To the Honorable General Assembly of Virginia, the Petition of Mary Nestell of the Borough of Norfolk respectfully Sheweth:

That your petitioner is the widow of Dr. Peter Nestell deceased, who in his lifetime was a Surgeon in the war of the Revolution, in the Continental Army; and a member of the Cincinnati Society, which was established by the officers of the Army of the Revolution shortly after the termination of the war –

Your petitioner further maketh known to your Honorable Body, that shortly after the death of her husband, she was permitted to receive, as his widow, from the funds of the said society an annuity, or pension, of $100, payable half yearly, in installments of $50 each; which pension she still continues to receive from the funds of said society: she further shows, that the said pension of $100, added to the rents of certain houses in said Borough, held by your petitioner, as Dower in her deceased husband's estate, has heretofore afforded her a comfortable support.

Your petitioner further maketh known to your Honorable body, that by accidental fire the houses above referred to have all been destroyed and that now she [has] no property whatever, of any kind, and no means of support but the said annuity of one hundred dollars; she is now in the 88th year of her age, and that from Infirmities incident to so advanced an age she has not been able to leave, or go out of the house, in which she lives, for many years, nor has she any descendent from whom she can claim assistance: your petitioner further maketh known to your Honorable Body, that increasing years have brought along with them increasing infirmities and wants, so that the said annuity of $100 has become inadequate to the support and maintenance of your petitioner; wherefore she Humbly Prays that your Honorable body will cause her annuity or pension to be increased from $100 per annum to the sum of $150 per annum, payable semiannually, out of the Funds of the Cincinnati Society; she is more strongly induced to hope that your Honorable Body will grant her request, from the fact, that whilst the means of that Society or becoming greater and greater every year, the number of annuitants chargeable there on has so diminish, that your petitioner, and one other widow, (as she is informed) are the only persons chargeable their own – as in duty bound your petitioner will ever pray &c &c

Norfolk December 6, 1845

Witness

S/ W. Johnson

S/ Samuel L Cassels

S/ Mary Nestell
Petition Mary Nestell  
January 8th, 1842  
Referred to CH J [??]

Norfolk January 6, 1845  
This is to certify that I have known Mrs. Mary Nestell for a great many years safe thirty-five  
years and that I do know personally that she has no property. She some years ago held a dower  
right in a House on Church St. which has long since been consumed by fire without Insurance  
which resulted in a total loss and at this time she is a lady at the advanced age of eighty or ninety  
years.

S/ W. Johnson