

RS#25: Petition of 1779 (Adapted)

Petition of 1779 by Slaves of Fairfield County for the Abolition of Slavery in Connecticut (Adapted)

Jonathan Sturges, an important abolitionist, helped to write this petition. Two slaves who were both most likely illiterate, Prime and Prince, signed it. They were both owned by prominent families in Fairfield, Connecticut.

To the Honbl (honorable) General Assembly of the State of Connecticut to be held at Hartford on the Second Thursday of Instant May The Petition of the Negroes in the Towns of Stratford and Fairfield in the County of Fairfield **Who are held in a State of Slavery** humbly sheweth (show) -

Transcript of Original	Adaptation
That many of your Petitioners, were (as they verily believe) most unjustly torn, from the Bosoms of their dear Parents, and Friends, and without any Crime, by them committed, doomed, and bound down, to perpetual Slavery; and as if the Perpetrators of this horrid Wickedness, were Conscious (that we poor Ignorant africans, upon the least Glimmering Light. derived from a Knowledge of the Sense and Practice of civilized Nations) should Convince them of their Sin.	That Prime and Prince, were most unjustly torn, from their dear Parents, and Friends, and without committing any Crime, doomed, and bound down, to everlasting Slavery. The poor, uneducated Africans have to convince the people who committed this horrid Wickedness and who have Knowledge from being a part of a civilized Nation of their Sin.
they have added another dreadful Evil of holding us in gross Ignorance, so as to render Our Subjection more easy...	Slave owners have added another dreadful Evil of keeping us uneducated , so as to control us more easily...
Your Honours who are nobly contending, in the Cause of Liberty, whose Conduct excites the Admiration, and Reverence, of all the great Empires of the World, will not resent our thus freely animadverting, on this detestable Practice;	Your Honors are nobly fighting for the Cause of Liberty and all of the great Empires of the world admire you. You should not resent that we are fighting the detestable Practice of slavery (and seeking our liberty too).
altho our Skins are different in Colour, from those who we serve, yet Reason & Revelation join to declare, that we are the Creatures of that God who made of one Blood, and Kindred, all the Nations of the Earth; we perceive by our own Reflection, that we are endowed, with the same Faculties, with our Masters, and there is nothing, that leads us to a Belief, or Suspicion, that we are any more obliged to serve them, than they us,	Although our Skins are different in color from the masters we serve, we are all Creatures of God who are made of one Blood. All the Nations of the Earth are one family so we have the same abilities as our Masters. There is nothing that commands us that we have to serve our masters or that our masters have to serve us.

Freedom and your Humble Petitioners, as in Duty bound, shall Ever pray &c.

dated in Fairfield the 11th Day of May AD 1779 -

prime a Negro Man Servant to Mr. Saml Surges of Fairfield

Prince **his** X mark Servant of Capt Stephen Jennings of Fairfield

in Behalf of Themselves and the other Petitioners Signed in Presence of Jonth Surges.