Jessamine County. State of Kentucky January 1828.

To his Excellency Joseph Desha. Governor of Kentucky

Your petitioner William Cox would respectfully represent to your Excellency, that having, through a misunderstanding with a neighbour, relative to their accounts, been under the necessity of attending to the trial of a Warrant before George Chrisman Esq. a Justice of the peace for Jessamine County a few days past. Some unpleasant words in the heat of passion, and feeling, passed between your petitioner and his adversary during the progress of the trial. The Officer presiding, in the exercise of his Legal right, thought proper to inflict on your petitioner a fine of five dollars — and although, in the exercise of such a prerogative, the Justice did not transcend the limits prescribed to him by Law — yet your petitioner would respectfully represent, that to say the least of it — there was a harsh, arbitrary, and unnecessary use made of the authority, with which the Laws have Clothed Justices of the peace. It never was the design of your petitioner, on that or, any other occasion, to offend against the majesty of the Laws; nor to shew the slightest disrespect to them, by offering a contempt, even to the pettiest officer, when in the discharge of his duty. On the occasion alluded to nothing which was said, was intended for the ear of the Justice, nor was there any design whatever, on the part of the petitioner to interupt the course of Justice or disturb her officer. Your petitioner therefore considers this act of the Magistrate as arbitrary, unjust, and as between the parties, by no means impartial. He respectfully solicits, the exercise of Your constitutional prerogative to remit fines. It is the principle involved not the amount of the fine about which your petitioner feels solicitude. With great Respect.

William Cox.

DHo-208

Jessamine County Commonwealth of Kentucky

This day personally appeared before the Subscriber a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid Captain William Cox and made Oath to the truth of the Statements contained in the foregoing petition. Given Under my hand & seal this 28th of January 1828.

John Downing

Petition of
Wm Cox
Rec'd Oct 12 1828