Examining Evidences to settle and perpetuate ye bounds of ye Said Tract of Land and your Petitioner will be in Duty bound &c ——— Thomas Ford

Which said Petition being read and by the Court here Heard is granted and Certain Joseph Cromwell, George Risteau, Cornelius Howard and John Bond of Chesnut Ridge of the County aforesaid Gentlemen are by the Same Court Appointed Comissioners to Examine Evidences agreeable to the Petition aforesaid and an Act of Assembly in Such Cases made and Provided and it is ordered that Commission Issue directed to the said Joseph Cromwell George Risteau Cornelius Howard and John Bond of Chesnut Ridge for the Purpose aforesaid which ~~doth~~ doth Issue in Common Form

And Thereupon Certain Charles Ridgely Alexander Lawson and Benjamin Bowing by Thomas Johnson Junior their Attorney Exhibet to the Court here the following Petition To wit

To The Worshipful Justices of Baltimore County Court The Humble Petition of Charles Ridgely Alex Lawson and Benjamin Bowing Sheweth that Thomas Ford lately obtained out of the said Court a Commission to prove and perpetuate the Bounds of a Tract of Land called Selsed and that besides many Irregularities in the Carriage and Execution of that Commission appearing on the Face of the Return thereof your Petitioners conceive the said Return ought not to be received and recorded possibly to the very great Wrong and Injury of your Petrs who are greatly Interested in The Location and Extention of the said Tract of Land called Selsed for that amongst other things Cornelius Howard one of the Persons named in the said Commission and who was a Principal Actor therein is a Relation to the aforesaid Thomas Ford. That the said Cornelius Howard and John Bond the only Acting Commissioners were so far from Acting impartially in the Execution of that Commission that the said Com at their first Meeting took the Affirmation of One Richard Hoker produced as a Witness by the aforesaid Thomas Ford) and reduced the same to Writing which they have not returned with the said Commission nor in any Manner noticed his having then affirmed this at their last Meeting they again took his Affirmation Variant in several material Circumstances from That which he had at first made before them and in the Penning of the second Affirmation the Commissioners omitted a very material Circumstance that Strikes at the Weight of his whole Affirmation that Instead of the said Two Commissioners carrying Themselves with Impartiality your Petitioners had not any Opportunity of Examining Witnesses on their Part to Controvert or Contradict the Evidence

(taken)

Taken and returned on the Part of the said Thomas Ford. The Commissioners met (as appears by their Return) five Several Times yet their meetings were always late in the Day and the whole Day spent in the Examination of said Thomas Fords Witnesses and tho' your Petr Charles Ridgely in Person and your Petr Benjamin Bowen by Letter requested and intreated the said Two Commissioners to make a further Adjournment for the Examination of their Witnesses they Could not Prevail on those Commissioners to make any further Adjournment by which Means your Petitioners were stripped of any Opportunity of having the Depositions of Witnesses taken on their Part Contrary to natural Justice and the Spirit of the Act of Assembly under which the said Commission issued and by which should Selsead be extended on the Credit of the said Return agreeable to the Pretentions of the said Thomas Ford several Tracts of Lands the Property of your Petitioners will be swallowed up in Selsed Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that the said Commission & Return may not be recorded but That the same may be quashed and your Petrs Will pray &c

Which said Petition being read to the Court here and Consideration thereon Taken it is Considered by the Court here that the Matters therein Alledged ~~are~~ or any of them are not supported ~~unsupportable~~ therefore it is Considered by the Court here that the said Petition be utterly Rejected and that the aforesaid Land Commission and Indorsements thereon & affirmations and Depositions thereto annexed be Recorded and thereupon it is in form following to wit

Maryland Baltimore County To wit Thomas Franklin Gentleman and his Associates Justices of his Lordship the right Honourable the Lord Proprietary's County Court holden in and for Baltimore County aforesaid on the first Tuesday of June in the Eleventh Year of his Lordships Dominion and in The Year of Our Lord Seventeen Hundred and Sixty One To Messrs Joseph Cromwell George Risteau Cornelius Howard John Bond (of Chesnut Ridge) of Baltimore County Greeting Whereas Thomas Ford of Baltimore County By his humble Petition to this Court

(doth)