

Some years ago, when the Governor's proclamation declared that Lands should be given to certain persons on the Certificate of a Magistrate, finding many of those who possessed these Certificates were disposed to sell them, and being desirous by every means in my power to render my property more valuable for the sole purpose of discharging as far as in my power lay the heavy Balance I owed the best of men, I accordingly purchased several at the rate of from £10 even to £50 for each 200 acres & never entertained any doubt as to their validity, having as every British Subject should a perfect reliance on the word or proclamation of the Servants of Government Those who obtained the Magistrates Certificate carried them Immediately to Mr Iredell the Deputy Surveyor and mentioned at same time where they wished to take up those Lands, and as I purchased them I reported to Mr Iredell likewise my having done so & that as soon as the Country was surveyed where these people made their choice I would wish to locate the Lands I purchased in Said place, not from the goodness of the Lands but their Situation as being nearer some others I had got I also frequently mentioned to the Acting Surveyor General my Friend what I had done and was doing and for a certain time did not understand that there Was any objections to such purchases. I afterwards learnt some doubts arose; but when the Legislature in the last years Sessions passed that most equitable Law respecting the purchase of Lands, I then was perfectly satisfied that they were mine, and that If my purchases were proved to be fair & honest, before the Commissioners Deeds would be Issued in my name. I therefore begged the acting surveyor General would order that part of the Country to be laid out in Lotts where those I purchased of had made choice, and where I still wished to take up these Lands.

A Letter which [I] received the 7th Instant from the Honorable W. David Smith, (paragraph from which I here inclose), has alarmed me not a little and is the reason of my troubling you. The Gentleman I just now named, the Commodore & Mr Hamilton to all of whom I have sent Copies of this my Letter to you which will give them like information. added to this my son who is the Bearer, &