

To the honorable the general assembly of Virginia, the  
Petitioners beg leave respectfully to state; That several  
years past an Academy was, by an act of your honou-  
rable body, established in the Town of Staunton, under  
the superintendance of certain Trustees therein named.  
That, notwithstanding the almost proverbial healthiness  
of the place, and the many other advantages it pos-  
sesses, to render it a proper situation for an Acad-  
emy; yet, owing to the want of any means in its  
friends to bring it into life and vigor, it remains  
but an embryo. Your petitioners believe that you  
are, equally with themselves, impressed with the  
great necessity of a general diffusion of knowledge  
in every republican Government; and that the only  
possible means of diffusing general, useful, and orna-  
mental knowledge, through a Country so extensive  
and thinly populated as ours, is by the establishment  
and encouragement of numerous seminaries of  
learning through its different parts. But your pe-  
titioners are equally sensible with yourselves, that our  
publick wealth is yet unequal to accomplish, by pub-  
lick aid, this desirable object. — (But one way, it is be-  
lieved, is in the power of the Legislature to contribute  
its aid; That is, by putting it in the power of those  
who are willing to contribute, but unable to contri-  
bute sufficiently, to invite to their assistance, by hope  
of personal advantage, the wealth of others. This mode  
has been adopted, and successfully adopted, by several of  
our Sister states, who have, in this way, been for years  
raising large contributions from our state, to the ag-  
grandisement of theirs. For it is a well known fact that  
in our neighbouring states, seminaries have been esta-  
blished, streets paved, roads repaired, and churches built  
by means of lotteries; and that the annual contributions  
from this state, for the aforesaid purposes, have been im-

sense. Your petitioners are of opinion, that the true  
reason of enquiry with the Legislature is, whether  
by encouragement of Lotteries in our own state, for  
beneficial and publick purposes, the Money of our  
own Citizens will not, at least, be saved to the state,  
instead of being sent out of it, to the aggrandise-  
ment of our Neighbouring States? For it is believed  
that no law can prevent our Citizens from venture-  
ing their fortunes in this way; and that they al-  
ways will venture, where there is a possibility of  
considerable gain, at the risque of a trifling loss.

The Objection has been made to the authorising of  
Lotteries, namely, the great difficulty, and frequently,  
impossibility of sending the tickets - This difficulty is  
not unknown to your petitioners; and, though it is a  
matter of some consideration to the publick, it is cer-  
tainly more so to them. But they believe that the dif-  
ficulty may be overcome; and that moneys may be  
drawn from the Neighbouring states, to our aid; instead  
of sending our Money abroad to aid them. It is at least  
thought worthy the attempt. Having made these  
General observations, your Petitioners now beg leave  
to call the attention of the Legislature to their own  
wants, and wishes. - The situation of their Academy  
has been mentioned. - The elevated situation of a con-  
siderable portion of the Town of Staunton, renders it  
very difficult to procure water by digging. But  
from a spring not very far distant from the extrem-  
ity of the Town, the whole of the inhabitants on the  
hills could have an abundant supply of water, as  
well for ordinary uses, as for security against fire,  
In case of which they would, at present, be in a la-  
mentable situation; and much money might be drawn  
from the Publick, to repair losses, or alleviate under-  
them; which a plentiful supply of water might al-

together prevent. The streets of their town want lev-  
elling, repairing, and paving. And lastly (though it  
ought not, perhaps, to be considered as the least of their  
wants) their Churches need finishing, repairing, &  
enlarging. To accomplish those purposes your petiti-  
oners are too poor. They therefore hope that they will  
be excused for attempting, in this way, to obtain the  
aid of the publick. For they cannot conceive that  
the great body of the people of the state, or those who  
represent them, will be indifferent to the Conveni-  
ence, health, safety, information and morals of any  
portion of that body. Your petitioners suppose that  
\$2000, would repair and enlarge their Churches; \$4000  
level and repair their streets; \$1000 conduct the water  
plentifully through their town, \$20,000 build an  
Academy, purchase a small Library, & Scientific ap-  
paratus, and leave a small fund for the endowment  
of a teacher. Your petitioners therefore pray that  
an Act may pass, Authorising them to raise the  
aforesaid sum of \$30,000 or such part of it as they  
can raise, for the purposes aforesaid, by one or more  
Lotteries, under the management, and superintendance  
of proper Characters. - If the whole sum cannot be  
raised, the first \$4000 to be applied to the bringing wa-  
ter through the town; and the balance, unless the whole  
sum of \$30,000 can be raised, to either, or all of the  
aforesaid purposes, in such manner and proportion  
as the said Managers may deem most beneficial to  
your petitioners and the publick.

And your petitioners Y. C. Y. C. Y. C.

Petitioners names

Henry J. Bylson  
M. Coakley  
John Brahan  
Jno. [unclear]  
John M. Powell  
Joseph Coakley  
Uoses N. Co.  
Audino Bany  
H. [unclear]  
J. [unclear]  
Khamber  
J. C. Baldwin  
J. B. Dizabeau  
Hezekiah Jones  
W. [unclear]  
Jacob [unclear]  
John C. [unclear]  
B. Heiskell  
J. Maytana  
James [unclear]  
Marano Smith  
William A. Brown  
M. [unclear]

Petitioners names

J. Williamson  
Henry [unclear]  
Charles [unclear]  
Joseph Smith  
Wright Burgess  
John Coakley  
Jno. M. Powell  
James Herron  
R. Morris  
H. Adams  
Thos. M. Perkins  
Rich. [unclear]  
C. Morris  
C. B. [unclear]  
James Williamson  
Charles Page  
William Page  
Samuel Herron  
Johnson  
Henry Linn  
J. [unclear]  
John Shutz  
Jacob [unclear]  
George Mitchell  
[unclear]

Petitioners Names

J. P. Greene  
Jefferson L. Edmund  
J. McCullough  
Chesley Kinney  
William Boys  
Jno. Coakley  
W. A. [unclear]  
N. G. [unclear]  
J. Morris  
Vincent Gapp  
Smith Thompson  
Benjamin Leas  
Chas. [unclear]  
William King  
Jacob [unclear]  
Peter [unclear]  
Samuel [unclear]  
Paul [unclear]  
John [unclear]  
Barnet Brady  
William [unclear]  
Jacob [unclear]  
W. [unclear]  
William Priddy

Petitioners Names

Eras. Stribling  
J. Brown  
Thomas [unclear]  
James [unclear]  
Michel [unclear]  
Jacob Greiner  
Garner [unclear]  
George [unclear]  
William [unclear]  
George [unclear]  
Joseph [unclear]  
J. [unclear]  
Matthew Atkinson  
Lawrence Hartmann  
Hooper  
James Bickel  
James Brown  
John [unclear]  
William [unclear]  
Chas. [unclear]  
George [unclear]  
Solomon [unclear]  
John [unclear]  
John [unclear]  
George [unclear]  
Henry [unclear]  
Alex. Nelson

petitioners Names

petitioners Names

Henry H Evans  
 Samuel Evans  
 William Donahoe  
 David Parry  
 Geo. G. McIntosh  
 William Nabours  
 Seth Norton  
 Myrales  
 James Dale  
 John Gordon  
 Lawrence Trempier  
 Charles Wallis  
 John G. Shady  
 John L. Moore  
 John Burges  
 And. Humphreys  
 John Joseph  
 Jacob Lees  
 John Greiner  
 John Sperry  
 Abraham Seeb  
 Daniel Piper  
 Samuel Manitt  
 Angel Hunter  
 No Johnston  
 Joseph Bell  
 A. Grattan

Sam. Clarke  
 W. Clarke  
 James Clarke  
 Las Carner  
 Robt. R. Miller  
 Valentin Miller  
 W. William Young  
 Francis Miller  
 Jacob Fric  
 Phillip Cole  
 Daniel Bond  
 James Dietrich  
 John B. Sharnes  
 John Harve  
 William Knowles  
 David Bree  
 Ellen Gray  
 Min Atwell  
 George Phoates  
 Wm Erwin  
 Andrew Herouf  
 P. Edmondson  
 Edw. Todd  
 John Stuart  
 Christa Grove  
 Wm Forbes

Account Pet.  
Re. Dec 24<sup>th</sup> - 07  
(No lie)

To Chs. Jus.  
Rep. Dec 30<sup>th</sup> - 1807

Jan 1. 1808  
Rame  
Rep.