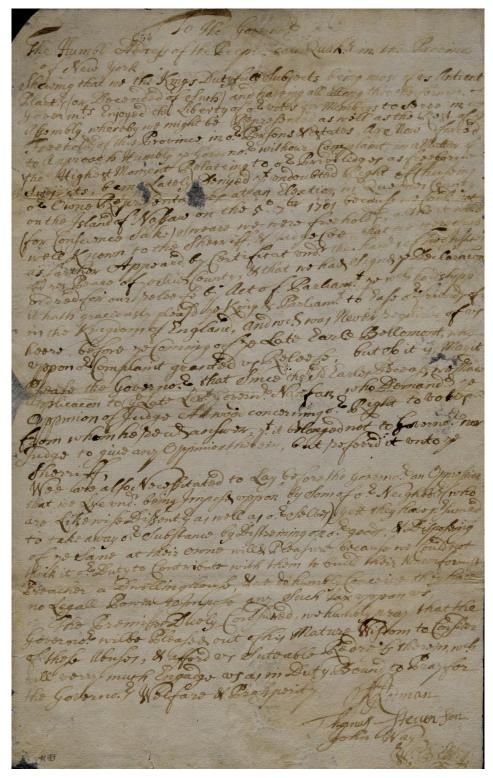
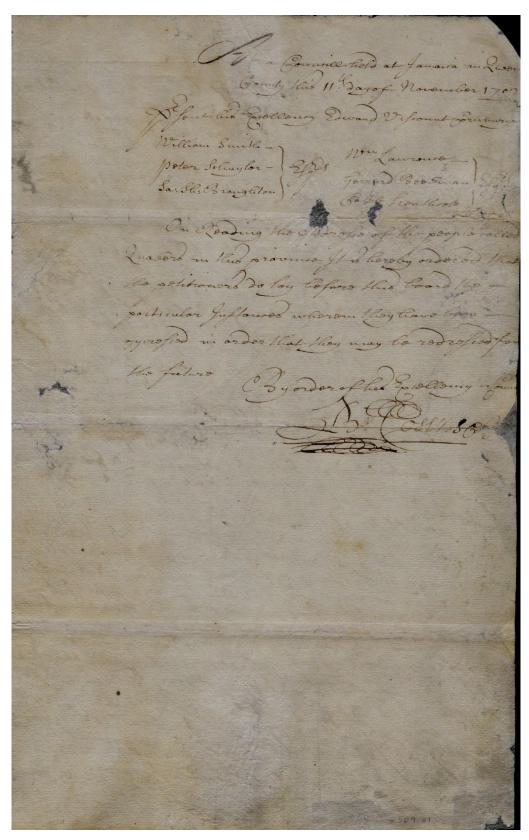
Image



Thomas Stevenson to Lord Cornbury, November 11, 1702. (The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, GLC02509.01)



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Thomas Stevenson to Lord Cornbury, November 11, 1702

Transcript

To The Governor

The Humble Address of the People called Quakers in the Province of New York.

Showing that we the King's Dutyfull [sic] Subjects being most of us Ancient Planters (or Decended [sic] of such) and haveing [sic] all along thro the former governments enjoyed the Liberty of our votes fro members to [illegible] in Assembly, whereby we might be Represented as well as the rest of the Freeholders of this Province in our Persons & Estates, are now forced to Approach Humbly the Governor without Complaint, in a matter of the highest moment relateing [sic] to our Privilidges [sic] as freeborne subjects, being lately denyed [sic] the undoubted right of choosing our owne [sic] representation at an Election in Queenes [sic] County on the Island of Nassau on the 5 o7br 1701 because we could not (for conscience sake) sweare [sic] we were freeholders, altho it was wee known to the Sherriff [sic], & Judge C[oe] that we were [illegible] as farther Appeared by Certificate and the hands of two Justices of the Peace of the said County, & that we had signed the Declaration ordered for our release by Act of Parliament thereby hardshipp [sic] it hath graciously pleased the King & Parliament to ease our friends of in the Kingdom of England, and such was never required of us here, before the coming of the Late Earle Bellomont, who uppon [sic] our Complaint granted us Release; but so it is, may it please the Governor that since the sd Earle's decease, we made application to the Late Lieut. Governor Nanfan, who demands the oppinion [sic] of Judge Atwood concerning our Right to votes from whom he received answer that it belonged not to Governor nor Judge to give any oppinion [sic] therein, but referred it unto the Sherriff [sic].

Wee [sic] are also necessitated to lay before the Governor an oppression that we lye under being imposed uppon [sic] by some of our Neighbors (who are likewise dissenters as well as ourselves) yet they have presumed to take away our substance, by distreining [sic] on our goods, & disposeing [sic] of the same at their owne [sic] will & pleasure, because we could not think it our Duty to Contribute with them to build their Nonconformist Preacher a Dwelling house, & we do humbly conceive they have no legall [sic] power to impose any such tax uppon [sic] us.

The promises Duely [sic] confirmed, we humbly pray that the Governor will be pleased out of his Nature wisdom to consider of these abuses, & afford us suteable [sic] Redress therein, such will very much Engadge [sic] us as in Duty Bound to Pray for the Governor's Welfare & Prossperity [sic]

J Rodman Thomas Stevenson John Way William Bickley