

To The Honorable John Ward, President of the Senate and the
Assembly of that Honorable House

The Petition of Williams Hill Humbly sheweth

That in the year 1775 at an early period of the late
war this Country being in great distress by reason of the shutting
up of her Ports and the cutting off her foreign Trade, the
Provincial Congress of this State, encouraged the manufac-
turing of Bar Iron by offering a Premium of two thousand
Pounds Currency to any Person who should erect a Bloom-
ery for that purpose, which Premium your Petitioner
obtained by his exertions

That afterwards they conceived these works might
be greatly improved for the Public benefit, by erecting a
Furnace for the purpose of casting Cannon Balls, Shell
Camp-kettles and other utensils for the Army, and
accordingly in the Month of August 1776 offered
a loan of seven thousand Pounds Currency which
he afterwards received in Depreciated Paper Bills of
this State for that purpose.

That the loan was for ten years and free of any
Interest, but a Mortgage of the Works was required.

~~That before the Works were completed the
Value had been expended it had greatly depreciated~~

That after he had finished his Furnace in about
the space of sixteen Months he supplied the State with
two hundred of Twelve Thousand Pounds weight of Iron
in Articles for Military Stores which at the Current Price
then at his Iron Works amounted to about £6200 Sterling

That during this time Colonel Isaac Hayne
had engaged with him as a Partner which added consid-
erably to the Stock about the Works

That the great utility of these Works by suppl-

supplying the State with Cannon that he had attracted the no-
tice of the Enemy, who considering them as Public Works
and an object of Military operation detached a strong
Party of Troops from Rocky Mount to destroy them, who
marched for that purpose into a Part of the Country
never before penetrated by the Enemy & destroyed them

Your Petitioner on that occasion sustained the
loss of the Furnace, Forge, Grist of Saw Mills, Store Houses
Dwelling Houses and every other Building on the place
with a large Stock of Horses, Cattle, Waggons & Utensils
besides the Loss of Twenty One Negroes carried off by
the Enemy which he never afterwards regained, amount-
ing altogether to upwards of five thousand Pounds
Sterling drawn on him by the manner in which his
Iron Works were employed in providing Military Stores
for the Public Service — This happened in the Month of
June 1780 when the situation of the Country was such as
put it out of his Power to rebuild the Works — The
unhappy death of Colonel Bayne which soon followed
and leaving his Children Minors put it out of their
power to render him any Assistance

That as soon as there was any prospect of
peace he began to rebuild the Works which had been
destroyed, the Auditors Office being opened he delivered
in his Account against the State for the aforesaid
Supplies and was allowed two Shillings and Six pence
Currency per Pound for his Iron, which was paid him
in an Indent, although the Current Price in the Country
was then Seven Pence Sterling per Pound, which your
Petitioner would have had for every Pound manufact-
ured at his Works, but for the preference he gave to the
State —

That the great Loss he sustained in his private
 Liberty, his being engaged in the Service in a Military
 capacity the Accumulation of his debts incurred in subvul-
 sion and carrying on the furnace rendered his Situation
 such as obliged him to sell his Indent at the then
 Market Price of Ten per Cent, whereby he received in
 part only two farthings per Pound which did not
 even reimburse Workmans wages

That the Works were undertaken and carried on
 at the request of the Provincial Congress, and

That your Petitioner hath never made use
 of the Bills loaned to him, the State got the Supplies wan-
 ted and the Accounts have been received by the General
 Government and your Petitioner hath reason to believe
 that this State hath Credit for the thousand Pounds as
 well as the Supplies.

Your Petitioner further sheweth that
 there is a Suit commenced by the Solicitors for the Money
 owing to him as aforesaid to recover the full Amount
 thereof.

Petitioner's
 Name
 of
 the
 Bill
 of
 Exchange

Your Petitioner further states that the Debt
 for which he is sued was not incurred by his drawing
 any Money in reality out of the Treasury of the State, or
 his receiving the value of one Shilling of the Public Pro-
 perty — That what he received was certain Paper
Bills which cost the State no more than the expense of
 Paper of printing

That Bills of this kind were soon after
 issued in such Quantities as to ruin their Credit of
 but it beyond the ability of the State ever to redeem
 them — The Citizens of the State have never been
 taxed for that purpose & it is presumed never will

be Neither the State nor an Individual except your
Petitioner has suffered by the Loan and he has sustained
a Loss of several thousand Pounds Sterling, beyond what
he received had the same been in Specie - your Petiti-
oner has never brought forward any Claims for
Indemnities which were promised him by the Govern-
ment at that time, and which he thinks he might
justly have done. He has only prayed to be released
from paying a large Sum in Specie for Paper Bills
which he received of little or no value, which he has
still on hand

Your Petitioner with confidence relies on
the Justice of the Legislature to do what is right and
grant him proper relief in the Premises

And Your Petitioner will ever pray
Y^r Obed^t Serv^t

William Hill

Petition
of William Hill
Esq
of the County of Somerset
Esq
for the County of
Somerset
Esq
Petitioner