

# PETITION.

*To the Honorable the Legislative House of Assembly in Parliament Assembled.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONORABLE HOUSE:

THE PETITION OF DONALD CAMERON, OF THORAH,

HUMBLY SHEWETH:

That Orders were made by the Governor in Council, of the Province of Upper Canada, in the month of March, in the the year of our Lord, 1826, granting to your Petitioner and others, his followers or settlers, upwards of two hundred and forty lots of land, containing about two hundred acres each, in the Townships of Thorah and Eldon, in accordance with instructions from the Colonial Secretary, as a remuneration to your Petitioner for services rendered by him to this Country in bringing settlers thereto; and as an indemnity for expenses incurred by him for so doing.

That your Petitioner, in April of the same year, proceeded from Lancaster, in the County of Glengarry, his then place of residence, to the said Townships of Thorah and Eldon, with a numerous party of men in his employment, and arrived there on the first day of May following: That your Petitioner had, to render the settlement of those Townships practicable, to open or make a road from Oshawa, in the Township of Whitby, to the shore of Lake Simcoe, a distance of forty-five miles, or more: That your Petitioner also opened several other roads into and through the said Townships, viz: from Georgiana to Ops about twenty-four miles; from Turner's in Thorah, to Fenelon, about twenty miles; and from the sixth Concession of Brock to Thorah, about six miles:—all of which are the present and usually travelled roads; and also other shorter roads in different directions through said Thorah and Eldon: That your Petitioner made these several roads at his own expense, with the exception of about forty pounds contributed by the Canada Company, and your Petitioner's friends, and had them completed within eighteen months after the above grants were made.

That your Petitioner has established, beyond question, by the most satisfactory documentary proofs, and is prepared to establish, that, by his means, and through his instrumentality and services the land in nine Townships in the neighbourhood of Thorah and Eldon was increased in value upwards of ten shillings an acre, on an average in less than two years after the aforementioned grants were made, although the land in four of the above Townships was not worth six pence an acre on an average, before your Petitioner made the said improvements, and thereby rendered it valuable and accessible.

That your Petitioner also succeeded in bringing, within eighteen months after the making of the grants above referred to, more than eight hundred followers or settlers to the said Townships: That notwithstanding this, and notwithstanding the great advantage derived by the country from the improvements made by your Petitioner, and the consequent increase in the value of land in the said *Townships*, and notwithstanding the immense expense your Petitioner was put to in making those improvements: The Executive Government of the Province of Upper Canada acting, as your Petitioner believes, without due investigation, upon false reports to his prejudice, instead of adequately remunerating your Petitioner, caused several Orders in Council to be passed since the year of our Lord 1828, with the view, most unjustly and wrongfully, to deprive your Petitioner and many of his followers or settlers of their

right and just claims to a large part of the lands granted to them, and for which they hold Location Tickets; and though your Petitioner has made, from time to time, numerous appeals to the Executive Government for redress, and although several Orders in Council have been made in his favor, the same have been allowed to remain as a dead letter, unacted upon by the Government, and he has neither been able to obtain his rights, nor even a fair or impartial investigation of his claims, and has suffered in consequence, during the last twenty-four years, great privations and anxiety of mind, and severe and heavy pecuniary losses.

Therefore your Petitioner has to complain, and does complain, that he has sustained great wrong at the hands of the Executive Government of Canada, and he humbly, but earnestly and firmly, appeals to Your Honorable House as the only tribunal to which, as a British Subject, he can appeal to obtain redress from injuries inflicted by the unjust acts of the Executive Government, to address His Excellency the Governor General, praying the Executive Government to grant patent deeds for the lands for which your Petitioner and his followers hold grants or Location Tickets, according to the Orders in Council made in their favor since the seventh of June, 1832, or according to the instructions of the Lords of the Treasury to the Commissioner of Crown *Lands*, of date of the seventh day of June, 1827, or to cause a Commission of Investigation to be issued, directed to six Commissioners, three to be chosen by the Government and three by your Petitioner; with power, in case of disagreement to these six, to name an umpire, to enquire into the claims of your Petitioner, and to make such report and award thereupon as to such Commission shall seem just, or to take such other action on your Petitioner's prayer as to Your Honorable House shall appear fitting and expedient.

And your Petitioner further prays, in the event of Your Honorable House authorizing a Commission of Investigation, that it be a direction in such Commission that the Commissioners do meet at the Townships of Thorah, Eldon or Brock, wherein will be found the greatest facilities for a strict enquiry, and the best evidence procured at the least possible expense, and that they will fully decide upon the case before they rise.

And your Petitioner prays further to state, that if he fails to establish the statements above contained before the Commission of investigation, he is prepared to defray the necessary expenses attending upon the execution of such Commission.

All which your Petitioner prays Your Honorable House will take into favorable consideration, and your Petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

D. CAMERON.

Toronto, 5th August, 1852.



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1st Session, 4th Parliament, 16 Victoria, 1852.

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Printed by Order of the Legislative Assembly.

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**QUEBEC:**  
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