col. Stevens, – That your Petitioner is allowed the Sum of twenty pounds per annum by the Board of War, but your Petitioner begs leave to observe, That from the great Depreciation of our Paper Currency that Sum is become greatly inadequate to the expenses of a family. – Therefore, your petitioner with submission to your Superior judgments Prays that your Hon. House will grant him such additional Allowance to the twenty pound above mentioned, as may seem just and equitable to your Supreme judgment. – Your Petitioner further implores that your Hon. House may take his case into mature Consideration, he Your said Petitioner trusting in the justness of his petition, and the lenity of your Hon. House, hopes that he shall meet with such relief as will surpass his inevitable necessity. –

And your Petitioner as in Duty bound will ever pray &c

[reverse]

Petition of James Williams
May 10, 1786
Referred to Trade
May 12th, 1780 [sic, 1786 or 1788??]
Rejected