

To the Speaker of the House of Delegates in Rich-
mond assembled, - Sheweth - The undersigned the
Memorialist, would most respectfully beg leave, to repre-
sent, that as he understands, there is a petition present^{ed}
to your Honourable body, asking that a certain por-
tion of Montgomery County, should, ^{be} Stricken off & coloni-
zed, to the County of Roanoke, and that the Citizens in
that County so request - True there is a portion
of the Citizens of Montgomery upon the border, who are
willing to such annexation, But when they say that the
Article in the boundary proposed therein are willing
the statement is untrue; and as I understand that
it represents, the Citizens of Montgomery as petitioning
this not the fact; the fact is, It is the Citizens of Salem
the Little Village at Roanoke C. H. who are petitioning to
have a portion of the Citizens of Montgomery annexed
for their own selfish, sinister, views, It is the Clerk the
Sheriffs, the Tavern Keepers, Merchants & et. cetera who
desire it for their own especial profits & nothing else
This petition was a clandestine move to a portion in
its boundary, for nothing was ^{known} of it to a portion of us -
until it was presented to your Honourable body, then
nothing known of its boundary, - Your Memorialist -
would respectfully represent, that it depriving us of Citi-
zenship, that we are to driven up. like swine to
the Court House of Ro. to be tried, taxed & perform
Military services but have no voice in the Elective
Chair, with, but must return to vote with old Mont-
gomery, from whom, we become alienated in feeling &c

for the want of intercourse, rendering Roanoke —
somewhat more respectable at the expense of Montgomery.
The population of Montgomery is upward of 7000, and
that of Roanoke, 5500. and they propose to strike off
Territory, containing a population 22 or 2500 inhabitants
thereby making Roanoke the stronger County of
the two, & thereby lessening our representative capa-
-city — and whilst they doing this, they are depriving
a single Justice of the peace of his standing, and throw-
-ing the 1500 levonants into the hands of the 20 or more
Justices of Roanoke, who only 5000 to divide among the
whole, amounting to not more than 250 to a Justice, but the
Justice of Montgomery, against his and of their wills must
- come in with his 1500, (Six times their number) and surrender
all — I can see no Justice or liberality in such a course, & do
hope it will not at your hands be tolerated — If an assem-
-bly must take place, I do sincerely hope & pray that
it may under a law that will not force us who
are unwilling, and those that may be not depai-
-ned of their position — I beg that your honorable
- self body will, refer this back to the citizens of
Montgomery, and not to the citizens of Roanoke
and your Memorialists will ever pray.

Chas L. Barnett

Jan 7th 1849