To the Honorable the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, The Petition of George Sears of the County of Randolph Humbly Sheweth,

That your Petitioner is a man of Colour who the Legislature of said State at their Session in the year 1809 on the Petition of Mr. William Bell Executor of the Estate of Richard Sears Dec'd, was pleased to Emancipate & set free.

That your Petitioner ever since his said Emancipation has lived with the said Mr. Bell and carried on the Blacksmiths business by which he has acquired a Comfortable living. That he your petitioner in January 1814 came to a determination to to take him a Wife and placed his affections on a girl of his own Colour belonging to the said Bell, named Tillah, that he purchased the said Girl for the sum of three Hundred Dollars which money he has actually paid; and after obtaining a Bill of Sale married her, under a belief that as your Petitioner had been legally emancipated and had purchased the said Girl, with his money, and afterwards married her, that she and her offspring, would also be free & legal heirs to the Estate of your petitioner; But your Petitioner is now informed that his opinion on this subject is erroneous; and that his said Wife Tillah and two Children which she hath had to your Petitioner since their intermarriage will still be considered slaves unless they are Emancipated by an act of your Honorable body.

Your petitioner therefore Humbly prays that you in your Wisdom and humanity will take his Case under your Consideration and grant him relief by passing an Act to Emancipate & set free his said Wife Tillah Sears and his two daughters Patsey Sears & Polly Sears and render them Competent in Law to inherit the Estate of your