

Petition from citizens of Sevier County to legislature at Murfreesboro, 1825. As far back as 1788 legislature favored and bounty lands for owners of iron works. By act this year? 3000 acres of land the most convenient to any iron works was given as bounty provided jury of 12 men said it not fit for cultivation and exempted from tax for 10 years. (1 Scott 403 Ch. 34)- Any by act 1809 same bounty of 3000 acres was extended owner of any iron works by its being condemned by 12 men- but owner to get warrant for land within 5 years after condemnation and sd condemnation would not effect rights others held before condemnation- also exempted from taxes for 99 years. (1 Scott 1136 ch 30). By Act 1815 terms more favorable held out to owners Iron works- still allowed 3000 acres after condemnation by 12 men and given 10 years to get title and no one allowed to interfere. (2 Scott 254 ch 156) Then Act 1823 terms more favorable than heretofore to Iron works owners- "preference was held out to them as other occupant for the term of three months to enter 3000 acres of land" heretofore condemned. Those living N & E of Congressional boundary line "could have this great favor by making an entry or entries in county" where lands lay at 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ a acre- provided they "embraced the privilege granted to all occupants of entering in the first three months after the Entry Taker's office was opened." Before this had been required to procure warrants for these lands in given period. (Acts 1823 P 79 ch 60)

Under the latter act a number of citizens made entries "on a tract of land which had been condemned by a Jury for the use of Isaac Loves Iron works,- but not until the time had expired that was given to occupants to secure their wrights; and not until as they believed, and still do believe, the law extended the right of general entry to all, and every citizen alike- Their entries have been surveyed & grants have issued to them from the State."

By Act 1824 (p 10 ch 5) still greater favor extended owners of Iron works. This act provided owners Iron works may have condemned lands surveyed and they were entitled to get grants by applying Register of East Tennessee or West Tennessee without paying anything- but sd grants void if sd Iron works go into disuse for term of two years and none of these grants to issue until after 10 Nov 1825.

Under this act Isaac Love Esq. "owner of Iron works in Sevier County" has obtained grants for lands that had heretofore been condemned for use of his works "and which had been taken to his knowledge by general entry, and previously granted by the State to divers citizens of said county." "The land thus granted for pay, and afterwards granted as a donation for the use of Iron works, lies in one entire body and principally surrounded by old occupant surveys under act of 1806." Lands value had increased by opportunity present owners had of taking up adjoining vacant lands for timber and tillable. Love's tract had large amount of tillable land the not first quality, but much superior to land taken from State at \$1.00 per acre. There were other lands near Iron tract well timbered & "convenient to Said Iron works" and not fit for cultivation. Petitioners did not impute improper motives to Jury that condemned Iron tract but did not properly examine land. Petitioners asked for another jury of view to fully investigate and give them relief by Act of Assembly.

10th Aug 1825 M.C. Rogers

(In latter's handwriting)

Signed:



Elijah Wood  
Joel Ivy  
Horatio Butler  
Wm White  
Eli Roberts  
illeg...  
Wm Clark  
illeg..  
John White  
illeg...

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Samuel Clabaugh  
illeg...

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James C Clark  
James Oldham  
Jeremiah Clark  
Jeremiah Mathe  
Ben Blackburn  
William White (M.C.)  
James Earnest  
Thomas Hill  
Richard Shields  
Herculis Ogle  
John Ferguson  
Wiley White  
Archable Lea  
Joseph Clark  
Jefferson Low  
Illeg. Low  
Thomas Low  
Joser Maples sen  
Sharn Maples  
Ephraim Maples  
Josephx Maples  
illeg...  
James Perryman  
John Anderson  
Samuel Ferguson  
William Etherton           singed on back "reasonable." Reneau. Committee on  
Propositions & Grievances.