

under the impression that an oath was requisite in such a case, and that soon after the said court adjourned until the first week in January next. The committee have clearly ascertained, in the course of the investigation of this case, that the petitioner has not been charged on an oath of the peace, or on oath before any magistrate with the breach of any law of this state, antecedent or subsequent to his having been committed and confined in the gaol of Anne-Arundel county, to release him from which, they submit the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the sheriff of Anne-Arundel county be and he is hereby authorised and directed, immediately to release the said Edward Brooke from the gaol of Anne-Arundel county, and suffer him to go at large, and that the costs of his confinement be levied on the assessable property of the county aforesaid,

By order,

A. GOLDR, clk.

Which was read.

The orders of the day respecting the petition of Edward Norwood and the counter petitions thereto, and the petition of Samuel Norwood and the counter petition thereto, are postponed until Wednesday next.

A petition from Charles Hammond, of Anne-Arundel county, praying an act may pass authorising him to collect by execution and distress the balances due him as one of the deputy-collectors of said county, was preferred, read, and referred to Mr. Harwood, Mr. Dorsey and Mr. Merriken, to consider and report thereon.

A petition from Francis Holland and James Croxall, of Baltimore county, praying that a public road leading from the landing of the petitioner Francis Holland, on the river Patapsco, in Anne-Arundel county, to intersect the public road leading from Baltimore to Annapolis, near a place commonly known by the name of The Old Saw-Mill Bridge, may be laid off, and that the road already opened leading from the said river through the lands of James Croxall, in Baltimore county, to Mrs. Carroll's bridge on the George-town road, may be amended, and also that they may have the exclusive right of keeping a ferry over the said river, was preferred, read, and referred to Mr. Dickson, Mr. Moore, Mr. Dorsey, Mr. Merriken and Mr. Purviance, to consider and report thereon.

On motion, ORDERED, That the deposition of William Hammond be taken before the committee appointed in the case of Edward Norwood and Samuel Norwood, in the presence of the parties, and that the same be read in evidence before this house.

A petition from sundry inhabitants of Queen-Anne's county, praying a public road may be laid off in said county, to begin at the state line near Muddy Branch bridge, and to run through the lands of Richard Tighman, the 4th, and others, to intersect the rolling road, was preferred, read, and referred to Mr. Thompson, Mr. Dashiell and Mr. Williams, to consider and report thereon.

Mr. Dorsey, from the committee, delivers to the speaker a bill, entitled, An act to enable John Sprigg Belt, James Walker and Archibald Dorsey, to complete the collection of the county tax in certain districts in Anne-Arundel county; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

A petition from sundry inhabitants of Anne-Arundel county and Baltimore county, praying a public road may be laid off from the landing of Francis Holland, on the river Patapsco, so as to intersect one or the other of the public roads leading from the city of Baltimore to Annapolis, and to amend the road leading from the opposite shore through the lands of James Croxall, in Baltimore county, to the city of Baltimore, was preferred, read, and referred to the committee appointed on the petition of Francis Holland and James Croxall.

A petition from the trustees of the Elkton academy, and other citizens of Cæcil county, praying that a sum of money may be appropriated annually towards the support of the said school, was preferred, read, and referred to Mr. Alexander, Mr. Sheredine and Mr. Miller, to consider and report thereon.

Mr. Van-Horn, from the committee, delivers to the speaker a bill, entitled, An act relating to distresses, and the sale of goods taken by distress for rent, and for other purposes; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Simkins, from the committee, delivers to the speaker the following report:

THE committee to whom was referred the petition of Patrick Murdock, of Allegany county, report, that they have taken the same into consideration, and examined into the nature of his claim, and are of opinion the prayer thereof is reasonable, and ought to be granted; they therefore offer the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the treasurer of the western shore pay to Patrick Murdock, assignee of Peter Devicman, assignee of Thomas Johnson, the sum of eight pounds fifteen shillings current money, with legal interest therefrom from the sixteenth day of May, seventeen hundred and ninety-two, the day Mr. Johnson purchased lot number 3876 of the lands westward of Fort Cumberland, in Allegany county, and passed his bond, bearing interest from the day of the date thereof, which said lot has, since the sale thereof by the state's agent, and the finding for the same by the said Thomas Johnson, been found to be the lot given to William Howel, by act of assembly, passed November session, seventeen hundred and eighty-eight, for services performed by his son, who was a soldier, and fell in the late war with Great Britain; provided the said Patrick Murdock shall relinquish all pretensions of claim to the aforesaid lot; and provided also, that it be made appear to the chancellor, by sufficient testimony, that lot number 3876 of the lands westward of Fort Cumberland, is the lot William Howel sold on in the year 1788, and signify the same to the treasurer of the western shore, in writing.

By order,

J. HARWOOD, clk.

Which was read.