

To the speaker, and members of the house of delegates of the General  
Citizens of the County of Stafford ~~County~~ ~~in the~~ ~~Assembly of Virginia~~, the undersigned, respectfully represent.

That the correct, & proper discharge of Justice, in this common-  
wealth in a very great degree depends upon the Justices of peace;  
& of the several county courts throughout the state: your petitioners  
have observed with great concern, on some occasions, that ~~various~~  
methods not conducive, to the proper, & correct nomination of the Justices  
of the peace, have been pursued for the purpose of electing particular  
~~for~~ persons. an order is made at the county court, in the man-  
ner prescribed by law, summoning the magistrates to attend  
~~at~~, for the purpose of recommending fit, & proper persons to be  
appointed by the executive as Justices of the Peace - ~~the~~ ~~magis-~~  
~~trates of the county~~ - a large proportion of the magistrates at-  
tend, according to the notice, and refuse to make any ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~nomina-~~  
tion - at a subsequent court the same magistrates, who have their  
intoxicated views, in the appointment of particular favourites, again meet  
at the court house, make a similar order convening the magistrates,  
to; the justices of the county get ~~the~~ ~~order~~, a favourable opportunity  
offers, and the faction succeeds. -

The remedies which your petitioners respectfully represent  
would meet the evil above mentioned are the following. That no  
order for a nomination shall be made by any county court, until  
notice shall have been given to the magistrates, that such order will be  
asked from the court. This notice to be served by the sheriff in the usual  
manner. That whenever any such order shall have been made, & a  
majority of the Justices shall meet, & determine that no nomination  
shall take place, or ~~that~~ shall ~~not~~ nominate persons for ap-  
pointment to the executive, no other ~~shall~~ order for a similar pur-  
pose shall be made within a certain specified time, say six or twelve  
months -  
gally. That whenever the executive shall have sent up commissions  
according to the recommendation of the county courts: that the persons  
thus commissioned, shall be allowed three succeeding courts to qualify  
to, & accept the same: & upon such failure the said commission shall  
be

vacated. - ~~Handwritten~~ all which is respectfully submitted.

Wm. Brent Jr.

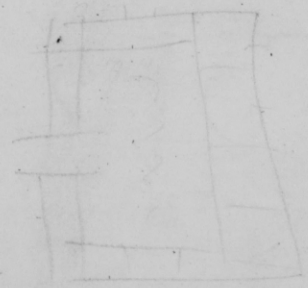
William H. Fitzhugh  
John G. Hedgeman

Nov. 1828

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Wm Brent jr & others  
 Petition to the  
 speaker & members of  
 the house of delegates of  
 the state of Virginia.

Magistrates.

Decr 15th 1823  
 refd to Ct. of  
 Stafford.

Reasonable so far  
 as requires persons competent  
 as justices of peace to qualify  
 within some specified time  
 Calamus rejected -