

To His Excellency, the Governour, and
Counsell in and for the Province of Maryland.

The Petition of Hugh Eccleston, John Hodson, Joseph
Cunnalls and Roger Woodford of Dorchester County on behalf
of severall the Inhabitants.

Number Showeth:

That about the Year 1704. a certain Humphrey Hubbard
was constituted and Appointed Deputy Comptroller of the said
County, and during the said Year and next Year following did
take the Probatt of severall Wills of severall of the Inhabitants of
the said County, and thereupon granted Administrations, as alsoe did
take the Involys. of severall Estates and Accounts, and Probatt 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 informe your Excellency and Honor that in the Year 1705. Com-
ing up to the County General Court in order to Returne the said
Wills Involys and Acc. into the said Office an Accident by fire
happned, whereby not onely the Boat of the said Humphrey was
wholly consumed, but alsoe all the said Wills Involys 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 severall Orphans and Creditors on the Loss
of such Involys and severall Poor Ignorant People having Exhib-
ited 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 ruine.

The premises considered, your Petitioners humbly pray, that
a Bill may be brought in, to redress the said sufferers by Enacting
that the Copy of the said Wills Involys and Accounts now lodged in
the County Court Office and proved to be a true Copy by the Oath of the
said Humphrey 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 Woodford, Joseph Cunnalls,
Hugh Eccleston

By His Excellency the Gov. and Council in Assembly
April 4th 1707.

Resolution is thought very reasonable and recommended to the
House of Delegates that such a Bill be brought in, signed & order
W. Bladen & Co.