

Memorial of the Females of Augusta County for the emancipation of Slaves

To the honorable the Genl Assembly of the State of Virginia, the memorial of the subscribing females of the county of Augusta humbly represents that although it be unexampled, in our beloved State, that females should interfere in its political concerns, and altho' we feel all the timidity incident to our sex in taking this step, yet we hold our right to do so to be unquestionable, and feel ourselves irresistably impelled to the exercise of that right by the most potent considerations and the perilous circumstances which surround us. We pretend not to conceal from you, our fathers & brothers, our protectors by your investment with the political power of the land, the fears which agitate our bosoms, and the dangers which await us, as revealed to us by recent tragical deeds. Our fears we admit, are great; but we do not concede that they are the effects of blind & unreflecting cowardice; we do not concede that they spring from the superstitious timidity of our sex. Alas! We are indeed timid, but we appeal to your manly reason, to your more matured wisdom, to attest the justice & propriety of our fears, when we call to your remembrance the late slaughter of our sisters & their little ones, in certain parts of our land, & the strong probability that that slaughter was but a partial execution of a widely projected scheme of carnage. We know not, we cannot know the night, nor the unguarded moment, by day or by night, which is pregnant with our destruction, & that of our husbands, & brothers, & sisters, & children; but we do know that we are, at every moment, exposed to the means of our own excision & of all that is dear to us in life. The bloody monster which threatens us is warmed & cherished on our own hearths. O hear our prayer & remove it, ye protectors of our persons, ye guardians of our peace!

Tell us not of the labors & hardships we shall endure when our bondservants shall be removed from us. They have no terrors for us. Those labors & hardships cannot be greater, or so great as those we now endure in providing for & ruling the faithless beings who are subjected to us. Or were they greater still, they are, in our esteem, less than the small dust in the balance compared with the burden of our fears and our dangers. But what have we to fear from these causes more than the females of other countries? Are they of the east, & of the west, of England, & of France more "cumbered with much serving" than we are? Are they less enlightened or less accomplished? However we may be flattered, we will not be argued out of our senses, & persuaded into a belief which is contradicted by all experience & the testimony of sober facts. Many, very many of our sisters & brothers have fled to other lands from the evils which we experience. And they send us back the evidences of their contentment & prosperity. They lament not their labors & hardships, but exult in their deliverance from servitude to their quondam slaves. And we, too, would fly—we, too, would exult in similar deliverance, were our destiny otherwise ordered. That destiny is in your hands, & we implore your high agency in ordering it for the best. Do not slight our importunities. Do not disregard our fears. We desire to enjoy our exultation in the land of our nativity. Our destiny is identified with your's. If we perish, alas! What will become of you & your offspring?



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We are no political economists; but our domestic employments, our engagements in rearing up the children of our husbands & Brothers, our intimate concern with the intercourse & prosperity of society; we presume, cannot but inform us of the great & elementary principles of that important science. Indeed it is impossible that that science can have any other basis than the principles which are constantly developing themselves to us in our domestic relations. What is a nation but a family upon a large scale? Our fears teach us to reflect & reason and our reflections & reasonings have taught us that the peace of our homes, the welfare of society, the prosperity of future generations call aloud & imperatively for some decision & efficient measure—and that measure cannot, we believe, be decisively efficient, or of much benefit if it have not, for its ultimate object, the extinction of slavery from amongst us. Without therefore entering upon a detail of facts and arguments, we implore you by the urgencies of our fears, by the love we bear you as our fathers & brothers, by our anxieties for the little ones around us, by our estimate of domestic weal, by present danger, by the prospects of the future, by our female virtues, by the patriotism which animates & glows in our bosoms, by our prayers to Almighty God, not to let the power with which you are invested lie dormant, but that you would exert it, for the deliverance of yourselves, of us, of the children of the Land, of future ages from the direst curse which can befall a people. O, signalize your legislation by this mighty deed. This we pray, and in duty bound will ever pray.

ELIZABETH STUART		BETSY BROWN	20
MARY HANGER		JANE BROWN	
ETH WILSON		SARAH HAMILTON	
HANNAH W. WILSON		ELIZA MONTGOMERY	
ELIZA LINK 5		HARRIET CRAWFORD	
MARY LINK		MARY L. CRAWFORD	25
CATHARINE HANGER		ANN POAGE	
LIDIA WOODWARD		JULIA H. BELL	
MARY C. WOODWARD		MARY T. HYDE	
REBECCA WOODWARD	10	MARGARET E. HYDE	
ELLENOR GREGORY		REBECCA B. GAMBLE	30
ELIZABETH ALLEN		MARY B. KINNEY	
ELIZABETH PAINTER		MARGARET BEARD	
SARAH PATTERSON		MARGARET PATTERSON	
JANE C. PATTERSON	15	SARAH KERR	
ELIZABETH DAVIS		MARY CURRY	35
REBECAH KING		SARAH CRAWFORD	
MARGARET BRAU		SOPHIA YOUNT	
ISABELLA BROWN		MARY O. POAGE	



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ELIZABETH GAMBLE		MARY ANN STOVER	
ELIZA J. GAMBLE	40	ELIZABETH STOVER	
JANE KERR		MARGARET B. STOVER	
ANN GAMBLE		SUSAN GLENN	
MARY CLINEDENST		JULIA CURRY	55
MARGARET VANLEAR		MARY MALCOMB	
CAROL YOUNG	45	EVELINA BAYLOR	
MARGARET E. YOUNG		NANCY WHITE	
MARGARET YOUNG		DOROTHY THOMPSON	
ELIZA STOVER		MARY BURKET	60
MARY STOVER		ELIZABETH BURKET	
ELIZA STOVER	50	MARY WHITE	

ELIZABETH CULLEN		ROSANAH MOONEY	
ELIZABETH KERSHAW		MARGARET KYGER	25
SALEY HOULTS		BARBARA KYGER	
ELIZABETH BILLHIMER		MATILDA KYGER	
ELIZABETH HAYBERGER	5	MARY KYGER	
CATHARINE CULLEN		SARAH FEBLERS	
ELIZABETH BARNHART		KATHARIN SLAGLE	30
ELIZABETH SEAL		FRANCES SLAGLE	
MARY SEAL		CATHERINE HOYNERD	
REBECKA STICKLEY	10	ELIZABETH HOYNERD	
MARY ANN STICKLEY		ANNEY HOYNERD	
MARGRETE STICKLEY		JANE HOYNERD	35
CATHARINE STICKLEY		SUSANA FABER	
ELIZABETH FAULEER		ELISABATH FABER	
SARAH FELLERS SENR	15	IZABELA OFLIGHTER	
MARGRET FELLERS		NANCY PALMER	
SARAH FELLERS JNR		ELIZABATH GARHART	40
CATHARINE FELLERS		MARY M'CRESS	
MARY GANGUER		BARBARY FAUBER	
JANE GANGUER	20	ANNA HARDBARGER	
MARTHA NEWCOME		MAGDELENA WHITESEL	
PRESILLA MILSTED		LYDIA PETERS	45
CATHERINE KERINGTON		ANNAHELENA ATWATER	



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ELIZA HAMILTON		ANN G. HARNSBEGER	
JANE CRAWFORD SR		LETITIA K. ROBERTSON	85
JANE CRAWFORD JR		ISABELLA CLARK	
ELIZABETH CRAWFORD	50	NANCY CLARK	
MARY DEDRICK		ELEANOR WILSON	
MARY BIGGER		ELIZABETH WILSON	
ELIZABETH BIGGER		MARY RADY	90
JANE BIGGER		LYDIA BABER	
MARY FORBISH	55	SUSAN BABER	
SUSAN HELMS		MARY B. DONAGHE	
SARAH PAINTER		JANE E. GOLLADAY	
MARY JANE APPLE		MARY G. RUSH	95
LUCY M. CLARKE		MARTHA GORDEN	
JANETTA A CALHOON	60	SARA DEARY	
ELIZABETH CALHOON		DEANE COOK	
MARGARET S CALHOON	62	MARY [P.?] DEARY	
REBECCA TRIMBLE	63	MARGARET DEARY	
EMILY WHITE		ELIZABETH B. LEEZO	
NANCY ANDERSON		CAROLINE FACKLER	
CATHARINE HURST	65	CATHARINE S. DEARY	
SUSEANDY HURST		RACHEL ANN DEARY	
PEGGY BELL		ELIZABETH JOHNSON	105
ELIZABETH LESSLY		SUSANA TROUT	
CYNTHIA ANN CRAWFORD		PATSY BUCHNER	
SALLY STUARD	70	MAGDALENE THURMAN	
NANCY BAYERS		MERCY PARENT	
NANCY MARKWOOD		SALLY LESSLEY	110
SALLY GRAHAM		PEGGY LESSLEY	
ELIZA GRAHAM		BETSY LESSLEY	
LEABLA GRAHAM	75	NANCY LESSLEY	
MAGARET GRAHAM		SALLY WOODWARD	
SARAH CONNER		SARAH C. MCCLUNG	115
RACHEL CONNER		MARTHA J. HYDE	
SARAH CONNER		POLLY LOYD	
JANE CONNER	80	ANN LOYD	
LYDIA REED		PEGGY LOYD	
ELIZABETH REED		POLLY LOYD JUN	120
MARYAN SWITZER		MARTHA HANGER	



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ELIZABETH GIBSON
JANE WOODWARD
CATHARINE MORRIS
POLLY WOODWARD 125

EVELINE WHITE
MARY JANE WOODWARD
MARGARET ALLEN 128

ISABELLE MCDOWEL
MARIA COALTER
ANN A. TURNER
ELIZABETH MCCLUNG
SARAH B. WILLIAMSON 5
MARY WARDEN
ELIZABETH GILKESON
JANETTA W. MCCLUNG
MARTHA A. TURNER
AGNES R. M'CLUNG 10
MARY L. SOWERS
CATHARINE COLHOUN
ELEANOR C. HARPER
ELIZA T. POINTS
MAY SHOTT 15
SALLY SHEETS
BARBARA LUTZ
SUSAN CLITZ
NANCY PATTERSON
KIZZY PATTERSON 20
MATILDA PATTERSON
ELIZABETH PATTERSON
REBECCA SHEETZ
SUSAN SHOTT