

To the Honorable Justice of the Peace for the County of Guilford
 State of Virginia The Petition of Edward Smith in right of his wife Mary the executrix
 of the last will and testament of one of the Testors here as law and distribution of the
 Estate of John P. Humphreys deceased in respect whereof that same was in the
 month of July 1858 the said John P. Humphreys died in said County and was
 and places of a small personal estate consisting of 8 Negro slaves & some small farming
 implements & some Cattle Hogs & in Merchants' Notes & other real
 and personal property on the inventory and appraisal, returned and of record in
 the Honorable Court, and to which your Honor is referred that shortly after the death of
 the said John P. Humphreys letters of administration were granted to Thomas W. Hays
 who he has duly qualified and took upon himself the administration of said Estate
 the said John P. Humphreys deceased left surviving him the widow Elizabeth Humphreys
 and the following children and heirs at law, viz; Nathaniel Humphreys Elizabeth
 Maria who was a Widow and formerly before her first Marriage was Elizabeth Humphreys
 but since the death of the said intestate he intermarried with Thomas G. W. (Maria Mary)
 Anna Smith the wife of a son John Humphreys, Maria Ann Humphreys all of them
 are of full age the said Thomas Humphreys, Edward Humphreys, William Humphreys,
 James Humphreys Noah Humphreys Nathan Thomas Humphreys & John
 John Humphreys of whom are Thomas the petitioner first & last that some other
 persons might have claims there the granting of letters of administration on said
 Estate that your petitioner was about to make an application to the Honorable Court for
 a division of said personal estate among the several heirs and distributees but that he has
 been informed that Edward has only taken that an account of the small personal
 Estate of said deceased and the survivors him at law and distribution whether he is in
 the true state of said Estate and that said personal estate is incapable of a division
 in said State wherefore your petitioner alleges and trusts that a sale
 thereof will be absolutely necessary as a preliminary step to said division and distribution
 your petitioner further states that he is informed that there is still a small portion
 of debt due and unpaid against the said Estate and that some portion of the pro-
 ceeds of a sale will necessarily have to be applied for the satisfaction thereof your
 petitioner further states that it will be to the interest and advantage of all parties
 interested in the division and distribution of said estate to have the said personal estate
 and the proceeds after satisfying the balance of the various accounts the said Estate
 divided and distributed among the several heirs and distributees your petitioner
 therefore prays that the said Widow Elizabeth Humphreys Thomas W. Hays and now
 whether as aforesaid Elizabeth W. (Maria Ann) and her husband Thomas G. W. (Maria)
 Nathaniel Humphreys William Humphreys Edward Humphreys James Humphreys
 John Humphreys Noah Humphreys Nathan Thomas Humphreys & John
 Humphreys may be summoned to be and appear before the Court at a day certain
 and to show cause if any they can against the sale of said personal Estate and that
 a proper time said sale may be had and that such other orders and proceedings
 may be made and had as to your Honor may seem meet and proper in the
 premises and your petitioner will ever pray

made 1st day of November 1858 } Edward Smith
 J. C. [unclear]
 The State of Virginia Guilford County the State of Virginia At the