The Humble Petition of Thomas Patterson to the Honorable House of Representatives
Committee on High Roads William Ferguson
Prayer not granted
Saltcatcher
P59. 1788

To the Honorable the Speaker & the rest of the Members of the House of Representatives.
The Petition of Thomas Patterson of Saltketcher Ferry
Humbly Sheweth,

That your Petitioner hath lived on Saltcatcher Bridge & Ferry ever since May 1777. When General Prevost [Augustine Prevost] marched against Charleston [Charleston], the Planks were thrown off the Bridge by General Moultrie’s [William Moultrie’s] orders to retard his March; but the British Troops tour to Pieces your Petitioner’s House being contiguous, to supply the deficiency; burned his Fences & destroyed & carried off your Petitioner’s Property. – He being on a Command elsewhere could not go home, to get any Thing away, having marched to the support of Charleston. – When the other British Army passed that way a good Flatt, which your Petitioner had built, was burnt, by our own People to prevent the Enemies crossing the River, the remainder of his Property carried off, & Himself received so many Stabs of the British Bayonets that it was almost a Miracle he ever recovered. He had another Flatt built in the same year, & in the contenttion for the recovery of these [this?] Part of the State, was in continuous danger, by the different Parties being there alternately; – for having no Negroes, he had to attend the ferry himself, & never had any Assistance whatsoever, except a Negro for four weeks, then the Act was passed for Toll Bridges, the Commissioners did not advertise concerning that Bridge;one of said Commissioners unknown to your Petitioner made application for it at the same rate of Ashepoo, your Petitioner then applied & had his name put on the Church book accordingly –

Your Petitioner then applied to the Commissioners of Prince Williams Parish and on producing a Certificate of his having a better right that his Opponent made another proposal &

1 The South Carolina Audited Accounts are available on microfilm at the South Carolina Department of Archives & History in Columbia, SC. They will eventually be available online at http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/. The “SC” file number has been assigned by the administrator of this website for indexing purposes only and is not an officially recognized file number.
your petitioner was necessitated to take it a still lower Rate, or be hemmed in on both sides, by one who he has reasons to believe is his only inveterate enemy.

Your Petitioner humbly informs your Honorable House, that this Ferry was always on a foot with respect to Ferriage as Ashepoo & labors under the disadvantages being subject to Freshes. Therefore your Petitioner does beseech your Honorable House to take his Case into your Consideration & grant him Relief by putting him on the same foot as Ashepoo, by a Law passed for that Purpose by your Honorable house.

Your Petitioner therefore as in duty bound, will ever pray &c forth

S/ Thomas Patterson

[Signature]