

Bristow/  
 Bristoe Tract  
 HISTORIC SITE FILE  
 PRINCE WILLIAM PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM  
 RELIC/Bull Run Reg Lib Manassas, VA

Joseph A. H.  
 Thos. Foster  
 Wm. R. Hamp  
 Larkin, N.Y.  
 Joseph P.  
 Dr. Johnson  
 G. H. Annis  
 J. A. Smith  
 Wm. Meade  
 James P. Lee  
 B. D. L.  
 Bernard d.  
 John A.  
 Geo. W. H.  
 Wesley L.

Petition for the sale of a  
 portion the Bristoe tract of  
 land in Prince William  
 and for the addition of the  
 land to the town of Quantico

J. C. Moore  
 Dec. 18 1828

known to the  
 petitioners  
 as  
 Bristoe Tract  
 Dec. 18 1828

Virginia General Assembly, Legislative Petitions, Prince William County,  
 petition dated 18 Dec. 1828 (microfilm reel 165). State government records  
 collection, The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va. 23219.

Signed

Joseph A. Williamson  
 The Soller  
 W. R. Hampton  
 Larkin, St. James  
 Joseph B. Huey  
 Dr. Johnson  
 G. B. Amistead  
 J. A. Mathew  
 Wm. Meedon  
 James Percell  
 P. D. Lawe  
 Bernard Lechner  
 John Ashford  
 Geo. W. Fitzhugh  
 Wesley Fitzhugh

George W. Macrae  
 Put Johnson  
 P. Williams  
 " "  
 J. Macrae  
 Alvin Kuman  
 John Barron  
 J. A. Martin  
 Robert Houston  
 Aaron Munday  
 Alon Houston  
 John Brewer  
 M. B. Gaines  
 M. B. Sinclair  
 Thomas Barron  
 John Gibson  
 James Sewell  
 J. Williams

HISTORIC SITE FILE: 041507  
 PRINCE WILLIAM PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM  
 101 Bull Run Reg. Lib. Manassas, VA

To the General Assembly of Virginia

HISTORIC SITE FILE: BRISTOW  
PRINCE WILLIAM PUBLIC LIBRARY  
REC/10/11/10 Rag Lib Manassas, VA

The petition of the undersigned respectfully represents, that the town of Brentsville, in Prince William, of which town a portion of your petitioners are inhabitants, is subjected to great, if not grievous disadvantages by reason of its establishment in the midst of a region with which it is now, and, without the aid of your honorable body, is like for nearly a quarter of a century to come, to be totally disconnected as to most beneficial purposes. — It is a tract upon which the hand of improvement has not been raised for upwards of three quarters of a century; a tract whose tenants are, and have heretofore been virtually irresponsible, as to <sup>the</sup> whole of them, and, as to many of them, totally reckless of the devastating and ruinous mode of cultivation which they have pursued; in fine a tract which has been divested of the wood necessary for fencing and even fuel, with scarce an exception among the lots into which it is divided, reduced throughout much below its original standard of fertility, and for the most part "ploughed down to be barren," <sup>as well as</sup> stripped of every vestige of human habitation and ~~possibilities~~ of even the means of enclosure. Your petitioners in drawing this picture are assured, that they need not tell your body that they refer to the Bristow tract, in relation to which remonstrances and petitions have been so repeatedly made to the General Assembly heretofore, but without any practically beneficial end — Isolated as the town of Brentsville is, in its present position, surrounded by a waste, and cut off from the freehold domain of the Commonwealth, it seems due to sheer justice that the Commonwealth should, in some shape, part with her right to that portion of the tract circumjacent to the town, and so place it in <sup>and direct</sup> full connection with fee simple territory. Many of the citizens of Brentsville are willing, nay anxious to purchase and improve tenements adjacent to that town, but it cannot be expected that they, or other citizens shall be at pains and expense which, at the expiration of the lease, shall redound & mostly to the benefit of Commonwealth. It is therefore that they leave unheeded the bald and barren circumjacent soil to become further scarified and yet more barren. Those of your petitioners not residents of Brentsville or even the tract, and strangers attending the courts of Prince William, are witnesses of these facts, and your petitioners feel confident that the only means of improving the land in question about Brentsville, as well as the rest of the tract, is to put it in the power of individuals disposed to purchase, to procure fee simple titles, by a sale, by the state, of the fee simple interest which it now has in the lots. — Your petitioners therefore pray that your honorable body will pass a law authorizing the sale, for

cash, or upon such credit, <sup>and in such manner</sup> as may be deemed expedient, of that part of the Bristol tract which lies between Broad Run, Cedar Run and an ideal line separating said tract from the lands of bordering freehold proprietors, and such line, or lines, as your honorable body shall fix, to be drawn from some point on Broad Run aforesaid and continued thence to some other point on the said ideal line, to be fixed also by the Legislature;— all of which portion of the tract comprised within the boundaries suggested might contain eight hundred, or one thousand acres, <sup>or less</sup> and is that end of the tract immediately surrounding the town of Brentsville. Should this section of the tract be enfranchised as your petitioners earnestly hope, then, and then alone will that town possess, ~~of the same sort~~, the usual means of comfort and improvement, and enjoy a common and mutual interest with a region in which it has been, so far, unfortunately located.— Your petitioners will not further enlarge upon the general reasons and inducements which should give them a favorable audience before your body: the repeal of the law of forfeiture when Bristol's estate had become its only victim, with the reflections to which that early repeal would lead, the consideration of the parental care and equal justice which it is the duty of the Commonwealth ~~to extend~~ to extend to each member and every portion of the community, and the obvious principles of an enlarged & liberal, as well as a sound policy, will doubtless pass in attentive review before the minds of your honorable and intelligent body.

Your petitioners would further represent, that, in the location of the present site of the Court-House of Prince William county and the subsequent establishment of Brentsville as a town adjoining the Court-House-lot and Tavern-lot comprised within the limits of the aforesaid site, it was omitted to constitute, in legal & operative terms, the said lots as integral parts of and parcels of the town. This omission, they are sure, resulted from a mistake or oversight. Several inconveniences of a general as well as a particular nature have resulted from that omission, both to the public, and to the owner of the said Tavern-lot, who is thereby deprived of a freehold. Your petitioners therefore further pray that the said lots be embodied with said town, and become a part thereof to all intents and purposes, by an act of your body— All which is respectfully submitted to the wisdom of ~~the~~ Legislature.

*Dear Sirs*

*your petition to  
be obtained  
and returned  
to you will be  
truly received*

Virginia General Assembly, Legislative Petitions, Prince William County,  
petition dated 18 Dec. 1828 (microfilm reel 165). State government records  
collection, The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va. 23219.

HISTORIC SITE FILE  
PRINCE WILLIAM PUBLIC LIBRARY ST  
RELC/Bull Run Reg Lib Manassas, VA  
BRISTOL