

Province by John Ross W^m Watson & Tho^s Anderson Valuing 100 Acres of the Land which was plantable at £50 & the remaining 400 Acres of Pine Land at £100.

[Claimant's confirmation and signature.]

[458]

M^r JOHN IMRIE, Witness, Sworn. Says:

That he knew the Claimant's Tract of Land, his own Land adjoining it, It was vacant Land when the Claimant ran it out in February 1783, & about 7 or 8 Miles distant from St Augustine; He don't know whether it was upon any Navigable Creek never having been upon the South Side of it. He never was far upon the Claimant's Land, don't know whether there was any plantable Land not having seen any but Pine barren, but believes there never was any part of it cleared.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

[459]

No. 69. . . .

The Memorial of Ann Cameron

Sheweth that Your Memorialist underwent the fatigue and rigour of the war previous to the last from the beginning to the Conclusion of that war, and experienced the Difficulties of the taking the Havannah and Luisburgh along with her Husband James Cameron,¹⁰⁸ at the Conclusion of that war her said Husband without applying for pension (to which he was Intitled for his long Servitude) Continued in the Service and went to East Florida where he became one of the first proprietors of Land in that Province consisting of Lands and Buildings in St Augustine as will appear by a Schedule hereunto Annexed.

That your Memorialist having a Comfortable [460] living in the said Town of St Augustine where she knowed no want her said Husband losing his life in the late Rebellion in America, and that your Aged Memorialist became a Comfortless Widow.

That your Memorialist's Husband [served] his Majesty 30 Years and notwithstanding her Doleful Situation She intended to Continue and Spend the remainder of her Days amongst her numerous and well settled Neighbours, but by the

¹⁰⁸ James Cameron petitioned for a grant of land early in April, 1770, and obtained a warrant of survey for fifty acres as king's bounty. In the following October he petitioned for another grant, and on April 18, 1771, the governor signed a grant to him of fifty acres, king's bounty. See C. O. 5/571.

Treaty of Peace that Province being Ceded to the King of Spain your Memorialist was under the Necessity to abandon her property and return to her Native Country, and Arrived in London June 1785 without any thing to Support her. As She could get nothing for her possessions there. Therefore was supported by some of her well disposed East Florida Neighbours hitherto.

[. . . 460-461—Concluding petition, mark, and witnesses.]

[462 blank]

[463]

A Schedule . . .

Real Estate

50 Acres of Rich Soil Land with a quantity of Cedar, Ship Timber and Ship Masts, Growing thereon on that Navigable River Nasaw	£ 50	0s	0d
A House in St Augustine from M ^{rs} Dorothy Moore which was usually rented at four Dollers [sic] $\frac{1}{12}$ Month	30	0	0

Personal Estate.

A Chest of Mahogany Drawers	2	7	6
A Liganavita Bedsted	4	10	0
2 Other Bedsteds	4	0	0
A large Table	1	10	0
A Mahogany Tea Table	1	18	0
Six Chairs	1	1	0
A corner Cupboard	17	0	0

£ 96 3s 6d

[464] All which She could not get Shipping for or any thing from any Person in Saint Augustine—

To one third of two Houses and a Lot where Henry Robertson lived in St Augustine

£100 0s 0d

[465] . . .

Jan^y 23rd 1787.

M^{rs} ANN CAMERON, claimant, Sworn, Says:

That She went to St Augustine with her Husband from the Siege of the Havannah in the Year 1763, & quitted it in December 1784 That her Husband was a private in the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Scotch. She produced a Copy of a Grant dated 18th April 1771 from Governor Grant to James Cameron the Claimant's Husband in fee of 50 Acres on the Branches of the Nassau River as Kings Bounty Conditioned for Clearing Land &c as Expressed in the Grant. Says That her Husband went in Col^l Brown's Reg^t to Georgia, where he lost his Life sometime in 1782.

That her Husband died intestate leaving one Daughter now 23 Years of Age & living as she believes in Philadelphia. That her Husband never Cleared any part of the Land and she Never was upon it. That other persons might have cut Timber from it, but Neither She or her Husband Ever [466] disposed of it. That about a Year & a half after their Arrival in St Augustine her Husband & a M^r: Tweedy joined in the purchase of two Houses in Charlotte Street from a M^r: Fish; She don't know what they gave for them, but soon afterwards her Husband purchased Tweedy's Share at the Original price. The purchase was never Registered. One of them was a good Stone House well Shingled, The other Small & only thatched. That her Husband laid out some Money in Chimney's & fire places, she can't tell to what amount. That about 14 Years ago her Husband sold them to M^r: Thomas Wooldridge The Provost Marshall for £70 Sterling which her Husband rec^d & She never had any part of it. That She never joined in the Sale, was Applied to for that purpose by M^r: Wooldridge but refused. That afterwards She left her Husband & went into Service and in the Summer of 1782 she went to live with M^r: Dorothy Moore who in Consideration of her regard & Attendance upon her gave her a Small boarded House with one Room & Clapboard [467] roof; & produced a deed of Gift dated the 16th Nov^r: 1782 from Dorothy Moore of the said House. Says That she had a Mahogany Chest of Drawers which she bought for 9 Dollars at Vendue in 1774, 3 Bedsteads which cost £7 10s; 2 Tables one a small Ironing Table for both of which she gave 5 Dollars, & 4 Chairs which could not have been bought at that time under a Dollar a piece. That She applied to the Pilot M^r: Warner to take them round from St Augustine to St Mary's but was refused. There were no Transports at St Augustine, & she never put this furniture up at Auction having got only 2s 6d for a Tea Table which cost £1 18s 6d & which She Sold in that Manner

[Claimant's confirmation and signature.]

M^r: STEPHEN WHITE, Witness, Sworn, Says:

That he never was upon the Land granted to the Claimant's Husband.

That he remembers the Claimant & her Husband living in a House which he understood they & M^r: Tweedy had purchased with another [468] House from a M^r: Fish or a M^r: Louisinna.

He afterwards heard from the Claimant's Husband That he had bought Tweedy's Share; & afterwards that he had Sold them both to M^r: Wooldridge¹⁰⁰ but

¹⁰⁰ Thomas Wooldridge's name first appears in the Minutes of the Council of East Florida under date of March 31, 1769, as a petitioner for a town lot in St. Augustine. As provost marshal general he obtained leave of absence for some months in order to recover his health, and the governor signed a commission on April 6, 1770, authorizing John Powell, Esq., to act for him during his absence. See C. O. 5/570. On January 17, 1772, the oaths were administered to him as receiver general of the quit-

don't know what they gave for them or what they sold them for. That he has heard M^r: Moore Say that she gave the Claimant a Small House.

That he dont know what Furniture the Claimant had nor any other part of her Property

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

M^r: JOHN MOORE, Witness, Sworn:

Says That he was a Witness to the deed of Gift produced by the Claimant & saw his Mother Execute it. That in Consequence of the Claimant's attendance upon his Mother She gave the House. It was Situated upon one Corner of his Mother's Lot, very small & cost his Mother about £15. It had not been built a twelve Month when his Mother gave it away; That he came away from East Florida in April 1785 saw the [469] House a little before that time; it was then standing & in tolerable good Repair. That he heard from the Claimant that she had applied for Conveyance of her Furniture but had been refused.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

[470 blank]

[471]

No. 101. . . .

The Memorial of Doctor Peter Spence,
formerly of the province of South Carolina but now of Kensington.

Sheweth That your Memorialist at the Evacuation of Charles Town on Account of his Loyalty to His Majesty an[d] attachment to the British Constitution was obliged to embark with his Majesty's Troops, that being informed by his friends from St Augustine that Governor Tonyn had by proclamation invited the Loyalists to settle in East Florida and that the Province was held up as an Asylum for them he went thither with his Negroes and Moveable property, but by the Cession of the said province he was again Obligated to embark [472] for Great Britain that after the receipt of the intelligence that the Province was to be delivered to His Catholic Majesty. His Majesty's peaceable Subjects were much disturbed by a Banditti, who having become desperate, committed depredations and Stole Negroes & other property—that a Mulatto woman named Betty the property of your Memorialist was

rents in the province by virtue of a warrant from the king appointing him to that office. See C. O. 5/571.

carried off by the said Banditti and sold in Pensacola which Loss he considers altogether chargeable to the cession of the said province to the Crown of Spain.

[Concluding petition, signature, and date.]

[473]

[Schedule]

The abovementioned Woman is moderately
valued at one Hundred Pounds
Say . . . £100.

In Support of my Claim I have a letter from M^r Panton dated Pensacola Oct: 2^d 1785 relative to the particulars of the Sale. James Hume Esq^r late Chief Justice of East Florida David Yeates Esq^r late Secretary of East Florida can prove M^r Panton's handwriting.

Peter Spence

[474 blank]

[475] . . .

January 24th 1787.

M^r PETER SPENCE,¹¹⁰ Claimant, Sworn, Says:

That he went to St Augustine East Florida from Charles Town in September 1782 & quitted it about June 1783. That he left 8 or 10 Negroes behind him under the care of M^r Turnbull with discretionary power to do with them as with his own. In the Year 1785 he received a Letter from M^r Panton dated 2^d Oct: 1785 at Pensacola which he produced giving an Account of a Negroe Wench named Betty being brought there & sold several times. He the Claimant purchased her about the Year 1772 when she was very young He understood that this Negroe & 2 others were stolen away by Plunderers about the latter End of 1784 or the beginning of 1785, but makes no claim for the other two not being able to Substantiate the Loss. That he has never heard from M^r Turnbull nor has any proofs to produce that this Negroe was taken away by a Banditti [476] except having heard so from his own Servants.

[Claimant's confirmation and signature.]

M^r JAMES HUME, Witness, Sworn:

Proved the handwriting of M^r Panton in the Letter produced by the Claimant Says that he don't know anything of the loss of the Claimant's Negroe Wench, but

¹¹⁰ Sabine knew but little about Dr. Peter Spence, mentioning him as a physician of South Carolina whose estate was confiscated. His claim for indemnity was £100, but his award nothing. See *Loyalists of the Am. Rev.*, 1864, II. 580; C. O. 5/562 (3d Report of Commissioners on East Florida Claims).

that upon the Arrival of the News of the Cession there was a great deal of Confusion & plunder in the Province.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

[477]

No. 97. . . .

The Memorial of William Watson

House Carpenter formerly an Inhabitant of East Florida but now
in Little Argyll Street Hanover Square London.

Sheweth That your Memorialist has here Annexed [*sic*] a State of his Real & Personal Property lost by the Cession of East Florida to the Crown of Spain—That your Memorialist has not only Suffered in his Property but has also lost a very Considerable Business & has met with several other losses on Account of his being Obligated to Remove—Particularly his being Ship Wreckt with his Family & Effects in their Homeward Bound Passage on Board the Ship Polly George King Master on Portland Beach the 26th of Jan^y last by which Accident your Memorialist by the hand of Divine Providence had only time to Save his own & Families Lives [478] but lost a considerable Property Consisting of Money a Large Quantity of Table Bed Linnen & Wearing Apparel All his Books of Accounts & other Vouchers & all his Tools by which he got his Bread, & was otherways Reduced to the greatest Distress.

That your Memorialist under these Unforeseen Calamities & Misfortunes wholly Occasioned by being Obligated to Remove from a Country where he lookt upon himself Settled for Life & where he had Acquired a Comfortable Subsistence—by nearly Eighteen Years Industry but now reduced to the bare Subsistence of Daily Labor At an Advanced time of Life for the Support of himself & Family—

[Concluding petition and signature.]

[479]

[Schedule]

A Tract of Land Containing Two Hundred Acres Situate in a Cypress Swamp on the West side of the North river Adjoining Lands granted to Will^m Wilson distance from Augustine about Twenty Miles & four Miles from a Landing Settled this Tract in 1780 after being Plundered by the Spaniards in 79 of Nine Negroes & a Years Crop of Provisions burnt & destroyed.

Built Houses for Twenty Negroes & made other Improvements for Carrying on the Lumber Trade.

Loyalists in East Florida

This Tract Contains a great Quantity of Exceeding good Cypress for building Originally valued at only—£152 10s with the Improvements but considering the short Distance & Convenience of a Navigable River to Augustine was well worth to me as a Builder at 40 Shill: per Acre
[Witnesses.]

£ 400 0s 0d

[480] A Tract of Land Containing five Hundred Acres Situate on the Head of Pablo Creek Ajoining Lands granted to Francis Augustus Elliott Esq¹¹¹ & Joseph Peavett Distance from Augustine about Twenty Seven Miles & one Mile from a Landing Settled this Tract in 1782 Built a Dwelling house two Corn Houses a Coopers Shop Houses for Twenty Negroes, Cleared Planted & fenced about 30 Acres Box three thousand Turpentine Trees & Cleared a Navigable Creek for Carrying off my Produce. This Tract is a Continued Rigg of very good Yellow Pine for the Lumber & Naval Store Trade

470 Acres of Yellow Pine Land at 10/- per Acre	235	0	0
30 Do Hamock Cleared & fenced at 40/- per Acre	60	0	0
Houses & Improvements Originally Valued at	55	10	0
A large four Oard Canoe prime Cost	6	9	0
[Added in a different hand:] Horses hogs and cattle—do—do	59	5	0

(N.B. This is improperly Added as he Sold them afterwards with furniture &c &c the Loss upon that Sale was £30) J.S.

[481] Loss Sustained on 60 Barrels of Turpentine Sold at 10/- per Barrel the Current price to the best of my remembrance a little before News of the Cession at 30/- per Barrel	60	0	0
Loss Sustained on the Difference of Sales of Sundrie Household Furniture Horses Horses [sic] Hogs & other Effects sold in Augustine from the prime Cost	30	0	0

Loss Sustained by Ship Wreck			
Two thousand Dollars at 4/6 their Value in England	450	0	0
Books of Architecture & others prime Cost	25	0	0
A large Assortment of Carpenter's Tools Do	30	0	0
Three large Trunks & a Chest Containing Wearing Apparel Table & Bed Linen &c	200	0	0
Bedding	6	10	0

¹¹¹ Francis Augustus Elliott, Esq., is probably the same as the Lieutenant Colonel Frederick Augustus Elliot mentioned in the list of East Florida claimants. He estimated his loss at slightly more than £5,600 and received the award of £2,423. See Additional Notes, *post*, p. 307.

The Documents

A Gold Watch prime Cost	30	0	0
A per Silver mounted Pistols—Do	6	19	9
A—Do—Sword—Do	3	16	0

[482] A Lott of Land with two good Dwelling Houses & other Necessary out Buildings Situate on the South Side & fronting the Parade in the Town of St Augustine Bought of James Penman Esq^r in the Year 1779 the whole in good repair & under a good fence Originally valued at

£ 1120 0 0

[Witnesses.]

£2778 9s 9d

[483] . . .

Jan^y 24th 1787.

Mr WILL^m WATSON, Claimant, Sworn, Says:

That he went from England to East Florida in 1766 & quitted it in February 1784

That at the time of the Cession he had two Tracts of Land One of 200 Acres called the *Hermitage* the other of 500 Acres called The Three Runs & One large Lot of Land & Buildings in St Augustine.

He produced a Copy of a Grant (all his Papers being lost when he was Shipwrecked) dated 11th February 1775 from Governor Tonyn to the Claimant in fee of 200 Acres situated on an Inland Swamp on the West side of the North river distant from St Augustine about 20 Miles upon the usual Conditions of clearing Land &c as Expressed in the Grant. Says That his Tract was four Miles from a Landing upon the North River & the River was navigable there for large flats & runs immediately down to St Augustine. That at the time of the Grant it was vacant Land most of it covered with [484] Cypress & Entirely uncleared. There was about 15 or 20 Acres of plantable high Land & almost all the rest Cypress Swamp. That in the Year 1778 he sent 20 Negroes There with an Overseer; That they were principally Employed in cutting Lumber & making Shingles which he used in his Business as a Carpenter having this Tract run out merely for that purpose. There were no Houses upon it but Negroe Houses. That he first began by cutting nearest the Landing, but had not cut one quarter through the Tract at the time of the Cession. That in time of War he got £1 18s per 1000 for Shingles & One Guinea per 1000 in time of peace.

For the second he produced a Copy of a Grant dated 11th Nov^r 1782 from Gov^r Tonyn to the Claimant in fee of 500 Acres Situate on a Branch of Pablo Creek upon the Usual Conditions of Clearing Land &c as Expressed in the Grant. Says That this Tract was about 27 Miles from St Augustine & only one Mile from a Landing upon the said Creek which was there navigable for flats & about 15 or [485] 16 Miles off Emptied itself into St John's river at a place about two Miles distant from the Bluff.

That he run out this Tract for the purpose of Supplying the Market at St John's with Naval Stores & Lumber having had his Negroes plundered from him at a Plantation called Smyrna which he held by Leave from Mr Turnbull.¹¹² That at the time of the Grant the Land was Vacant & uncultivated. About the beginning of the year 1782 he settled 20 Negroes upon this Tract having applied for the Grant & being assured that he should have it. That in the Course of the Year 1782 they cleared 30 Acres belonging to Mr Bissett Junr who had the greatest part of his Tract on the opposite side of the River in return for his clearing 30 Acres of the Claimant's which adjoined his Plantation. That he built a Dwelling House, 2 Corn Houses a Cooper's Shop & Negroe Houses for 20 Negroes all Log Houses. The dwelling House was about 28 feet by 16 was worth about £25; the two Corn Houses were 20 feet long by 15 & worth about £15 a piece; The Shop was not worth much & there were 8 [486] Negroe Houses which he reckoned at £3 a piece. Says That This Tract was a Lumber Tract & well covered with Yellow Pine except the 30 Acres cleared & about 20 or 30 More uncleared. That in June 1779 he bought the Lot of Land in St Augustine of Mr Penman had a Conveyance of it from him, but the purchase was not registered.

That there was at the time of purchase a range of Stables which he converted into a dwelling House. It was about 80 feet long & 20 feet wide, seven Rooms & one Story high Besides which he built another dwelling House 32 feet long 20 feet wide & 18 high which was a wooden framed House glazed short shingled in part lined & two Stories high. A large wooden back Store 30 feet long 18 feet wide & 10 feet high one story high Shingled in the same manner, Stables to both Houses built in the same Manner One for four Horses & another for 3.

That he gave £400 as the Origl purchase money, laid out £210 in converting the Stable into a dwelling House & building a new [487] Stable for it, That the other dwelling House & Stable cost him nearly £300 & the other back Store about £150. That he left this Lot & Houses under the Care of Mr Camps with directions to Sell them; That he has not heard from him since the Summer of 1784; he then wrote word that he could not get $\frac{1}{4}$ th part of their Value & had refused to take that; That he don't know whether they were afterwards Sold or not; but he has never received any consideration for it.

That all the proper Vouchers were produced to the Appraisers at the time when the Appraisement was made; and the Appraisers were at St Augustine & were acquainted with the tracts and had the plats & Grants before them.

Says That he had upon the Three runs at the time of the Cession 7 Houses & 2 in St Augustine; 4 Cows & 1 Calf at the Three runs & about 15 or 18 Head of Hogs & a Canoe. That these were all Sold except the Canoe which cost 6 Guineas at

¹¹² See Additional Notes, *post*, p. 325.

St Augustine in Jan^r 1784. At that time he [488] had the bills of Sale by him & the difference of prices at which they were bought & sold amounted to £30.

That in January 1784 he sold 60 Barrels of Turpentine which he made upon the Three Runs between May 1783 & the End of September 1783 to Alexander Bissett at 10s p^r Barrel. Just before the News of the Cession Turpentine sold at 30s p^r Barrel, & he conceives that he sustained a Loss amounting to the difference of those prices. That he went from East Florida to new Providence & carried his Negroes at his own Expence not then knowing that Transports would be provided by Government he stayed there a few Months, came to England in Aug^t 1784, & in February or March 1785 he returned to Providence & Sold off all his Negroes & in November 1785 he sailed from thence & in his return to England in one of the Transports he was Shipwrecked on Portland Beach. That he thereby lost 2000 Dollars, the produce of his Negroes, & furniture, Books & other Articles Amounting in Value to [489] £302 5s 9d That he Endeavoured to insure this Property in Providence but could get no Insurance.

[Claimant's confirmation and signature.]

Mr JAMES PENMAN, Witness, Sworn, Says:

That in June 1779 he sold a Lot of Land upon the Parade in St Augustine with two Houses upon it to the Claimant for £400 Sterling which the Claimant paid by three Instalments. That regular Conveyances were Executed One of these Houses was used as a dwelling House at the time of the Sale & the other as a Stable. The dwelling House had Stone Walls all round it. The Stable had a stone Wall at the back & was open in the front. They were all in good Repair & had not been built above two Years. That he knows nothing of any other part of the Claimant's Property.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

[490] Col^l JAMES MONCRIEF,¹¹³ Witness, Sworn, Says:

That he knows the Claimant's 200 Acre Tract on the West side of the North river about 18 Miles distant from St Augustine. That he had a Tract near it which was run out prior to the Claimant's. That the Claimant's was an inland Swamp & about $2\frac{3}{4}$ Miles distant from a Landing upon the North river where it was navigable for the purpose of carrying away the produce of that Country. That when it was run out by the Claimant it was Entirely uncultivated & he only knew it in that State having never been upon it after the Grant to the Claimant That it was the best timbered Land for Lumber he Ever saw. That the Cypress Swamp upon which this Tract of the Claimant's was Situated was half a Mile wide & unless by his own

¹¹³ See Additional Notes, *post*, pp. 307, 341.

Choice he need not have had any Pine barren but for the purpose of preventing any other person settling between his tract & the landing he supposes that a small quantity of pine barren was taken by the Claimant. That after the Timber [491] was cut off; it would not answer to any person to cultivate so small a part of an Inland Swamp. If the whole Swamp had been settled by a number of persons, the Expence being divided, it might have answered. That he thinks that a Tract of Land of that Nature & Extent if convenient to any person in point of Situation as this was well worth 30s p^r Acre

That the price of Turpentine in time of peace was as he understood about 7s p^r Barrel which with the Bounty allowed upon importation makes it worth about 15s p^r Barrel.

That he knows nothing more of the Claimant's property.
[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

Mr: JAMES HUME, Witness, Sworn, Says:

That he was once upon the Claimant's Plantation called the Three Runs in the Year 1782. That he only took a Cursory view of it. There appeared to be a small clearing [492] upon it a Clapboard Overseer's House & Negroe Houses.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

Mr: ALEXANDER PATERSON, Witness, Sworn, Says:

That he was at St Augustine in 1779 & knew the Lot & Houses which the Claimant bought of Mr: Penman. That the Claimant immediately afterwards began repairing & altering the Buildings. That the Claimant likewise built a New House which he finished about Eight or Nine Months before the News of the Cession & divided the Lot into two. That it was a good House partly Wood & part Stone 2 Stories high & 2 Rooms on each floor, Shingled & he believes glazed.—That he was twice upon the Claimant's Plantation called the Three Runs in the Year 1782 in his Way to St John's. He did not stay above an Hour Each time. He saw an Overseer's House & some Cattle there, but can't speak to any other particulars. That he knows the Claimant had 8 Horses at St Augustine but [493] don't know what became of them. That about 5 Years ago the Claimant bought a Canoe for £6 or £7 & which was left in his Yard after he quitted the province. He (the Witness) did not leave East Florida till about a fortnight or three Weeks before the Governor came away. That he never heard of the Lot & Houses being Sold after the Claimant went away & thinks if they had been sold he should have heard of it. That these Houses were in perfectly good Repair at the time of the Cession

That he knows nothing more of the Claimant's property.
[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

Jan^y 30th 1787.

Mr: BENJ: LORD, Witness, Sworn. Says:

That he Surveyed the Tract of the Three Runs belonging to the Claimant & produced two Plots by which it appeared that the 200 Acre Tract consisted of 155 Acres of Swamp Land & 45 Pine barren; & that in the 500 Acre Tract there were 406 Acres of Pine barren & 94 Acres [494] of Swamp Land. Says That considering it's Situation & the quality of the Pine Land upon the Three Runs he thinks it would have been worth for Sale 5s p^r Acre in time of peace before any Trees were boxed upon it. That there were a considerable Number of the Trees boxed by the Claimant & he considers boxing the Trees as lessening their Value but before they are Exhausted Enhancing the Value of the Land. That the Swamp Land on the Three Runs in it's uncleared state was worth 10s or 12s 6d p^r Acre at the time of the Cession. That he remembers 500 Acres of uncleared Land of the same Nature & nearly Adjoining the Three runs Sold for £100 or Guineas in the Year 1778 or 1779.

That he knows nothing more of the Claimant's property.
[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

Mr: DAVID YEATS, Witness, Sworn:

Says That he never was upon Either of of [sic] the Claimant's Tract of Land. That he knows his property in St Augustine. That the Claimant [495] purchased the Lot there of Mr: Penman & immediately afterwards converted a New range of Stables into Rooms & built another House, there being only a small dwelling House upon it at the time of the purchase. That the House which the Claimant built was a Wooden House two Stories high, That he thinks previous to the Cession & if the Country had been kept subsequent to it the Lot & buildings upon it would have been worth at least £1000

That he stayed in East Florida 'till the last Evacuation & never heard that the Property of the Claimant's was Sold. He thinks Mr: Camps was in possession of them when he came away That he can't speak particularly to any other part of the Claimant's property.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

[496 blank]

[497]

No. 131. . . .

The Memorial of John Imrie
formerly of the Province of East Florida but now of the Town of
Dundee in North Britain

Sheweth That your Memorialist was an Inhabitant of Charles Town in South Carolina from the Year 1761 to the Year 1778 when he was compelled on Account of his Loyalty to his Majesty and attachment to the British Government [to] leave that Country and to take refuge in East Florida with what moveable property he could bring away with him privately where he remained till the Cession of the Province to the King of Spain.

That your Memorialist was possessed of a Valuable tract of Land in that Province situated within Six Miles of St Augustine on a good [498] Navigation on which he had made several improvements and which yielded a very considerable annual Income, but which he was obliged to abandon by the said Cession & suffered besides considerably in his personal property as will more particularly appear by the Schedule hereunto annexed.

[Concluding petition and signature.]

[499]

Schedule . . .

Five hundred Acres of Land & Grant to John Imrie dated 15th February 1781 situated on Wood Cutter's Creek Six Miles Southwardly from St Augustine bounding Northwardly on Wood Cutter's Creek, and David Turnbull's Land Eastwardly on the said John [sic] Turnbull's land & Southwardly by W^m Moss Esq^r Land and David Moses land and westwardly on vacant Land The above tract contains fifty Acres of Oak & Cypress Swamp on Good Navigation & four hundred & fifty Acres of pine land on which was erected a good dwelling House two Stories high thirty by twenty a Barn Cooper's Shop & Negroe Houses
One Negroe man named Tom carried off by the Rebels a Shipwright that I paid for

£475 0s 0d

70 0 0

[500] One Negro Carried off in the same manner Named Jacob & paid for him

55 0 0

A Wood Flatt that I paid for

49 0 0

A Large Canoe 26 feet long with Oars Masts & sails paid for

16 0 0

£665 0s 0d

[Witnesses.]

[501] . . .

January 26th 1787.

M^r JOHN IMRIE, Claimant, Sworn, Says:

That he went to East Florida in 1778 & continued there till November 19th 1785. That at the time of the Cession he had a Tract of Land of 500 Acres about 6 Miles distant from St Augustine & produced a Grant dated the 15th Feb^r 1781 from Governor Tonnyn to the Claimant in fee of 500 Acres Situate on Wood Cutter's Creek Six Miles southwardly from St Augustine conditioned for paying quit rent & clearing Land &c as Expressed in the Grant. Says That at the time of the Grant it was Entirely uncultivated. That about May following he put fourteen Negroes upon the Plantation first for the purpose of making Tar & Turpentine & afterwards used in Cutting Lumber. That he every Year made between three & four hundred Barrels of Turpentine & 70 Barrels of Tar. That they were wholly Employed in that work about two Years & [502] no part of this Land was Cleared for Cultivation. That he built in the Course of the Year 1781 a framed wooden House 30 feet by 20 two Stories high, two rooms on Each floor, & Clapboard roof in which himself resided during the Season for making Tar & Turpentine a Log House for his Overseer, a Barn & 6 or 7 Negroe Houses. That his land run down Wood Cutter's Creek which is navigable for flatts & runs into the Matanza River—There was a Landing upon this Tract, & this was taken chiefly as a Lumber Plantation (he being a Ship builder) & was all Pine barren Except about 50 Acres of Cypress Swamp. That he had boxed most of his Trees but not cut down much Lumber. That he had a large flat in St. Augustine at the time of the Cession which he bought in 1781 of M^r Alexander Leslie & gave £49; and a Canoe which he bought about the same time of D^r Robertson for £16. That he sold the flat for £12 & the Canoe for 10 Dollars. That after the Cession he lost a Cart & Horses (not mentioned in his Memorial) which cost him £20 & were left upon his Tract [503] of Land under the care of his Overseer, who informed him about the latter End of 1785 that they were taken away by the Spaniards. That in 1782 two of his Negroes were taken away by the Americans. That his Property never was appraised & he set the Value upon it himself.

[Claimant's confirmation and signature.]

M^r JAMES SCOTLAND, Witness, Sworn, Says:

That he knows the Claimant's Tract of Land; he went to East Florida in 1775 & had cut Lumber upon this Tract as vacant Land two years before the Claimant obtained his Grant he quitted East Florida in March 1785. It was 6 Miles from St Augustine by Land. There was a Swamp of about 50 Acres which he has gone through many times & the rest was Pine barren. That at the time of the Cession there was no part of the tract cleared for Cultivation; The Claimant had used it for

making Tar & Turpentine & as a Lumber Plantation. Says That if the Trees [504] are properly boxed, they make the better Lumber for being well bled. That about two Miles from the Landing there was a framed House built by his own Negroes 30 feet by 20, two Stories high. That if built by regular Carpenters it would have cost above £50. That there was at the same place a rough Log Overseer's House & 6 or 7 Negroe Houses. That he knows that the Claimant had a flat & Canoe but not what they cost or were sold for. That he don't know anything more of the Claimant's property.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

M^r ALEXANDER PATERSON, Witness, Sworn, Says:

That in the Year 1781 he bought a flat belonging to David Moses at Vendue for the Claimant & thinks he gave £49 for it. He don't know what the Claimant sold it for. That he saw it in 1783 & it was much in the same Situation as when it was bought. That he knew the Claimant's Canoe & thinks it was worth £15 in 1783.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

[505]

No 118. . . .

The Memorial of John Read of the City of London Merchant

Sheweth That your Memorialist in the Month of July 1774 Purchased of Alexander Gray of East Florida Gentleman, a Tract of Land containing Two thousand and fifty Acres lying on the West side of St John's river in the said Province, the particulars of which Purchase will more fully Appear by the annexed Abstract of the Deed of Conveyance, and a plan of the Estate Marked A now in the Possession of your Memorialist, which said Tract of Land was part of five thousand Acres purchased by the said Alexander Gray and a Valuable consideration paid for the same by him to William Wilson of the said Province Gentleman who bought the said [506] five thousand Acres of the Original Proprietor Geo: Laidler Sen^r:

That your Memorialist at the time he purchased the said 2050 Acres, was determined to Cultivate the same, and had engaged the said Alexander Gray to be his Agent for that purpose who returned from this Country to East Florida in 1775; but as the tranquility of the said Province was then likely to be disturbed, the said Alexander Gray judged it prudent to defer Cultivating the said Lands till a more favourable Opportunity offered.

That your Memorialist has been deprived of a very valuable Estate, by the Cession of the said Province to the King of Spain, which Estate was the more Valuable as it was near to Saint John's River.

That your Memorialist's said Lands were Appraised by three Persons on Oath at the Sum of £535 Sterling as ⁱⁿ Schedule hereunto Annexed Marked B.

[. . . 507—Concluding petition, signature, and date.]

[508 blank]

[509]

[Schedule]

East Florida

5 B

Schedule and Valuation of part of a Tract of Land of 5000 Acres originally granted to George Laidler Sen^r as by a certified Plat from the Land Surveyor General's Office will more at large Appear. which Tract was sold by the said George Laidler to Will^m Wilson Esq^r and by him to the Late Alexander Gray 2050 Acres of which was in the Year 1774 Conveyed for a Valuable Consideration by the said Alexander Gray to John Read Merchant of the old Jewry London and does contain the following Quantity and Quality of Lands as appears on that part of the Certified Plat which shews the Division hereunto annexed Marked A II See the Plat of 5000 Acres as divided between Jn^r Read and Geo. Rigby.

650 Acres of uncleared Swamp land—@ 10/
1400 D^o—of D^o Pine Barren—@ 3/

£325 0s 0d
210 0 0

£535 0s 0d

[510 blank]

[511] . . .

Jan^y 30th 1787 Continued on 2^d Febr^y 1787.

M^r JOHN READ, Claimant, Sworn. Says:

That at the time of the Cession he was possessed of a Tract of 2050 Acres in East Florida produced a Certified Copy of a Grant dated the 11th Febr^y 1769 from Governor Grant to George Laidler Sen^r in fee of 5000 Acres on the West side of St John's River above the Cowford paying quit rent of 1/2^d ^{per} Acre to Commence & become payable on one half after the expiration of 5 Years; & on the whole quantity at the Expiration of 10 Years Conditioned for Settling the Land with foreign Protestants in ten Years in the proportion of one person to Every 100 Acres. If 1/4^d not settled within 3 Years the whole forfeited & such as is not settled at the Expiration of 10 Years to revert to the Crown. produced a Certified Copy of deeds of Lease & release dated 5th & 6th May 1772 from Fraser & Richardson to W^m Wilson

in fee for £15 10s & a Certified Copy of deeds of Lease & [512] Release dated 10th & 11th June 1772 from W^m Wilson to Alexander Gray in fee for £50 and deeds of Lease & Release dated 4th & 5th July 1774. of 2050 Acres part of the said Tract from Alexander Gray to the Claimant in fee for £200. He likewise produced an Appraisement dated 28 Jan^y 1784 under the seal of the province Valuing 650 Acres of uncleared Swamp Land at 10s ^{per} Acre £325 & the remaining 1400 of Pine barren at 3/— ^{per} Acre £210—Says that he thinks he agreed for this tract with M^r Gray in 1773 for £160 15s 11d M^r Gray being then indebted to the Claimant for Goods sent to America nearly in that Sum & he gave M^r Gray credit for that Sum in the Settling the Account, That M^r Gray was considered at that time perfectly in solvent Circumstances but that some time afterwards as he has lately heard he died insolvent. Says That he never did lay out any Money in the Cultivation of it nor knows whether any improvement was made by the former possessors.

He produced the Account Curr^t Book (See the particulars in M^r Spranger's Notes) [513] by which it appeared that upon a ballance of the Accounts with M^r Gray from 1767 to 1774 he was Indebted to the Claimant & George Rigby in the Sum of £321 11s 10d This was discharged by giving Credit to M^r Gray in the partnership Account & carrying the half of that Sum to Each of their private Accounts.

[Claimant's confirmation and signature.]

M^r GEORGE LAIDLER, Witness, Sworn. Says:

That he was in St Augustine in 1769 & had a Grant of 5000 Acres in pursuance of an Order of Council procured by his Family in England. That at the time of the Grant the Land was in a state of Nature & he never made any Settlement upon it. That in the Summer of the year 1769 he sold This Tract to Fraser & Richardson who were Shopkeepers in St Augustine for £50. That the Tract was at the head of a Navigable Creek about 7 or 8 Miles from St John's River, & about forty Miles by land from St Augustine.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

[514] M^r BENJAMIN LORD, Witness, Sworn. Says:

he was one of the Appraisers of the Claimant's Tract & believes he made the Valuation in St Augustine. That he don't know that he ever was upon the Tract but from it's being near The Cowford thinks that it must be about 20 Miles from St John's Bluff. That he made his Appraisement upon his general Knowledge of the Land & the Information which he rec^d at St Augustine but thinks the Land would have produced the price at which it was appraised, if the Country had been kept. That he don't know that any Improvement was Ever made upon the Land.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

[515]

No 119. . . .

The Memorial of George Rigby
of the City of London Merchant.

Sheweth That your Memorialist in the Month of July 1774 Purchased of Alex^r Gray of East Florida Gentleman, a Tract of Land containing Two Thousand nine hundred & fifty Acres lying on the West side of St John's river in the said Province, the particulars of which Purchase will more fully appear by the Annexed Abstract of the Deed of Conveyance, and Plan of the Estate Marked C. now in the Possession of Your Memorialist, which said Tract of Land was part of five thousand Acres Purchased by the said Alex^r Gray and a Valuable Consideration paid for the same by him to William Wilson of the said Province Gentleman who bought the said five thousand Acres of the Original Proprietor George Laidler Sen^t

[516] That your Memorialist at the time he purchased the said 2950 Acres was determined to Cultivate the same, and had engaged the said Alexander Gray to be his Agent for that purpose, who returned from this Country to East Florida in 1775, but as the Tranquility of the said Province was then likely to be Disturbed, the said Alexander Gray judged it prudent [*sic*] to defer Cultivating the said Lands till a more favourable Occasion offered.

That your Memorialist has been deprived of a very Valuable Estate by the Cession of the said Province to the King of Spain.

That your Memorialist's said Lands were Appraised by three Persons on Oath at the Sum of £554 10s Sterling as ^{per} Schedule Marked D.

[Concluding petition, signature, and date.]

[517]

4D. referred to in the Memorial

East Florida

Schedule and valuation of part of a Tract of Land of five thousand Acres Originally granted to George Laidler Sen^t as by a Certified Copy from the Land Surveyor General's Office will more at large appear which Tract was Sold by the said George Laidler Sen^t to W^m Wilson Esq^r and by him to the late Alexander Gray 2950 Acres of which was in the Year 1774. Conveyed for a Valuable consideration by the said Alexander Gray to George Rigby Esq^r Merchant in the Old Jewry London, and do contain the following quantities and qualities of Land as appears in that part of the Certified Plat which shews the division hereunto likewise Annexed Marked B.

320 Acres of Uncleared Swamp Land at 10s/

£160 0s 0d

2630—D^r—of—D^r—Pine Land @ 3/

394 10 0

£554 10s 0d

[518 blank]

[519] . . .

Feb: 2nd 1787M^r: HENRY BOCTEFEUR Att^r to the Claimant sworn:

produced a general power of Att^r from the Claimant dated 22^d day of November 1785 deeds of Lease & Release dated 4th & 5th July 1774 from Alexander Gray to the Claimant of 2950 Acres part of W^m Wilson's 5000 Acre Tract, for £200 and the Appraisement valuing 320 Acres of uncleared Swamp Land at 10s ^{per} Acre £160 & 2630 Acres of Pine barren at 3s ^{per} Acre £394 10s—Says That he don't know what was the consideration money paid by the Claimant not having been present at that Transaction

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

M^r: JOHN READ, Witness, Sworn, Says:

That the Books produced on the part of his own Claim relate equally to the Claim of M^r: George Rigby with whom he was in partnership [520] from 1767 to 1774. That he can't assign any reason for the consideration Money in the deeds which were Executed in East Florida & endorsed on the back of them as received being in Each Case £200 the money actually paid by Each of them being only £160

15s 11d

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

[521]

No. 7. . . .

The Memorial of M^r: Jermyn Wright¹¹⁴

of Little Ealing Middlesex formerly of South Carolina, and Georgia

Humbly Sheweth That after the Peace 1763 by which the Province of Florida became vested in the Crown, One Andrew Way a rice Planter of Carolina, was deputed a Surveyor of Lands by which he had an Opportunity of examining traversing the Country & selecting the very best, such as he was well assured, were Valuable At length having found an excellent tide river swamp, on St Mary's river Petitioned the then Governor, and that very choice, and most valuable parcel of Land, was confer'd on the said Andrew Way his Heirs or Assigns

That your Memorialist then residing in [522] Georgia and for the reasons that

¹¹⁴ See Additional Notes, *post*, p. 347.

about three hundred acres of the lands granted to the said Way, were fresh water tide Swamp on Clay foundation, equal to the Lands of Savanna river which divided the Provinces of South Carolina and Georgia; And that the Swamps on Savanna river, for richness of soil, customarily had been appraised, and sold at three, and four pounds Sterling per Acre, and also for that St Mary's river Florida, was the only navigable one, the best Channel for Ships of burthen to enter, and because Ships of three hundred tons burthen, might (for depth of water) safely arrive, and load within one Mile of the land possessed by Andrew Way, that such convenience, would have been a great saving in the Expence of Annual carriage of tierces of rice to be delivered on board Ships for great Britain, And for that the rich Plantation, was but about eight Miles from the outlet to Sea, on these Considerations, and confidence of protection of Government, Your Memorialist was encouraged to make purchase, that afterwards by Clearings, Buildings, dammings and cross [523] dammings, Cultivations, and improvements, no expence was spared to complete the same.

That your Memorialist (by right of the Kings Grant) was also possessed of an upper select tract of Land, that in the like confidence, he also made Clearings, built upon and cultivated as by particulars annexed.

[Concluding petition, signature, and date.]

[524 blank]

[525]

[Schedule] . . .

By Purchase [*sic*]

Four hundred Acres of extraordinary Select lands on St Mary's river, fresh water, tide Swamp, on Clay foundation, timbered with tupelow, Ash, and large Cypress trees, such as grow on Savanna river, in His Majesty's late provinces of South Carolina and Georgia, in which provinces lands on the same river Savanna equal to the above recited for richness of Soil, have heretofore been appraised, valued, and been customary Sold, at three and four pounds Sterling per Acre; and considering the inlet of St Mary hath been proved, and well known to be the best and safest channel of any in East Florida for Ships of burthen to enter, the Lands thereon are deemed the more valuable by reason of the navigation, and for that such Swamps in the adjacent provinces were esteemed to be of the Value, and by product of rice really worth four guineas ^{per} acre, wherefore [526] the above tract of Land is greatly undervalued at the Moderate price of one guinea and half per Acre

Expences by dammings, ditches, buildings, and incident Charges in

£630 os od

and about preparing for the cultivation of the above recited excellent rice swamp a mine to an experienced rice planter
The cost of cutting down, topping [*sic*], logging heaping the branches, burning, grubbing, and Clearing one hundred and eighty acres of Wood lands, a part of the above recited certain rich and sure rice plantation, at Eight Shillings and sixpence per Acre, expences incident on completing the same for planting as also the planting of orchards, of fruit trees &c &c

Expence of draining, damming, ditching, cross damming, sawing of plank, Scantlings, Carpenters work on groving, jointing, framing water tight, and fitting the several floodgates appertaining to the same dams, together with blacksmith's Work, nails and Iron suitable thereto for opening, receiving the tides, of overflowing the rice, and at pleasure [527] letting the Water ebb back to the river from the same eighty acres, at the cost of twenty Shillings per Acre

Scantlings, boards, planks, locks, hinges, nails of various Sorts, and many other materials towards making and erecting a dwelling house about forty feet square

Cypress Shingles for covering the same dwelling house

Expence of Labourers, Carters, Oxen, and contingencies appertaining

Carpenters Work in framing, making, and erecting the same house
Cost of boards, Scantlings, Shingles, Nails, and iron ware for the erection of barns, Negroe houses and other Out buildings in and upon the same Estate

Charge of Carpenters and Labourers, their Work on and about the Barns, Negroe houses and other out buildings belonging to the plantation

The upper Select tract of land or plantation, containing five hundred Acres, having excellent Oak timber trees of various valuable Sorts growing thereon, St Mary's Florida, being esteemed for depth of water, as fine river as any in America

[528] By the King's Grant

Cost in settling, Cutting down, lopping [*sic*] logging, heaping the bows [*sic*], burning and Clearing forty Acres of land, at eight Shillings and six pence per Acre

Materials of Timber, Nails, Iron ware, Carpenter's and labourer's work, on erection of buildings & Houses on the afore recited upper plantation

76 10 0

80 0 0

85 0 0

30 0 0

15 0 0

80 0 0

30 0 0

20 0 0

100 0 0

17 0 0

36 10 0

sterling money of Great Britain £1200 0s 0d

[Witnesses.]

By the King's grant

Feb^r 2^d 1787.

[529] . . .

M^r JERMYN WRIGHT, Claimant, Sworn Says:

That he went from Georgia to St Augustine in East Florida in Sep^r 1776 stayed there near three Years then went back into Georgia & from Georgia came to England. That he carried about 170 Negroes to East Florida. That he Claims two Tracts of Land One of which he purchased from M^r Way & the other obtained by Grant For the first he produced a Certified Copy of a Grant dated April 16th 1768 from Governor Grant to Andrew Way¹¹⁸ in fee paying quit rent after the Expiration of two Years & Clearing Land &c as expressed in the Grant & deeds of lease & release dated 21st & 22^d of May 1771 from Andrew Way & Elizabeth his Wife (since dead) to the Claimant in fee for £55 of 400 Acres on a Navigable Creek on the south side of St Mary's river about 100 Miles from St Augustine Says That he computes there were 300 Acres of Swamp Land, the rest up land & Pine barren the whole of which he valued [530] at £1 11s 6d $\frac{3}{4}$ Acre. At the time of the purchase it was in an uncleared state entirely Covered with wood. That in two or three Months Afterwards he put about 25 Negroes upon it & continued them there till routed by the Rebels in the End of the Year 1775; they were then removed to Georgia. During their Stay in East Florida they were employed in raising rice & Provisions & cleared about 180 Acres, about 80 of which were low Land & about 100 Corn Land. The Swamp Land joined the River, they were dammed in with flood gates & banks the expence of which & the value of the Labour he thinks was £80 & employed wholly in the Cultivation of Rice & did not produce less than 2 Barrels $\frac{3}{4}$ Acre the last Crop raised was in 1775. The Up Land was employed in raising Provisions. That upon this tract there was a dwelling House about 40 feet Square framed & shingled & lined built for his Overseer, a framed Corn house & a Barn, & Negroe Houses all of which buildings were worth at least £260 including the Labour of his Negroes. That the whole of this Settlement was abandoned [531] in 1776 & he never took possession of it afterwards having heard that the buildings were all burnt by the Rebels. For the second Tract he produced a Grant dated 29th April 1771 from Gov^r Grant to the Claim^t in fee of 500 Acres Situated on the South side of St Mary's River paying quit rent after the Expiration of 2 Years & Clearing Land &c as expressed in the Grant. Says at the time of the Grant it was Entirely uncultivated & within a few Months after he put 9 or 10 Working Negroes & an Overseer upon it. They likewise continued there till they were routed in 1775. The Negroes during their Stay were

¹¹⁸ Andrew Way was deputy surveyor of lands in East Florida under Captain Frederick George Mulcaster, who succeeded De Brahm. Having been a rice planter in Carolina, he obtained in April, 1768, the grant of "an excellent tide river swamp," situated on a navigable creek on the south side of St. Marys River about one hundred miles from St. Augustine. In 1771 he sold this rice land to Jermyn Wright. See *ante*, pp. 168, 169.

Employed in making Lumber & raising Provisions & he thinks must have Cleared 40 Acres for that purpose. There were Negroe Houses & he believes an Overseer's house upon it for which he Charges £36 10s. These Buildings were likewise burnt by the Rebels. The Land he values at £100 & the Expences of Clearing & £17. No quit rent was ever paid or demanded.

[Claimant's confirmation and signature.]

[532] . . .

Feb^y 5th 1787

Mr: JAMES HUME, Witness, Sworn, Says:

That he never was at Either of the the [sic] Claimant's Plantations, but having looked over the Schedule he thinks the charges of damming his Rice Plantation very reasonable.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

Lieut: Col! FREDERICK GEORGE MULCASTER¹¹⁶ Witness, Sworn, Says:

That he knew the 400 Acre Tract belonging to the Claimant. he believes it was about 10 or 12 Miles from the Mouth of the river; It was a very good tract of Land & in a very good Situation & he thinks being run out by Mr: Way then Deputy Surveyor for himself not liable to be overflowed. That when he last saw it in 1772 or 1773 There was a large Field upon it Cleared & buildings Erected for Negroes & an Overseer, but as he was then upon Military duty & not Acting as Surveyor General he did not make such particular Observations upon it as to be able [533] to ascertain the Quantity of Land Cleared That according to the Plot & his general recollection of the Tract he thinks there must have been 295 Acres of Swamp Land. Says That he surveyed the 500 Acre Tract to the Claimant in the Winter preceding the date of the Grant. It was 80 or 90 Miles from the Mouth of St Mary's River & had a large front upon it: The river was there Navigable for Boats. It was chiefly a Pine barren Plantation & had about 100 Acres of Hamock & Swamp Land, when surveyed it was in a State of Nature & that he never was upon it afterwards.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

Mr: ALEXANDER WRIGHT,¹¹⁷ Witness, Sworn, Says:

That he never was in East Florida but having had Experience in planting a Considerable time he had rather clear a new piece of Land for a rice plantation than

¹¹⁶ See Additional Notes, *post*, p. 327.

¹¹⁷ Alexander Wright was the second son of Governor Sir James Wright of Georgia. He lived in South Carolina and in 1768 married Elizabeth, the heiress of John Izard of that province. His reputation was that of a man of "known and just influence." He served as a volunteer in the royal militia probably after the surrender of Charleston. In October, 1782, Lieutenant General Alexander Leslie

repair a Plantation which had been abandoned two or three Years & thinks the Expence & labour of repairs the [534] the [sic] Land being poisoned with Grass & Weeds would be greater than in forming a new Plantation. He always understood that in General the Expence of damming ditching & preparing a rice Plantation for Cultivation was 4 Guineas ^{per} Acre. He produced an Affidavit dated Nov: 24th 1785 Sworn by St: James Wright¹¹⁸ at Jamaica of the Loss of Grants Title deeds & other papers belonging to the Claimant.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

Cap! JOHN MOWBRAY,¹¹⁹ Witness, Sworn, says:

That he was frequently upon the Claimant's Tract about 12 Miles from the Mouth of St Mary's river. That he went to East Florida in Nov: 1775 & continued there except occasionally going to Georgia & Carolina for a short time till the Cession. That about Christmas 1775 he first saw the said Plantation being then upon a

at Charleston appointed him and James Johnson to treat with two commissioners designated by Governor John Mathews "as to the restoration of property and slaves," after an exchange of letters in the previous August relating to the removal by the British at the approaching evacuation of the thousands of negroes who had gone voluntarily, or been taken, into Charleston since its surrender. The four commissioners formulated an agreement at Cedar Grove, which was approved by Mathews and Leslie but was not carried out. The result was that numbers of the slaves were transported to St. Augustine, Jamaica, and the Bahama Islands. On the evacuation of Charleston Alexander Wright went to Jamaica. His affidavit of May 5, 1783, declares that he settled in the parish of Kingston, that he took with him one hundred and sixty of his own slaves and fifteen of his father's, and that all these negroes were being employed on the public works at St. Thomas-in-the-East. Mr. Wright owned real estate in both Georgia and South Carolina. His claim for loss of property in the latter was £12,916. The British Government awarded him on this claim £8,121. See Sabine, *Loyalists of Am. Rev.*, 1864, II. 459; *Hist. MSS. Comm., Am. MSS. in R. Inst.*, III. 154, 161, 194; Ramsay, *Revolution in S. Carolina*, II. 376-378; McCrady, *South Carolina in the Rev., 1780-1783*, pp. 658-659; E. A. Jones, *Journal of Alexander Chesney*, p. 119; Curwen, *Journal and Letters*, 1845, p. 671; Jamaica records, MS.

¹¹⁸ See Additional Notes, *post*, p. 361.

¹¹⁹ Captain (or Lieutenant) John Mowbray went to East Florida in November, 1775, and remained there during the war. In 1778, and thereafter, he was stationed on St. Marys River. On March 31 of that year Governor Tonyon wrote that "Lieut. Ellis of the *Hinchenbrook*, and Captain Mowbray of the *Rebecca* will scour the inland passage, and frustrate the designs of the Rebels, and I hope destroy the Gallies." On April 13, Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Browne received a letter from Mowbray telling of the advance of a force under General Elbert and saying: "we will endeavour on our parts to give the Gallies their deserts." He added: "Poor Ellis is no more, he was unfortunately drowned on the 8th instant in crossing the sound, after being on the boat's bottom five hours; I escaped by swimming upon an oar with great difficulty." John Mowbray was one of the men elected as members of the commons house of assembly in March, 1781. On January 12, 1783, Mowbray wrote a letter giving particulars about the depth of water on St. Marys bar, the anchorage, tides, landmarks, etc. The sum representing his losses in East Florida was £2,483 6s. His award was £1,235 11s 8d. See p. 307; *Hist. MSS. Comm., Am. MSS. in R. Inst.*, I. 221, 228, III. 319, 327, 328; C. O. 5/572.

Visit to the Claimant He went through his rice Plantation, & saw great quantity of rice in his Barn. It appeared a very large field that was cleared, but he can't tell the Number of Acres. The Buildings were at that time in good order & appeared to be [535] nearly new. That in the Year 1778 & afterwards being stationed upon St Mary's River he was frequently upon this Plantation. The River was navigable there for any Vessels that did not draw more than 16 or 17 feet water. At that time the Buildings were burnt, all the dams cut & every kind of damage done to the Plantation by the Rebels. The Land there was Esteemed full as good as any in the Country. That just before they heard of the Cession he had thoughts of purchasing this Tract & as it adjoined a Plantation of his own he would have been glad to have given 500 Guineas for it & mentioned the same in Conversation with M^r Moss the Claimant's Agent. That he knows nothing more of the other tract belonging to the Claimant.

Jn^r Mowbray

[536 blank]

[537]

No. 39. . . .

The Memorial of Robert Murphy
late of East Florida Merch^t

Sheweth That your Memorialist had been many Years settled in South Carolina as a Trader and Planter in a State of Comfortable Affluence, with all his Family and every thing Else thriving around him; but from the part he took in the late War from his having always maintain'd an unshaken Loyalty to his King and the Laws of his Country, and never losing an Opportunity of rendering to that Cause any Service and Assistance in his Power often at the most eminent risk of his Life—and once he was actually under Sentence of Death when a Prisoner—he was of course compell'd to leave that Province on the [538] Evacuation of Charles town.

That he moved from thence to East Florida, in consequence of the Asylum then offer'd to people in his unfortunate Situation and settling on the river St John's, where flattering himself he might enjoy the fruits of his Industry and end his days in Peace and Safety he invested the greater part of his remaining Property in the Purchase and improvement of a Lot of Land in the town of St John's in the View of trying his fortune in the trading Way, and indeed with the fairest prospects of doing well—had the province remained in the Allegiance of his Majesty, but in Consequence of the Cession of it to the King of Spain—every thing it may be said of

Estate both real or Personal was lost to the Memorialist and he himself in his old Age forced to become a wanderer on the face of the Earth. The particulars of his Losses will appear by the Schedules Annex'd.

[Concluding petition and signature.]

[539]

Schedules . . .

N^o 1. A Bay Lot of Land in the Town of St John's purchased in Fee with a Dwelling house, Store house & Erected on the same by the Claimant undervalued in an Appraisalment taken in Febr 1784 at only

£135 0s 0d

N: B: The value stated by said Appraisalment, was by no means equal to the Cost the Claimant had been at in the several Erections made by him on said Lot. The very Article of raising and Strengthening the foundation to make the Premises (near the River and in a Pool of water) but necessarily commodious for the purposes of carrying on his Business—shipping and Landing Goods—cost very near as much as the whole Stands valued at without any consideration [540] of the Superstructure—built when Materials of all kinds and every Species of labour bore the highest Prices, and also without considering the Value of an improved Real Estate, and every day increasing in Value—The Claimant therefore submits it whether he may not be permitted to prove Loss to a greater Ammount on this Article

Personal

N^o 1. Losses sustained by moving & being obliged to sell Goods by Vendue at a very under Value

250 0 0

2. Losses by Notes & Book Debts—in which the Claimant has been careful not to insert any Article but such as in his Conscience he believes to have Lost from the Cession of the Province Alone—the Account too taken on due examination and Consideration—which the former was not, but at Random, nor was it at the time known which were good Debts—which not a particular Account

144 16 11

£529 16s 11d

[541] N^o 3 The frame of a New House, compleat, dimensions 22 feet by 20 moved from St John's to St Mary's in the view of being carried to the Bahamas, but refused Shiproom by Agent of Transports worth

20 0 0

Expences of Rafting and Portorage & a D^y

6 0 0

4 Loss of Business by which the Claimant cleared above £100

Annum. This submitted to what the Commissioners shall think just and reasonable

Total of Loss in personal Estate
 . . . D^d . . . in Real Estate
 Amount

Bro^t over

529 16 11

[Signature of claimant and evidence.]

[542 blank]

[543] . . .

The Memorial of Duncan Morison and Stephen White
 Executors of the last Will and Testament of Robert Murphy Deceased.—

Humbly Sheweth That the Said Deceased prepared [*sic*] a Claim before your Honorable board, but his long Sickness prevented his Coming to a trial in Course Your Memorialist, having given Notice in Your office of his Death, And that they were Appointed his Executors—but by the time Your Memorialist's were able to Settle his funeral Charges and Obtain a probate of his Will, the Hollidays Commenced, that they have been at the expence of Upwards of fifty pounds in Discharging Doctor, Nurses—funeral Charges &c and Received not of his Effects what would pay one fourth [544] part of the Expence

[Concluding petition and signatures.]

[545] . . .

February 5th 1787.

Mr: STEPHEN WHITE, Claimant, Sworn:

produced the Probate of Mr: Robert Murphy's Will & Codicil dated 27th November 1786 from which it appeared that he and Duncan Morrison were Appointed his Executors.

Says That the Testator went to East Florida after the Evacuation of Charles Town & landed at Saint John's Bluff where he the Claimant lived. That soon after his (the Testator's Arrival) he purchased a Lot in St: John's Town from Mr: Thomas Williamson & produced Indentures of Lease & release dated 20th & 21st January 1783 from said Thomas Williamson to the Testator in fee of a Lot on Hester's Bluff containing a front 75 feet & in Depth 120 feet for £25 Sterling Says that at the time of the Purchase. The Lot was not fenced in & there was no House upon it; Afterwards The Testator partly fenced it in with Posts and rails, and built a House of one Story high with a Clap- [546] board Roof It was about 26 feet long &

divided into two rooms. He can't tell when it was finished nor what was the Expence of it. That the Testator laid out some money in raising the Ground about it. He produced an Appraisement in which the House & Lot were valued at £135 & says that he believes that the Money expended by the Claimant must have amounted to that Sum. Says That the Testator sold some Articles at Vendue before he quitted East Florida. That he had some Lumber at St: John's—fit for building a framed House but don't know the Quantity or what became of it, he believes a great part of it was carried to St: Mary's with a view of taking it to new Providence & he has heard the Testator in March 1784 Say That Mr: Lever the Transport Agent refused to take it on board in Consequence of which he built a House with some of it at St: Mary's beach & sold it to one Major Nealey.¹²⁰ He produced an Affidavit of W^m Thompson dated 18th Aug: 1786 then about to leave the Kingdom stating that he was employed by the Testator to carry a [547] fram'd House 26 feet by 16 to St: Mary's, that L^t: Leaver refused to take it on board the Transports & that it was worth £20 Sterling.

[Claimant's confirmation and signature.]

Mr: DUNCAN MORRISON, Claimant, Sworn says:

that he went to St: Augustine just before the News of the peace: That about 3 Months afterw^d: he went once or twice to St: John's Bluff but made no stay there nor took any particular Notice or of the Testator's Property: That he was well acquainted with the Testator in the Year 1785 upon St: Mary's Beach where he built a House & kept a Store. The House appeared to be new was about 20 feet long & nearly as wide he thinks between 16 & 18 feet. That he heard the Testator say that he sold that House for 8 Dollars having been denied Shipping for it—That he thinks the Testator came to St: Mary's in February 1785.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

¹²⁰ Christopher C. Nealy of Ninety-Six District was in the engagement there in 1775. Escaping to the Cherokee country, he returned in the following year, only to be waylaid and badly wounded by a party of whigs. In 1779, he sent out several men to raise the loyalists in support of Lieutenant Colonel Archibald Campbell and his force at Augusta. He also collected a body of men himself and joined the loyal militia. While bringing in a party, he was intercepted but made his escape. However, he was obliged to give himself up, and he and his twenty-nine men were imprisoned and tried for their lives. Although sentenced to death, Nealy was released on a bond of £10,000 for his good behavior. Early in 1780, he returned to Ninety-Six District and joined Colonel Richard Pearis, who had been sent to collect the militia after the surrender of Charleston. Nealy himself brought in a large body and was appointed a major in Colonel Thomas Pearson's regiment of militia. On the evacuation of Charleston he went to St. Augustine, where he acquired 400 acres of land with a house and other buildings on Saluda River, a tract of 150 acres near by, and 500 acres on Eucra River with negroes, livestock, etc. In June, 1784, he withdrew to the Bahama Islands. See *Second Report*, Bureau of Archives, Ont., 1904, pt. II., pp. 727-729; Sabine, *Loyalists of Am. Rev.*, II. 561.

[548] M^r JAMES SCOTLAND, Witness, Sworn, says:

That in 1783 he was twice in the House of Robert Murphy at St John's Bluff; To the best of his recollection it was about 12 or 14 feet Square one Story high, a rough boarded House shingled. That he thinks it might be put up for between £40 & £50; He thinks there was likewise a small Clapboard fence which he includes in that valuation

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

[549]

No. 65. . . .

The Memorial of Peter Edwards¹²¹
late Clerk of the Crown &c. of the said Province [of East Florida],
but at present residing at Great Portland Street N^o 58.

Sheweth That your Memorialist was compelled to leave the Province of Georgia in the Year 1776 & retired to East Florida where he resided until the final Evacuation thereof after its Cession to the King of Spain.

That your Memorialist occupied the Offices of Clerk of the Crown, Clerk of the Commons house of Assembly &c in East Florida, which were worth to Your Memorialist at the time of the Cession of the said Province about £400 Sterling p Annum.

That your Memorialist has a Wife and [550] four Children now with him to Support.

That your Memorialist was possessed of the Property set forth in the Schedule herewith annexed at the time of the Cession of the said Province to the King of Spain.

That your Memorialist in consequence of the said Cession was Obligated to abandon his real and suffered also in his Personal Property.

[Concluding petition, signature, and date.]

[551]

Schedule . . .

N^o 1. A Tract of Land containing 500 Acres Situate on Cedar Swamp west side of St John's River about 40 Miles South Westward from St Augustine bounding North West on William Pantton's Land, and all other sides on Vacant Land—Viz:

by Grant.

¹²¹ See *ante*, p. 47, note.

332 Acres of Swamp—@ 10/-
168 D^o of Pine barren @ 5/-

£166 *os od*
42 0 0

£208 *os od*

Purchase
of
C: Delap
2 A Tract of Land contain[ing] 525 Acres situate in the twelve
Mile Swamp between Land's of William Wilson about 12 Miles
North West from St Augustine bounded on the North by Wil-
liam Johnson's¹²² Land and all other Sides on Vacant Land
@ 20/-

525 0 0

[552] 3. A Lott in the Town of St Augustine whereon was a Man-
sion House 43 by 16 neatly fitted up with two Brick Chimneys a
Stable and other out Buildings

200 0 0

[*Inserted later:*] N.B. sold except 40 feet to Mr. Courtney—see
his papers.

4 A Horse stolen by a Banditti who infested the Province after it's
Cession, and in consequence thereof

20 0 0

N^o 5 A Valuable Young Negro fellow lost at St Mary's during M^r
Edwards's detention there in Publick Service

60 0 0

£1013 *os od*

[Witnesses.]

[553] . . .

6th Febr 1787

PETER EDWARDS, Claimant, Sworn. Says:

That he came to St Augustine East Florida in August 1776 and continued there till the Evacuation; produced a Certified Copy of a Grant dated 15th Febr 1781. from Governor Tonyn to the Claimant in fee for 500 acres of land Situated on Cedar Swamp on the West side of St John's river 40 Miles South West of St Augustine and was one or two Miles from a landing place upon a Creek, navigable for Schooners and Small Vessels and run into St John's River; and was about 150 Miles from the Mouth of the river St John's river being Navigable to the Creek for all Vessels that could get over the bar at the Mouth at $\frac{1}{2}$ d per Acre quit rent from 2 Years from the Grant, conditioned for clearing 3 Acres in every 50 within 3 Years and building an House &c as Appears by the Grant. That he never was upon the tract and never made any Settlement upon it nor was at any Expence except the running it out [554] which amounted to between £7 and £8 Sterling. He produced a certified Copy of a Survey of the tract under the hands of M^r Benj: Lord dep: Surveyor Gen: dated 2^d Febr 1787. In 1785 This tract was put up to Sale in St

¹²² William Johnson petitioned for a grant of land in East Florida as early as August 14, 1765. His warrant of survey called for three hundred acres. See C. O. 5/570.

Augustine and was not sold, there being no buyers: that the Original Grant was left with the Vendue Master and he has never got it back again.

That he procured this tract upon the recommendation of Mess^{rs}: Pantan & Forbes who had an adjoining tract, and he intended to settle the land in 1783 if the Province had not been Ceded.

That in 1780 he purchased another tract of 525 Acres commonly called 12 Mile Swamp. he produced indentures of Lease & release dated 1st & 2^d Sep^r: 1780 from Charles Delap to the Claimant in fee for the same in consideration of £60 Sterling with a rec^d for the consideration Money endorsed but not attested by any Witness—

Says he paid the Consideration Money to M^r: Delap in Feb^r: 1781.

He produced a certified Copy of a Grant [555] dated 5th October 1772 from Lieut: Gov^r: Moultrie to Charles Delap in fee of 525 Acres on 12 Mile Swamp with quit rent and conditions as in the grant, and a Certified Copy of survey of the same under the hands of Benjamin Lord— That it is about 12 Miles North West of S^t: Augustine. He never made any Settlement upon this Tract nor was at any other Expeⁿce except the purchase Money, but he intended to settle it—That it was Situated about 3 Miles from a Landing on the North River; that there were lands belonging to other people betwixt this Land and the river, which runs down to S^t: Augustine and which is Navigable for Sloops and schooners up to the said Landing.

He has been upon this Tract, and it was quite in an uncultivated State when he purchased it and was exceedingly well wooded. This tract was attempted to be sold at the same time with the other and the title deeds were left with the Vendue Master.

As to the Town Lot in St. Augustine That he purchased the same from M^r: M^cKinnen—He thinks it was originally granted [556] to M^r: Penman, but in what year he does not know; who sold it to a Serjeant in the Army who built a house upon it, and M^r: Penman got it back for a debt & then sold it to George M^cCauley for £250 in April 1778, who sold it to Charles W^m: M^cKinen¹²³ in 1779 for £170 and upon his death Helen M^cKinen his Widow sold the same in 1780 to the Claimant for £215—

That in December 1782 the Claimant Sold part of this Lot with a House upon it to Tho^s: Courtney for £400, and reserved to himself about 30 feet in front on which there was a rough house and he built another upon it. That he had a regular Conveyance from M^r: M^cKinen and paid the whole consideration Money. The Lot

¹²³ William McKinnon was deputy commissary of stores and provisions and acting commissary for the Indian Department at St. Augustine. During the latter part of 1779 he provided the supplies for the Indians who frequented Pensacola in West Florida. He died about February 1, 1780. See *Hist. MSS. Comm., Am. MSS. in R. Inst.*, II. 78, 87, 95, 98, 148.

consisted of 120 feet in length and 103 feet in depth was fenced in and had a Dwelling house and a Pidgeon house upon it. That he repaired the Dwelling house after he purchased it and he lived in it till he sold it with part of his Lot in 1782 to Thomas Courtney.

That the House which he fitted up for [557] his residence after the Sale to Courtney was 43 feet long by 16 feet wide framed glazed and Shingled not lined but papered upon Canvas—there were a Stable and other small houses upon the Lot. That he completed his new house and the Outhouses in Jan^r: 1783.

That his Property was not Appraised. That his repairs and buildings cost him about £200 to the best of his remembrance—but he produced no receipts for them tho he has some which the Claimant promises to bring—There were three rooms in the house. Before he left S^t: Augustine he pulled his house down with an Intention of Carrying it to the Bahamas but never got any thing for it—part of it having rotted in S^t: Augustine part being lost in going to S^t: Mary's, and part being lost as it was landing in New Providence.

That he had a Horse stolen from him by a Banditti in 1784 upon the return from carrying M^r: Mossman to S^t: John's—That he bought the Horse from a son of D^r: Turnbull's in Dec^r: 1782 for £16 2s 6d all of which he paid [558] him at different times as appeared by rec^d: produced.

That he lost a Negro Named Munday upon the Beach of S^t: Mary's in July 1785 who was seduced away from him and carried to Georgia. He bought the Negroe at a Sale by the Marshall of the Court of Admiralty for £37—He produced no receipt.

[Claimant's confirmation and signature.]

The Hon^{ble}: JAMES HUME, Witness, Sworn, Says:

That in 1781 or 1782 he was upon M^r: Edwards's 500 Acre tract of Land upon Cedar Swamp, which was quite in an Uncultivated State. That at the recommendation of Mess^{rs}: Pantan & Forbes he (the Witness) was looking out for land worth settling and upon that Occasion he crossed it, as M^r: Pantan told him. That the Claimant's said tract was about a Mile from a landing upon a Navigable Creek called Trout Creek, and adjoined the lower line of Pantan and Forbes's rice plantation—That the Claimant's Swamp was very good back [559] Swamp and he thinks not liable to be overflowed and there were very fine Cypress trees upon it and would have been benefitted by Pantan & Forbes's¹²⁴ reserve dam. That he does not recollect to have heard M^r: Edwards express any intention of settling it. That he never was upon the 12 Mile Swamp tract. That he knows the Claimant had a small Dwelling House in S^t: Augustine.

¹²⁴ See Additional Notes, *post*, p. 365.

That he had a Horse stolen from him by a banditti in 1784 near St John's. That the Claimant likewise lost a Negro worth £50 or £60 whilst he lay at St Mary's.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

DAVID YEATS Esq^r, Witness, Sworn. Says:

that he never was upon either of the tracts of Land of the Claimant's. That he had a House and lot in St Augustine and he believes Mr Penman was the Original grantee of the Lot—In 1782 the Claimant sold part of his lot to Mr Courtney, and reserved part of it for himself and built a small Wooden house 2 Rooms and a Kitchen One story high framed [560] and glazed and Shingled, and he thinks it must have cost him near £200 in building, but he never heard Mr Edwards says [sic] at the time what it cost him. That he has heard the Claimant had a Horse Stolen from him after the Cession of the Province—That he thinks the house and lot would have sold [for] £200 if the Province had not been ceded.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

JOHN FOX—Witness, Sworn Says:

That he came to St Augustine from Georgia in the Summer of 1782. That he never was upon the Claimant's land in East Florida. That he knows he sold a house and part of a Lot in St Augustine and reserved a part of the lot for himself. That he (the Witness) lived at Piccolata about 18 Miles from St Augustine. That the Claimant built a house upon his part of the Lot about 40 feet long one Story high, but does not know what it cost him. That at the time it was built Nails and all materials were dear, and he thinks the house with [561] the part of the Lot was worth £200, And if he had wanted a House and Lot he would have given that Sum for it.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

[562 blank]

[563]

No 77. . . .

The Memorial of John Fox¹²⁵
formerly of the Province of Georgia Merchant and late of
East Florida; but now residing in London.

Sheweth That on the Evacuation of the Province of Georgia, from which Your Memorialist was banished for his Loyalty and Attachment to the British Govern-

¹²⁵ John Fox is mentioned by Governor Sir James Wright in a letter of April 20, 1780, which refers to the depredations of whig plundering parties in Georgia. Governor Wright says: "All John

ment, he retired with what part of his Moveable effects he was able to preserve from the hands of his Enemies to the province of East Florida, where he obtained His Majesty's Grant for a tract of Land, on which at a very great Expence, he erected a Plantation consisting of Thirty Acres, cleared and put in order for Cultivation with a Dwelling and out houses, and other considerable improvements.

[564] That in Consequence of the Cession of the said Province, he was obliged to abandon his real, and sustained also, very heavy losses in his personal Estate, by his detention on Public Service, during the Evacuation as will more particularly appear by the Certificate of Major General Tonym late Governor, and the Schedule hereunto annexed.

[Concluding petition, signature, and date.]

[565]

Schedule . . .

A Tract of Land containing 500 Acres situated on the river St John, composed one half, equally of rich Rice Swamp and Oak and Hickory Hammock, and the remainder of high Pine barren, as per Grant	£500	0s	0d
Three Years labour of 13 Negro Slaves lost in Consequence of the Cession (a part of which time they were employed in forming a Settlement on the above Tract of Land) at £10 p ^r Annum each	390	0	0
Amount of Overseer's Wages (& Carpenters) & maintenance, Provisions purchased and Utensils for building &c, in making the Above settlement with the Improvements, after deducting the Nett proceeds of the produce of the same	250	0	0
[566] Nine Valuable Negro Slaves lost during the Evacuation consisting of 4 Stout Men viz; a cooper and 3 Squarers and Sawyers Three Women, a stout Girl, and a Boy—@ 50 each	450	0	0
Cash advanced at St Mary's to persons employed to go in pursuit of Negroes that absconded	7	2	6
A large bay mare, carried off, from St Augustine	20	0	0
Three Cypress Canoes—@ £4	12	0	0
	£1629	2s	6d

[Witnesses.]

[567] . . .

6th Feb^r 1787

JOHN FOX, Claimant, Sworn, Says:

That he came to East Florida from Georgia in the Summer of 1782 and re-Fox's (?) negroes reported taken and the negro houses burnt." His estimate of the loss sustained by him in East Florida was £1,629 2s 6d. His award was only £293 5s. See *Hist. MSS. Comm., Am. MSS. in R. Inst.*, II. 114.

mained there till 1785. That upon coming to East Florida he obtained a Grant of 500 Acres on the east side of St John's river near Picolata about 18 Miles from St Augustine. Produced a Grant from Gov: Tony'n dated 13th Jan^y 1783 to the Claimant in fee of 500 Acres adjoining St John's river on the East side of it, with the usual quit rent and Conditions for clearing the land &c. That he brought to East Florida a Gang of 13 Working Negroes, and settled them upon the land granted him as above. That this Land lay about 50 Miles from the river which was navigable up to it.

That he cleared about 30 Acres of hammock land. That he cleared the land so as to be fit for planting in May 1783. That the trees were cut down about breast high, and he built an Unframed Log [568] dwelling house and Negro Houses on it.

February 9th '87.

Mr: JOHN FOX

produced an Appraisement under Seal dated 16th June 1784 by Peter Edwards & Joshua Yellowley valuing:—

120 Acres of Oak and Hickory Land at 10s ^{per} Acre

130 acres cypress swamp at 10s ^{per} acre . . .

250 Acres of Pine barren at 1s 6d ^{per} Acre & the Improvements in clearing 30 Acres at £100 in all amounting to £243 15s—Says this Appraisement was made at St Augustine; That Mr: Edwards never was upon the Land to his Knowledge, but that Mr: Yellowly Surveyed it & had a general knowledge of the Country; That he understood they formed their judgment from his representation & the Plot of Land produced before them.

That in his Schedule he had Valued the Tract at £500 Sterling thinking the Valuation of the Appraisers much too low and in his own Valuation he does not include the Improvements. That he was detained by General [569] Tony'n in St Augustine till Sep: 1785 upon the Service of settling the Publick Accounts for which he had an Allowance not exceeding 5s ^{per} day.

That he claims a Compensation for the labour of 13 Negroes for 3 Years at £10 ^{per} Annum each £390.

He produced a Paper marked A which he says is a true Account of the Money received and expended on his Plantation. The Balance on the side of the expenditure was £257 7s 5d In this he includes the Maintenance of 40 other Negroes left with him by Mr: Golplin upon condition that he should Employ them 2 Years & then give him half the profits of their Labour. Says That this Acc^t was not laid before the Appraisers, nor did he acquaint them with the Expences he had been at in his Improvements. Says That he lost 7 Slaves at St Mary's just before his Embarkation &

two at St Augustine a little before that time. That they were Either Stolen or Enticed away. One named Jack a Cooper by trade, worth £60: a Woman named Sabina at least forty years [570] old worth £45, both of which he got by Exchanging others which he brought from Georgia for them. Those two he lost at St Augustine. The other 7 were Bob, Chloe, Harry their Child about 5 years old, Hannah, Diana a girl of 12 Years old, Simon & George. That he has valued, all of them together at an Average of £50 Each. That he lost a Bay Mare in the Summer of 1784: She was stolen from him; She was given to him by a Person who bought her for 20 Guineas—Three Cypress Canoes one left adrift at the Plantation another at St John's Bluff & the third at St Marys; These he values at £4 Each; One of them he bought for 12 Dollars when out of Repair & the other two he built. That he quitted his Plantation and removed his Negroes from thence about the Month of May 1784.

[Claimant's confirmation and signature.]

Mr: DAVID YEATS, Witness, Sworn, Says:

That he was at St Mary's when the Claimant lost some Negroes. He don't know [571] the Number; but understood at that time he lost 6 or 7.

That he was sent by the Gover^r on board a Spanish guard de Costa to demand one of them but did not get him back.

That if you were to buy a Stock of Negroes seasoned from a Plantation including Children they would average £50 Sterling ^{per} head. That he knows no other part of the Claimant's property.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

Mr: PETER EDWARDS, Witness, Sworn Says:

That he was one of the Claimant's Appraisers Made the Appraisement at St Augustine & never was upon the Claimant's Tract. That he put his Valuation upon it from the representations of the Claimant's & Mr: Yellowley & his general knowledge of the Country. That the Claimant gave an Account of the Improvements, which he made upon the Land to the Appraisers & he (the Witness) thinks it a fair Valuation. That the Claimant was Employed by Gov: Tony'n [572] for a Year & a half at his recommendation & received about £50 for his Services there being no Agreement for any Salary. That the Claimant wanted to go away repeatedly but continued in the Employment at his and the Gov^r's Request. That the Claimant lost 9 Negroes two a Man & a Woman, at St Augustine about July 1784 The Man was worth £60: The Woman & Child about £70 They both ran away. And seven at St Mary's; That he knows three or four of the Nine were the Claimant's own Property & he had them at St Augustine. he don't know whose property the rest were as

the Claimant had at that time Negroes of Mr Golphin's in his Possession. That he thinks he has heard the Claimant Say at St Mary's that some of those which were lost belonged to Mr Golphin. That he don't know the Value of them but believes they were Working Negroes.

That in the Year 1784 the Claimant lost a Mare at St Augustine, Stolen while she was out at grazing; That she was worth about £20. That it is his Opinion that if the Claimant had gone with his Negroes [573] to St Mary's he would have prevented their running away as a Transport was then going to Sail; but he was obliged afterwards to wait two Months for the Sailing of a Transport.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

Mr JAMES HUME, Witness, Sworn, Says:

That he was at St Mary's at the time the Claimant was there in the Summer of 1785. That he went at the request of General Tonyn on board the Spanish Brig to enquire after some Negroes which the Claimant said he had lost; The Man who was suspected to have stolen them was on board, but they denied having any of those Negroes in the Vessel; Afterwards they were produced but not given up by the Spanish Government Amongst whom was a Wench & Child belonging to the Claimant; That the Claimant Complained at St Mary's of his having been detained at St Augustine at a small Allowance of 5s per day & having lost his Negroes in Consequence of it.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

[574 blank]

[575]

Nº 98 . . .

The Memorial of James Scotland

late of St Augustine in the province of East Florida House Carpenter.

Sheweth That your Memorialist in the Year 1775 Settled in the Town of St Augustine aforesaid and carried on his Trade of a House Carpenter with Profit & reputation, until the said Province was Ceded to the King of Spain.

That your Memorialist in the Year 1777 purchased One house & lot in Charlotte Street in the Aforesaid Town known in the Plan thereof by Nº 7 measuring in Front to the Eastward of said Street 82 Links, to the Westward 76 Links to the Southward 177 links and to the Northward 177 Links, on which Lot was erected [576] a good Stone House consisting of three good Rooms and a Garret with a

Kitchen, and Garden well fenced and in a very Public Situation for Trade which Lot and Tenement was purchased by your Memorialist from Joseph Peavett and was valued upon Oath by Three Persons of Credit and Repute at the Sum of £200 S[t]erling—

That your Memorialist also purchased from Jacobus Kipp¹²⁰ one other Lot situate in Convent lane in the aforesaid Town 72 feet Eastward and Westward 276 feet and Northward 76 feet on which Lot was erected a Good Dwelling House with a Kitchen, well fenced near the Barracks in a very Publick Situation for Trade and Business and was also valued upon the Oaths of Three persons of Credit and repute at the Sum of £180 Sterling—That Your Memorialist was also possessed of One other Lot situated in George Street measuring in front of said Street to the Eastward 36 Spanish Varrs and the same to the Westward, to the Southward 18 Spanish Varrs and likewise to the Northward 18 Spanish Varrs on which Lot was erected an exceeding [577] good Stone Dwelling House consisting of Four large Rooms with a Kitchen Outhouses and Garden inclosed with good Fences purchased by your Memorialist at Publick Sale in the year 1781 and also valued upon Oath by three Persons of Credit and repute at the Sum of £350 Sterling.

That your Memorialist was also at the time of the Evacuation possessed of 3 Valuable Negroes named Tony, Jack and Sam which at a moderate valuation were worth £60 each and from the distracted State of the Province by the Cession thereof to the King of Spain they were stole from your Memorialist and entirely lost to him.

That Your Memorialist for Purchase of the several Lots as aforesaid begs leave to refer to the register thereof in the Books of the Province, which will be proved by David Yeats Esq: the Grants and Assignments having been left by your Memorialist in possession of William Slater appointed by Governor Tonyn to sell and dispose of the same and for the loss of the Negroes he further begs leave to refer to the Evidence that he shall hereafter adduce and for further particulars begs leave to refer to the Schedule hereunto annexed and for truth of the Premises to the Witnesses whose Names are hereunto subjoined and also prays that [578] he shall be at liberty to adduce such further Evidence as shall be required to substantiate his Claim when it is heard.

[Signature and date.]

[579]

Schedule . . .

1. A Lott in the Town of Saint Augustine situated in Convent Lane having on said Lane in front to the Southward 72 feet, East-

¹²⁰ Jacobus Kipp's name first appears in the Council Minutes of East Florida under date of July 18, 1769, as a petitioner for a grant of three hundred acres of land. His grant was signed by the governor on September 19 of the same year. He was one of the nineteen men elected members of the commons house of assembly in East Florida in March, 1781. See C. O. 5/570, 5/572.

wardly and Westwardly 276 feet and Northwardly 73 feet with a Dwelling house and Kitchen and well fenced being near the Barracks and in a Publick Situation purchased of Jacobus Kipp in the Year 1780 valued at

£180 0s 0d

2. A Lott in the said Town situate in Charlotte Street Grenville Quarter known in the Plan of said Town by the N^o 7 meas^r in Front to the Eastward in said Street 82 Links to the Westward 76 Links to the Southward 177 Links & to the Northward 177 Links having thereon a good Stone Dwelling House consisting of Three rooms & a Garret with a Kitchen and Garden well fenced and in a very publick situation for Trade purchased of Josh Peavett in the Year 1779 valued at

200 0 0

3. A Lott in the said Town situated in George's Street meas^r in front on the said Street to the Eastward 36 Spanish Varrs and the same to the Westward to the Southward [580] 18 Spanish Varrs with an exceeding good Stone Dwelling House consisting of four large rooms with a Kitchen Outhouses and Garden inclosed with good Fences purchas'd at Publick Sale in the Year 1781 valued at

350 0 0

3 Valuable Negroes Tony, Jack and Sam at a moderate valuation £60 ea

180 0 0

Ct

Sterling £910 0s 0d

By Neat Proceeds of the Sale of Lot N^o 2 situate in Charlotte Street

19 18 10

£890 1s 2d

[Witnesses.]

[581] . . .

Feby 13th 1787.

M^r JAMES SCOTLAND, Claimant, Sworn, Says:

that he arrived at St Augustine on 17th. November 1775 & remained in East Florida till March 1785. That he followed the Business of a House Carpenter. That at the time of the Cession he was possessed of three Houses which he had purchased. The first he bought of Joseph Peavett for £120 in latter End of 1777 & he produced a certified Copy of a grant dated 29th April 1771 from Gov^r Grant to Mary Phenix in fee of a town Lot in St Augustine N^o 7 in Grenville quarter conditioned for building a House 24 feet in front & 16 in depth thereon in 2 Years or otherwise paying 20s ^p Annum for not building said House; if not built within 10 Years, Lot forfeited. Says That Mary Phenix married Joseph Peavett & they both joined in a Conveyance to the Claimant but he left all his papers in St Augustine with the Vendue Master who sold this Lot after he left East Florida. Says That the Lot was [582] between 30 & 40 feet in front & above 100 feet deep: That it was

very well fenced in front with a Stone fence 8 feet high the rest of the fence a Clapboard fence but out of repair & in lieu of it a few Months after the purchase he put up an Entire new Clapboard fence 6 feet & a half high. That there was a dwelling House upon it when he bought it, with Stone Gavel Ends & wooden in the Middle that it was 40 feet in front & 18 feet deep; One Story & a half high, Glazed & Shingled; The only Alterations he made in it were putting up a Piazza the whole length of it & a room at the End of it for the [sic] of which he paid the Mason £10; the wood work he did himself.—There was likewise a wall which he converted into a Kitchen & built a New wooden Store 50 feet long & 12 feet wide & paid Spencer Mann £28 for shingles for all of them. That he computes the Expence of the Repairs & Alterations amounted to £200, & that the House was in good Repair when he quitted the Province. That he left it in the Care of William Slater the Publick Vendue Master. That on 1st March 1786 he received an [583] Account of Sales in new Providence from M^r Slater marked A which he produced, wherein Credit was given to the Claimant for 120 Dollars valued at £28 10s—for which the House & Lot were sold to M^r D'Herrera. That in June 1781 he bought a Lot in George Street of John Procter for £230 Sterling & produced a Certified Copy of a Grant dated 5th November 1779 from Gov^r Tonym to John Procter in fee of a Town Lot in St Augustine Situated West Side of George Street & known by N^o 3 in Box's quarter Conditioned for building a House &c as in the former Grant; Says That it was about 100 feet in front and depth; It was not fenced in, but there was a very good Stone House 2 Stories high besides Garrets glazed & shingled, 50 feet in front & 20 deep upon it which was then in complete repair. That there was no fence upon it at the time of the Purchase but he put up a boarded fence all round the Lot with Cedar posts & rails. That he repaired the Kitchen & built an open Shed for a Stable —That he laid out £100 in these Alterations & repairs [584] That he left this in the Care of M^r Slater to sell it but he could not dispose of it & he the Claimant never received any thing for it. That he purchased the third Lot of Jacobus Kipp in 1780 for £120 That M^r Kipp was Agent to M^r Fish who had almost all the Town of St Augustine. That he never had any grant of it. That it was 276 feet long & 73 in front with a dwelling House upon it. That he put up a Clapboard fence round it about 6 feet high. The dwelling House was framed & Wooden 20 feet by 14 One Story high & a Garret glazed & shingled. That he built a new stone Chimney to it & a rough Wooden Kitchen. That these cost him £50 & the Clapboard fence about £80. That this House was likewise left with M^r Slater who could not sell it & he never rec^d any thing for it. That none of these purchases were Ever registered. That he lost 3 field Negroes which were stolen from him at St Augustine in the beginning of the Year 1785: Their Names were Tony, Jack & Sam. He bought Tony at Savannah in 1779 for £30 5s—& had a bill of Sale which he [585] sent to Apalachicola to

Endeavour to recover him;—Jack he bought in the beginning of 1781 of Capⁿ Makeland for £31 10s.—He likewise sent the bill of sale of him to Apalachicola: Sam he bought the 24th November 1784 of Col^l John Fanner [*i.e.*, Fanning]¹²⁷ for £65 & produced the Bill of Sale for him. He bought him to carry with him to New providence.

[Claimant's confirmation and signature.]

Mr WILLIAM WATSON, Witness, Sworn, Says:

That he was one of the Appraisers of the Claimant's property—That the Claimant then produced proper Conveyances of all the Lots & Houses & several Vouchers of Expenses. That he remembers the three Negroes which the Claimant had. They were prize & seasoned Negroes & were valued according to the Common price of Negroes not having any Account from him of what they Cost.

That the Appraisement (a Copy of which was produced Marked B the Original being in the hands of Mr Nixon¹²⁸ was [586] made on 4th June 1783 and at the time of the Appraisement he was perfectly satisfied that each Article was well worth the Sum at which it was Appraised—

That the Paper marked A produced by the Claimant is Mr Slater's hand writing

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

Mr FLEETWOOD ARMSTRONG, Witness, Sworn, Says:

That he knew the Claimant's Lot in Convent Lane it being the next Lot to his Own. He don't know of whom he bought it or what he gave for it. At the time of his Purchase there was an Old fence but the Claimant put up a new Clapboard fence in the part adjoining his (the Witness's) Lot; That the Claimant built a new Stone Chimney & converted the rough Kitchen which he built into a Store. That he don't know [587] the Expence of these Alterations but that the Claimant in the fall of the Year 1782 was offered £200 for the Lot & Buildings upon it by Mr Aird; but Mr Turnbull who was the Tenant would not quit it, & he heard the Claimant afterwards say that if he could have got Mr Turnbull out he would have taken it.

¹²⁷ See Additional Notes, *post*, p. 348.

¹²⁸ Probably Thomas Nixon, a merchant of London, whose business place was at No. 60 Lombard Street. His name first appears in the Council Minutes of East Florida under date of July 24, 1769, as a petitioner for a town lot in St. Augustine. Early in the following month an order from the king in council, together with a petition for a grant of ten thousand acres of land, was presented by Mr. Nixon. He had storehouses at St. Augustine, and in February and April, 1776, undertook to supply cattle for Lord Howe's army, the cattle to be delivered to ships at St. Marys River. He also agreed to take over the parts of a mill with which to grind the corn for the cattle's feed. See C. O. 5/570; *Hist. MSS. Comm., Am. MSS. in R. Inst.*, I. 28, 29, 30.

That he has only a general knowledge of the other part of the Claimant's property.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

Mr DAVID YEATS, Witness, Sworn, Says:

That Mess^{rs} Fish & Kipp claimed a large part of the Town of St Augustine & were allowed by Gov^t Grant to dispose of them, but the Constant practice was for such purchasers afterwards to take out Grants for their Lots.

That at the time of the Cession the Spaniards would not suffer any person to [588] sell his property who had not a grant of it. That he knows the Claimant had three Houses in St Augustine but can't give any particular Account of them & knows nothing of his Slaves—

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

[589]

N^o 109. . . .

The Memorial of Cap^t Benj^t Dodd,¹²⁹ formerly Provost Marshal General of the said Province [*i.e.*, East Florida], at
N^o 11 Suffolk Street.

Sheweth That your Memorialist was seized in fee simple of a considerable real Estate in the said Province, as will appear more particularly by the Schedule Annexed, which property he has lost in consequence of the Cession of the said Province to the King of Spain, all which he is ready to make manifest to the Board.

[Concluding petition and signature.]

[590 blank]

[591]

Schedule . . .

N^o 1. A Tract of 5000 Acres by Grant to George Rolfs,¹³⁰ and purchased at the Provost Marshal's Sale in the year 1777.

¹²⁹ Captain Benjamin Dodd was appointed provost marshal general of East Florida by royal order, probably in October, 1774, in place of Thomas Wooldridge. The oaths were administered to Captain Dodd on August 19, 1775, and early in the following April he became a member of the provincial council. See C. O. 5/571. He took his departure from East Florida in December, 1778. See *ante*, p. 42, and *post*, p. 193.

¹³⁰ George Rolfs, Esq., served as deputy surveyor general of East Florida under Frederick Gerard

This Tract is situated on the West side of the river St John's and is excellent for Navigation, having a Creek running through the Middle of it, which has from five to Eight Feet water in it and is only about 14 or 15 Miles from the Inlet, this makes the Pine and other Timber of this Tract to be of great Value—The pine is chiefly [*sic*] the yellow pine being run by George Rolfs for the Use of a Saw Mill which he built in a small Tract Adjoining. This Tract consists of 400 Acres of Swamp, 60 Acres of Hammock, and 4540 Acres of Pine, chiefly Yellow, which your Memorialist Values at the Moderate estimation of Five Shillings an Acre upon an Average

£1250 0s 0d

[592] No 2 A Tract of 250 Acres granted to Will^m Clarke sold by him to Marmaduke Bell, and bought at the Marshal's sale. This tract is near the Mouth of St Mary's river, and situated on the South side of the river, consequently the Pine, Oak; and other Timber must be of great Value. There was a small Settlement made on it, and a good framed Dwelling & other houses built, with Orange & Peach Orchards &c and about 40 Acres of Cleared Hammock.

The houses were burnt by the rebels.

The Original Grantee cleared and Cultivated about 40 Acres of this Tract. This Tract consists of 126 Acres of cleared and un-cleared Hammock, 5 Acres of Swamp, and 119 Acres of yellow pine, which your Memorialist upon an Average moderately estimates at One pound pf Acre

250 0 0

£1500 0s 0d

[593] No 3 A Tract of 1000 acres of Land situated upon a branch of the Six Mile Creek, known by the Name of little Trout Creek, about Seventeen Miles North West of St Augustine.

Warrant dated the Sixteenth of December 1778.

[Witnesses.]

[594 *blank*]

De Brahm. On October 4, 1770, Mr. Rolfs was ordered by the provincial council to deliver into the custody of Frederick George Mulcaster, Esq., who had just been appointed surveyor general in place of Mr. De Brahm, recently suspended from office, all the papers of the surveyor general's office. See C. O. 5/571.

[595] . . .

Febr 14th 1787.

Capt^l BENJ^l DODD, Claimant, Sworn. Says:

That he went to St Augustine about August 1776, quitted the Province in Dec^r 1778 & never was there afterwards. That at the time of the Cession he was possessed of two Tracts of Land one of 5000 Acres upon Trout Creek the other of 250 Acres upon the South side of St Mary's. For the first he produced a Grant dated the 15th Feb^r 1775 from Gov^r Tonym to Frederick Rolfs¹⁸¹ in fee of 5000 Acres Situated on the west side of St John's river paying a quit rent of ½[d?] ³/₄ Acre for One half of said Land after Expiration of five Years & for the whole after the Expiration of 10 Years Conditioned for Settling it with foreign Protestants as Expressed in the Grant. Says That this property was sold in Execution at publick Vendue by him the Claimant to satisfy William Alexander¹⁸² one of M^r Rolfs Creditors & produced a deed of Bargain & Sale dated 1st Dec^r 1777 from himself as Provost Marshal to Henry Yonge of this Tract for £30: He then produced deeds of Lease & [596] release dated 2^d & 3^d of December 1777 from Henry Yonge to himself in Consideration of the Sum of £5. Says That previous to the Sale there was an Agreement between them that M^r Yonge should if he purchased it convey it over to him the Claimant & that he paid the £30 to the Attorney General as is customary in Sales by the Prov^l Marshal in that Province, but did not pay the £5 mentioned as the Consideration in the deeds of Conveyance from M^r Yonge to him. Says That he never settled any part of this Land or was at any other expence about it & never understood that M^r Rolfs Ever settled any part of it. That he never was upon it but understood it was about 45 Miles North West of St Augustine. Says that he likewise purchased a Tract of 250 Acres at publick Vendue & produced a Certified Copy of a Grant dated 4th May 1767 from General Grant to W^m Clarke in fee of 250 Acres situated North Westerwardly about 80 Miles from St Augustine on the South side of St Mary's river paying quit rent after Expiration of two years & conditioned for clearing Land as [597] Expressed in the Grant. Says that Will^m Clarke sold the said Tract to Marmaduke Bell and produced certified copies of deeds of lease and release dated 8th and 9th. of oct^r 1769 from William Clarke and Sarah his wife to

¹⁸¹ The name of Frederick Rolfs, Esq., first appears in the Council Minutes of East Florida on March 4, 1768, when his petition, with an order from the king in council, was presented. He received a grant of five thousand acres of land. See C. O. 5/570.

¹⁸² William Alexander petitioned the council of East Florida in October, 1774, for a grant of three hundred acres of land, and received a warrant of survey for it. In January, 1775, he asked for an additional grant of two hundred acres, and obtained his warrant. On February 15, 1775, Governor Tonym signed his grant of three hundred acres. Late in the following month Mr. Alexander obtained a warrant of survey for five hundred acres, and on June 9 of the same year the governor signed a grant of four hundred acres for him. See C. O. 5/571; also, Additional Notes, *post*, pp. 307, 365.

Marmaduke Bell in fee for £63 15s.—with a receipt indorsed. Says That this tract together with Another Tract of 700 Acres were sold in Execution by him the Claimant at publick Vendue & bought in by M^r: Gordon for £80, 10s.—for him (the Claimant) & he paid the same Sum to M^r: Gordon who Conveyed it over to him. Says that he Afterwards sold the 700 Acre Tract to M^r: Godfrey for £250 to whom he lent his deeds & never received them back again. Says That he never laid out any money upon the Tract, but he understood that there were Considerable improvements made upon it by the former Proprietor & that there was a house built upon it & 40 Acres of land Cleared—He produced an Appraisement under the Seal of the Province dated 16th June 1784. valuing these two Tracts at £337 10s.—Says That he had a Warr^t of Survey dated 16th [598] Dec^r 1778 for 1000 Acres Situated on a Branch of the Six Mile Creek called little Trout Creek & produced a Certificate of it from the records. That he left the Warrants with a M^r: Calderwood to get the Land surveyed & a Grant of it but nothing was Ever done by him. Says that the Appraisement was made under the directions of Gov^r: Tonyn and at his the Claimant's request.

[Claimant's confirmation and signature.]

M^r: JAMES PENMAN, Witness, Sworn, Says:

That he remembers being upon the 5000 Tract in the possession of M^r: Rolfes upon which the saw Mill was erected; it was about 52 Mile from St Augustine, Situate upon a Trout Creek Navigable for any Craft necessary for conveying away Lumber but that he knows nothing about the 5000 Acre Tract belonging to the Claimant Except that the Pine Land in that part of the Country was very good.

That in the Year 1775 or 1776 he was upon the 250 Acre Tract there in the possession [599] of M^r: Bell who lived there with his family; That the Witness recommended it to M^r: Jolly to purchase it, but he would not give the Money which the Claimant gave for it. That when he the Witness saw it there was a dwelling House & other Buildings upon it & about 30 Acres of Land cleared. but M^r: Bell afterwards broke & he believes the Settlement was abandoned when the Claimant bought it. That it adjoined a Navigable Branch of St Mary's river about 5 or 6 Miles from the mouth of the River; That it was as good Hamock Land as any in the Country for cotton Indigo & provisions. That he thinks some of the best yellow Pine Land in the first Tract situated in the Creek worth 10s ^{per} Acre, for the more inland Pine land he would not have given half as much & that he would have given 20s ^{per} acre for the uncleared Hamock Land on the 2^d Tract.—

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

[600]

M^r: ROBERT PAYNE, Witness, Sworn, Says:

that he never was upon Either of the Claimant's Tracts: but that M^r: Bell's Tracts of Land were sold by the Prov^t: Marshall M^r: Dodd in-consequence of a Judgment obtained by him the Witness against M^r: Bell in the common pleas.

That the Claimant bought them he thinks for about £80 & the whole of his (the Witness's) debt was satisfied.

That he understood M^r: Bell had left this Plantation previous to the Sale. That he knows nothing of any other part of the Claimant's Property.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

[601]

N^o 186. . . .

The Memorial of Benjamin Lord
late acting Surveyor General of the Province of East Florida

Sheweth That your Memorialist was an Inhabitant of the Province of South Carolina upwards of twenty Years, that in the Year 1778 from the violence of the Rebellion he was compelled with his family to leave that Province, and to retire to St Augustine leaving behind him the greatest part of his property.

That soon after he arrived in East Florida he was appointed by Gov^r: Tonyn to execute the Office of Surveyor General of the said Province in which situation he continued until the Peace took place.—that during his residence there he had acquired a Considerable Property [602] in Houses and Lands, which he has been deprived of by the Cession of the said Province to the Crown of Spain, as will more particularly appear by the Schedule hereunto annexed.

[Concluding petition, signature, and witnesses.]

[603]

Schedule . . .

- N^o 1 A Town Lot in St Augustine situated on the west side of Hospital Street & bounding on Cunningham Lane with a good dwelling House, Store house Kitchen and other improvements thereon £350 0s 0d
N^o 2. Five hundred acres of Land as per Grant dated 13th January 1783 Situated about 14 Miles South of St Augustine 125 0 0
N^o 3. Five hundred Acres of Land as per warrant of Survey dated 3rd Feb^r 1780 Situated near the head of the Mattanza River

adjoining Joseph Merritt's North line being part of a 20000
Acre Tract granted to Levett Blackburn Esq:
N^o 4. Boxing and Hoeing 12000 Trees in the Year 1782 for Tur-
pentine

375 0 0

£850 0s 0d

[604 blank]

[605] . . .

Feb^y 15th 1787.

M: BENJAMIN LORD, Claimant, Sworn. Says:

That he went to East Florida in July 1778 & quitted it about December 1784.

That he was appointed Acting Surveyor General by Gov: Tonym about 2 Months after his Arrival. That at the time of the Cession he had a Town Lot & 2 Tracts of Lands. That he purchased the Town Lot in the latter End of 1778 of one Spencer for 103 Guineas, who had bought it at publick Vendue

That he had no Conveyance from Spencer but that he had the Spanish Titles which he produced to the Gov: & in Consequence thereof obtained a Grant of the s^d Lot; He produced a Certified copy of a Grant dated 21st Feb^y 1782 from Governor Tonym to the Claimant in fee of a Town Lot in St Augustine on the West side of the Hospital Street & known by the Number [no. omitted] in Keppel Quarter containing 60 feet in [606] front to Hospital Street & 120 feet in depth conditioned for building a House 24 feet by 16 or paying 20s ^p Annum for not building & if such House not built within ten Years Lot forfeited. Says That at the time of the purchase there was an old Spanish House upon it 31 feet in front & 38 in depth & another building but no fence; That he fenced it all round, half with a boarded fence, & half with a Clapboard fence. That he did it in the Cheapest Manner he could but can't tell the Expence of it. That he repaired the house by plaistering the Walls mending the floors & roof painting it & glazing the Windows. That he converted the other building into a Kitchen & Store & built a Shed Adjoining it. That most of these repairs were done before he had obtained the Grant. that he can't tell what money he laid out in these Repairs but thinks if he had Employed Workmen to have done the whole of them, they would have cost £200. That he lived in the House till a few days before he left the Province when it was Sold by W^m Slater to [607] a Minorqueen at publick Vendue for 200 Dollars, which he received deducting the Expences of conveyance & sale which he believes amounted to 15 Dollars. Says That he had likewise a 500 Acre Tract & produced a Grant dated 13th Jan^y 1783 from Gov: Tonym to the Claimant in fee of 500 Acres (including 300 petitioned for by Christ: Gardner) situated about 4 Miles South of St Augustine, paying quit rent after the Expiration of 2 Years & conditioned for clearing Land as expressed in the grant. Says That he had

a Settlement upon some Land which he leased from David Moses for $\frac{1}{8}$ th part of the produce about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a Mile from this Tract.

That he never was at any Expence upon this Tract except boxing a few Trees.

Says That it was a Pine barren Tract mixed with ridge & Pond Land & a greater proportion of the latter run out for lumber and naval stores & about 2 Miles from a landing on the Matanza river. Says That he had likewise a Warrant for 500 Acres about 10 Miles further south from St Augustine situated [608] near the head of the Matanza river on which was a landing & w[h]ere it was navigable for Boats part of a 20,000 Acre Tract formerly granted to Levett Blackburn Esq: & produced a Certified Copy of it by which it appeared to be dated on 3^d Feb^y 1780. That he never obtained any grant of it. That he don't know whether there was any Notice given to the Original Proprietor. That he was at little or no Expence upon this Tract Except the Expence of Surveying it; but gave permission to one Tittley who came from North Carolina to settle upon it & he cultivated a field of about 30 Acres for Corn.

That he understood none of these warrants for Land run out upon the Tracts of other Persons Ever passed into Grants; That he made Enquiries about the Grants & was ready to have paid the fees for it. He produced an Appraisement under Seal dated 14th Feb^y 1784, Says That he was present when the Appraisement was made but did not mention this Tract to the Appraisers.

That he might have had vacant Land [609] if he had not had this Warrant but was precluded from having any other grant by such Warrant as he was thereby considered as having the whole quantity to which he was Entitled.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

M: WILLIAM WATSON, Witness, Sworn, Says:

That he was an Appraiser of the Claimant's property. That he has heard the Claimant purchased his Town Lot but don't know what he gave for it. That there were no Vouchers for the Expences of the Repairs produced before the Appraisers, but he formed his Opinion from his own Knowledge of the House & the state which it was in at the time of the Cession. That he thought the House & Lot worth £300 but one of the Appraisers being of a different Opinion they Agreed to put it down at £280 in which were included the purchase Money & Repairs.

That he never was upon the Claimant's 500 Acre Tract about 14 Miles from St Augustine [610] but formed his Opinion of that from his general Knowledge of the Country & the Information of the Claimant himself. That part of this he understood was Yellow Pine ridge Land & part of it pond Land. That his general rule was to Value the former at 10s ^p Acre if within 4 Miles of landing & the latter at 5s

Acres & he thinks that any person who wanted a Pine barren Tract for Lumber & naval Stores would have given that for it.

That Nothing was said by the Claimant at the time of the Appraisement respecting his other Tract of Land.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

Capt^l JOHN MOWBREY [*sic*], Witness, Sworn, Says:

That he knew the Claimant's Pine barren Tract which adjoined some land of his Own It was about 12 or 14 Miles from St Augustine. That there was a good deal of the high ridge pine Land & the rest low Land. There was a greater proportion of pitch Pine than of the Yellow

[611] It was two Miles & $\frac{1}{2}$ from a Landing on St Cecilia's Creek & he believes there was a landing nearer upon the Matanza both of which were navigable for flats. That it was as Valuable a Pine Tract as any in the Country; but never having purchased any Land there he can't tell what it was Worth. That it was a common price to give 5s for a Pine Tree which was fit for the Mast of a Ship & that there were a great many Pine Trees of that Sort upon this Tract.

That he knows nothing of the Claimant's other Tract of Land.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

Mr WILLIAM MOSS, Witness, Sworn, Says:

That he has been frequently upon the Tract which the Claimant says was his Property at the head of the Matanza river, That the Pine Land was not very good but the Hamock & Swamp Land upon which there was a small Settlement were very good & there was one of the finest Orange Groves in the Country. That [612] he can't tell the quantity of Each. That about $\frac{1}{2}$ a Mile off there was a landing upon a Creek of the Matanza river which was navigable for Boats & where the Tide flowed 4 or 5 feet. Says he believes only Warrants were given for running out these Tracts & that there was no Instance of any Grant being made out for them, but that it was considered that any one Person's having the Warrant precluded any other person from running it out. and that in time the grants would be made out. That he never heard that the Claimant cleared any part of this Tract, but he has frequently heard him Speak of this as his property before the Cession. That he can't speak particularly to any other part of the Claimant's property.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

[613]

N^o 161. . . .

The Memorial of Judith Shivers¹³³

Widow, late of the Province of East Florida in America, planter,
now in London, Oxford Street N^o 295.

Sheweth That your Memorialist arrived in East Florida, from the Province of Georgia, with her husband and family in September 1776, being persecuted and driven from thence by the Rebels, and forced to abandon, a valuable property, and were upon the Way plundered of considerable moveable effects, Horses, and Cattle, a part of the stock of their Georgia settlement, which they were bringing to Florida.

That your Memorialist at the Cession of Florida, Emigrated in a Transport, with [614] her family and effects, to His Majesty's Island of Dominica, from whence she departed, the second of last August, leaving two Daughters in the Island, and her negroes, and has a Son with her in England.

That your Memorialist possessed a Real Estate in Fee; and personal property as Stated in the Schedule, and also obtained a Warrant of Survey dated August 12th 1782. in family right for 500 acres, as did also her daughter Elizabeth Shivers for 500 acres but notwithstanding the said last mentioned Tracts, were located, the grants were not compleated, by reason of the intervention of the Cession of the Province to Spain.

From which event the Memorialist claims these last mentioned Tracts, as their property and that they will be deemed equally valid, as if the grants had been actually compleated.

That in dispair hurry and confusion a Valuation was made in Florida, of a part of the property, the Schedule herewith is delivered to this Office, and to that estimate she has good reason to object, first because a part, of her [615] property was omitted in it, secondly, because the terror and perplexities of the times, effected all the Inhabitants, inattentive to the justice of Great Britain, with apprehensions, that the British Government had cast them off, and the only way to get something for their Losses and distresses was to make very low Valuations, and even under these misguided notions of their true Situation, your Memorialist declared her discontent when the Valuation was first shewn to her, therefore on this foundation, and opinion of Gentlemen, well informed of the real value of Lands in East Florida, your

¹³³ Mrs. Shivers does not give the name of her husband, but Sabine mentions a James Shivers of Georgia who was attainted in 1778 and his property confiscated. He was probably the same person. On their claim of £98 indemnity for loss sustained in East Florida Mrs. Shivers and three of her children were awarded £177 12s 6d. Her daughter, Elizabeth Shivers (later Mrs. Egan), presented a claim for £175, of which she received only £48 10s 6d. See Sabine, *Loyalists of the Am. Rev.*, 1864, II. 576; Additional Notes, *post*, p. 362.

Memorialist presumes in Justice to herself and family, to state an estimate of her losses, which she thinks in her cons[c]ience a just right to claim.

Your Memorialist begs leave further to represent that ever faithful in allegiance [*sic*] to his Majesty's Government she was obliged to abandon her immovable property and go to Dominica with moveables, that upon landing she found her Negro property greatly depreciated, that they could not be sold at an average for more than twenty Pounds Sterling, which may be made appear [616] by bills of sale made in Dominica of Lord Arden's and other Negroes sold there, whereas the average value of negroes in Florida, for ready money had the Province continued British, would at least have been fifty Pounds Sterling, and under our heavy circumstances, negroes upon credit, sold at the rate of seventy Guineas, upon an average, and a good house wench and a young Child your Memorialist sold for Ninety pounds Sterling, ready money, after the Cession was known, and could have sold another at Eighty.

Your Memorialist likewise humbly represents that the Climate of Dominica, greatly effected the health of her negroes, so that no benefit could be got by them, and that two actually died in consequence of it, That her own health was so much impaired, that the Physicians, were of opinion that a short residence there, would put a period to her life, and therefore necessarily took the first opportunity to get to England, and as it will be impossible for her to pursue a settlement in Dominica, with any probable success, and [617] as grants of Land cannot be got there under the present state of the Island, your Memorialist is therefore compelled to order her Negroes to be sold, and the bills of Sale shall be delivered to this office.

The Memorialist begs leave also to represent, that a negro fellow named Oakerd, was one of those ordered out by Government, to Assist with his labour in the Engineer Department, and was drowned, as particularly mentioned in the Schedule, the loss of this fellow was generally known in St Augustine, and although she went after payment for him, and it was allowed to be justice the confusion of the times following immediately after, your Memorialist never could obtain payment for him or the work of Negroes—

[. . . -618—Concluding petition, signature, date, and witnesses.]

[619]

Schedule . . .

Nº 1 A Tract of Land containing 200 Acres Originally granted to Judith Shivers, situated upon the head of St Sebastian's Creek, which Creek runs through the said tract about four Miles, north of St Augustine, bounded northwardly on Lands Granted to Willm Mills, and on all other sides by vacant Land.

30 Acres of Cleared and cultivated Land, and fenced, with Rails and a Ditch at £3

£ 90 0s 0d

170 acres pine and Hammock land at 10/-

85 0 0

£175 0s 0d

2. A Tract of Land containing 500 acres of which a Warrant of survey was granted to Judith Shivers, in family right and located, upon the west side of St John's, and bounded [620] by the said river, twenty six miles, west of St Augustine, but the grant was not carried through the Offices by reason of the cession of the Province.

200 acres at 10/-

300 Acres at 5/-

175 0 0

£350 0s 0d

Nº 3. A Negro man named Oakerd a good Cooper, met with an accidental death when employed in the King's Service at Public Works, and was compelled, by the Officers and Soldiers, to swim for a canoe floated from the Barraks with planks, into the River at St Augustine, and was Drowned

£ 80 0s 0d

11 Negroe Slaves at an Average £50

550 0 0

£980 0s 0d

N. The charge for Negroes at Public Works not included in the above.

[621] . . .

Feb: 16th 1787.

M^{rs} JUDITH SHIVERS, Claimant, Sworn, Says:

That she went with her husband from Georgia to East Florida about the Year 1776 & saild from thence to Dominica in June 1785. That her Husband died about six Years ago and at the time of the cession she had two tracts of Land one of 200 Acres the other of 500 Acres; For the first she produced a Certified Copy of a Grant dated 16th of June 1782 from Gov: Tonym to the Claimant in fee of 200 Acres situated near the head of St Sebastian's Creek about 4 Miles North from St Augustine paying quit rent after the expiration of two years & conditioned for clearing Land as Expressed in the Grant. That at the time of the Grant it was entirely uncultivated. That soon after the Grant she put 7 Negroes upon it & in the Years 1782 & 1783 they cleared about 30 Acres which were planted with provisions, after which they were removed to St John's. That there was a small Overseer's House & [622] Negro Houses upon it.

That St Sebastian's Creek which was navigable ran through the Tract. That