

## **Pamunkey Indian Tribe, Counter Petition, 1843 Transcription (page 1 of 3)**

Novr 26 1842

Having been informed from various and certain sources that there would be a petition presented to the next General Assembly of Virginia; for the sale of the land owned and occupied by us the Pamunkey Tribe of Indians; which said petition we the said Tribe do hereby solemnly and positively object to in as much as we have not been consulted. Ne[i]ther is it the will or wish of any of the said Tribe to be disturbed by our small and humble fire sides. Neither have we given any cause wherein we are aware of, for any person or persons to wish to molest us the said Tribe of Indians; there is none of our Tribe has been convicted for dishonesty, or sent to the penitentiary for stealing, or hostility with our white neighbors, or one another, since our Tribe has become civilized. And we hope that gentlemen will look into this matter, and feel for us on this occasion. We have been informed that we are called lazy, there is not more than five families in this place as bad a crop year as we have had in here this year but what has made corn enough to serve them plentifully. And in good crop years, we make more corn than will serve us by two hundred Barrels. And we have been informed by some that the fourth of the Indian blood has expired in this place. But if anything can be proved, there are many here that are more than half-blooded Indian, tho we regret to say that there are some here that are not of our Tribe, and we earnestly hope that no Gentlemen who can feel for human woe, would try to expunge us the said Tribe from this little surrounded spot of land, which were granted to us by your fathers the son of liberty. And we would wish for our last Remains to be deposited here with our ancestors. Gentlemen it would be heart rending for us to be parted like as one family from our brothers, and sisters, fathers and mothers into different climes, and no not where to go. Now if we had committed any Transgression against our county, or state, we could bear it patiently, but nothing. Now if our friends are sick, we are near them to relieve them of there many woes and administer to them many necessities without any expence to the country, if our old men, or young men, become Crippled and can but paddle there canoes, they can get there living by fishing, and hunting, if our old women become infirm they can make there wares to support them without any expense to the country. And we hope that the gentlemen will take this thing in consideration, as it is against the will and wish of each one of our Tribe to depart from there native land. Given under our hand and seal this day and date first above written.

Chief Men of the Tribe

Tazewell H. Langston (seal)

James Langston (seal)

Joseph Arnold (seal)

*Citation: Pamunkey Indians Counter Petition, Jan. 21, 1843, King William County, Legislative Petitions Digital Collection, Library of Virginia.*

## **Pamunkey Indian Tribe, Counter Petition, 1843 Transcription (page 2 of 3)**

Novr 26th 1842—The foregoing is an instrument of writing drawn by Tazewell H. Langston and intended to be laid before the Legislature of Virginia. The said Tazewell H. Langston is an Indian of the Pamunkey Tribe King William County and one of what they term their head men. We are opposed to the sale of their land and having been requested to sign the foregoing instrument of writing. We as their Trustees chosen by the said Tribe of Indians cannot withhold the weight of our influence in their behalf.

Tho. P. Green

Wm. Smith

T. B. Littlepage

Henry C. Johnson

L. B. Lipscomb

*Citation: Pamunkey Indians, Counter-Petition, January 21, 1843, King William County, Legislative Petitions  
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## **Pamunkey Indian Tribe, Counter Petition, 1843 Transcription (page 3 of 3)**

Pamunkey Indian Town, King Wm Cty, Janry 12 1843

To the Legislature of Virginia. Gentlemen it is a fact that cannot be denied that Mr. T. W. L. Gregory has endeavored to influence the minds of the Citizens of King William to sign his petition to sell our place. He has scandelized us to Gentlemen who know us not. Those who are our near neighbors, who know us well would not sign his petition because they knew that they found no fault in us. There is many who had signed his petition after they found out his design, had there names taken off because he had stated that we were hostile, Rogues, lazy, drunkards etc and moreover, he stated that our Trustees, and a part of the Tribe, were willing for the sale of our land on which we live. Let any Gentlemen Refer to our county Court and search the Records, and they will find to the contrary of what Mr. Gregory has charged us with, he cannot prove nothing against us whereof we are accused by him. If we were guilty of the char[g]e he has laid against us, why has not our near neighbors, Mr. Jno Armstead Robins, Henry C. Johnson, Roger Gregory, esqr., William Smith, Thos. P. Green, Esqr., Col. T. Littlepage, Charles H. Btraxton, esqr., Samuel B. Lipscomb, Thos. Stark, Robert Hargrove, Srnr., W.A. Johnson, and many others, all these are our nearest white neighbors, none has signed his petition. Mr. T. W. L. Gregory lives about twelve or fourteen miles remote from us, and we do not expect that half dozen of our Tribe has ever been on his land. Gentlemen we hope that you will look into this matter with sympathy. As we would not wish to sell our little spot of land. Given under hand and seals this day and date as above written.

Ceif Men of The Pamunkey Indians

Tazewell Langston (seal)

James Langston (seal)

Joseph Arnold (seal)