12 April 1779
Richard Bond with
Co. Market Accounts

His
Excellency Thomas Johnson Esq.
Commander in Chief
of the State of Maryland

Sir

Baltimore 15th April 1777

80

I am the unhappy widow of Major James Cox who fell in his Countrys Cause at german Town Octr. 4th 1777. by industry we Lived Comfortably. his Spare Cash he Laid out in Lands from which now I can Reap no Benefit. his own Cash he Left with me did not exceed fifty pounds. and the Public mony which he had to pay off his Company was Lost at his Death. which I have Since Refunded. I have five Small Children to maintain I expected the Benefit of the Law in that Case Provided. Consequently, six months after my Husbands Death. I aplyed to the orphans Court. they Put me off till the Next Court I aplied again they granted me half Pay for Eight Months. in which time I Sold off my Spare furniture and part of my Stock Raised a Little Cash and went to Shopkeeping. I found I Could not keep my Stock good which I began with. I again aplied to the Court their Reply was you are making mony fast and we dont think you are intitled to the Benefit of that Law.

Sir it is truly Distressing to a mind not intirely Depraved to beg and to Dig I am not ashamed tho my Natural Strength will not admit of it

Now Sir as you are the guardian of this State and more especialy of the widow & fatherless I will expect a few Lines from you informing me whether I may expect the Benefit of the Law or not — I have three Sons & two Daughters all promising Children would be glad they might be properly educated & instructed to get a living in a genteel way. which Cannot be the Case without assistance. Now Sir when you Consider the Irparible Loss I have Sustained by the Death of the best of husbands the weak infirm State of my Body a Numerous helpless family to provide for & the amazing prices of the Necessarys of Life I say when you Consider these things I doubt not but you will do every thing in your Power to alleviate ~~such~~ such Distresses. and as in Duty bound I will for your welfare ever Pray

Mary Cox

Thomas Johnson governor

ARCHIVES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND