

## Pamunkey Indian Tribe, Counter Petition, 1843 (p. 1 of 3)

Nov 26 1842.

Having been informed from various and certain <sup>sources</sup> 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 truly solemnly and positively object to. in as much as we have not been consulted. neither is it the will or wish of any of the said Tribe to be disturbed by our small and humble fire side. 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, <sup>sent</sup> to the penitentiary for Stealing, or hostility with our white neighbours, 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 had a crop year as we have had in here, <sup>this year</sup> 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 <sup>by some</sup> 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 one half blooded Indian, tho we ought 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 their 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 with our ancestors. Gentlemen it would be heart rending for us to be parted like as one family from our brethren, and sister fathers, and mothers, into different climates, and no not where to go. Now if we had committed any transgression against ~~our~~ our Country, or state we could bear it patiently, but sitting, Now if our friends are sick, we are near them to relieve them of their many woe and administer to them many ~~of~~ necessities without any expense to the Country, if our old men, or young men, become crippled and cannot paddle their canoes, they can get them ~~to~~ living by <sup>1<sup>st</sup></sup> fishing, and hunting, if our old women become infirm

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

## Pamunkey Indian Tribe, Counter Petition, 1843 (p. 2 of 3)

They can make them wars, 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 their native land, given under our hands  
and seal this the day and date first above written

Chief Amen  
of the Tribe

James H. Langston Seal  
James Langston Seal  
Joseph Smith Seal

Nov. 26th 1842 - The foregoing is an instrument  
of writing drawn by James H. Langston  
and intended to be laid before the Legis-  
lature of Virginia - The said James  
H. Langston is an Indian of <sup>the</sup> 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 trustee  
chosen by the said Tribe of Indians cannot  
withhold the weight of our influence in  
their behalf -

Thos. P. Lucas  
J. Smith  
J. B. Lullpage  
Henry C. Johnson  
H. C. Lipscomb

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## Pamunkey Indian Tribe, Counter Petition, 1843 (p. 3 of 3)

Pamunkey Indian Town / King Wm Cty Jan 21 1843.

To the Legislature of Virginia. Gentlemen it is a fact that cannot be denied, that Mr W. B. Gregory has endeavoured to influence the minds of the Citizens of King William, to sign this petition, to sell our place. He has scandalized us to Gentlemen who know us not. Those who are our near Neighbours, who know us well, would not sign this petition. Because they know that they found us of a different mind. There is many who had signed this petition, after they found out his design, had their names taken ~~from~~ of. Because he had stated that we were hostile, Rogues, lazy, drunkards &c. and moreover, he stated that our Trustee, and a part of the Tribe, were willing for the sale of our land on which we live. Let any Gentlemen refer to our country Court, and search the Records, and they <sup>will find</sup> 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 Charge he has laid against us, why has not our near Neighbours, signed for Mr Jno Armistead Robins, Henry C Johnson, Roger Gregory esq, William Smith, Tho. P. Grounds, Col J Littlepage, Charles W Boaxton esq, Samuel W Lipscomb, Tho. Stark, Robert Harpove esq, M. A Johnson, and many others, all these are our nearest white Neighbours, who has signed this petition, Mr W. B. Gregory lives about twelve or fourteen miles remote from us, and we don't expect that half dozen of our Tribe has ever been on his land, Gentlemen we hope you will look into this matter with sympathy, as we would not wish to sell our little spot of land given under hand and seal this day and date as above written.

Chief Men of  
The Pamunkey  
Indians.

Jaywell Langston Seal  
James Langston Seal  
Joseph Arnold Seal

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