msa_sc2915_scm1013-0136 ©Maryland State Archives

Feb. 8. 1864

The Vestry met present Revd. James D. McCabe Rector John F. Wilson, Dr. L. L. Franklin. W. H. Hall Edwin Catt, Dr. B. A. Carr, Franklin Weems Vestrymen and Dr. Elliott Burwell Warden.

Prayers being read Dr. Franklin stated the object of the meeting to be, to memorialize the Legislature of Md. now in Session to pass a Law to release the Parish Property from County, State & School Taxes. Which was agreed to and the memorial signed.

Dr. Franklin reported that in pursuance of an order passed at a former meeting he had called upon two or three mechanics for an estimate of the Cost of a building suitable for the proposed Parish School but the Estimates had not been furnished. Ordered that the Committee have further time to collect information and to make their report.

Ordered by the Vestry that the Register be required to Lay to the amount of One Hundred Dollars on pew Holders upon the Basis of a former resolution.

The Vestry adjourned.

To the Hon.d the General Assembly of Maryland

The Petition of the undersigned, The Rector, Wardens and Vestry of St. James's Parish A. A. County, respectfully sheweth, that they are in trust of a Parsonage and Glebe Land consisting of some Fifty or Sixty acres and a small fund, which were a number of years since conveyed to the Rector of said Parish and his successors in office in perpetuity as a part of his living and annual income.

This income in consequence of the recent formation of an Independent Congregation in the Valley

of Owensville within the limits of said Parish has been effected by the diminution of the number of Parishioners, and the present Lay on the Parsonage, Glebe &c is actually a Lay upon the slender means of the Rector.

The Parish authorities are now engaged in the laudable enterprize of establishing a Parish School for the benefit of the children of the Parish which materially taxes their resources and in which work they feel assured of the approbation and sympathy of your Hon.d Body.

In view of these facts the Rector, Wardens and Vestry of St. James's Parish most respectfully ask your Hon.d Body to relieve the Rector from the Lay upon his income by releasing the Parsonage, Glebe and fund of said Parish from Taxation. And as in duty bound they will ever Pray. Signed by the Rector, Wardens and Vestry, all present except Mr. James Owens and A. M. Thomas.

The following Letter was rec.d from the Right Rev. Bishop of Maryland.

Thomas J. Hall Esq.r Register of
St. James's Parish A. A. County.

Dear Sir.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of the certificate of the Rev. Rector and church Wardens of St. James's Parish to the election of the Rev. J. E. Brown & claim to be assistant minister and to inform you that I have transmitted the same to the Secretary of the Convention of the Diocese for entry upon the proper record.