

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

after the Arrival of the Spaniards his [*sic*] tract was valued & put up at publick Vendue & sold to M^r: Fatio for 12 Dollars without the knowledge of the Claimant & against her inclination.

That it was an absolute sale & she or her Daughter received the Money & gave up the grant.

For the second she produced a certified copy of a warrant of Survey dated 12th of Aug^r: 1782 of 500 acres situated on the West side of St John's river part of a Tract of 20000 Acres granted to George Udney Esq^r:

Says That she never was upon This Tract nor ever at any Expence about it. That she applied for a Grant of it and understood that she should have had one if the Province had been kept.

Says That she values the 30 Acres of cleared Land in the first Tract at £3 ⁷/₈ Acre & the remaining 170 Acres at 10s ⁷/₈ acre.

That of the latter Tract she values 200 [623] Acres which adjoined the River at 10s ⁷/₈ Acre & the remaining 300 at 5s ⁷/₈ Acres.

She produced an Appraisement under the Seal dated 3rd June 1783 valuing the 200 Acre Tract at £50, but making no mention of the 500 Acre Tract. Says That she employed Major John Ross to get her property valued & that he was one of the Appraisers; when it was shewn to her afterwards she objected to the Smallness of the Sum at which they had valued the Articles in the Appraisement but did not complain of their having taken no Notice of the 500 Acre Tract.

That in the year 1782 she lost a Negroe Man named Oakerd who was drowned in the Service of fortifying the Publick Work. That she carried 9 Negroes to Dominica two of which afterwards died & the remaining 7 are still there under the care of Col^l: Hagen.

[Claimant's confirmation and signature.]

[624] M^r: BENJⁿ: LORD, Witness, Sworn, Says:

That about Jan^y: 1780 he ran out the Claimant's 200 Acre tract for M^r: Shivers in his life time & he heard it was afterwards granted to the Claimant. That they were making Improvements upon it when it was run out & he believes were clearing about 10 or 15 acres at that time. That he has since rode by it but never took any particular Notice of it. That he can't tell the proportion of the Hamock Land to the Pine barren Either from Memory or by reference to the Plot but thinks the greatest part was pine barren—That St Sebastian's Creek ran through it & was there navigable for Boats & Flats. That he thinks it was worth 10s ⁷/₈ Acre in it's uncleared State.

That he surveyed likewise the 500 Acre Tract on the West side of St John's river. It was about twenty five Miles from St Augustine & joined the river. That

this was almost Entirely a Pine barren Tract about half of it high ridge Pine Land & as valuable & as large as any Pine— [*sic*] in the Country. That he thinks at the time of [625] the Cession this Tract was worth £200.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

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

That he went to East Florida in 1777 & left it in 1783. That he lived with Gov^r: Tonyn as his Steward for 3 Years. That the Claimant's Husband lived with Gov^r: Tonyn at the same time. That he has been frequently upon the Claimant's 200 Acre Tract & was last there in the beginning of 1783. That about 30 Acres or more were then cleared on the East side of the Creek & the cleared part was fenced all round & in part ditched. That a Crop of very good indian Corn was then growing upon it. That on the west side of the Creek it was mostly Pine barren. That there were two or three Negro Houses & an Overseer's House which were standing when he left it. That then 11 or 12 Negroes were employed upon it but they were removed to St John's before [626] the beginning of the Year 1783.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

M^r: WILLIAM WATSON, Witness, Sworn, Says:

That he was upon the 200 Acre Tract belonging to the Claimant at 1781 or 1782 when the House was building that there was a small field cleared upon & it was fenced round with a rail fence.

That the Dwelling House was a Log House shingled & lined with Boards there were other Houses upon it & he thinks all the Buildings together might cost £50.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

[627]

N^o: 113 . . .

The Memorial of Robert Hope late of the Province of East Florida in North America Planter.

Sheweth That your Memorialist was possessed in Fee of a valuable Tract of Land containing by Survey two Thousand five hundred Acres situated on the Navigable Six Mile Creek on the East side of the river St John, distant about 12 Miles westward from St Augustine in East Florida, having the said Creek for upwards of two Miles in front, and conveniently intersected by two smaller Creeks.

That the said Tract comprised eight hundred and Seventy five Acres of rich

Cypress swamp Land, fit for rice having a [628] Command of back water from the saw Mill Creek by Dams and from the Six Mile Creek by the Tide. One hundred and seventy five acres of rich Oak and Hiccary Land, fit for Indigo, Cotto[n], Tobacco, Indian Corn, and all sorts of Provisions that grow in these Climates. One thousand four hundred and fifty Acres of Pasture and Pine Land, at all Seasons clothed with rich Pasture for rearing & feeding Horses and Cattle abounding with valuable Pine Trees of the large sizes, fit for Pitch, Tar, Turpentine and Lumber and very convenient and Contiguous to the Navigable Six Mile Creek and from two to five Miles by navigation distance from the river St John.

That there were several useful & Convenient Buildings erected by your Memorialist at a great Expence with Bridges wharfs and Roads for carrying on the Lumber and Planting business to a very great Extent.

That the said Tract was well stocked with very fine Cypress Trees fit for making Canoes of a large size, for Boards, and Shingles [629] Oak & Cedar for Ship Building, Oak, Ash and Heccary, fit for Staves Hoops, Oars, Carts and other useful Purposes, and the best of Firewood, and an immense number of Pine Trees of the largest sizes fit for Pitch Tar Turpentine & Lumber.

That the said Tract with the Wharf & Buildings thereon previous to the Year 1776, was his real Property by Purchase, which he settled at a considerable Expence and which from the first he considered looked up to; and depended upon for an ample Support, and future Provision for his family, and that the whole thereof was lost by the Cession of the said Province to the King of Spain.

That your Memorialist having had the Misfortune to be cast away in his Majesty's late ship the Crocodile he lost all his Papers and Accounts, so that he cannot now Substantiate the Expences of settling the said Tract with that Precision he could otherwise have done yet from the Evidence he will produce, he hopes to be able to establish them fully to your Satisfaction [630] they amounted to a considerable Sum the want of which now renders his Situation distressful to himself and family and for the other Particulars he begs leave to refer you to the Schedule annexed, resting the truth of the same on the Testimony of respectable Witnesses.

[Concluding petition and signature.]

[631]

Schedule . . .

875 Acres of rich Cypress Swamp Land on the Saw Mile [i.e., Mill] & Six Mile Creeks, on the East side of the River St John, and distant 12 Miles westward from St Augustine from both of which Creeks there would have been a Command of Water by Dams, and by the Tide, with a good Wharf at their Conflux.

On this Swamp there were a great Number of Cypress Trees fit for Boards, and Shingles, and for Canoes of a large size; Also Cedar for Building, Ash for

Hoops, Oars, Carts &c, and other useful Timber—36 Acres of this Swamp on the saw Mill Creek, were Cleared, fenced in, and planted with rice.

175 Acres of Oak and Hiccary Land, fit for Indigo, Cotton, Tobacco, Indian Corn, [632] and all sorts of Provisions that grow in these Climates. On this Hamock Land there were Oak for Ship Building, and for Staves, Hiccary for Hoops, and most excellent Firewood & Sixty Acres of this Hamock Land near the saw Mill Creek Swamp and by the Wharf, were cleared, fenced in and planted with Indian Corn, and other Provisions.

1450 Acres of rich Pasture & Pine Land abounding with Pine Trees of the largest sizes, fit for Pitch, Tar, Turpentine, & Lumber. On this Pine Land, there might be about 72,000 Pine Trees fit for the purposes above mentioned; the whole clothed with a constant verdure from succeeding Crops of most excellent Grass for rearing and feeding Horses & Cattle. The whole of this Tract fronted the Six Mile Creek for upwards of two Miles & a half, & so convenient and contiguous to Navigation that no part of it exceeded two Miles distance from the old, or the new Wharf in the said Creek.

In 1777 and 1778 the following Buildings [633] were erected, and other Improvements made, to a considerable Amount, from the expenditure of Lumber, and other Materials, and from the Wages and board of European Carpenters &c for the Convenience of carrying on the Lumber and Planting Business, to a great Extent, and for sole use, and benefit of the said Tract, Vizt—

	Ft.	Ft.
A Dwelling House of 2 Floors, framed with Brick Chimneys	40	by 20
A Corn House with a Lodging room over it	40	by 20
A Cooperage framed	50	by 25
2 Pavilions framed with boarded Floors	12	by 12
An Overseer's House with a boarded Bed room	24	by 16
A House for a Driver framed with a boarded Bedroom	20	by 14
17 Negro Houses framed with boarded Bed place to each,		
a Kitchen an Oven detached from the Dwelling House		
a Garden of near one Acre with a high boarded fence,		
A Wharf begun below the old Wharf on the six mile Creek		
[634] A Dam begun on the Saw Mill Creek for the back Water for the cleared rice Ground on the said Creek; also Roads & Bridges for the Sole Benefit of the said Tract: And at the Time of making the Purchase in October 1776 there were on the Premises a small dwelling house & two Store houses, one of which was large enough to contain upwards of 600 Barrels for Tar, and served a[s] a Temporary Lodging for 34-Negroes till proper Houses were erected for them also a very good Wharf at the Conflux of the Saw Mill with the six Mile Creek, all which had been erected some years previous to the said purchase, and had served as a Conven-		

ient landing place for Travellers, from the West of the River St John, and for Masters of Merchant ships (whose Vessels were loading & unloading in the said river) going to St Augustine, by the road, which was made across the Plantation to the Bridge near the saw Mill on the Tract adjoining

Considering the great Advantage of Situation, with respect to Navigation, & Proximity [635] to St Augustine, the Command of Water in the saw Mill Creek, on which Mills would have been erected, the Navigation of the Six Mile Creek up to the old & New Wharfs, where Vessels of 8 feet water could load & unload, at the latter of which a Schooner of 30 or 40 Tuns was careened; the natural Advantage from Fish, Deer, Wild Turkeys & other Game, with the finest Pasture, & other food for Horses, Cattle, & Hogs, and considering the great Expence for the Purchase, for Provisions Cloaths &c. for the Negroes, Lumber, Nails, Labour &c for building, Plantation Tools &c necessary for clearing, planting & settling the said Tract, (amounting to about £1350) justly valuing the whole at £4123 18s 4d estimated as follows . . .

875 Acres Swamp Land—at 45/-.	£1968 15s 0d
175 Acres Hamock Land—at 35/-.	306 5 0
1450 Acres Pine Land—at 7/6.	543 15 0
Expended in settling the Plantation as under	1315 3 4
	<hr/>
	£4133 18s 4d

[636] Paid Arthur Gordon Esq ^r in part of the Purchase	£ 100 0s 0d
Paid Will: Godfrey on Acct of his Bond to Arthur Gordon Esq ^r	
being in full for my Proportion of the Purchase	100 0 0
Labour of 34 Negroes for 7 Months at £15 th Ann	297 10 0
Cloathing for 34 Negroes—at 40/-	68 0 0
Provisions for Ditto &c as th Account	341 3 4
Hire of 3 European [<i>sic</i>] Carpenters	35 0 0
Overseer's Wages for 7 Months at £30 th Ann	17 10 0
Plantation Tools, Nails, &c for the Buildings	100 0 0
Lumber &c expended	220 0 0
Surveying the Lands	36 0 0
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	£1315 3s 4d

[Witnesses.]

[637] . . .

Febr 27th. 1787.

The Claimant [M^r ROBERT HOPE], was Sworn. Says:

That he was a pursuer of a Man of war, and was frequently at St Augustine in

East Florida, but never resided there—That he never was in East Florida since 1779. That he in 1776—purchased in partnership with M^r Godfrey a Tract of land containing 5000 Acres lying on the east side of St John's river about 12 Miles from St Augustine of Arthur Gordon for £400

That he has not the Original title papers having left them with M^r Alexander his Attorney who he believes has them in the Bahamas. He produced a certified copy of a Grant by General Grant dated 20th of August 1767 to Witter Cumming in fee for 5000 acres bounded on the river St John's and six Mile Creek conditioned for paying a quit rent of one half penny th Acre to the King & for settling the same with protestant white inhabitants within ten years from the date of the grant [638] in the proportion of one protestant White inhabitant for every hundred Acres—and One third to be so settled within three Years from the date of the grants, and certified Copies of indentures of Lease & release dated 21st and 22^d June 1776 from B. Dodd Esq^r Provost Marshall for the whole 5000 Acres to Arthur Gordon Esq^r in fee & certified Copies of other indentures of lease and release dated 1st & 2^d October 1776 from the said Arthur Gordon to M^r Godfrey and the Claimant as jointenants [*sic*] in fee for the same 5000 acres. He says That W^m Godfrey's creditors under a composition with him sold a moiety of the said tract to a M^r Pongree in 1778 who sold the same to M^r Hume, and the other moiety remained the Claimant's property at the time of the cession of the Province.—That immediately upon the Purchase of the said land by Godfrey and the Claimant he and Godfrey jointly settled the said land with 34 Negroes 19 of which were the Claimant's. That the Claimant's Agent M^r Alexander paid £100 part of his Share of the purchase money in 1777 to Arthur Gordon—That [639] M^r Alexander took a rec^t for the same and Charged it to the Claimant in his Account current with the Claimant wh[ic]h was lost in the Crocodile coming from the East Indies—That the other £100 he gave directions to M^r Godfrey to pay out of the Profits of the Estate but he does not know that it ever was so paid—And M^r Gordon has no Claims upon the Claimant for any part of the purchase Money.

That, tho' there was a receipt indorsed upon the back of Gordon's deeds to Godfrey and the Claimant in fact no money was then paid him—Gordon being satisfied with taking Godfrey's bond for the whole Consideration Money—Godfrey's creditors sold his Moiety to M^r Pengree without Making any partition at the time, but a line was drawn Afterwards by consent.

At the time of the Purchase there was upon the Land a small wooden dwelling house framed and boarded and one Story high and two Store houses and exceeding good wharf at the conflux of the saw Mill Creek and the six Mile Creek.

The houses were not in good order [640] but the Wharf was in exceeding good order, with 3 feet depth of water at it—In the six mile Creek the fall of water

was about one foot—The Land except just round about the houses perhaps 4 or 5 Acres was in a State of Nature. A road ran through the land towards St Augustine from the other side of St John's river—Of the 34 Negroes put upon the land all were Workers except one Girl, which were employed in cutting Lumber and in making tar—Godfrey's share of the Land and Negroes were sold and taken away in 1778—and the claimant's share remained for a very short time afterwards and then the plantation was abandoned.

In April or May 1777 when the Claimant found how Godfrey had employed the Negroes he was dissatisfied and threatened to seperate [*sic*] from him unless he cleared land and planted provisions, The Claimant's negroes were taken from the Plantation in Oct: 1778. That the division of the land was not made till after all the Negroes were taken from the land That all the clearing made by Godfrey and [641] the Claimant was on the Claimant's part of the land which was the Eastern part of the tract—

That twenty Acres of Swamp was cleared for rice on saw Mill creek, but it was only partly dammed and not drained, tho it was planted with its first crop—That there were also about 40 Acres of Hammock Land cleared and fenced in fit for planting twenty of which lay adjoining to the cleared Swamp, and the other twenty on the bank of the Swamp of Six Mile Creek.

That Godfrey and the Claimant built a temporary dwelling house 20 by 40 feet long one story high, and his tenant afterwards added another story; and a corn house 40 by 20 and a Cooperage framed 50 by 25, & two small pavillions of one room, in each 12 feet square & 17 Negro Houses and an Overseer's log house.

That when he had had it in his intention to separte himself from Godfrey in 1777 Godfrey & the Claimant then made a Valuation of the Buildings which to the best [642] of his recollection amounted to £200 and these houses were thrown into the Claimant's share of the land in consideration of the claimant's share of the Crop and lumber ready got being sold for Godfrey's creditors—

Upon the Evacuation of Charles Town Major Frazer¹⁸⁴ & Dr Clitherall¹⁸⁵

¹⁸⁴ Thomas Fraser was appointed major of the South Carolina Royalists on August 10, 1780, after having served during the early years of the war in the provincial forces. He participated in many of the sanguinary engagements in South Carolina, including the battle of Musgrove's Mills on the Enoree River on August 19, 1780, where the Americans were victorious, and the affair at Parker's ferry on August 31, 1781, when he commanded about one hundred men of his regiment. In the following December he was with his regiment at the Quarter House, seven miles from Charleston, being then in command of its only company of infantry; but in June, 1782, he was in charge of the five troops of cavalry, still at the Quarter House. While the British were preparing to evacuate Charleston, Major Fraser was married on November 7, 1782, to the daughter of Thomas Loughton Smith, a prominent merchant of Charleston and a member of the commons house of assembly. Retiring to St. Augustine with his regiment, Major Fraser wrote to Brigadier General Archibald McArthur on May 16, 1783,

obtained leave from the claimant's agents to settle upon the land paying the claimant 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ct upon the produce, and remained there upwards of a twelve Month and made some further clearings upon the tract.

That the swamp upon the land was a back water swamp.

That the pine land was in general low pine with a small part of yellow pine ridge, and it produced a good deal of Grass.

He produced an Appraisement under the seal of the province dated 20th May 1783 by John Forbes Thomas Browne & W^m Panton. The Claimant was not then in East Florida but his Agent was and he believes the appraisement was made at the request of that Agent and he supposes he was acquainted [643] with the contents. That in 1777 there was a resurvey made of the whole 5000 acres and there Appeared upon that resurvey to be about 320 acres of Hammock land in the whole tract to the best of the Claimant's recollection.

The resurvey was left with the Claimant's Agent and he believes it was lost. The Claimant has no other Acc^t to give.

[Claimant's confirmation and signature.]

28th. Febr 1787.

The Claimant [*i.e.*, Robert Hope] further says that besides the buildings mentioned yesterday there was a new wharf begun in 1777 the expence of which was included in the valuation of £200.

JOHN MILLER,¹⁸⁶ Witness, Sworn:

Says that in the latter part of Aug: 1777 he went to the Claimant's plantation on Cypress grove in East Florida as his Overseer, and continued there in that capacity till March 1778. During all that time there were [644] 33 or 34 working Negroes employed on the plantation And he left them there when he came away.

That the Negroes began to clear land immediately after Christmas 1777. and he believes they had cleared 15 or 20 Acres of swamp and about 25 or 30 of Ham-

that the soldiers of the South Carolina Royalists wished to receive their discharge in East Florida, that most of them, and the officers as well, desired to embark for some British settlement, but that about one-fourth of the soldiers wanted to return to their families on the continent. See E. A. Jones (ed.), *Journal of Alexander Chesney*, pp. 13, n. 96, 108, 111-112; Rev. W. O. Raymond's unpublished notes from the Muster Rolls; E. McCrady, *South Carolina in the Rev., 1775-1780*, p. 690; *Hist. MSS. Comm., Am. MSS. in R. Inst.*, IV. 84; Additional Notes, *post*, pp. 375, 376.

¹⁸⁵ See Additional Notes, *post*, p. 351.

¹⁸⁶ John Miller was one of the British subjects and merchants in New Providence, one of the Bahama Islands, who were detained there by the Spaniards in 1782. Mr. Miller sent a memorial, dated July 24, 1782, to Lieutenant General Alexander Leslie at Charleston, South Carolina, regarding his detention. See *Hist. MSS. Comm., Am. MSS. in R. Inst.*, III. 35, 311.

mock Land before he came away—The Trees of the Swamp were cleared away and some preparations were made towards a damm across the Saw mill creek but it was not drained.

He does not know how long the Negroes were Kept upon the plantation after he left it. There was a corn house and two dwelling houses finished before he came away and a cooperage a new wharf and some other buildings were begun but not finished—He does not know the quantities of the several kinds of land upon the tract, and there was some corn planted but no rice whilst he staid there—The land was cleared only in a rough way by cutting down and burning the trees There was a garden fenced in with Clapboards but the Hammock and Swamp land that [645] were cleared were not fenced in—That he the Witness was Steward of a Man of War and never was an Overseer upon any plantation before & consequently not a judge of the Value of lands.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

Major THOMAS FRASER, Witness, Sworn, Says:

That he went to St Augustine in East Florida in December 1782—That some time in January 1783 he the Witness and Dr Clitherall his father in law put about 70 working Negroes upon Mr Hope's plantation on Cypress Grove and were by agreement to pay him eight £ Ct upon the produce of their labour upon that plantation. In March 1783 he was upon the plantation. The buildings upon the plantation were of a better kind than those generally found upon plantations there but were much out of repair; He cannot form any Opinion of the value of the Houses but he thinks the whole buildings and all the improvements except the clearing of the land upon the Plantation might have [646] been built new for about £300 to £400 Ster: That in March and April 1783 he had planted about 30 Acres of Swamp in rice roughly fenced in but not ditched or dammed. That his & Dr Chitherall's [*sic*] negroes cleared then thirty acres of the grass and underwood that had grown up. They also cleared about 10 acres of Hammock land but did not plant it.

That in April 1783 there were from 40 to 50 acres of Hammock land in cultivation.

That before April 1783 he built some additional negroe Houses and repaired the Cooperage but was at no other expence upon the houses. He cannot speak to the number of acres of uncleared Hammock land upon the tract.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

[647]

Nº 178 . . .

The Memorial of Catherine Creighton Widow of Thomas Creighton late of the Town of St Augustine in the Province of East Florida deceased, in behalf of herself and her Infant Daughter Jane Creighton heir at Law of the said Thomas Creighton.

Sheweth That your Memorialist's said Husband was for many years an Inhabitant of the said Town of St Augustine and that during the late unhappy Troubles in America he took an active part in the Service of His Majesty, and in Consideration thereof was Honoured by General Provot [*i.e.*, Prevost]¹⁸⁷ with a Captain's Commission, which Commission was granted by the General [648] merely for the purpose of Protecting him from Ill treatment by the Enemy should he have been so unfortunate as to have fallen into their Power, and was not intended to have given him Rank in the British Army.

That your Memorialist's said Husband went from Saint Augustine to Charles-town and remained there until it was Evacuated by the King's Troops who were put on board the Aurora Transport Ship, which was unloaded without the Bar of St Augustine, and the Effects of your Memorialist's said Husband (consisting chiefly of Household Furniture as per Schedule annexed) were put on Board a Sloop which was unfortunately lost on the Bar of Saint Augustine and your Memorialist's said Husband thereby sustained a very considerable loss, not being able to save any of his Effects but one Trunk of wearing Apparel—and at the same time lost all his Papers.

That your Memorialist's said Husband was employed in Baking Bread for the Garrison of Saint Augustine and bought a House there for the purpose of carrying on [649] his Business for the Price of Two hundred and Sixty pounds—that he was at a Considerable Expence in repairing the same and particularly in Erecting Ovens all which he lost by the Cession of the said Province.

That your Memorialist's said Husband went to the Island of Jamaica and continued for a short time there in a very bad State of Health and was thereby rendered Incapable of following his Business and very soon after his Arrival at the said Island departed this Life leaving your Memorialist with a Young Child very Ill and in great Distress. That his Excellency General Campbell¹⁸⁸ then Governor of Jamaica

¹⁸⁷ See Additional Notes, *post*, p. 353. For the claim and award of Mrs. Creighton, see *post*, p. 362.

¹⁸⁸ Brigadier General Archibald Campbell with a force of three thousand men from New York captured Savannah, Georgia, on December 29, 1779. Early in 1782 he was sent to Jamaica as lieutenant governor, and remained there about three years, during which time he welcomed numbers of Southern Loyalists, including many from East Florida. See also Additional Notes, *post*, p. 351.

very Humanely and Generously afforded your Memorialist a constant supply of Provisions during her stay at Jamaica and gave orders that she should be sent to Great Britain free of Expence.

That your Memorialist is at present unable to Furnish your Honors with the Names and places of abode of such persons as can give Testimony as to the Truth of [650] her Case neither can she supply your Honors with written Evidence having lost her papers as aforesaid, And therefore humbly Prays that your Honors will be pleased to grant your Memorialist time and leave to enquire for such persons and that you will also be pleased to allow her to add their names to this Memorial at a future time—in order that your Memorialist may upon their Testimony and under the Report of your Honors receive such compensation and relief for her Losses as she may be found to deserve.

[Signature.]

[651]

Schedule . . .

A Dwelling House and Town Lot in St Augustine bought in 1776 for the Price of	£260	os	od
A Bakehouse, Ovens &c, Built, and Sundrys done to the House which cost upwards of	30	0	0
A House Built in 1782 on Public Ground	30	0	0
Another House			
	<hr/>		
Sterling	£320	os	od

The following is a List of Furniture lost in the Sloop which was wrecked on the Bar of St Augustine as above set forth.

Two Pair of Dining Tables	}	£150	os	od
Two pair of Card Tables				
Two side Boards				
One dressing Table				
Eighteen Chairs				
Three Bedsteads				
One Book Case				
One Escrutore [sic]				

[652] One Chest of Drawers all Mahogany cost upw^{ds} of
Upwards of one hundred Ounces of plate
Wearing Apparel worth more than

25	0	0
100	0	0
<hr/>		
£275	os	od

[Witnesses:]

[653] The Claim of Catherine Creighton in behalf of herself &
her Child heard 9th March 1787.

The Claimant is the Widow of Thomas Creighton a baker in St Augustine, who died intestate about Christmas 1785 leaving the Claimant his Widow and an Infant Daughter named Jane now about Six Years Old.

That she was married in St Augustine in the Year 1776 and her husband purchased the house and Lot lying upon the bay which is claimed in the memorial about two or three Months after her marriage.

That her husband bought the house of M^r McLeod agent for John Heitman for the Consideration of £260 which was paid by her husband to W^m McLeod¹⁸⁰ in the Claimant's presence—Immediately after his purchase. He built a slight Wooden bake house and two large ovens upon the lot the expence of which she does not know, Her husband being baker to the Garrison

In 1780 she went with her husband from [654] St Augustine to Charles Town and in Oct: 1782 she returned to St Augustine without her husband who intended to follow her but was prevailed upon to go to Jamaica as a more advantageous place for him.

After the Claimant got to St Augustine having been shipwrecked on her passage, there was a subscription raised for her Assistance and the money amounting to £60 was laid out in two houses built upon King's land for her use. That the reason of her laying out the money so raised for her in houses instead of going to reside in her husband's was that there was a tenant in her husband's house and she was advised that she would be more commodiously Lodged in them than she would be by living in the house with her husband's tenant,—and the reason why two houses were purchased instead of one was that they belonged to a Soldier who would not part with one without the other. She produced a certified Copy of a grant of a lot in St Augustine known by the No 4. in Dunnett's quarter to John Heitman in fee dated 26th Dec: 1770. Says [655] That her husband when he purchased his lot and house took a deed for it from Heitman which was lost when he was shipwrecked. That when her husband left Augustine for Charles town he left his house under the care of Barnhart Humbert as his Attorney who rented it to one Smith she does not know for what rent.

[Claimant's confirmation and signature.]

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

That he knew the Claimant in St Augustine and that she was married to

¹⁸⁰ William McLeod was one of the men elected to membership in the commons house of assembly in East Florida in March, 1781. See C. O. 5/572.

Thomas Creighton in St Augustine—That he recollects Creighton's purchasing a House and lot in St Augustine of one Heitman and living in it but he Knows nothing of of [*sic*] the payment of the consideration.

That Creighton built an Oven or Ovens upon the lot but he can say nothing of the expence of building them and he knows nothing of the Purchase of the other houses in the Claimant's Memorial.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

[656] JAMES SCOTLAND, a Witness, Sworn, Says:

that he knows nothing about Thomas Creighton's purchase of the house and lot claimed, but he remembers Creighton's living in it and that he was the reputed owner of it—That he remembers Creighton building one oven upon the lot in the Year 1779—That he had erected an oven previous to that time He is convinced the bricks alone would cost £20 Sterling and the workmanship would amount to more than £12—That he the Witness sold to Thomas Creighton 420 feet of 3 inch plank for the foundation for the oven at 20/—per Ct, and that there was a shingled cover put over the over [*i.e.*, oven] which he thinks would cost £5—That he does not know that he built any thing else upon the lot—That Thomas Creighton quitted Augustine & went to Charles town in 1780 and the Claimant went with him but returned without him to St Augustine, and having been shipwrecked and being in distress a contribution was made for her and two small houses purchased for her on public ground and at that time she was not considered to have [657] any right to the house and lot purchased by her husband. That the Contribution made for her amounted to £50 and £30 was paid for the houses for her—That he knew Barnhart Humbert but he does not know whether Creighton left him as his Agent when he went to Charles town.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

[658 blank]

[659]

Nº 28 . . .

The Humble Memorial of William Chapman
of the Town and County of the Town of Newcastle upon Tyne
Gentleman on Behalf of himself—And of Thomas Horne of
the City of London Coal factor John Walker of North Shields in
the County of Northumberland Ropemaker and Henry Taylor
of the same place Ship Broker Assignees of the Estates and Ef-
fects of W^m Chapman the Younger and John Chapman both late
of Newcastle upon Tyne aforesaid Dealers Chapman and Co-
partners in Trade, Bankrupts, on Behalf of themselves the said
Thomas Horne John Walker and [660] Henry Taylor and
of all other the Creditors of the said William Chapman the
Younger and John Chapman

Sheweth That your Memorialist William Chapman and his sons the said William Chapman the Younger and John Chapman were induced by the favourable Accounts they had received of his Majesty's late Province of East Florida and by the Advantages enjoyed under the British Colonial Government to purchase in the Months of October and November in the Year 1773 Mandamuses or Orders in Council for 40,000 Acres of land in the said Province with a Design of Locating the same and making a Settlement thereon. And in consequence of such Purchases engaged proper Agents hired Vessels and laid out considerable Sums of Money for Impliments Utensils Cattle Cloathing Provisions and other Necessaries to send over to the said intended Settlement.

That previous to their setting sail from London Viz: in February 1774 your [661] Memorialist William Chapman and his said Sons also purchased of W^m Knox Esq^r:¹⁴⁰ then Secretary to the right Honourable Lord George Germain a valuable Tract of 12,000 Acres of Land situate on the River St Mary on the Northern Boundary of the said Province of East Florida.

That your Memorialists at a great Expence in erecting Buildings and cleaning of land established a rice plantation in the said Tract on St Mary's River and were in a likely way of reaping adequate profits therefrom when in consequence of the unhappy Dissentions at that time prevailing in America and the refusal of the servants of your Memorialist William Chapman and his said Sons to join the revoltors against his Majesty's Government they found it necessary to retire in the

¹⁴⁰ See Additional Notes, *post*, p. 352.

Night of the 22^d of May 1776 to Amelia Island at the Mouth of St Mary's river with such of the Negroes and Effects as they could carry off in the Plantation Boates leaving behind them a Cutter named the Florida Packet, their Stock of Cattle and other [662] valuable Effects under the care of some of their Negroes. And a few Days afterwards the Revolters came over to the said Plantation of your said Memorialist William Chapman and his Son, set fire to all the Buildings in the Plantation, to their said Cutter, and to a Tar Kiln ready for lighting, destroyed their Crop of Rice, drove off their Cattle, and carried off or dispersed the Negroes left behind to take Care of the Plantation.

That the Agents of your Memorialist William Chapman and of his said Sons with such Negroes Utensils and Effects as they had brought off from their said Plantation did not long remain on the said Island before they were Obligated from the daily Incursions and ravages of the revolters and on the Approach of their armed Gallies, to retire to St John's river and to settle on a small Tract which they bought for your said Memorialists William Chapman and his said Sons near Piccolata Fort with a view of subsisting themselves and Negroes by the cutting of Lumber and raising of naval Stores until such Time [663] as the hoped for Success of his Majesty's Arms should enable them to return to the Plantation on St Mary's River which was capable of bringing in a very ample Arrival Income.

That the Agents of your Memorialists W^m Chapman and of his said Sons from the Barrenness of the Soil they were compelled to take Refuge upon and the Dearness of Provisions (they not being able to maintain themselves) were under the Necessity of drawing from Time to Time for various Sums of Money on your said Memorialists William Chapman and his said Sons which Sums from the above stated and from other losses sustained by the War they were not able to continue to pay. Therefore your said Memorialist William Chapman and his said Sons ordered their Agents to dispose of their Negroes and the Lands they had purchased on or near St John's river, to pay of [*sic*] all Bills and discharge the various Debts that had accrued there, which which [*sic*] together exhausted the Major Part of the Property saved from the Plantation on St Mary's river insomuch that the Loss of your [664] Memorialist William Chapman and his said Sons in the said Province of East Florida (exclusive of the Loss of above £2000 for Interest for Money) amounts from the best Calculation they are able to make to the Sum of £8662 1s 7d as will appear from the following Statement viz:

Two Orders in Council for Land in East Florida for 10,000 Acres each cost in the Year 1773 with Charges	£ 307 15s 1d
An Order in Council for 20,000 Acres more in the same Province cost in the said year 1773 with charges	211 17 6

A Tract of 12,000 Acres on Saint Mary's River in the said Province cost in February 1774 with Charges

1111 2 11

William Roberts Esquire late of the Plantation Office can speak to the Purchase of these lands and the Orders in Council.

The Tract of 12,000 Acres on which the Plantation had been established and from which the Servants of your Memorialist W^m Chapman and his [665] Sons were driven by the Rebels was in its improved State valued on the 17th of May 1783 at the Sum of £3680 by George Miller Alexander M^r Queen and William Taylor three Florida Planters and such valuation sworn to by them before the Honourable John Forbes Esq^r¹⁴¹ Senior Assistant Judge as appears by their Affidavit and the Certificate of his Excellency Patrick Tonyn Esquire Governor of the said Province

Cost of 35 Negroes in the Year 1774 and 1775	3680 0 0
Cost of Impliments and Utensils sent to the plantation	1931 2 23/4
Cost of the Stock of Cattle and Hogs to breed from	291 11 11 1/4
Cloathing Provisions Salaries Wages & Expences of Improving the said plantation on St Mary's River	79 11 5
	1288 19 6

£8902 0s 7d

Carried over

[666]

Brought forward £8902 0s 7d

Deduct

Balance received from the Plantation Agent after the Sale of the Negroes and Effects saved from the Rebels	240 0 0
nett loss exclusive of about 12 years interest	8662 0 7
Suppose loss of Interest at least	3000 0 0

Total Loss £11662 0s 7d

All these Accounts can be verified by the Books of Account of William Chapman Junior and John Chapman now in the hands of your Memorialist's and ready to be produced to your Honours—

[. . . 666-667—Concluding petition, signatures, date, and witnesses.]

[668 blank]

[669] . . .

13th. March 1787.

JOHN CHAPMAN one of the Bankrupts, a Witness, Sworn Says:

That his Father W^m Chapman the Elder the deponent and his brother W^m

¹⁴¹ See Additional Notes, *post*, p. 360; also Volume I, pp. 5-7.

Chapman the younger were the purchasers of the property in East Florida which is the subject of the present claim in equal shares. That in the Month of October 1773 they purchased of Francis Rush Clarke¹⁴² an order of Council for 10000 acres of Land in East Florida to be laid off in one contiguous tract for £105 Sterling the purchasers were to be at the expence of passing the Mandamus and he paid in fees for the same £18 4s 6d to M^r: Roberts for his commissions 42£, for the city seal to the transfer £1 12s 0d and the 100 guineas to M^r: Clarke. He produced two Bills dated 27th September 1773 by W^m Chapman in favour of Francis Rush Clarke or order, One for £25 and the other for 45£ indorsed by Clarke.

Produced a paper (A) which he says is [670] a copy of an order of the King in Council dated 13th. of June 1767 to the Governor of East Florida to grant 10000 Acres of Land to Francis Rush Clarke upon the Conditions mentioned in the order.

Says That in November 1773 they purchased of Sir James Esdaile another order of council for 20000 acres of Land in East Florida to be granted to Sir James Esdaile for £102 7s 6d and were also to pay the fees as before.

He produced a paper (B) which he says is a Copy of an order of the King in Council dated 13th May 1767. In March 1774 they purchased 12000 acres of land in East Florida from William Knox for £1050 which was actually paid.

He produced a grant dated 12th Jan^y 1769 from Governor Grant to W^m Knox of 12000 acres on the South Side of St-Mary's river to hold to W^m Knox in fee conditioned as ^{to} the terms of the grant.

He produced a Copy of a Lease and release dated the 9th and 10th March 1774 [671] from W^m Knox¹⁴³ to W^m & John Chapman in fee as tenants in common of the above mentioned tract of 12000 Acres for the consideration of £1050 with a receipt indorsed for the same which are registered in the Court of King's bench.

He says that W^m Chapman the Elder has an equal share of the land with himself and his brother, which fact is admitted by Thomas Horne one of the Assignees who is present at this Examination.

At the time of this purchase M^r: Knox had been at no further Expence upon this tract than the fees of the Survey & Grant, Says That in 1774 they, the above partners, sent out W^m Taylor as their Agent to take possession of and cultivate Knox's tract who arrived at Charles Town South Carolina 22^d Sep^r 1774 and soon

¹⁴² Francis Rush Clark was commissioned on June 8, 1776, by George III. as inspector and superintendent of the provision train of horses and wagons attending the army. He served throughout the war as "Inspector of Provisions," and on January 14, 1783, memorialized the commander-in-chief for new employment. See *Hist. MSS. Comm., Am. MSS. in R. Inst.*, I. 45, 73, 161, II. 285, III. 328; *Second Report*, Bureau of Archives, Ont., 1904, pt. II., p. 752.

¹⁴³ The name of William Knox, Esq., first appears in the Minutes of the Council of East Florida under date of January 12, 1767, when Governor James Grant signed a grant of twelve thousand acres of land in his behalf. See C. O. 5/570.

afterwards he went upon the tract and he had orders to sell the two orders for Land purchased from Clarke and Sir James Esdaile, for which purpose he carried the two orders with him; and to cultivate the 12000 acres purchased from Knox.

John Chapman

[672]

21st March 1787.

M^r: JOHN LETTENNEY, a witness, Sworn

proves the examination of the lease and release marked (D) from Will^m Knox to W^m and John Chapman with the rolls N^o 250 & 25 recorded in the Court of King's Bench.—And he proves the receipt of the Orders of Council marked (A) & (B) from M^r: Thomas Daw a Clerk in the Office of one of the Secretaries of State.

He proves the handwriting of all the Commissioners and of the subscribing witness to the Assignment of W^m Chapman and John Chapman's effects to Mess^{rs}: Horne Walker and Taylor.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

M^r: JOHN CHAPMAN, a Witness, in continuation:

M^r: Thomas Horne produced his Ledger and Acc^t: Current with Will^m and John Chapman in which he has in Nov^r: 1773 debited W^m and John Chapman with three bills drawn by them in favour of F. R. Clarke paid by him amounting [673] to 105£—which M^r: John Chapman says was for the purchase of the order of Council to Clarke for 10000 The Sum of £102 7s 6d was paid by W^m Roberts's bill on Horne and Kemp and it appears from the same ledger that Will^m & John Chapman are debited £102 7s 6d for a bill drawn by M^r: Roberts in favour of St James Esdaile for that Sum which Horne and Kemp paid, by M^r: Chapman's order on the 29th Dec^r 1773.

He says that the fees and expences in passing Sir James Esdaile's order, including the city seal amounted to £20 17s and M^r: Roberts's commissions to £84 at 1d ^{per} Acre and the payment of these Sums appears to be proved by Horne and Kemp's ledger—but the fees and expences of Clarke's order do not appear in that Ledger.

He says that Will^m Taylor settled upon Knox's tract in Jan^y 1775 with 35 Negroes and in Sept^r of the same year he purchased ten more and put them on the same Tract and continued there with the Negroes, except such as died in the time till 22d May 1776. [674] at which time they were driven off by the Americans and went to Amelia Island and other parts of East Florida where the Claimant had no land, and never returned to St Mary's. He produced a letter from W^m Taylor the Agent dated 5th. April 1775, who mentions their having begun a plantation at the Cabbage Swamp, having got a Log house built 15 feet square and a frame for

another house 20 feet by 12—three log houses large enough for all their Negroes—10 acres of high land cleared and 3 of them planted with potatoes—the timber of 9 acres of Swamp cut down and the under wood of ten more—his expectation of having 18 or 20 Acres of Swamp and 14 or 15 acres of high land cleared and planted this Season.—He produced another letter from W^m Taylor dated 4th October 1776—giving an acct of his being driven from the plantation by the Americans who plundered and destroyed all the buildings upon the plantation, and his going with the negroes to Amelia Island about 7 or 8 Miles nearer the mouth of St: John's—He produced an Appraisement under the Seal [675] of the province by G. Miller Alexander M^cQueen and W^m Taylor dated 17th May 1783 stating this tract [*sic*]

[676 blank]

[677]

N^o 36 . . .

The Memorial of Captain Alexander Steuart
late of East Florida. Inhabitant. and Militia Officer—
constantly employed

Sheweth That your Memorialist had for several Years been comfortably and well settled in the Province of South Carolina; but having in the late war join'd His Majesty's Troops on their first entrance into that Province and continuing afterwards to act with them in a Military Capacity he was compell'd on the Evacuation of Charles town to abandon it; and carrying with him such small part of his Property as he was able to get together, and save from the general Wreck—he moved to East Florida, where also for some time he acted in a Military character under the orders and [678] Commission of His Excellency Governor Tonyn in the command of a Battalion of Volunteer Militia; and for his Services in that command in protecting the Persons and Properties of his fellow Subjects against the Incursions of a lawless Banditti that infested the Frontiers of the Province, and in dispersing said Banditti, he had the Honour to receive the Thanks of his Excellency—That settling on the River St: John's in said Province he acquired there some Property both Real and Personal; but all which he lost in consequence of the Session of said Province to the King of Spain. Viz:

A Lot of Land in the Town of St: John's Bluff in Fee—purchased—and several Houses &c. erected on the same; A quantity of Lumber, Household furniture, Horses &c as will particularly appear in the Schedule Annex'd.

[. . . 678-679—Concluding petition and signature.]

[680 blank]

[681]

Schedule . . .

- N^o 1. One Lot of Land in the Town of St: John's Bluff corner of water street—containing One half Acre and upwards—And cost £ 30 0s 0d
2. A Dwelling house, Kitchen, Stables, &c besides a Garden in a State of good Cultivation the whole Lot compleatly inclosed at considerable expence—Cost 200 0 0
3 Reasonable Allowance or Profit for time, labour and expence on the above, as the Lot would have let well or sold for considerably more than the cost charged had the Province remained to his Majesty, and in the belief of which the above Expences were incur'd

£230 0s 0d

[682] Personal.

- N^o 1. A quantity of Sundry kinds of Lumber Viz: Shingles, Boards, Planks, Cedar &c denied Shipping by the Agent of Transports tho' ordered by the Governor—therefore Obligated to leave the whole on the Beach at St: Mary's in all 7000 feet at an Average of 16/- @ hundred 56 0 0
2. Household furniture lost 20 0 0
3 Horses @ Bills of Sale, and receipts in particular Acct: 54 13 2

Total Loss Real and Personal

£360 13s 2d

Evidence in Proof of the Claimant's Services in East Florida.
His Excellency Governour Tonyn's Certificate &c. &c. herewith laid before the Board.

In proof of his Losses and Value of Property lost. [Witnesses.]

[683] . . .

14th March 1787.

The Claimant [Captain ALEXANDER STUART] Sworn, Says:

that he came to St: John's Bluff in East Florida in Dec: 1782 and quitted the province in August 1785. That he in Jan^y 1783 agreed for the purchase of a Lot for £36 of M: John Williamson in St: Johns Bluff at the Corner of water street and Prince's street of the Common size of the lots in that town.

That he never paid any money nor gave any Security for it, and never had any conveyance from Williamson for the Lot. That he ditched the Lot in and run a cedar post and rail pailing round it, and built a 16 by 24 framed house with short

shingles one story high a post in the ground Kitchen covered in with Clapboards 10 by 12 feet and a small post in the ground Stable with planked sides and roof—and a small fowl house about 8 feet square. That he purchased all the Materials for the buildings on the lot—but he has no Account of the expence of them, and he never [684] had any Appraisement made of them in East Florida.

He says he is confident the improvements cost him £200 but he has no account of materials or Workmanship.

When he first went to St: John's he was obliged to put up a temporary House on a different piece of ground.

That he began to build on the Lot in April 1783—and he continued building thereon until the Spaniards took possession of St: August. [*sic*] 1st Article of 700 feet lumber was purchased in the Summer of 1785 by the Claimant chiefly of Mr: Buckingham with an intention of building a house in new Providence and was obliged to leave it at St: Mary's. He has no Account or receipts to produce.

2d article of household furniture. He says he can give no account of particulars

For the article of 10 horses he produced receipts and bills of Sale from the several persons of whom they were purchased all dated subsequent to April 1783—

[685] Says that he never sold or carried away any part of the property in his Memorial.

[Claimant's confirmation and signature.]

STEPHEN WHITE, Witness, sworn:

Says that he was an old settler at St: John's Bluff and was there when the Claimant came there, and that he saw him in the possession of a house in St: John's Bluff about the latter end of 1784 but whether he bought the house or built it himself he knows not.

That he was only once or twice in the house and never took any particular notice of it and therefore can give no Account of it's Value. He believes the Claimant had some horses at St: John's Bluff but cannot say how many.

He knows nothing of any other part of the Claimant's property.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

GEORGE TALLACK, Witness, sworn:

Says That he was not at St: John's Bluff [686] when the Claimant came there.

That he was never above once in the Claimant's house and that was in or about the beginning of the year 1785.

That he took no particular notice of the house and therefore he can say nothing of the value of it, nor can he say whether the Claimant built it or not.

That he can say nothing of any other part of the Claimant's Property.—Says

that the house which the Witness built in St: John's Bluff cost him £50 and was a better house than the Claimant's.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

March 16th 1787.

ALEXANDER PATTERSON, Witness, Sworn:

Says that he was for the first time one Night in the year 1785 in the Claimant's house in St: John's Bluff but he does not know whether he built it or bought it or when it was built.

He can't say the value of it—. He can't [687] say any thing else as to the Claimant's property.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

[688 blank]

[689]

N^o 48 . . .

The Memorial of Benjamin Springer
late of East Florida Planter and Dealer.

Sheweth That the Memorialist a Native of England having been several years well settled in South Carolina, previous to the late War had acquired there a considerable Property, in Land and Plantations well stocked and Cultivated but abhorring the Idea of forfeiting his Allegiance to his King and Native Country, he in the year 1776 formed the resolution of moving into East Florida with all such Parts of his moveable Property as he should be able to take with him, in consequence of the encouragement held out by Authority for all men in his Situation [690] so to do, and had obtained a Passport from his Excellency Gov: Tonyn for the purpose; but his intention having been discover'd, it was not till the year 1779, and after having experienced variety of Losses Dangers and Difficulties constantly moving from place to place—that he was able to effect his said purpose—first joining the King's Troops in Georgia, and thence get[t]ing to St: Augustine.

That in East Florida—where he trusted he might enjoy the fruits of of [*sic*] his Industry in Peace and security—he invested all his remaining fortune in the Purchase, leasing and improving of Land, but considerable Parts of his Leaseholds were destroyed to him, by being Occupied in Fortifications judged necessary for the Defence of St: Augustine—and the whole Property of every kind was soon after—

wards lost to him in consequence of the Cession of the Province to the King of Spain—The particulars of which well appear in the Schedule Annexed.

[. . . -691—Concluding petition and signature.]

[692 blank]

[693] Schedule . . .

No 1. A Plantation purchas'd—And a very great further expence brought to a state of good cultivation, producing both rice & Indigo of the first qualities—The estate containing 500 Acres with Dwelling and all other Houses necessary on the same—the whole much undervalued by Appraisement taken in the Province—at no more than	£485	0s	0d
N.B. the above was not by any means adequate to the immediate value of the Estate And far very far less if considered with any view to futurity.			
2. 500 Acres of Land enter'd in the Land office of the Province, at [694] the time when Loyalists were invited by the Governor to take Refuge in the Province, which with the expence and Labour of Searching for and making the location was well worth	150	0	0
No 3. Nine valuable Negroe Slaves—lost well worth £50 each on an Average	450	0	0
4. 200 head of grown Hogs—purchased at 20/- the average, and therefore with their Increase certainly worth	200	0	0
5. 50 head of Horses average £8 ₤	400	0	0
6. Plantation Tools and Utensils with a large quantity of Garden seeds	250	0	0
7. A small Schooner, several Flat Boats & Canoes	100	0	0
8 Amount of Damages sustained by the Claimant on his Lands (held on a Lease for three Yea[r]s) [695] all joining the Town of St Augustine by Fortifications erected on the same—the whole containing 200 acres (of which 50 were in garden ground) fenced and otherwise well improved at very great labour and expence, therefore with the entire loss of the then Standing Crop moderately valued as ₤ particular Accounts at	£300	0s	0d

Total Loss £2335 0s 0d

. . . [696] . . .

[697] M^r Springer having died before his examination his Executors and Devises have lodged the following Memorial . . .

The Memorial of Richard Dabbs and John Jones
of Old Street Square in the County of Middlesex.

Sheweth That Benjamin Springer Esquire formerly of Coosahatchia near Indian Land in South Carolina, afterwards of the Province of Georgia in America, and late of Old Street square aforesaid a Loyalist some time ago presented his Memorial therein stating an Account of some of the Losses and sufferings sustained by him in consequence of his refusing to take up Arms in behalf of Congress and to swear Allegiance to them—

That since the said Benjamin Springer so presented his said Memorial he hath departed this Life having first duly made and published [698] his last Will and Testament in writing and thereby Given and Bequeathed to your Memorialists his Estate and Effects in the manner and proportions thereip mentioned and appointed your Memorialist Richard Dabbs Sole Executor.

That your Memorialist Richard Dabbs hath since duly proved the said Will of the said Benjⁿ Springer deceased whereby he is become his personal Representative and Intitled to his Estate and Effects.

[Concluding petition and signatures.]

[699] The Memorialist Rich^d Dabbs Exect^r of M^r Benjamin Springer Dece^d begs leave to Charge a Negro Man which was Omitted by the said Benjamin Springer in his Schedule value £60

The above Negro was tryed by the Laws of that Country for Misdemeanor &c and found Guilty, (and was Executed,) the said Benjamin Springer was to have the value of the Negro paid him by Government, but the Province being Ceded to the King of Spain twas, Neglected by which means, said Benjⁿ Springer did not receive any benefit their [*sic*] from Evidence for the same

David Yeats Esq^r
M^r Edwards

[700 blank]

[701] . . .

16th March 1787.

RICH^d DABBS executor of Benjⁿ Springer Sworn:

Says that his Testator Benjⁿ Springer died 9th Dec^r 1786.

He produced a probate of M^r Springer's will which appears to be dated 28th

Novr 1785. by which he gave all his estate real and personal except 3/- which he bequeathed to his Wife and Son and Daughter to Rich^d Dabbs giving one fourth part of the nett produce thereof to his Servant John Jones and appointing Richard Dabbs his sole executor.

He can give no Account of the testator's property, but will produce witnesses who will prove it—He has heard the testator say he had a plantation in East Florida upon which he had he had [*sic*] laid out 3000 guineas.

He produced an Appraisement of the testator's property under the seal of the province dated 24th day of July 1783 by John Tenant and John Couper—of 500 acres of land on the 12 Mile Swamp with the improvements valued [702] together at £485 (see the appraisement)

He produced a Grant from Gov^t Tonym to John Proctor in fee of 500 acres of land on the 12 Mile swamp dated 5th of Nov^r 1779—with condition's as usual and a lease and release dated 19th and 20th Jan^r 1780 by which Jn^o Proctor for the consideration £150 conveys the 500 acres to Ben: Springer in fee with a receipt for the consideration money indorsed.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

DAVID YEATS, Witness, sworn:

Says that he was upon the testator's plantation as he believes in 1781 when he had begun his improvements but he cannot say what quantity of land he had cleared or what number of Negroes he had upon it—having been upon it only about an hour. That the lands upon the 12 mile swamp were in general very good lands—but he never was upon the land but once. That he had then just begun his improvements.

He can give no other Account of [703] the testator's property lost in East Florida.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

21st March 1787.

Mr: JOHN MOORE, witness, sworn:

Says that he knew Benj^o Springer and his Plantation in East Florida. That he was upon the plantation in 1782 in his way from Picolata fort to St. Augustine, and that he slept there once.

That there was at this time a dwelling house about 18 or 20 feet square (post in the ground) of two rooms only one story, a small log barn and some negroe houses and new frame of a house building but he does not know the size of it, and he does not know whether any of them were down or disposed of in East Florida.

He thinks there were about 20 or 25 acres cleared fenced in and planted with

provisions. There were some Negroes upon it but he does not know the number he thinks he saw about 8 or Nine Workers—That there was also a rice field cleared fenced and [704] planted but he does not know how many Acres it contained, nor how it was cleared or prepared.

He says that the six mile creek navigable for canoes runs through the Tract—That the land is boggy and deep—

That he has heard Springer since he came to London say that several of his Negroes had run away from him before the province was given up.—He says that Springer had about 20 Horses in 1783 which he bought from M^r: Manuel¹⁴⁴ but he does not know when they were purchased nor what they were worth, but he thinks they might have been bought for about £3 or £4 a piece.

That he thinks there were about 16 or 17 of them upon the Witness's father's plantation where they were generally kept in the year 1785 after Springer had left the Province.

He knows nothing of any other part of Springers property.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

[705] BOB (a black), Witness, sworn:

Says that he was a Slave belonging to Springer in East Florida and that Springer bought him about 7 Years before he quitted Florida which was after the peace.

That he remembers Springer's purchasing a plantation in East Florida near the 12 Mile swamp; and that the six mile creek ran near the plantation. That when Springer purchased it there was but little land cleared, and he, Springer, put 40 working Negroes upon it.

That the usual task for the slaves in clearing land was to assign two of them to an acre who cleared it in about 3 Weeks, and that Springer's Negroes were employed about 3 Weeks in clearing rice & swamp and about as long in clearing Hammock.

That there were left upon the plantation when he came away about fifty head of of [*sic*] horses and forty head of Cattle.

That there was also left a decked schooner and two large boats which his Master had bought in Carolina and brought to St. Augustine, [706] and were in good order when they were left

That there were fifty head of Hogs left upon the Plantation.

[Witness's confirmation and mark.]

¹⁴⁴ In the Minutes of the Council of East Florida, October 31, 1764, to July 15, 1765, is mentioned George Manuel, a reduced sergeant, for whom a grant of two hundred acres of land was made, "being His Majesty's royal Bounty." See C. O. 5/570.

M^r DENYS ROLLE, ^{144a} a witness, Sworn:

Says that in the year 1779 or 1780 he was upon M^r Springer's plantation when the rice was in the ear and he walked through the rice field and it was very fine and flourishing and he believes there were about 16 or 20 acres of land in it.—That it was not dammed nor was there any back Water that he remembers, and he believes it was only prepared for cultivation by the trees being cut down and the land broke up. That there was hammock land cleared and planted in provisions but he cannot say how many acres there were in it—That he can say nothing of the Value of the houses upon the plantation.

That he does not know how many Negroes Springer had upon the plantation, [707] perhaps 20 or 30 or perhaps more.

He can say nothing more of M^r Springer's property.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

[708 blank]

[709]

N^o 49. . . .

The Memorial of Francis Levett ^{144b} late of the Province of East Florida planter but now of N^o 22 Gresse Street London.

Sheweth That your Memorialist a Setler in East Florida from it's earliest period, after having experienced many hardships and disappointments naturally attending Setlers in a new Country, and a great expenditure of Money (as will hereafter appear in a subsequent claim for the Loss of his Paternal Estate, to which he is Co-Heir) became possessed of a considerable real and Personal Estate acquired by himself, and unconnected, All which Real Estate, and such part of his Personal Estate, as set forth in the annext Schedule became lost to him in consequence of the Cession of Florida to Spain, besides many subsequent Losses, following from the Effects of a removal from one Country to another not set forth, yet felt in every degree, in consequence of the Cession of the Country.

[710—Concluding petition, signature, and witnesses.]

[711]

Schedule . . .

A Town Lott in the Town of St Augustine situated in Charlotte Street and the Parade, with a

^{144a} See Additional Notes, *post*, p. 367; see also pp. 287-297.

^{144b} See *post*, pp. 307, 328.

Dwelling House built of Stone, Store-houses, out Houses and other buildings purchased of M^r Charles Delap a Short time before the Cession of Florida to Spain Viz.—

Paid in part for the Above House & Lott	£204	0s	0d
due on the purchase with y ^e Interest & to be paid by Francis Levett to M ^r Delap	710	0	0

Cost of House & Lott	£914	0s	0d
Improvements and Repairs	368	0	0

£1282 0s 0d

Loss of two Negro Servants who absconded at the Evacuation of Florida, rather than leave the Country Viz:

A Negro Fellow named Monday about 24 Years of age, a compleat Serv ^t	£ 70	0s	0d
A House Wench Named Hager a Cook and washer Woman	60	0	0

£ 130 0s 0d

[712] Loss of a Large Schooner called the Providence purchased of Mess^{rs} Tho^s W^m & James Moss for the removal of such part of my Effects from East Florida which the Transports could not take in Viz:

Paid for said Schooner Providence	£237	10s	0d
Disbursements and fitting out said Schooner to proceed with the Transports	74	13	0

312 3 0

Loss of Effects Shipped on Board the Aforesaid Schooner Providence Viz: 3 Negro Fellows

John	}	£150	0s	0d
named Abraham				
Martin				
Plantation tools &c		100	0	0

Value of a House Frame 64 by 48 compleatly finished with a Colonnade all round	400	0	0
--	-----	---	---

Value of a House 36 by 20 ready for setting up	120	0	0
--	-----	---	---

40,000 Shingles for the Roofs of the above
houses

40 0 0

810 0 0

[713] Loss of three valuable Horses carried off by
the Banditti who formed themselves on the news
of the Cession of the Country Viz:

A Bay Gelding bought of Fran^s Sanches

£45 0s 0d

A D^s—D^s— of D^s

25 0 0

A Sorrel Stallion of George Leech Esq^r

50 0 0

£120 0s 0d

Loss of 2 Horses left on the beach of St Mary's
which could not be shipped either on board the
Transports or the Aforesaid Schooner Viz:

A Gray Gelding bought of M^r Plumber

17 4 0

A Bay Gelding (Chaise Horse)

15 0 0

Loss of a Horse Thrown overboard at Sea

30 0 0

Loss of Nine Slaves by Death in moving from Florida to Provi-
dence and from Florida to Jamaica and Jamaica to the Bahama
Islands Viz:

Joe a Young fellow

£56 0s 0d

Isaac, a fellow about 40 Years old

50 0 0

Feby, a field wench 40 Years old

40 0 0

Joe, a boy about 10 Years

30 0 0

Hager, an Old Woman

15 0 0

Rachel

Andrew } Children—@ £10/-
Peggy }

30 0 0

221 0 0

[714] Cost of Freight paid Charles Dames hire of his Vessel from
Jamaica to Providence for the removal of myself family Serv-
ants, Overseer and Slaves about 100 in Number when I found
I could not proceed to the Muskett's Shore

110 0 0

Disbursements at Jamaica for himself Family Servants Overseer
and slaves about 100 in Number for about 10 weeks

150 0 0

Value of a large Lighter left on the Beach of St Mary's which
could not be carried away or sold

105 0 0

£3302 7s 0d

[715] . . .

22^d March 1787.

M^r FRANCIS LEVETT, Claimant, Sworn, says:

that he went to East Florida in the beginning of 1769 and continued there till
June 1785—Says that in 1780 he bought a town Lot in St Augustine from M^r
Charles Delap for £700 payable by different instalments. He produced a certified
Copy of a grant dated 15th Dec: 1772 from Lieut Gov: Moultrie to James Penman
in fee of a town lot in St Augustine known by the N^o 1. in main guard quarter and
bounded as mentioned in the grant conditioned for building in two Years.

He produced a certified copy of a lease and release dated 23^d and 24 April
1779 by which M^r James Penman for £450 conveyed this Lot and the houses
thereon to Charles Delap in fee.

He says he had left Delap's conveyance to him with the purchaser in St Augus-
tine and there was no register of it.

He produced an indenture of lease and release and Mortgage dated 30th and
31st August 1780 whereby He mortgaged this lot and the Houses thereon for secur-
ing the payment of the £700 by several instalments mentioned in the [716] mort-
gage with Interest at 8 % C:

He produced the following receipts for the purchase money Viz: one dated
25th Feby 1782 for £156 Sterling another dated 18th October 1783 and another
dated 15th March 1787 for £728 2s 8d.

When he purchased the lot it was fenced in and a Stone house was built 62
feet by about 20 feet.

After the purchase he was at Considerable expences in improvements on the
House and Lot—He says he employed in these repairs David Ross a Carpenter for
One Year and three Months at £63 ^p ann and by agreement he was to board him
and he was employed during that time solely [sic] upon the house.

He produced a receipt for £47 4s from the Carpenter as part of his hire, and
he paid the Carpenter the remainder of his money but he has no receipt for it.

He charges for the board of his Carpenter during the time at the rate of £30 ^p
ann. amounting to £37 10s 0d some part of which is money paid out of his pocket—
the remainder for his living in his family—He produced a rec^t from W^m Moss
dated 28th Feby 1782 for the following Articles Viz:

11 Pieces of scantling	£ 2 5s 10 ³ / ₄ d	Jan ^y 15 th 1781
[717] 7 Pieces of ranging timber & 37 pieces of plank	10 0 7	April 12 th & 24 th
11 Pieces of timber	5 5 0	May 23 ^d
19 pieces 3 inch plank & 10 joists	7 16 3	April 12 th
3 pieces scanting [sic] & 32 pieces plank	2 7 0 ³ / ₄	March 3 ^d

He says all the beforementioned articles were purchased for and used in the house.

He says that in the latter end of the Year 1781, he ordered a Sloop load of his cedar square timber from St John's river to St Augustine, which timber he had bought at a provost Marshall's sale four years before for about £45 and which had been lying there from that time and he hired a Sloop from Panton & Leslie to bring it round at the hire of one third of the cargo and the sloop brought round about four 5ths of the timber he had purchased.

On the Sloop's arrival he gave Panton and Leslie their One third and he intended the rest of it for the improvements and about 1 third was actually so employed.

He says that he paid to Isaac Tully and other masons £50 for work done to the [718] House but he had no rec^t to produce for it. He charges for the labour of one of his own Negroe Carpenters employed on the house for One year and 3 months £25—He says the Negro carpenter might have been let out at £3 ^p month if he had not been employed.

He sold his Lot house and every thing in the yard to M^r: Francis Fatio at public vendue for 700 dollars and he received from M^r: Slater the vendue Master after deducting the Charges of the sale £160. He produced an Appraisement of the House and lot under the seal of the province dated 11th Feb^r: 1784 by G^r: Miller R. Payne and W^m: M^r: Cleod valuing them at £1000—he says he was at St Augustine when the Appraisement was made and did not object to it.

He intended to have raised the house a Story higher.

In the beginning of June 1785 at St Mary's he lost a Negro named Monday twenty two years old which he had purchased about 6 years before for £35 who run away from him from on board Ship being determined not to leave [719] the Country without his Wife as he had often declared to the Claimant.

He purchased him from a M^r: Brittenback but has no rec^t:

He claims for the loss of a Schooner called the Providence £237 10s which he purchased of M^r: Moss whose receipt for that Sum for the Schooner Providence sold to the Claimant in May 1785, he produced dated 13th March 1787.

He produced a rec^t: dated 18th June 1785 from Paterson the master of the schooner for £30 3s 9d—for the seamen's wages and other disbursements—and another rec^t: dated the 17th Dec^r: 1785 from John Morris for £30 2s Sterling the amount of the said Paterson's drafts upon the claimant from Nassau in new Providence, for supplies furnished for the Schooner by Morris and another receipt by M^r: D. Woodruffe dated 25th June 1785 for £2 6s 8d the Amount of Patterson's bill on the Claimant for disbursements at St Mary's. He says that besides these sums he paid M^r: Corbet for disbursements for the Schooner £20 as far as he can recollect. He

says that not being able to get transport room for his property [720] to Jamaica whither he intended to go in June 1785 there being only one transport called the Amity's production going to Jamaica on board which he could only get room for about 3/4ths of his property in June 1785 he applied to Gov^t: Tonyn for the assistance of another transport, which when the Govern^r refused he purchased the schooner Providence and applied to the Gov^t: to have her taken into government pay which was likewise refused.

He produced Governor Tonyn's certificate dated 20th March 1787 to this effect, and the Affidavit of Sedgfield Dale master of the Amity's production stating that being unable to take the whole of the Claimant's property on board his transport, the Claimant purchased the Schooner Providence to take off the remainder.

He says that after his Schooner had sailed from Florida she put into Nassau in new Providence for Supplies and was lost in her passage from Nassau to Jamaica.

He says that in June 1785 he wrote to Cheap and Laughnan in London to insure the Schooner from Florida to Jamaica for £400 [721] which was never effected because his letters for that purpose were so long delayed in their passage to London that the Hurricane in the West Indies having been heard of, no person would underwrite her.

He did not consider the £400 as a full insurance.

He says the Schooner was lost and he had on board her at the time 3 Negroes named John Martin and Abraham, they were field Negroes. John was about 24 Years old—Martin about 30 and Abraham about 40, and he valued them at £50 a piece.

The two last were purchased by the Claimant's Father, and the other the Claimant purchased from his Brother.

He had also on board the Schooner when she was lost several plantation tools which he values at £100 but he has no Acc^t or rec^t to produce for them. He also lost in the Schooner the frame of a house 64 by 48 feet which he began to build upon St John's river, and was finished so as to be ready to put up by Nov^r: 1783—

[722] He says he cut the frame from his own land with his own people, and for the timber and workmanship he charges £400.

N.B. M^r: Levett says the whole of this frame was not on board the Schooner, but he charges it as if it was, because as only a part of it was carried to Jamaica in the Amity's production it became useless to him by the loss of that part on board the Schooner.

He produced a letter from his Correspondent in Jamaica dated 11th Nov^r: 1785 saying that he should Advertise that part of the frame for sale, and account for it's produce.

He claims for the frame of another house, designed as a Kitchen, 36 by 20 feet, and finished before the other was begun and he values it at £120—This frame was cut from his own land and chiefly worked by his own people, amongst whom was a white man whom he had hired and employed partly upon this work and partly upon others.

He claims for 40000 shingles designed for the roofs of these two houses 21000 of which he bought in Dec: 1784 for 12/6 ³/₄ thousand and [723] the rest he cut from his own plantation and he values them all at 20/ ³/₄ thousand that being the Value of Shingles at St Mary's whence he shipped them.

He claims for 3 horses taken away by a Banditti in Dec: 1783, and he values them together at £120 that being the price he gave for them. He produced a rec: 9th Oct: 1780 for 45£ for a dark bay gelding, by John Francis Sanchez, which he says was one of the horses charged, and he has no rec: to produce for the others. He claims for two horses left upon the beach of St Mary's not being able to get ship room to bring them away and he values them at—Viz:—one of them £17 4s Od—bought for that price in 1782 the other £15 0s Od bought in 1777 for £30.

He says he did not insure nor intend to insure his property in the Amity's Production.

He claims for a horse which died at sea in the Amity's production which he bought [724] in Feb: 1785 from Robert Nealy—He produced a rec: dated Feb: 1785 from Nealy for £30 for this horse—and the death of this horse at Sea in the Amity's production is mentioned in Cap: Dale's affidavit.

He withdrew his claim for the loss by the death of nine Slaves in New Providence.

He claims for the freight of a vessel from Jamaica to new Providence £110—He produced a rec: for the same and for disbursements at Jamaica for himself family and Servants £150.

He claims for the value of a lighter left on St Mary's beach which he could not carry away, bought in Jan: 1783 of one Tiles for 40 guineas, which he values at £105—After the purchase he laid out several considerable Sums upon her but he has no Account or rec:

[Claimant's confirmation and signature.]

M: FRANCIS LEVETE [sic] in continuation 23 March 1787. Sworn:

Says that the Schooner Providence was about 70 tons burthen and that she stowed [725] about 20000 feet of Lumber in her hold. Her freight consisted of four Negroes a quantity of Plantation tools—the frame of the Kitchen about 6000 feet and part of the frame of the House amounting to near 20000 feet. (That the

frame of the large house Complete he thinks would amount to about 30000 feet) and of Shingles to the amount of about 40000.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

M: ROBERT PAYNE, Witness sworn 22^d March 1787.

Says that he was one of the appraisers of the Claimant's house and lot and acknowledged his hand writing to the appraisement.

At the time of the Appraisement there were no accounts or bills or rect: produced but he valued it upon a view of the house and lot in it's then state and according to the then price.

He appraised it at the request of M: Levett, and he believes M: Levett was present and he saw the appraisement and did not express any disapprobation of it.

[726] And he the Witness now considers the Valuation of £1000 put upon it by him as the true value of it—At the time of the Appraisement he was in possession of M: Levett's mortgage, as Attorney to the Mortgagee and therefore knew what M: Levett had given for it.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

23^d March 1787.

M: WILL^m WATSON, Witness, Sworn:

Says that he never saw the frames of M: Levett's houses which were put on board the Amity's Production and the Schooner Providence.

He has been called upon by M: Levett to value the frames of his houses and being told by him since he has been in London, that the frame of his largest house shipped for Jamaica was 64 feet by 48; and in such a house the Witness thinks, if the scantling was sufficiently substantial the quantity of lumber must have amounted to 40000 feet and supposing this frame was in complete [727] order for putting up and the scantling good the value must have been 400£ including workmanship—He has been told by M: Levett that the Kitchen was 36 feet by 20 and he thinks the quantity of lumber must have amounted to between 9 and 10000 feet and supposing the whole complete and the scantling good the value must have been £120 or £130 including the Workmanship

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

M: DAVID YEATS, Witness, sworn, Says:

That in the latter end of 1783 he saw upon M: Levett's plantation on St John's river the frame of a house intended to have been erected on the Plantation. It was not quite finished but he is persuaded it was more than half finished at that time.

He does not know it's dimensions but it was a very large house. He calls a frame of a House fifty feet long a large house.

He knows that M^r: Levett left a flat upon the beach of S^t: Mary's having seen a [728] flat driving about across the bar and having been told it was M^r: Levett's and having seen the flat after M^r: Levett left Florida.

He says he also saw after M^r: Levett had sailed two of his horses upon Amelia Island—They were plantation horses and he thinks they were worth from £10 to £12 a piece.

He had seen the horses in M^r: Levett's possession before
[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

M^r: WILL^m: MOSS, a Witness, sworn:

Says that M^r: Levett purchased of him in May 1785 a schooner called the Providence for £237 10s 0d which is paid, she would hold about 400 barrels of flour and he believes she was about 60 tons burthen. He does not know what she was freighted with.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

[729] M^r: EDWARD CORBET, Witness, sworn Says:

That in May or June 1785 he had a store at S^t: Mary's and he supplied M^r: Levett's schooner with cordage &c &c to the amount of £ [sic]

In the beginning of 1784 he saw M^r: Levett's Workmen preparing a frame of a house on his plantation on S^t: John's river and he believes all the scantling was finished. He thought it one of the largest frames he had seen in that Country and M^r: Levett told him it was 60 feet long—He saw in the beginning of 1785 the frame of a house upon S^t: Mary's belonging to M^r: Levett which he believes to be the same. He understood part of it was put on board the Amity's production and part on board the Schooner Providence.

He saw a large flat belonging to M^r: Levett at S^t: Mary's which M^r: Levett left behind him—It was one of the largest he had seen and he supposes she would carry 150 barrels of turpentine to load a ship with.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

[730] M^r: JOHN IMRIE, Witness, sworn:

Says that he never saw M^r: Levett's flat which was left at S^t: Mary's.

He has heard M^r: Levett say that she would carry 120 barrels of turpentine. He says that the peace price of building flats was 30/- ster: $\frac{3}{4}$ barr: of turpentine, which would make the cost of a Vessel of that burthen amount to £180. N.B. The

building schooners was of the same price and the rigging was estimated at half the price of the hulk.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

Col WILLIAM YOUNG, Witness, sworn:

Says that in the year 1784 he took up one M^r: Girth and Daniel Cargill for stealing M^r: Levett's horses, and he heard Cargill swear that one Bellew stole M^r: Levett's sorrel Stallion which he never understood that M^r: Levett recovered; He knows nothing of the value of the horse.

He came to East Florida after the [731] evacuation of Charles town in 1782 and in the latter end of the year 1783 he was put upon the service of securing the country from the depredations of thieves.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

[732 blank]

[733]

N^o 51. . . .

The Memorial of John Moultrie¹⁴⁵
formerly Lieu^t: Gover^r: of the said Province but at present
residing in London.

Sheweth That your Memorialist soon after the cession of East Florida to Great Britain, visited that Country, was present and assisted in the first forming of the Government under Governour Grant; pleased with the mild temperature & healthiness of the Climate, and fertility of the land, he became one of the first proprietors and planters, having moved with his family and a number of Negroes thither, and in the Year 1771 being honoured with the appointment of Lieut Governour he broke up and dismantled his Plantations in South Carolina, and moved all his Negroes [734] into Florida. This undertaking so prospered that for some years before the Recession of the Country to the Crown of Spain, he thought himself most happy and fortunate; settled with a numerous healthy family, in a Country to them the most desirable, on Plantations upon which about 180 people were employed and maintained; the produce of which enabled him to live, clear of debt in plenty, ease and some elegance.

Your Memorialist lived about 17 Years in East Florida, great part of which time was employed by him with great expence and labour to put his Plantations in

¹⁴⁵ See Additional Notes, *post*, pp. 307, 330.

the state they were in at the recession. And also preparing to establish plantations for his Children to leave them in ease and independance near each other.

Your Memorialist has also suffer'd very considerably from the loss of his usual Income and resources of his Plantations since he has been obliged to abandon them; and also by being obliged to expend about £1000 pounds in maintaining his family in England; [735] so much he found a ballance in his hands after paying his Debts on leaving Florida.

He also suffer'd in being obliged, in hurry and confusion and at loss and destruction to get rid of much property consisting of Household furniture, four wheel'd and other carriages, boats, Canoes, Cart and other Plantation Utensils: large Stocks, consisting of about 140 head of working Oxen, Milch Cows & young Cattle, Horses, Mares & Colts, Hogs, Sheep &c, of which he can make no just estimate, but mentions them to shew that he had settled in force in East Florida, and ready to cultivate those tracts of land for which he had received Grants, and which remained uncultivated; the sole cause of which, was the impossibility of so doing during the war: the most able of his Negroes being frequently given for the Service of Government, for the purpose of fortifying and other publick works; and the Colony being constantly subject to enroads and plundering parties of the Enemy, and threaten'd with Invasions.

Your Memorialist was seized in fee simple [736] of a very considerable real Estate in the said Province, consisting of settled Plantations, and other Tracts of valuable lands, amounting by appraisement to £9432.—as will more particularly appear by Schedule annexed.

The persons who made the Estimate are men of Character, were Planters, his Neighbours, had each of them either bought or sold lands two of them were to come to England and might give further information if required.

Your Memorialist and most of his Children now almost entirely depend for support on an Annuity of £500, for the life of his Wife, if they should unfortunately loose her, he will have nothing to depend on, but the aid, or Compensation he may receive from Government for his florida losses, or to fly to the Bahamas where his Negroes now are; and again in the evening of his Day, struggle with the Inconveniences & hardships necessarily attending the forming a new home and plantations in a new Country, uncertain of the future establishment of his Children, perhaps to be seperated to different and [737] distant parts of the world. Events he thinks would not have happen'd, had he continued to hold his Florida property.

[Concluding petition, signature, and witnesses.]

[738 blank]

[739]

A Schedule . . .

Bella Vista a plantation situated on the Matanza river about four Miles from St Augustine either by land of [*sic*] Water, his home and place of residence—a Stone mansion 52 by 42 feet lower Story rustic, upper Ionick, containing a rustick hall 44 feet long, Six arches supports the ceiling, a dining parlour; cov'd drawing room six bed chambers: two unfinish'd porticos: Offices and other necessary buildings for a hundred people besides Kitchen garden 10 acres fenced and laid out in pleasure gardens containing a bowling green: laid walks planted with many trees Olives dates oranges lemons limes [740] citrons figs chaddock vines white Mulberry pomegranate peach and plumb banana pines &c. A park in good order about the house off [*sic*] about 30 acres with many pea fowls, Poland geese Pidgeons, bees &c—100 acres hard marsh; fish ponds stock'd with fresh water fish 300 acres of land well clear'd cultivated and well fenced—planted this year 170 acres of corn pease potatoes rice &c—this Plantation contains a thousand acres

£2974 10s od

A Tract of land on Wood cutters Creek about five miles from St Augustine containing 1500 acres well stocked with fine pines and Cypress with 25 thousand trees boxed for turpentine

500 0 0

A Tract of land of 1000 acres about 20 miles from Saint Augustine being a neck of land on a navigable river and the Sea shore, all good [741] oak land; quarries of fine Stone on the river bank for building and lime—about 50 acres cleared and planted—an Orange that has produced juice that sold for above £70 in one Year

750 0 0

Rozetta a plantation situated on the tomoca river at the Musquito containing 2000 acres of which 1500 is good planting land both high and low—150 of the high land cleared fenced and planted 200 acres of rich tide land well dam'd and drained with between 3 & 4 miles of dikes and canals and two reserves of back water sufficient to over flow the low lands in the driest season. A neat dwelling house with 10 rooms, Kitchen pantry & Pidgeon house: a rice barn 50 by 30 feet a pounding rice machine Smith's shops, smoke houses, and negroe houses and a Kitchen garden

2000 0 0

[742] A Track of land two Miles north of the above on the Musquito river containing 1500 Acres one half at least good high land—high swamp rich feeding marches with large natural reserves of water to flow the low land an Orange grove

562 10 0

A Track of land one Mile North of the above on the same river

of 2500 acres of which 1000 are rice high and low land and a fine marsh for rice or pasture the remainder pine land and large Cypress ponds making certain valuable reserves of water sufficient to overflow the low lands

660 0 0

A track containing 1000 acres of land opposite the above lying between the Musquito river and the Sea forming a Neck of land about 400 acres good rich high land and fresh marsh

230 0 0

[743] A track containing 200 acres opposite to Mount Oswald on the musquito [*sic*] river all good hammock land

100 0 0

A track containing 1000 acres on the neck of land the hall [*i.e.*, haul] over [or portage] between the Musquito and Indian rivers about 400 acres good hammock the rest scrub palmato

230 0 0

A track containing 1000 acres on new river about 500 of which is good high swamp and hard marsh the remainder pine

275 0 0

A track about 10 miles from St Augustine on the twelve mile swamp all good land high and low Swamp stocked with the finest Cedar & Cypress containing 1610 acres

805 0 0

A Island in the Tomoka river containing 24 acres of low Swamp

15 0 0

[744] A Town lot on the bay of St Augustine near fort St Mark and three houses thereon

300 0 0

One flat built entirely of red cedar burthen about 50 barrels now lying at Rosetta plantation at the Musquito [*sic*]

30 0 0

 £9432 0s 0d

24th March 1787

[745] . . .

The Honble JOHN MOULTRIE, claimant, sworn:

says that he went with his family to reside in East Florida in 1767 and continued there till July 1784. He claims for the loss of Bella Vista a tract of 1000 acres in two grants 4 Miles south of St Augustine upon the Matanza river—

He produced 1st Grant dated 4th oct: 1770 from Gov: Grant to the Claimant in fee of 300 acres in the point of the great North Matanza river on wood cutter's creek with conditions as usual.—and 2dly Another grant dated 3d dec: 1770 from Gov: Grant to the Claimant in fee for 500 acres joining the first on the west side of the great north matanza river conditioned as usual—He says that he settled this plantation in 1767 at which time it was quite uncultivated; and in the Year 1783 he had three hundred acres of Hammock land cleared, fenced and planted in Provisions in 1783.

[746] That he had built upon it a good dwelling House of Stone, two stories high 52 or 54 feet long and 42 or 44 feet wide, a Kitchen and an unfinished wing

to answer it, and about 30 other buildings, Viz! barns negro houses &c for the accomodation of his family black and white consisting of about 100 in number.

That he had a gang of about 100 negroes which he considered as belonging to this Plantation, which were occasionally employed on other plantations.

He built the whole with his own people and got the stone and other materials off his own Lands; and he can give no particular account of the expence having had only occasion to pay for one master mason and the materials of iron paint &c &c and therefore he thinks the whole cost out of his Pocket did not exceed £200.

That the frontage of this tract to the Matanza was 1½ Mile as he believes, and the river was navigable to this tract for any vessel that could get over the bar at the Mouth.

[747] That the Hammock land cleared run along the river and the clearing was of different depths.

That the land next the river was hard salt marsh, the next was prime hammock the next an inferior hammock and the next Pine barren.

He claims a tract of land on wood cutters creek of 1500 acres about five miles from St Augustine which he considered as an Appendage to the Bella vista—He produced a grant from Gov: Tonyn dated 23 April 1777 of 1500 acres five mile south of St Augustine on the south side of wood cutter's creek with the usual conditions.

He says that he settled this tract in 1777 at which time it was in quite an uncultivated State.

He cut lumber from it and made tar and turpentine upon it but never planted it, and the Negroes used upon it were those which belonged to Bella vista.—and he built an overseer's house and store house upon the creek which was navigable to this place for [748] flats of 100 barrels turpentine burthen, which were usually built so as to draw but little water.

He says that there was a good deal of yellow pine upon this tract, and he had boxed 25 or 30000 trees, of the inferior pine for turpentine and the land served as a range for his Cattle.

He claims a thousand acres called lime Kiln or orange Grove—He produced a grant dated 3d Dec: 1770 from Gov: Grant to the Claimant in fee of a 1000 acres all Hammock about 3 miles south of penjohn inlet upon the great South Matanza, distant from St Augustine southerly about 20 Miles and fronted wholly upon the river and of little depth from the river, which was navigable only for flats.

He says that he never cleared any part of this land but at different times he settled three tenants upon it who cleared about 50 or 60 acres of it, to whom he furnished provisions for the first year, whose clearings were in cultivation at the

time [749] of the Cession—that the tenants were merely at will paying no rent but allowed to live upon the land for their own convenience, and he sometimes permitted them to make all the advantage the[y] could out of the orange grove upon this tract which was of the extent of 8 or 10 acres and had yielded in a common year as much Orange juice as sold for 70£.

He says all the buildings upon this tract, except a lime Kiln which he made, were made by the tenants.

He claims for Rosetta a tract of 2000 acres in two grants lying upon the mosquito river.

He produced a grant of the 11th October 1770 from Gov: Grant to the Claimant in fee of 1000 acres on the west side of Timoka bay—conditions as usual.

And another grant 11th October 1770 from G'r Grant of 1000 acres to the Claimant in fee 49 Miles from St Augustine on the west side of Timoka bay—these tracts were adjoining each other and formed into one plantation. [750] When he settled upon them in 1767 they were quite in an uncultivated state.—Upon this plantation in 1777 he built a small dwelling house between 36 and 40 feet long and 18 feet wide with a gallery all round two story high the lower one stone and the other wood—a good well framed rice barn and near the barn a Machine for cleaning out rice.—a corn house about 30 feet by 20—a good wooden framed kitchen with stone chimney—a Pidgeon house—a black smith's Shop—and Negro houses all in good repair in 1783 and all built of materials from his own plantation, and by his own people and he can give no account of the expence of them.

He says he had about 70 negroes big and little, about one half workers, upon it. That he cultivated this tract in rice and Indico and had it ditched and dammed. That the two tracts fronted upon the river about 1½ mile, which was navigable for flats, and nearly the whole front dammed by a bank 12 feet at the base and four feet [751] high against the river.—The river was a fresh water river with little fall of tide and liable to overflow in gales of wind, but the land was entirely secured by the dam—That he had made two reserve dams which gave him sufficient fresh water for all his low lands amounting to about 200 acres the whole of which was completely dammed and ditched and drained and rendered entirely fit for rice Indico or any thing else. The soil was rich blue clay—and it lay about 20 or 22 Miles from the mouth of the Mosquito river, and about one mile from that part of the river navigable for small schooners. Besides the low land dammed and ditched he had cleared upon these tracts about 150 acres of the high Swamp and Hammock, and he had it in cultivation in 1784 and left the crop upon the ground when he quitted the Province, and he had a framed wooden barn upon the 150 acres—The high swamp required no draining.

He claims a tract of 1500 acres called orange grove on the Mosquito river. He

produced [752] a grant dated 27th March 1775 from Gov: Tonyn to the claimant in fee of 1500 acres on Halifax river—bounded and conditioned as mentioned in the grant. He has often been upon this tract but never cleared any of it nor laid out any money upon it except the expence of survey and grant—It had a fresh water creek navigable for flats running through it and fronted upon Halifax river which was navigable there for small craft, and was at some times brackish and had a fall of tide of about 2 feet.

He claims a tract of 2500 acres and produced a grant dated 27th March 1775 from G'r Tonyn to Rob: Bissett in fee of 5000 acres on Halifax river conditioned as ~~the~~ Grant and a Lease and release dated 1st & 2^d Oct: 1776 from Rob: Bissett to Claimant by which Rob: Bissett¹⁴⁶ for 100 guineas conveys a moiety of the 5000 acres to the Claimant in fee with a rec: for the consideration indorsed. He never made any settlement upon this tract nor was at any other expence but the survey and conveyance—This land had [753] the same advantage of fresh water from the Creek and the Halifax river that the last had.

He claims another 1000 acres & produced a grant dated 27th March 1775 from G. Tonyn to the Claimant in fee of 1000 acres between Halifax river and the sea about 36 Miles from St: Augustine. He had no settlement here nor laid out any money except Survey and grant.

He claims 200 acres upon the Musquito beach—and produced a grant dated 18th April 1771 from Gov: Grant to the Claimant in fee of 200 acres on the East side of Halifax river 1½ mile South of Oswald's point—Conditioned as usual—no settlement here.

1000 acres at the Hall [*i.e.*, haul] over [or portage] He produced a grant dated 15th Feb: 1775 from Gov: Tonyn to the Claimant in fee of a 1000 acres between the head of Indian river and Hillsborough river conditioned as usual—no settlement here.

1000 acres on new Hillsborough river He produced a grant dated 27th March 1775 from G'r Tonyn to Claimant in fee of 1000 [754] Acres on new Hillsborough river about 275 Miles south of St: Augustine conditioned as usual—He never was upon this land nor made any settlement.

1610 acres on 12 Mile Swamp. He produced a grant dated 18th Oct: 1774 from Gov: Tonyn to the Claimant in fee of 1610 acres on 12 mile swamp—about 9 miles from St: Augustine. no settlement here.

An Island 24 Acres—He produced a Grant dated 18th Oct: 1774 from Gov:

¹⁴⁶ Captain Robert Bisset's name is first found in the Minutes of the Council of East Florida under date of June 15, 1767, when he petitions for a grant of one thousand acres of land. Ten days later he asks for another thousand acres. See C. O. 5/570; also, Additional Notes, *post*, p. 359.

Tonyn to Claimant in fee of an Island of 24 acres in the Timoka river opposite Mr Oswald's land this was all Swamp—Usual conditions—no settlement here

A Town lot in St Augustine—He produced a grant 11th Oct: 1770 from Gov: Grant to the Claimant in fee of a town lot known by the N^o 2 in St: Mark's quarter conditioned for building within two years a house 24 feet by 16 with a brick Chimney and a failure to pay 20/- for not building. In the first year a house was built upon the lot in compliance with the Conditions [755] it consisted of 6/10 and a little upwards of an acre and He says he is certain that a little before the cession he could have sold it for more than £300, and he thinks that as early as 1774 he could have sold it for £300.

He left a red cedar flat at the Rosetta plantation which had been built 3 or 4 or 5 years before the Cession of about 50 barrels turpentine burthen—She was built entirely by his own people.

He produced an appraisement under the Seal of the Province made by W^m Moss Jesse Fish¹⁴⁷ and Robt Payne, dated 26th June 1784 in which the several Articles beforementioned are appraised at £9432 0s 0d

[Claimant's confirmation and signature.]

23^d March 1787.

Mr WILLIAM MOSS, Witness, sworn:

Says that he went to East Florida from Georgia in the Year 1776—in 1778 returned to England and returned to Florida—[756] in 1779 and continued there till the evacuation.

That in 1776 or 1777 he bought a plantation about a Mile from Gov: Moultrie's plantation called Bella Vista which lay about 5 mile from St Augustine. That he settled upon that plantation and had frequent Opportunities of seeing Bella Vista In the year 1783 Bella Vista was completely settled the claimant and his family living there, and he supplied his family and household chiefly from his Plantation. There was upon it a Stone dwelling house two stories high shingled with 3 rooms below and 5 above—a good new Kitchen of Stone pillars filled up with wood—He does not Know the size—a framed barn about 50 feet long—in want of some repairs—an Overseer's wooden house framed one story high which the Claimant lived in before he built his dwelling house a good deal out of repair—and a good many Negro houses—He does not know how many acres there were cleared, but there was a clearing 2 mile in front fenced and planted in provisions, which had formerly been cultivated [757] in indico as he has understood—He cannot say how deep the clearing was—He cannot speak by recollection as to the value of the houses, but he be-

¹⁴⁷ See Additional Notes, *post*, p. 365.

lieves he has a memorandum of the principles upon which he formed the valuation in the appraisement, and will send it under cover from Liverpool to the board.

That he has been frequently over the Claimant's plantation called Rosetta on the Timoka—That he was last there in 1783 and then staid there but a short time. That it was a very well settled plantation and the cleared land upon it for rice and provisions appeared to the witness to be very extensive but the quantity he does not know. This plantation was cultivated in rice and provisions and a considerable part ditched in and damm'd for rice. There was a good range of fresh marsh for pasture and considerable stocks but he knows not the value of them. There was a large dwelling house of wood and stone with piazza's before and behind—A large barn he believes to be 60 feet long at least, with a wooden Machine adjoining for beating out rice [758] and several Negro houses—The house and barn were in exceeding good repair, but he does not know the expence the Claimant was at in building them. He says that Governor Moultrie's plantations were better settled than most other people's.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

March 27th 1787.

Mr ROBERT BISSETT, a Witness, Sworn, Says:

That he quitted East Florida in 1778 and returned to it in 1784 and was upon the claimant's plantation called Bella vista in March of that Year which was situated upon the north—the Matanza river, about five Miles distant from St: Augustine, and he thinks the river was navigable up to the plantation for any vessel that could get over the bar at the mouth—but he never saw a Vessel there.

He says that in 1784 there was a large stone dwelling house two stories high upon it—That when the Witness left East Florida in 1778 the Claimant was collecting materials and [759] preparing for building it, and when he returned in 1784 it was finished in the usual style of that country and was in short one of the houses in the Country. It was built by the claimant's own people and he believes he spent but little money upon it but he can't say the amount of the cost—There was besides a Kitchen barn Stable & other houses built also by the Claimant's people and the cost is not known to the witness.

The plantation lay upon the river and fronted about a mile upon it—was light hammock land but produced good crops and there were about 200 acres cleared upon it, or perhaps more and was what they called old field having been originally cleared by the Spaniards—He was upon no other part of the land and saw no swamp but a narrow slip of bay gall swamp—The tract in general was light Hammock land.

He is not sufficiently acquainted with the Claimant's tract on Wood Cutter's creek to say much of it, but he has passed over it along the road that leads through

it to the [760] Mosquito river, and the land on the road was chiefly pine barren, but there was near the edges of the creeks little good yellow ridge pine land—a good part of the Pine had been cut by the Spaniards.

He says he has seen at a distance the tract called the Orange grove or tar Kiln but never was upon it and can say nothing of it.

He knows the Rosetta plantation and was upon it for the last time in 1777—It had a frontage upon the Timoka river of a mile and half—where it was navigable for flats—That in 1777 there were better than $\frac{1}{2}$ of the front dammed in to keep off the river but not sufficient for the purpose, and he believes it was not quite 4 feet high, He has heard that the Claimant afterwards went over it again and completed it and at this time the dam for back water was beginning—There were at that time no houses but Negro houses, and a very small house used by the Claimant when he visited the plantation. The marsh upon it was high and extremely rich [761] and good—and in the Witness's opinion fitter for indico than for rice at that time—He has seen as fine indico, as ever he saw, grow upon it.

The quantity of Marsh cleared he believes might be about 150 or 200 acres but he cannot speak certainly.

Amongst the back land upon the tract there was some Swamp very good but none of it cleared when he saw it, nor any of the hammock neither—the Hammock was good but the Pine barren bad.

He cannot speak of any other tract of the claimants.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

Col JAMES MONCRIEF, a Witness, Sworn:

Says that he was last upon the Bella vista plantation in 1775 at which time there was a good deal of land cleared—The land was hammock and good salt Marsh was advantageous for grazing—and well situated for raising provision to advantage.

[762] In the Year 1774 he was upon the lime kiln plantation, and the chief value of it consisted in the banks of Oyster shells and the wood for burning them into lime—It was all hammock long and narrow.

He saw the Rosetta plantation in the latter end of the year 1778 after he returned to East Florida. At that time the bank made upon this plantation was not in the Opinion of the Witness sufficient to keep off the river, but the reserve dams were good and sufficient. He cannot tell the quantity of cleared land upon this plantation within 50 acres, but he believes there might be about 150 acres of Marsh cleared, not altogether fit for rice owing to the insufficiency of the bank. which he

thinks was not 3 feet high from its base—There was Hammock land cleared upon this plantation but he cannot tell the quantity.

The low land upon the tract before spoken of was high marsh land.

There were several houses built upon this tract not neatly finished but sufficient for the purposes they were intended for and were [763] all built by the Claimant's own people. He can say nothing of the expence of them—There was good Swamp and Hammock upon it.

He says That the 1500 acres called the orange grove had a great body of good Marsh and Hammock land upon it.

There was a good deal of good land upon the tract of 2500 acres but not so large a proportion as upon the 1500 acre tract.

The Island in the Timoka consisting of 24 Acres was very good land; and the town lot was in a very good Situation, but he does not think that in 1775 there were any houses upon it—He can say nothing of the value of the lot.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

Mr DAVID YEATS, a Witness, Sworn:

Says that he knows the Claimant's town lot—and that there was a house built upon it and he believes it was built in the time and of the size required in the grant.

He cannot certainly say any thing [764] of the value of the Lot, but he thinks that it might have been sold with the buildings upon it for 150 or 200£ if the country had been kept.

That he knows Bella Vista, and he has understood that in 1783 there were about 300 Acres of hammock land cleared upon it. There was a very good stone dwelling house upon it—but he can't speak to the expence of building it. There were other plantation houses upon it.

He cannot say any thing of any other part of the Claimants Property.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

Col: JOHN DOUGLAS, a Witness, sworn:

Says that he has been upon the Bella vista plantation and was last upon it in 1784—and at that time there appeared to him to be about 200 acres cleared but he cannot speak with certainty. In the Year 1783 all the Buildings upon it appeared to be in good order—The land seemed to him to have been Hammock land and was good [765] and productive. Considering its situation, he thinks the clear'd land upon it was worth 30/- $\frac{1}{2}$ acre and cannot speak to the value of the uncleared land.

He knows little of the 1500 acre tract on Wood Cutter's creek, but it appeared to be chiefly pine barren of different kinds of pine—He cannot give any particular account of it.

The Rosetta plantation was opposite to Mr Oswald's upon Timoka river He saw it in 1783—the whole of the low land cleared fronting the river was at this time banked with a bank about 4 feet high—but he thinks the Bank was not quite sufficient to keep out the river having known a crop lost by the water's getting over it. The land so banked was chiefly marsh and fit for rice if it had been sufficiently banked, and he believes there were about 200 acres banked in. At that time the reserve dams were made but not in his opinion sufficiently, and he thinks that the land banked in was worth in it's uncleared state 5/- $\frac{1}{2}$ acre and the expence of clearing and damming it was about 40/- $\frac{1}{2}$ acre—In the Summer of 1783 [766] there were about 100 Acres of hammock land clearing which was fenced in fit for planting by the Summer of 1784—and he has understood that there were clearings upon this tract which he never saw and therefore he can say nothing of the quantity—In 1783 there was a dwelling house two stories high which he values at between £200 or 300£ a large barn and rice Machine he supposes nearly of the value of £100, a Kitchen and Overseer's house, a Corn house and Negro houses which he thinks might be worth £50.

He recollects the flat and thinks it was built of cypress.

He knows not when it was built and in 1783 was not in very good order and might be worth between £30 and £40.

He knows the 1000 acres track called the lime kiln or orange grove and was upon it in 1783—there were 3 small clearings made upon it amounting in the whole to about 50 acres of hammock land, which had been cleared fenced and planted by Loyalists, who had been permitted by the Claimants to settle upon it.

He does not know the quantity of the [767] Orange grove, he thinks above 10 acres. He thinks the cleared land worth 20/- $\frac{1}{2}$ acre, and the orange grove from 5/- to 7/6 $\frac{1}{2}$ acre.

The land in general was oak hammock and palmetto worth about 5/- $\frac{1}{2}$ acre—and the land in addition to the above value was worth from £50 to £100 on account of the shell quarry.

He has been on the Orange grove plantation on Halifax river in 1783 when it was in a state of nature—It consisted of fresh and brackish water marsh Oak and pine land.

He has been upon the 2500 acre tract in 1783—there was none of it cleared—it consisted of nearly the same kind of lands as the last.

He has been on the 200 acre tract in 1783 and 1784—there was no clearing upon it. It consisted of live Oak hammock and scrubby land—and was tolerable good Indico land and was worth about 4/- or 5/- $\frac{1}{2}$ acre.

He has been upon the 1000 acre tract at the Hallover in Nov: 1783. There was no settlement upon it. It was a good situation but the land indifferent.

[768] He never saw the tract upon new Hillsborough river, nor the tract upon the 12 mile swamp nor the Island in Timoka river—

He knows the town lot but he can't say any thing of it's value.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

Mr ROBERT PAYNE, Witness, sworn, Says:

That he was at Bella Vista plantation when the appraisement was made and the Claimant was present. The buildings were in good order but the Wings and the portico to the house were not entirely finished.

That the Appraisers viewed the several houses at the time of making the appraisement, but there was no ac't given to them by the claimant for the expences of them—He cannot say with certainty what value they put upon the buildings but to the best of his recollection it was 1800£ and the remainder upon the land. There were no workmen called in to assist in valuing the houses—That at the time of the appraisement they took the quantity of all the cleared land [769] in the appraisement from the claimant's account.

The Town lot he thinks if the province had been kept would have sold for £300, but in 1779 it might have sold for £100.

He acknowledged his hand writing to the appraisement

He cannot recollect the value they put upon the buildings of the Rosetta plantation.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

27th March

Mr WILLIAM WATSON, Witness, sworn:

Says that he was at the Claimant's dwelling house at Bella vista in 1779, or 1780, to take shelter from a shower of Rain—It was a stone house and at this time the walls were up, the roof on and the floors laid and some windows in, but nothing finished within except one or two little rooms—The Claimant's family were not living in it at that time—He thinks such a house finished in a proper and workman-like manner would be worth 12 or 1300£ and if the inside was finished by [770] Negro workmen, only it would not have been worth more than £1000.

He saw none of the outbuildings none being built at the time.

He one Night slept in the house at the Rosetta plantation but he does not remember the time—It was finished, was long and narrow and he thinks it must have cost about £300 and if he had been about to purchase the plantation he should not have grudged that money for it.

He does not know any thing of the other houses upon the plantation.

He knows the situation of the Claimant's town lot and if the province had been

kept he would have given £50 for it in peaceable times exclusive of any buildings upon it

He does not know that the claimant had any buildings upon it that were his property.

[Witness's confirmation and signature.]

[771]

No 53. . . .

The Memorial of Cap^t Robert Bisset,¹⁴⁸ formerly a Planter in East Florida, but at present residing in Cambridge St James's Westminster.

Sheweth That your Memorialist was one of the First Settlers in the said Province after it's Cession to great Britain by the Crown of Spain; Having formed a Plantation early in 1767 and continued a Planter in it till Spring 1784. (17 Years) That he was seized in Fee Simple and possessed of a very considerable property in said Province, consisting of Nine different Tracts of Land, containing 9500 Acres—That he made Five different settlements, having Cleared, fenced, put in proper order, Erected the necessary Buildings, and cultivated upwards of 500 Acres of land,—besides put on a Stock of 90 head of Cattle on said [772] lands. And when he left the Province he had a clear property of 81 Negroes and his Son Alex^r Bisset 35—(116 Slaves between them); which at the most moderate computation should have brought him in a clear Income of at least £1000 0s a year. And was besides possessed of Personal property of great value as will more particularly appear by the Schedule Annexed.

[Concluding petition and signature.]

[773]

Schedule . . .^{148a}

No 1

300 Acres a tract by grant, called mount Plenty or Palmerina situated on the south musketo or Hillsborough river bounded Northerly by land of Clotworthy Luptons Esq^t all other sides vacant land. This Tract was most pleasantly and advantageously situated, being on Navigation, and only 14 or 15 Miles from the Inlet, Having a fine

¹⁴⁸ See Additional Notes, *post*, p. 359.

^{148a} In the original document of this schedule, as written by the clerk, the headings for the values appeared the first time as "C. Bisset's Vol." and "Florida D^o," but all other times as here reproduced. The first headings were therefore changed for the sake of harmony.

Florida
Val^uC Bisset's
D^o

stream of fresh water running thro' the middle of it; Having in it's Front (on a branch of the river) a Beautiful Mount of several acres, 60 or 70 feet high which overlooked the whole Country for 20 or 30 miles round, Covered with a very fine Sower orange Grove; It was not above 1 Mile from the great Lagoon, which abounded with all sorts of the best sea fish, such as Sheep heads, Bass, Trout, Plaice &c, and plenty of green Turtle in the Season, And it was only about the same distance from plenty of the Finest oyster banks.—It was in [774] Lat^d 28.45 and had all the advantages of Tropical climates; Which was brought to the Proof by M^r Elliot's Plantation (a few Miles to the Southard [*sic*] of him) who planted sugar with tolerable success. He had an Additional advantage on this tract, which few other Settlements enjoyed—That there was an amazing extent of Marsh in his Front covered with the Kali Weed of which the Barilla potash¹⁴⁹ is made, which might have employed many hundred hands (perhaps) to greater advantage than any thing else they could be employed on.

Capt^e Bisset made this his principal Settlement, having built a good framed dwelling house 30 feet by 20, and a Court of offices Viz^t a good Kitchen & Store house with Lofts, a Hen house Stable, and a large barn and Corn house Lofted 40 by 20; He Erected 3 Setts Indico vatts with all the necessary apparatus, He had 2 large Flats —1 Boat and 1 Canoe and Carts and other implements [775] of Husbandry: and built a negro Town of good houses for 70 Negroes. This tract had about 160 acres of it rich low Cabbage Cedar and Mulberry Hammock of which he cleared 143 acres, and fenced, ditched and drained & divided it at a great expence it requiring much draining—Altho Cap^t Bisset is well satisfied that this tract was of much great value, and certain it cost him a great deal more—Yet he abides by the Valuation made in Florida

£ 700 0s 0d £ 700 0s 0d

¹⁴⁹ Barilla potash is the impure sodium carbonate and sulphate obtained by burning plants.