

Petition of sundry
Merchants of Lewis
County

1827

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James

Howard

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE.

The undersigned, Merchants, and inhabitants of the county of *Daviess* respectfully

do not solicit to be exempted from the operation of any fair and equal tax which may be imposed upon the inhabitants of this state; but we deprecate the idea of being selected from among our fellow citizens as the special objects of oppressive exactions. Your petitioners are not aware of any circumstances which should degrade them below the professors of law and medicine, nor are they informed why mercantile pursuits should be viewed by the Legislature more unfavorably than those of Agriculture and Manufactures; nor can they see how the former legislators of the state could reconcile it to their ideas of justice to compel one class of their fellow citizens to bear such a disproportionate and oppressive part of the taxes necessary for the support of the government. By the Act, however, to which we respectfully call your attention, the Legislature have encumbered the merchant alone with a heavy burden, part of which might with equal propriety and justice be borne by the Farmer, Manufacturer, Physician, and Lawyer; and we call the particular attention of your honorable body to the fact that none of our sister states, have thought it just or found it necessary to impose such heavy and unequal burdens on their traders, as are exacted from the Merchants of Tennessee, compared with the public taxes borne by the other classes of the community—and it may perhaps admit of a doubt whether any of the despotic governments of Europe furnish a parallel—certainly not a single one where any thing like the principles of justice and equal rights are recognized. The tax of which we complain is not only unequal as it affects one class only of traders; but as it imposes

the same amount of tax upon every individual of that class, without any reference to the amount of his dealings or the capital employed by him. The effect of this unequal system of taxation will be to oppress and ruin the small dealers, or those who are poor, and force the business into the hands of the rich, who will enjoy an undisturbed monopoly of the commercial concerns of the state. Thus the public will be deprived of the benefit of a fair and equal competition. And as the act, or acts of which we complain, compel all the settled merchants of or belonging to your state to pay the same amount, no matter how small their capital or dealings may be, we cannot imagine what could have induced the Legislature to place the citizens of other states; or the Hawkers and Pedlars, (who are in fact mostly citizens of other states) on a more favorable footing than those of their own state, as many of them employ a larger capital, and to much more advantage than some of your settled merchants; nor can we see any reason why the tax on them should have been reduced, when your own settled merchants are still borne down with an unreasonably heavy tax.

We trust that barely calling your attention to this part of our grievances, will be sufficient; that one moment's reflection will shew the impolicy of giving encouragement to those carting gentlemen from the *Yankee* lands, the injury of your own citizens. For it is certainly one of the plainest principles of policy, and which no enlightened politician will lose sight of, to encourage, and hold out the fostering hand of government, to those citizens that are settled on the soil, and who contribute to the support and defence of the state. Not only your Merchants, but your Farmers and Mechanics are very much injured in their dealings with those nonresident traders; and finally, if these foreigners gain any thing by their employment, where does it go? It is every dollar swept from the state, and goes to enrich some other state. But on the other hand, if your resident merchant should be so fortunate as to make any thing, it is vested in property, and goes to enrich your state, and prop up your government. In conclusion, we do not offer to dictate any course for the Legislature to pursue; but humbly ask that we may be placed on the same footing with the other citizens of the state. This we conceive to be no more than justice requires at your hands. But if the Legislature should determine to continue a small tax, over and above what any other class of citizens pay, we insist on its being in proportion to the amount of our dealings.

Henry Pruss

John Boyers

Sam Henry

John Brayan

1835

Sevier Co. Navigation of French Broad at Hanging Rock

Petitioners

Petitioners

Petition of Secretary
Peterson of Sevier Co. y
praying an appropria-
tion for improving the Navi-
gation of French Broad
river at Hanging Rock
Cm. 20th

Shut Improvements

13 Nov

1835

Sevier Co.

Hummer

To the honorable, the General Assembly of the State of
Louisiana now in session.

The petitioners of the undersigned
citizens of Davis county, would respectfully represent to your
honorable body, that they have for a number of years
witnessed the appropriations of small sums to advance
and promote the facilities of intercourse in the State -

They thank the spirit of internal improvement
that began to develop itself by the appropriation of
the public moneys to objects of a general and public
nature, has not only been of great service in
opening the facilities of intercourse, but has also
been opening the minds of the people to a due
regard of their paramount temporal interests.

They would also remind your honorable
body, that two respectable sums have been appropri-
-ated for the internal improvement of the State, one of
which has been applied to the interests of East Louisiana
but has not removed any of the obstructions to the
navigable waters higher than Bossouville - This we do
not complain of, for the improvement was needed,
but as the revised constitution clearly establishes
the principle, that it ^{is} the duty of the Legislature of
a free country to foster and promote the internal
improvements of the State, we would respectfully
ask our appropriations for a specific object.

Much of the proceeds of East Louisiana
has to pass to market down the River Grand Morne,
and in the county of Davis on that river it has
to pass "the Stamp of Debt", under which in ordinary
times the current of the river passes. - Much property

has been damaged and destroyed at this dangerous
spot - many times the amount that the removal of the
obstruction would cost - But in all past times
nothing has been done for its removal, either by private
donation or public grant. We feel anxious that this
object might receive a favourable notice by the present
Legislature, for we have much at stake to pass this dangerous
obstruction. - Many of our most experienced boatmen
think it the most difficult and dangerous spot, from
the head of down river navigation in the State of
Vermont, to the foot of New Orleans. - How best
acquainted with the work represent it to be a bluff
of Limestone, shewing in such a manner as a
shore that the break breaking water runs under it in
occasional tides for fifty or fifty yards, whence the
river is again perfectly safe; and that the work
is not only very slight in passing by, and a small
"The Idling Rock" but also very cheap. - We feel
confident that fifteen hundred dollars judiciously
applied, would so fill up under this rock as to
compel the current of this noble stream to take the
bed of the river, which would make the navigation
entirely safe. - We respectfully ask this appropriation,
or such other as your honorable body, in your wisdom
may think the object worthy of, and as its duty before
we will ever pray - October 1835.

Wm. M. Preston

John Moon

John W. Hill

John Hill

Wm. M. Preston

William Catlett
Alfred M. Parker
John W. Hill

James Coward
Sunderland
James M. Ellis
Charles Hatcher
Edmond Colmes
John Dear Kings (46)
W. G. Cousins
W. B. Mitchell
Henry Lang
Horatio B. Butler
George W. Porter
William Duggan
M. H. Bagh
J. Rogers
Geary Flin.
D. H. Roberts
E. Mulvender
"H. W. Lambert
A. Smith, Hampton
P. H. C. Fitchals
John W. H. C. W. W. W.

Wm. M. Young
Charles Lane
John Wells
J. P. D. Porter
Mei. M. H. Key
Wm. Tharburgh
Matthew Link
Richard S. Shielly
John. W. Mayland
John. M. Kelly
Gang. M. C. D. D.
W. G. Hodges
Ephraim Prudden
Darius Lussick, Senr
Alexander McCallie
John. F. F. F. F.
William. Taylor
Samuel F. F. F. F.
D. W. D. D. D. D.
George F. F. F. F.
Robert Reed

Hugh Cowan
William Cottrell

J. S. C. Cottrell

Ramonas Thurman

G. D. Litchner

James Alfred

Walter Johnson

J. C. Murphy

A. C. Campbell

Walter Combs

Isaac T. R. Ellis

J. C. Chambers

Gecharik Murphy

John Hunter

Edmund Nichols

Abraham Wall

William Rafter

William A. Kelly

Newton Langford

Walter Advertiser

A. W. Burgess

J. Cowan

George, M. Webb

J. M. Low

W. T. Kelly

Richard Shields

Samuel Johnston

Peter James

John P. Gray

J. Chambers

John A. B. Cairns

William W. Mahan

G. P. Rogers

Keigal Weaver

John Runyan

David Beukers

A. G. Law

John D. Bennett

Scott Roberts

Geo. M. Coates

John Jenkins (L.P.)

A. C. East

William Howard

L. P. R.

Samuel Cusumeth

John Hawk

Georgium Grayling

John Shahan

John Rose

John Loverton

Gilbert Gayson

James Shames

Jacob Wiener

Amelia Ripple

Louise Pugh

James Pagoda

Richard

Jacques Yach

John Bayley

John Thomas Amos

William Bandy

William Curwin

John Cannon

A. G. G. G.

James W. G. G.

John D. L. L.