To the Honourable Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Delegates of Virginia

The Petition of Thomas Elliott of the County of King William humbly sheweth, that your Petitioner ever attached to what he deemed the true Interest of his Country, and ever desirous to advance it to the utmost of his power, entered into its service in a Military capacity in early Life, and was Subaltern Officer in a regular Regiment raised by this State in the years seventeen fifty-eight, fifty-nine & sixty. That influenced by the same motive he found himself warmly disposed to assert and maintain the rights of this his native Country; by resisting the Tyrannies from which the late war has extricated America, and gave such unequivocal proof of his sentiments, that when the convention had recommended the raising some volunteer Troops of Cavalry, and one was raised in the County where your Petitioner resides her countrymen supposing him to have derived some advantages as a Soldier from experience, elected him to be a Lieutenant in the same, and with it, he was several times in actual service between the month of May & November in the year 1775, at which time, he being elected a Lieutenant Colonel in a minute Battalion, was ordered to take the command of the Garrison at Hampton – that he continued in this station for three months, and indeed until he was in the end of that, or the beginning of the following year, elected a Lieutenant Colonel in one of the regiments designed for a Continental Establishment. – That in this capacity & that of Colonel to which he was advanced the same year, he was exposed to all the hardships of two perilous Campaigns, and reluctantly resigned his Commission in October 1777 from the constraint of sickness, and Bodily Indisposition, when (had Health permitted) the complimentary speeches of his superior Officers had given him reason to believe it in his power to bear [?] in with emolument to his Country and Glory to himself. That though pecuniary motive by no means influenced your Petitioner to enter upon the duties of these several stations, yet the duty which he owes to a large Family, prompts him to suggest to this Honourable House, that he conceives himself in Equity at least to have merited by the services he had performed, an equal Bounty in Lands with those Officers who held the same Rank with himself, and resigned after they had been in a regular Army for three years. He well knows indeed that the Term of three years aforesaid gives a Legal Title to that Bounty which he does not possess, but he Trusts that when this Honourable House reflect that his services had been as
constant as if they had been in a regular Army and that his Resignation was not the effect of volition, but constrained by sickness, it will grant that Bounty in Lands to your Petitioner, as an act of Equity and material Justice, which (however well he may be entitled to it, on those considerations) he acknowledges himself to possess no legal right to Claim.

And your Petitioner as in duty bound shall ever Pray &c

[Reverse]
Elliotts Petition
June 12th, 1784
Referred to Propositions
Reasonable
(reported Specially)
(Colonel)