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To the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Committee of Safety for the State of New Hampshire

The memorial of John Clark of the  
Township of Sandaff in the County of Grafton State aforesaid  
Humbly sheweth

That the memorialist was one of the first settlers in  
said Sandaff where he hath in Opposition to Whistling  
flattery, promises, frowns, threats, insults, and every other conceiv-  
able ~~mechanical~~ <sup>endeavour</sup>, invariably to the utmost of his ability  
endeavoured to support the common Cause of these United States  
under the government, and agreeably to the <sup>Constitution</sup> Laws of the State  
of New Hampshire

That notwithstanding the many difficulties usually occur-  
ing in the culture of new plantations, and the peculiar  
embarrassments which have hitherto attended the settlement  
of that Township, the memorialist, ~~with~~ at great fatigues  
and expence by his industry hath acquired considerable  
property a peaceable enjoyment of which would afford a  
comfortable prospect for the subsistence of a numerous family  
& dependents, and enable him to aid in the further settlement  
of that Country, and to contribute some what for the support of the  
public Cause — That y<sup>e</sup> Variety of hardships, insult, and loss, which  
y<sup>e</sup> ring leaders of y<sup>e</sup> pretended State of Vermont, by usurping & exercising  
jurisdiction over the inhabitants of a number of Towns in that  
part of y<sup>e</sup> State of New Hampshire which lieth adjoining on the east  
of Connecticut river, have driven many of the good & peaceable  
Citizens of those Towns to sustain, on account of their inflexible  
attachment to the laws and government of the State of New Hampshire

— and the stratagems practized by those ring leaders and their  
emissaries <sup>to</sup> alienate the affections of honest & well meaning subjects of  
said State of New Hampshire, to induce them to renounce their allegiance,  
and strengthen the base of faction, being matters of such notoriety  
your memorialist humbly conceives the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Committee would esteem  
a refusal of them altogether needless, — However the memorialist cannot  
think himself censurable when he begs leave just to observe, that the  
sentiments of the good people in many of those unhappy Towns cannot  
be determined by the vote in their town meetings, as none are now allowed  
to vote but such as solemnly renounce all dependence on or political

connection with the state of New Hampshire - and take an oath to support the government and laws of the said Vermont, so that Ten men, having received the SOP, will carry on the business of the meeting when perhaps three times that number who have not the marks of the — and who from principle cannot join the faction are obliged to stand mute - and in cases where a large minority, if allowed a suffrage would appear in the negative, the proceedings are entered unanimous! by means whereof most of the Town officers chosen in such meetings are from among those who are aliens from the common wealth of New Hampshire and who endeavour by every possible means to prevent the knowledge and execution of the laws of New Hampshire among the people.

That the memorialist and others have patiently endured suffering, persecution, and new coin'd insult, and indignities, not to be described, firmly relying that if authority & government of the state of New Hampshire would not suffer, the state to be dismember'd, her authority trampled on, the laws contemn'd, or her devoted citizens to perish, under the Tyranny of factions, for want of her succour & due execution of her laws - And what has added much to the confidence of the unhappy sufferers hath been the spirited & unequivocal refusal of the general assembly of said State especially that of June 20<sup>th</sup> 1781. viz "That this state will exert themselves to preserve their jurisdiction unimpair'd and to give effectual, speedy support protection and succour to the faithful and distressed subjects thereof" That the memorialist flatters himself, both he and his fellow sufferers - have some ideas of the complicated, and almost-incalculable, embarrassment which hath hitherto attended the due execution of the laws in the County of Grafton for the protection its inhabitants - but as the <sup>oppression</sup> of those oppressors hath arrived to such a height your hon<sup>rs</sup> candor will forbid attributing it to a petulant disposition in the memorialist or his want of confidence in the authority of the state when he assures your hon<sup>rs</sup> he can no longer endure the torture of such accumulated distresses -

That on the morning of y<sup>e</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> day of Sept. last at Landford upon your memorialist being in the peace, of God, and y<sup>e</sup> good people of this state about his lawful employment traveling in the public road from his house to a remote part of his farm, when, to his great surprise, on a sudden, he saw a banditti of about a dozen men, arm'd with guns, & other offensive weapons, gathered in a riotous manner near a barn in possession of one Sam<sup>l</sup> Titus, when one of theingleaders in the riot stept forth from among the rest and seized the horse on which your memorialist was riding, & commanded the memorialist forthwith to join, in the riot, to two John Crefy, John Crefy Jun<sup>r</sup>. and their families out of their house to perish in the wilderness, but this memorialist obstinately refused to comply - and after some words had pass'd it was proposed & voted by

by the rabble that the memorialist should be confined. Whereupon Eleazer Wheelock, James Wheelock, Benjamin Cleveland, Abfolam Peters, Afa Bayley, and others immediately with force arms in a high handed riotous manner made a violent assault on the body of your memorialist and made great efforts to bind him on his horse by this time the whole mob was in a tumult, some accusing your memorialist of speaking against the riot and saying he would oppose their lawless proceeding, others that he was against the authority of Vermont — others that he was an enemy to the college party, while some were pulling the horse by the bridle others whipping — some yelling — others firing guns — Thus in triumph they carried off the unhappy victim of their malice and after harrying the memorialist about in various places with threats, insults, and abuse, from place to place, till near the setting of the sun when the said Eleazer Wheelock and some of the other rioters seized violently on the body of the memorialist and by force drag'd him toward the house of one Boyce, who also was among the gang, whereby the memorialist was most grievously injured both in body and mind. — That the said rioters then and at divers other times, before, and since uttered such threatening and menacing words and speeches of concern for the memorialist as that <sup>he</sup> is in great anxiety of mind about the present unsafe situation of his person, family, & property, and unless some speedy and effectual measures are adopted for their relief — he with many others have the gloomy prospect of being driven to the sad alternative, of submitting to the mandates of the lawless banditti on the one hand, or on the other, what is more eligible, forsaking their dear earned habitations to seek an asylum!

Your memorialist begs leave further to suggest as his opinion that most of the political difficulties subsisting in the Counties of Cheshire & Grafton originate from the machinations of certain subtle persons, call'd Tories, join'd by those who have the conducting of the Indian School at Hanover and their enviousness to oppose the views of British administration rather than any attachment they have to support the <sup>the</sup> pretended State of Vermont.

Wherefore your memorialist in behalf of himself and his fellow sufferers humbly prays the interposition of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Committee, that you will take the premises under your wise consideration, and issue orders to such officers in said County of Grafton, as are willing to exercise the powers of their respective offices, which they now hold under the State of New Hampshire to exert

the same in protecting those that conduct themselves as good Subjects  
of said State in their persons and property from<sup>d</sup> insults, and abuses of mobs  
riots, or lawless individuals, and from the execution of any law  
or the exercise of any other authority, than that which is derived  
from the government & people of ~~the~~<sup>the</sup> State of New Hampshire, or  
relieve the memorialist and others in such way and manner  
as your honor in wisdom shall judge most conducive to the public  
tranquillity and the memorialist as in duty bound will  
ever pray

Dated Octo. 12<sup>th</sup> 1787

J<sup>o</sup> Clark

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Copy of 14. 1787  
Memorial