To the Honourable the Speaker and Gentleman of the General Assembly

Your Petitioner Samuel Barron Cunningham begs leave to represent that sometime in the month of February 1781 he had on board the Brigantine Wilkes, then laying in James River near Richmond, one hundred eleven hogsheads of tobacco, Twelve Guns, a Considerable Quantity of Powder & Ball, Cutlasses, Boarding pistols &c with provision for Thirty men three months, that the said vessel was then ready to proceed on a voyage to the West Indies, in Company with several other Vessels, & that she was Impressed to assist some French sips that lay in Hampton road, by Capt. William Lewis by order of the Gov. & Counsel; that in consequence thereof, she was prevented from proceeding on her Voyage, in Company with the aforesaid Vessels, (which got safe out) and detained in the Country's Service Twenty-seven days, at the expiration of which, the Enemy came up James River and got possession of her; But a few minutes previous to her falling into their hands, a Cannon Ball was fired into her, by one of our Vessels which occasion her to sink, with tobacco, Guns, Provisions &c on Board, where she lay, till after the Siege of York was over, & then at a very Considerable expense to your Petitioner, she was raised, with the loss of her Tobacco, Seven Guns, Provisions &c, all the sails, rigging &c and the Hull of the Vessel much Injured. Your Petitioner therefore prays, that you will take the same into your Consideration and grant him such relief and allowance for his losses & Injuries he has sustained, by the Vessels being Impressed for this use of the Country as may appear Just & Equitable and your Petitioner will pray &c

[Reverse]

Cunningham's Petition
June 3rd 1783
Referred to Claims
June 25th 1783
Rejected