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His Excellency

Joseph Bredt Lyman

President &c

Philadelphia

Forwarded by
M. H. Smith

York Aug. 18. 1781
from Arch. M. H. Smith Esq.

York August 18th 1781
 May it please Your Excellency.

Some Time past I suggested the Importance of taking and perpetuating the Testimony of Michael Danner, an aged and the only material living Witness, effectually to secure to the State the Quantity of upwards of One hundred Acres of the Common and Town Lands to the South of this Town, against the Claim of George Stevenson lately set up to the same; — The pretended Right of Stevenson was purchased from this Danner a few Years ago; — Danner is about Eighty Years of Age, and his Faculty fast increasing; And if your Excellency & the Honble Board shall approve of and direct the Measure, (As we shall have an Adjourned Court of Common Pleas on the 28th Instant,) Col. Hartley will then in Behalf of the State, file the necessary Bill, & obtain a Rule of the Court, & Issue Summons to Mr Stevenson, agreeable to Chancery Practice, & have the Testimony taken and filed in Perpetuam Rei Memoriam, agreeable to the Constitution, against the October Term; —

I should trouble Your Excellency so much about this Matter, were it not that I know the Importance of this Witness in the Case above mentioned; And if it shall meet with Your Excellency's Approbation, Your directions may be forwarded against the Twenty eighth Instant, on which Col. Hartley will immediately most cheerfully proceed.

I am may it please Your Excellency
 Your Excellency's most obedient
 humble Servant

This Excellency
 Joseph Reed Esq. President &c

Arch^d McLean