[1830-31]

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Commons of
The General Assembly of the State of North Carolina,
The Petition of Williams Holland of the County of Craven.

Your Petitioner respectfully sheweth that on the seventh of February 1822 he intermarried with Esther Parsons the Widow of Nathan Parsons of said County. To this union your Petitioner was prompted by no mercenary or sordid considerations, but solely by affection, and the hope to obtain a ~~faithful~~ companion, with whom to share the enjoyments, discharge the duties, and encounter the trials of life. His circumstances were above mediocrity and free from embarrasement – she was the widow of a bankrupt and without property. Nor could his hopes of happiness from this union have been pronounced rash or unreasonable. There was no striking disparity of years between himself and his companion; their acquaintance was not of recent growth; his attachment to her was strong, and he was assured that on her part it was returned. For a few short months these hopes appeared to be realized. Immediately after the marriage his Wife was conducted to