

*Resolutions of Impeachment against Philip Clayton, ca. February-March, 1796, in Jackson's Hand.*

Whereas it appears to this House from the information on Oath of John Shepherd esquire a Member of the last Legislature that Philip Clayton esquire Treasurer of this State did during the sitting of the said last Legislature and pending the Usurped Act for the sale of the Western lands attempt to bribe the said John Shepherd to go home by an offer of seventy pounds from the Publick Treasury in lieu of his pay as Member which the said Clayton calculated at twenty eight pounds.

And whereas it also appears that the said Philip Clayton attempted to influence Henry Mitchel esquire a Member of the Senate of the same Legislature to go home pending the passage of the said Act through the channel of Robert Raines as the said Raines also has declared on Oath.

And whereas attempts of this nature are not only culpable and highly imm[oral] But when made by a publick Servant entrusted with the purse of the State become barefaced attacks on the Freedom of the Legislature and the rights of the People and which if permitted to pass with impunity would found a precedent dangerous to publick liberty and this House has vied with regret the success of corrupt practices in the said last Legislature during the passage of the said usurped Act.

Resolved that the said Philip Clayton is a proper object in his publick capacity for impeachment. And this House doth impeach the said Philip Clayton accordingly as guilty of high crimes & misdemeanours against the liberties of the People.

1<sup>st</sup> For that he the said Philip Clayton being Treasurer of this State did at the instigation of James Gunn a principal of one of the pretended companies who pretended to purchase under the usurped Act of the 7<sup>th</sup> of Jany 1795 during the sitting of the last legislature & pending the passage of the first bill for disposal of the Western territory of this State attempt to bribe John Shepherd a member of the House of Representatives of the said Legislature to go home & to return no more by the offer of seventy pounds in lieu of the sum of twenty eight pounds the said Shepherds pay with an intention to prevent the said Shepherds vote on any question which might thereafter arise relative to the said act.

2dly For that through the Channel of Robert Raines during the Session of the said Legislature & pending the decision of the question of the Western Sale the said Philip Clayton being Treasurer as aforesaid did also at the instigation of James Gunn attempt to influence Henry Mitchel esquire also to go home with an intention of preventing the said Mitchels vote on any question which might in that body arise relative thereto, which corrupt practices are derogatory to the priviledges of the two Houses and subversive of the rights and liberties of the good people of this State.

Resolved that [names omitted] be a committee on the part of this House to go to the bar of the Senate & there impeach the said Philip Clayton as Treasurer of this State on the Articles before stated and to demand that he be sequestred from Office be taken into custody & brought to speedy trial.