

1st June 1829

Road from Davis' Tavern to Bridwell's Shop

The Commonwealth of Virginia to the Sheriff of Prince William County greetings: whereas hereto fore to wit; At a Court held for said county on the 1st day of June 1829, on the application of J. & J. H. Janney to have a road opened from Davis' Tavern to Bridwell's Shop, where it formerly stood on the road leading from Landsdown's to Dumfries. It was ordered that Stephen French, George Copin, Thompson Lynn, Joshua Taylor, John F. Davis and John Stone or any three of them, being first sworn do view the ground along which the said road was proposed to be connected, and report to the court truly and impartially, the conveniences and inconveniences that would result as well to individuals as to the public, if the said road should be opened as proposed. And at another day to wit; At a Court held for said county the 3rd day of August 1829 Stephen French, George Copin, John F. Davis, & John Stone four of the said reviewers made a report in these words, to wit; "Pursuant to an order of the County Court of Prince William, dated June 1st 1829 and which is hereto annexed. We the undersigned being first sworn, have viewed a way agreeable to said order Viz; From Thomas Davis' Tavern along a road now open, to the Poor House of this County, thence with said road till we come near Westwood on the land of the late John Spence, then leaving the old road to the left, and going with a path now open to the cleared land straight forward to the line of the land of Joseph R. Lynn then with or near his line to a road at the corner of said Lynn's fence, thence with said road crossing a branch near his line, to a road leading through Hayfield, then with that road crossing the main run of Quantico and the long branch of Quantico till we come near where the gate formerly stood then leaving the old road to the right, with a line of bushes up the hill and to the old road in a straight line then with the old road to Bridwell's old shop where it intersects the road leading to Dumfries. The greater part of this way is near open and much traveled by waggon &c to Occoquan. And we are of opinion that if the said road be established, it will be of great advantage to the public as being the most convenient way for many of the inhabitants of this county as well as Fauquier & Stafford to the mills of Occoquan. And will be of very little inconvenience to individuals, as there is no additional fencing necessary. And the land through which the road is intended to pass is poor and the cleared part is now a common. Given under our hands &c. And thereupon it was ordered that W. W. Tebbs Exor. of John Spencer dec'd, Joseph R. Lynn and James Craig and Francis T. Chevis trustee of John Fox proprietors of the land through which the said road was proposed to be conducted, be summoned to appear at the next court to shew cause if any they could, why the said road should not be opened. And at another day, to wit; At a Court held for said County on the 7th day of September 1829 came as well the plaintiff by their attorney as the said James Craig & Francis T. Chevis trustee for John Fox by John Gibson Jr. their attorney, and on the motion of the said trustees it was ordered that a writ in the nature of a writ of ad quad damage be awarded them according to law, to be executed on the 18th day of September instant, Therefore we command you, that you summon and impanel twelve able and discreet freeholders of the vicinage, no ways related to either party, to meet at some certain place, on the ground through which the road aforesaid is proposed to be conducted, on the 18th day of September instant; which freeholders, taking nothing (upon pain of being discharged from the inquest, and immediately imprisoned by you) either of meat or drink from any person whatever, from the time they shall come to the said place, until their inquest sealed, shall be charged by you, impartially, and to the best of their skill and judgment, to view the lands through which the said road is proposed to be conducted, and say to what damage it will be of to the said James Craig and Thomas T. Chevis trustees of John Fox taking into estimation as well the use of the lands to be laid open for such road, as the additional fencing which will thereby be rendered necessary; and that the inquest so made, and sealed by the jurors, together with this writ, you return to the 1st day of our next court. witness Philip D. Dawe clerk of our said court this 8th day of September 1829 and in the 54th year of our foundation P. D. Dawe

There are two other pages in the record for this case but the last page ends with the following: Whereupon the said Jurors, after viewing the said way and taking into estimation as well the value of the said land intended to be laid open for the use of the said road, as also the additional fencing which will be thereby rendered necessary, do unanimously say that the said James Craig and Francis Chevis as trustees of John Fox aforesaid will sustain no damages whatever.

In witness whereof the said Jurors have hereto set their hands and seals on the day and year first written above, and are no ways related to either party. Signed by the Jurors - Joseph R. Gilbert, John W. Williams, John G. Rubleman, Joshua Taylor, John Tansill, George Copin, William Alsop, Philip Carter, Seymour Lynn, John F. Davis, Wm. Webster, and Thomas Davis.