she was immoveably opposed to return to him and wholly abandoned to her seducer (with whom, as is generally believed she has occasionally since cohabited) has given up all hopes of regaining his marital rights, thus grievously withheld.

As Petitioner is wholly without redress, save from this Honble Body (she being an inhabitant of South Carolina and he, of this State, where he has resided upwards of two years and intends to reside in future) as the happiness of the Matrimonial State (which is the object of that institution) can be secured only by the fidelity and affection of both the contracting parties — as petitioner has done all in his power to discharge faithfully his obligation and she has wholly failed and refused to perform hers as she is alike regardless of common decency as she is of fidelity to her solemn vow of affection and obedience — he prays this honourable body to divorce him from his said Wife, Mary Ann Mills & wholly dissolve a connection from which disgrace rather than honour, misery rather than happiness is entailed on him, and your Petitioner as in duty bound shall ever pray.

James W. Mills

James W. Mills appeared before me a Justice of the peace for the County of Mecklinburg and made oath on the holy Evangelist of Almighty God that the facts contained in the above petition as far as they are within his own knowledge, are true, and as far as they are derived from the knowledge of others, he believes to be true — Given under my hand & Seal this 29th day of Oct 1827

Saml Henderson Jr Seal