

**Jemina Hunt's Petition To the Honorable, the Speaker & house of Delegates of the  
General Assembly of Virginia, Dec. 9, 1811**

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Petition Number, 5870, Southampton County, Dec. 9, 1811.

To the Honorable, the Speaker & house of Delegates of the General Assembly of Virginia.

The Petition of Jemima Hunt (a free woman of color) of the County of Southampton, humbly sheweth—that sometime in the month of November, in the Year 1805—Your petitioner entered into a contract with a certain Benj Barrett of said County for the purchase of Stephen a Negro man Slave, the property of said Barrett, & husband to your petitioner, for the sum of ten pounds annually for ten years, and the said Barrett farther bound himself to take the sum of ninety pounds if paid within five years & at the expiration of that time to make a complete bill of sale for the said Negro Stephen, which will appear by reference being made to the obligation entered into between the said Barrett and your petitioner. Your petitioner farther states that she has paid the full amount of the purchase money and has obtained a bill of sale for the said negro Stephen; who (being her husband) she intended to emancipate after she had complied with her contract,—but in some short time after as your petitioner has been informed an act of Assembly was passed, prohibiting slaves, being emancipated after the law went into operation, from residing in the state—Your petitioner farther states that she has a numerous family of Children by the said Stephen, who are dependent upon the daily labor of herself & husband for a support, & without the assistance of her husband Stephen they must suffer or become burthensome to their county.

Therefore your petitioner humbly prays that the legislature would take her case into consideration & pass a law to permit the said negro Stephen to reside in the State after emancipation, and to enjoy all the privileges that other free people of colour are entitled to & as in duty bound Your petitioner will ever pray, etc.

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