

L. H. J. To his Excellency John Seymour Esq<sup>r</sup> Captain General and Governor in Chief of the Province of Maryland

The Petition of Hugh Eccleston, John Hodson, Joseph Ennalls and Roger Woolford of Dorchester County on Behalf of several the Inhabitants

humbly sheweth

That about the year 1704 a certain Humphry Hubbard was constituted and appointed Deputy Commissary of the said County and during the said year and next year following did take the Probat of several Wills of several of the Inhabitants of the said County and thereupon granted Administrations as also did take the Inventories of several Estates and Accounts and Probat of the same made up before him according to the Act of Assembly in such Case provided And your said Petitioners further take Leave to inform your Excellency and Honours that in the year 1705 coming up to the Commissary General Court in Order to return the said Wills Inventories and Accounts into the said Office an Accident by Fire happened, whereby not only the Boat of the said Humphry was wholly consumed but also all the said Wills Inventories and Accounts were wholly consumed and turned to Ashes by which Means Sundry of the Inhabitants having Lands and Legacies bequeathed unto them by the said Wills and several Orphans and Creditors by the Loss of such Inventories and several poor ignorant People having exhibited and made up such Accounts and not having Copies of the same are likely and will if not remedied suffer very much some to their Disinheritance and Ruin.

The Premises considered your Petitioners humbly pray that a Bill may be brought in to relieve the said Sufferers by enacting that the Copy of the said Wills Inventories and Accounts now lodged in the Commissary General's Office and proved to be a true Copy by the Oath of the said Humphry may have the same Power and Effect in Law as the said Originals if they had not been burnt. And your Petitioners as in Duty bound shall pray, John Hodson, Roger Woolford, Joseph Ennalls, Hugh Eccleston.

Indorsed Viz. By his Excellency the Governor and Council in Assembly April 4<sup>th</sup> 1707.

This Petition is thought very reasonable and recommended to the House of Delegates that such a Bill be brought in.

Signed p Order. W. Bladen Cl. Co.

p. 119 Which said Petition being here read and considered it's ordered to be indorsed as follows April 4<sup>th</sup> 1707. Read and