

THE STAMP ACT PROTEST

by Culpeper's Justices of the Peace

October 21, 1765

To the Honorable Francis Fauqure Esquire his Majestys
Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of the Colony
and Dominion of Virginia The Humble Address of the Justices
of the peace of the County of Culpeper.

Sir

At a Time when his Majestys Subjects in America are so
Universally alarmed on Account of the late proceedings of the
British Parliament and the Enemies of America employed in
representing the Colonies in an Odias Light to our most Gracious
Sovereign and his Ministers by the most Ungenerous
interpretation of our Behaviour We beg leave to take this Method
to assure Your Honour of our inviolable Attachment to and
Affection for the Sacred person of his Majesty and the hole Royal
Family.

And, from your Honours well known Cander and
benevolent Disposition we are persuaded that we shall at the
Same Time be permitted to lay before your honour those reasons
which have determined us to Resign the Commission of the
peace under which we have been Sworn to set as Magestrates in
this County.

It seems to be the Unanimous opinion of the People of America (And of a few in England) That the late act of Parliament by which a Stamp Duty is imposed in the Americans and a Court of Vice-Admiralty appointed ultimately to Determine all Controversies which may arise Concerning the Execution of the said act is Unconstitutional and a high Infringement of our most valuable Privileges as British Subjects who we humbly apprehend cannot Constitutionally be Taxed without the Consent of our Representatives or our Lives and Properties affected in any Sivil or Criminal Causes whatsoever without first being Tried by our peears, and

As the Execution of the said act Dose in Some measure Depend on the County Courts we Cannot think it Consistent with that Duty which we owe our Country to be in the Smallest Degree Instrumental in enforceing a law which consivease in it Self Shaking at the very foundation of our Liberties; and if Carried into Execution must Render our Posterity unhappy and ourselves Contemptible In the Opinion of all men who are the least acquainted with a British Constitution, as we Shall in that Case be no longer Free but merely the Property of those whom we formerly lookt upon only as our fellow Subjects.

Permit us Sir to add That we Still hope his majesty and Parliament will Change their Measures and Suffer us to enjoy our antient Privaleges and if we Should Incur the Displeasure of our Sovereign by thus endeavouring to assert our Rights we should

look upon it as one of the greatest Misfortunes which Could befall us.

We do heartily and Sencearly wish his Majesty a long and happy Reign over us and that there never may be wanting a Prince of the Illustrious house of Hanover to Succeed him in his Dominions. That Your honour may Continue to Enjoy the favor of our Sovereign, long Govern the people of this Antient and Loyal Colony, and that the People may again be as happy under your mild and Gentle Administration as they have formerly been is what we most ardently Pray for.

N. Pendleton

Robert Green

William Williams

John Strother

John Slaughter

Wm. Green

Thomas Scott

Henry Pendleton

Benjamin Roberts

W. Eastham

George Wetherall

Danl. Brown

Ambrose Powell

Wm. Brown

Henry Field, Junr.

Joseph Wood

**Spelling, punctuation, and capitalization as the original. Some addition of capital letters and periods for clarity to mark the beginning and ending of sentences. Original found in Culpeper County records, Deed Book E.*