

**Object ID:** *MG0828\_SeriesA\_F01\_It01h*

**Document:** *A Whimsical Petition by John Smith to the Ohio Legislature, transcribed by Thomas Welsh*

**Transcription:**

The following whimsical petition was presented to the  
Legislature of Ohio by John Smith. It was  
favorably received and acted upon. Mr. Smith  
and family are now Mr. Sea and family.  
To the honorable the general assembly of the State of Ohio.  
Up through to gray life I've been forc'd to deplore  
A lack of strange tongues and a hungry bank lore  
And here where I am Jolted Jaded and bruised  
Astride of the hack stumbled muddled and doused  
I dip my rough quill in mire of the way  
And send up my scribble just humbly to say  
That Adam was troubled the very same way  
Humph! your honae's may say – well, well, what of that?  
What has Adam to do with your case? yes, sir, what?  
Why Adam good sirs, by the right of his station  
Was told to give names to the whole of creation  
And here's my complaint that a half of the same  
Should have the whole name that is no name at all  
Thus I must lament till you grant this my prayer  
That no Latin or Greek or college was there  
And Adam poor Adam most puzzled to death  
Just named all he could and called the rest smith  
Only think of my children who blush in their shame  
Skulking all up to manhood without any name  
And justice though tardy give justice through me  
Cause they come like [ap\_ ] Flood call the family Sea

**Scope and Content:**

A humorous tale about a petition in the form of a poem, presented to the Ohio Legislature, by John Smith to change his family name to Sea. Transcribed by Thomas Welsh. The date and source of the story is not identified.



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