

H. C. Jan. 21, 1779

To the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina  
now sitting. — The Address and Petition of the people  
called Quakers from their Yearly Meeting Committee in  
Perquimans County the 9<sup>th</sup> of the 1<sup>st</sup> Mo. 1779,

Humbly Sheweth,

That, notwithstanding we are in Duty bound Gratefully to  
acknowledge your Lenity, in suspending the Execution of the  
Act of Assembly, requiring the Test of Fidelity and Abjuration  
and Allowing the word Allegiance to Fidelity, to soften the  
former Act, and make it easier to us, yet, we think it remains  
the same in Substance, and being enjoined by our Peaceable  
Principles to live as much as in us lies a Quiet, Honest,  
and inoffensive Life, and, to Keep clear from Joining with  
any Party Engaged in disputes that are to be Determined  
by Military force. As our Reasons therefore, doth not arise  
from the least Intention or design of taking or pursuing  
any steps against the State: If our conscientious and kind  
Scruples in them respects should have a Tendency to bring

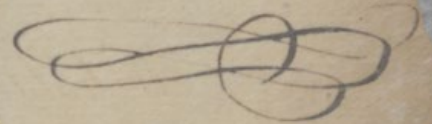
Quaker petition regarding the Oath of Fidelity, January 1779, General Assembly Session Records, Joint Select Committee, box 1, folder 8, State Archives of N.C.

great Sufferings upon us, and Terminate in the Ruin of  
many Honest Families, we Submit: But, ardently desire  
that you will not consider us as Enemies to our Country  
because we scruple taking the aforesaid Test. And do  
Humbly Request, that you would be pleased to Grant us the  
Priviledges that we have hitherto enjoyed, untill proof  
be made, that our behaviour Manifests us to be unworthy  
thereof. And we hope our conduct will always Demonstrate  
our Gratitude —

Signed by order, and on behalf of the Committee  
aforesaid —

By Josiah White.

P. S. Thomas Knox, Thomas Moby,  
Caleb White, & John Lawrence  
are appointed to attend the Assembly  
with the above Address —



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