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**Virginia General Assembly
Legislative Petitions**

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, 1819 Dec. 15 - 1858

Reel 165

Acc.# 36121

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To the members of the Legislature of
Virginia now assembled in Richmond
City, the petition of the undersigned Free
holders in the County of Prince William
respectfully sheweth viz
That some years since by an act of your
Body, the seat of justice for Prince William
County was removed from the Town
of Dumfries to a place designated in
said act now called Brentsville, at which
place of course, all the voters of this
County have to repair, in order to exer-
cise their ^{rights} in regard to the various con-
siderations for publick favor. The undersi-
gned your petitioners do most respectfully
suggest to your Body the propriety of
establishing by act or otherwise a sep-
arate election to be held in the Town
of Dumfries for various reasons, some
of which the undersigned, your petitioners
take the liberty to present for your
consideration.

1st Because there is a branch of the Occo-
quan River, called Cedar Run, which
divides the County nearly equally, that
is frequently so very high, as to render it
impracticable for it to be forded, and
the Court-house being above the Run
or rather west of it, we may be entirely
excluded from the Polls, especially as the
length of this stream causes it generally
to continue high for days.

2nd By the same cause the voters below
the Run may be detained on several
days from their families and business
as the experience hath been.

and failed. we are not sure that a Bridge
can be erected to stand on this bold and
vigorous stream.

3rd Because the Coast prospects of rain
for the foregoing reasons were deter most
of the voters on the East-part of the
County from attending, and a majority
of the voters live on the East-side of the
River.

4th Because many of the Freeholders
reside in the Town of Aquia, a place
- distant - from the Court-house fifty
- or six miles, and it is not to be expected
that they have horses or are able to
hire them to attend at the Court-house
whereby many are prevented from
The privilege of voting who are duly qual-
ified by law so to do.

5th Because the Eastern part of this County is
situated on the Potomack River, still more
remote from the Court-house, and many
of the inhabitants have not the land ex-
- conyance, at least sufficient for so great
- a distance and with the probability of
such delay.

6th Because the fishing season is from
the 28th of March until the 10th of May
and many of the voters engaged in the
business cannot spare the time to go
such a distance to give their votes when
they could conveniently go to Dumfries
The shape of the County being such
(which may be seen by reference to
the Map) those on the river are at least
twenty miles from the Court-house.

7th Because most of these Persons situated
in the Eastern or South-Eastern parts of
the County deal in the Town of Aquia,
and will from the prospect of the
- a drop their business be excited to attend
the Election, whereby the publick will
- may be more fully exposed.

8th Because from the fortuitous circumstances mentioned in the first-reading why we petition your Body our interests may not be represented in the Legislature or a minority may dictate to, and choose for the Majority.

9th And lastly because we demand our right to claim at the hands of our representatives to be placed upon an equality as it regards interest and privilege with our fellow Citizens (especially those of our County) in selecting the persons by whom we are to be represented. When your Petitioners recollect that your Body has granted separate Elections in certain towns which they think not more urgent than those which they have respectfully suggested and when they remember that others equally important have not naturally suggest themselves to the Legislature they can but hope that you will grant their request and they therefore pray that you will authorize by act or otherwise that a separate election shall be held on all election days hence forward at the old court house in the Town of Dummer and the undersigned your Petitioners will ever pray &c.

Joseph A. Gentry
Wm. Cairney
Charles G. Cannon
Hiram D. Davies
Snow Williams

Henry Fairfax
Aldersworth Smith
William Hayes
Thompson
McGinnis
James H. Hill

Benjamin F. Thomas
Robert Alexander
Thos Norman

James B. Thomson
James Lowell

Robert A. H. H. H.
Richard Starnell

Richard W. H. H.

Lizzie Powell

Henry H. Garrison (atm the time)

Wm. C. C. C.

Henley Groves

James B. H. H.

Wm. C. C. C.

Richd. W. H. H.

Bryce Lytle

William Anderson

Strother Pernal (atm the time)

James Lowell (atm the time)

Wm. C. C. C.
Henry H. H. H.

John G. K. K.

Benjamin C. C.

Thomas Jones

John W. W.

Seymour L. L.

John L. L.

Wm. C. C. C.

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Petition for
separate election
in the County of
Primer Wilcox

Wm. C. C. C.

Jan'y 21st 1830

ref. to Prop.

Jan 23rd laid on table on m^o

Jan 35th Readinable.

Feb 26th Res. ordered.

Feb 12th Res. drawn.