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# *African Americans before the Court, 1704 -*

*An overview of Case Files from the Supreme Court  
Collection at the New Jersey State Archives*

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*As presented by  
Vivian Thiele,  
Archivist, NJ State Archives*



# Introduction

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Some basics about the courts

# Lower Courts

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Justice of the Peace Courts (JP Court)

Local lowest level civil and criminal

Courts of Small Causes

A different version of JP courts

Courts of General Quarter Sessions of the Peace

County-wide

# Lower Courts

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## Inferior Court of Common Pleas

County Civil Court. Higher than JP, they met at the Quarter Session of the Peace

## Court of Oyer and Terminer (O&T Court)

County Criminal Court. Higher than JP, they met at the Quarter Sessions.

## **Orphan's Court, or Surrogate's Court**

County Probate Court



# Higher Courts

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Colony or State-Wide Jurisdiction

Supreme Court

**The source for today's cases**

Chancery Court

Equity Court – topic for another day

Court Error and Appeals

Appellate Court of last resort –topic for a way far another day

# Supreme Court Jurisdiction

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Serious property matters (including real estate)

Appeals (from JP, O&T and Common Pleas Court)

Execution of writs from Chancery Court (especially Replevins!)

Execution of prerogative writs (Habeas Corpus!)

# Prerogative Writs

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Special orders issued by the court for demonstrated cause

Writ of Certiorari

**Appeals ordered when the lower court ruling is “unsafe”**

Why there are lower court materials are in Supreme Court files

Habeas Corpus

**Literally “Produce the Body”.**

Used to force a party, sometimes a lower court or official, sometimes a private person (such as in cases of freedom) to bring a person to court so they may be heard!

It is a pillar of our judicial system and an essential right.

# Officials at the Supreme Court

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Chief Justice and several Associate Justices.

Upwards of three or more in the colonial and early states period.

Regularized to between three and four by 1838.



# Officials of the Supreme Court

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Clerk of the Supreme Court

The main records keeper

Attorney General

Prosecutor on behalf of the Crown, and the State

Attorneys

Representing plaintiffs and defendants



# Other Court Officials

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## Sheriffs

County elected official who executed orders from the Supreme Court

They also presided over Inquisitions to determine damages in civil suits at the county level

## Constables

Local elected officials appointed to officiate at court, summon witnesses, secure the jury

# Other Court Officials

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## Coroners

Elected officials who presided of Inquisitions of the Dead.

Also jurisdiction in place of Sheriff when he is the defendant in the case.

## Jurors

### Grand Juries

Convened to return indictments in criminal cases.

### Petty Juries

Convened to determine guilt after an indictment has been returned.

In civil inquisitions, to determine damages after fault has been determined.

Twelve members on Petty Jurys was the ideal; frequently they adjudicated with less.

# Where and when the Supreme Court met

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Regular Sessions met quarterly

## Before the Revolution

Twice yearly at Perth Amboy  
Twice yearly at Burlington

## During the Revolution

Evidence suggests they met where they could

## After 1782

Quarterly sessions were held at Trenton

# Circuit Court

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## Supreme Court Justices rode Circuit

In between regular quarterly sessions, visiting the General Courts of Quarter Sessions to convene at O&T sessions and other matters

Oyer and Terminer Court, required the presence of at least one Supreme Court Justice, and two local judges of Common Pleas

When the Supreme Court was in session cases before County O&T Courts could be held there

This is why the Minute books and our Case files sometimes include criminal proceedings from O&T



# Case Types

## Civil (most common)

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### Debt

I gave him money and he owes it back!

### Trespass on the Case

He owes me money because I did... for him!

### Trespass & Ejectment

**He's on my land and he doesn't belong!**



# Case Types

## Civil (special interest to us)

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### Replevin

He took my stuff and I want it back!

### Detinue

He has my stuff, maybe he got it legally, but things change!

### Trover and Conversion

**I “lost” my property, he “found” it and now won’t give it back!**

### Breach of Covenant

Your basic breach of contract.

### Orders of Removal

Issued by JPs at the request of Overseers of the Poor – Get this poor needy soul out of my yard!

### Trespass

Real damage to land – He cut my trees!

# Case Types Criminal

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Larceny, burglary and all types of theft

Murder, manslaughter, chance medley and other types of killing

Assault and battery

Rape

Arson

Forgery and fraud... etc. etc. etc.

# Court Records Record Books

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Minute Books

Account Books

Dockets

Registers

Books of Judgments and Executions.

Sometimes there are indexes created by the clerks to track cases.

# Court Records Court Papers

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All types of Writs (basically everything is a writ)

Depositions and Documents entered into evidence

Jury lists and Court costs

Accounts of property seized (!)

Bonds (!) (Recognizance, Bail, Surety)

Other things

# Dictionary!

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*Black's Law Dictionary.* Black, Henry Campbell, ed.

*Fourth Edition.* [or earlier] (West Publishing Co.: St. Paul, MN, 1951)



# Supreme Court Minute Book A, November 1704 – November 1715

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1705-1706: The Queen v. Negro Jack, for killing a child.

1710-1711: The Queen v. Frank, a Negro Slave, for rape.

1711: The Queen v. Negro Jack, apparently recharged for the earlier offense.

November 8, 1705. Supreme Court at Perth Amboy.  
Chief Justice Roger Mompesson presiding

A Negro called Jack, is accused of killing a child.  
Mr. Gordon [Attorney] moves for the Coroner to convene a new inquest, the earlier inquest being imperfect.

nizans and annex the next Court  
 Dom Regineo Mr Gordon moving that a Negro called Jack  
 who was bound over to this Court for killing  
 a Child might be discharged & the Coroner  
 producing the Inquest of the Jury on the said  
 Child which being imperfect  
 Ordered that the said Negro be committed  
 until the next Supreme Court and that the  
 Coroner doe get a better Returne of the Jury.  
 John Taylor high Sheriff of Pope May being  
 called & not appearing Nor having made  
 Returne of his writts



1705. <sup>21</sup> Novemb<sup>r</sup> the eighth At a Supream Court  
held at Perth Amboy Present  
The Honor. Roger Mompesson Esq<sup>r</sup> Chief Justice  
Wm. Dunning Esq<sup>r</sup> Second Judge  
Wm. Gordon Esq<sup>r</sup> Sixth Judge  
 Proclamator Made & the Court opened in forme  
 Dom Regineo Mr Attorney Generall moved into Court on his  
part motion against Philip Toddris & Daniel  
Dunne Britains which he being called nor read  
Over to him and Mr Attorney Generall moving  
that they might stand to be fined  
and Mr Gordon Attorney for the said Defendant  
not being appeared in their proper persons moving  
that the said Degrees Britains & Philip  
Toddris may have time to plead to the said  
Information  
 Ordered that the said Philip Toddris  
 and Daniel Britaine doe appear before the next Court or else judgement be  
 given by Default against them  
 Dom Regineo John Hollingshead came into Court in his  
owne Name Person and being that his  
Appearance was to Give Evidence  
 Ordered that John Hollingshead doe stand  
 to the Information & Mr Attorney Generall hereby  
 caget before the next Court or else judgement to  
 be given by Default against him  
 Dom Regineo Walker Pomphrey being called & he not appear-  
ing Ordered that he be continued on his being  
re-called at the next Court  
 Dom Regineo Mr Gordon moving that a Negro called Jack  
who was bound over to this Court for killing  
a Child might be discharged & the Coroner  
producing the Inquest of the Jury on the said  
Child which being imperfect  
 Ordered that the said Negro be committed  
 until the next Supreme Court and that the  
 Coroner doe get a better Returne of the Jury  
 John Taylor high Sheriff of Pope May being  
 called & not appearing Nor having made  
 Returne of his writts  
 Ordered that the said John Taylor be  
 fined five pounds  
 Ordered that the Clerk of the County of  
 Burlington doe appear the first day of the  
 next Terme and show cause why he did not  
 deliver the writts of Error to him directed  
 by the Court in writing & continued on his  
 Returne given unto the next Court at Burlington  
 for to which he is bound  
 John Hollingshead came into Court & Pleaded  
 not guilty to the Information of the Attorney  
 Generall  
 John avarnes & John Drake came into Court  
 and acknowledged themselves to be the Debtors  
 of John Harrison in the sum of three hundred  
 & thirty pounds  
 Conditionally that if John avarnes be called on  
 the first of the Plaintiff John Harrison he shall  
 pay the said Harrison or surrender his body as  
 Prisoner in the said writts by it for him  
 Mr Gordon moving that John avarnes & Drake  
 doe stand for their day before the next Court  
 that John avarnes doe stand for his  
 day before the next Court or as to the Returne  
 of writts if the Plaintiff Pleaseth  
 The Court



Supreme Court Minute Book A. November 1704 – November 1715. Page 23

May 8, 1706. Supreme Court at Burlington.

Mr. Nicolls moves that the appearance of Negro Jack might be entered, and that his Recognizance be continued until the next Supreme Court.



John Nicolls vob  
Negro Jack

Mr Nicolls moves that the appearance of the Negro Jack might be entered  
 Ordered that the appearance of the said Negro Jack be entered and that he be continued on his former Recognizance until the next Supreme Court.

James Fullerton Esq. Mr. Justice moves that unless the defendant in John Nicolls vs. Negro Jack appears and enters into the Common Rule or some body for him by the first of August next Judgment do you against him by default against the said Negro Jack.

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Attention Comrae vs: Mr Justice Attorney for the Plaintiff  
 John Nicolls Esq: moves that unless the defendant in Negros Jack  
 appears and enter into the Common Rule or some body  
 for him by the first of August next Judgment do  
 you by default against the said Negro Jack

Ordered that unless the defendant in Negros Jack  
 appears or some body for him and enter into the Common  
 Rule by the first of August next Judgment do  
 you by default against the said Negro Jack

John Nicolls vob  
 Negro Jack

Mr Nicolls moves that the appearance of the Negro  
 Jack might be entered  
 Ordered that the appearance of the said Negro  
 Jack be entered and that he be continued on his  
 former Recognizance until the next Supreme  
 Court

James Fullerton Esq. Mr. Justice moves that unless the defendant in  
 John Nicolls vs. Negro Jack appears and enter into the  
 Common Rule or some body for him by the first of  
 August next Judgment do you against him by  
 default against the said Negro Jack

Ordered that unless the defendant in Negros Jack  
 appears or some body for him does appear and enter into the  
 Common Rule by the first of August next Judgment  
 do you by default against the said Negro Jack

Mr Justice  
 Attorney

moves that her Highness's order his appearance  
 might be entered, he being bound by Recognizance  
 to produce a person that is now absent from the  
 Court of Middlesex

Ordered that his appearance be entered and  
 the Recognizance continued

John Nicolls vs  
 Attorney

the defendant at the Court of Middlesex next  
 Mr Justice Attorney for the Plaintiff moves that  
 unless the defendant in Negros Jack appears or some  
 body for him and enter into the Common Rule before  
 the first of August next Judgment do you against  
 him by default

Ordered that unless the defendant in  
 Negros Jack appears or some body for him by the  
 first of August next and enter into the Common  
 Rule before the first of August next Judgment  
 do you against him by default

John Nicolls  
 Attorney

Mr Justice moves in the behalf of the Defendant  
 that his appearance may be entered  
 Ordered that his appearance be entered and that  
 he be continued on his former Recognizance  
 until the next Supreme Court

Mr Attorney General moves that John Nicolls  
 should move to recall his recognizance  
 and the Court says no

Ordered that John Nicolls should do some to this  
 on Friday morning next

John Nicolls  
 Attorney

Ordered that it shall be recalled on Friday morning  
 next

Mr Justice moves on behalf of the plaintiff  
 that the defendant plead before the first of August  
 next or Judgment do you against him by default

Ordered that unless the defendant does plead  
 by the sixth day of August next Judgment do you  
 against him by default

John Nicolls  
 Attorney

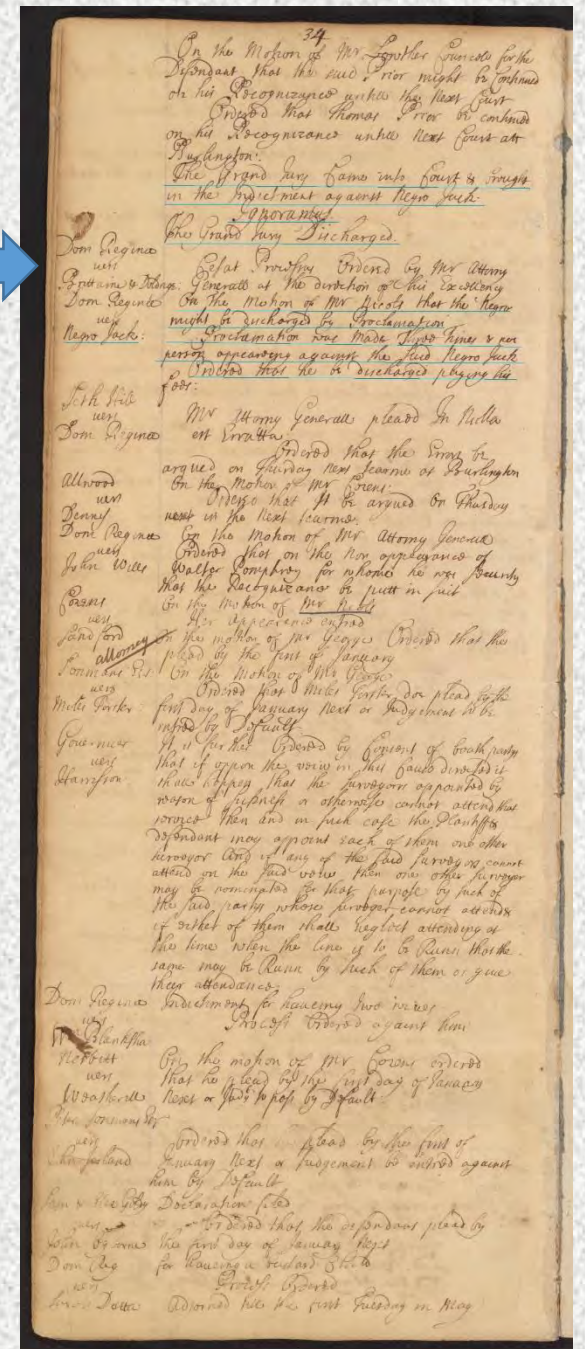
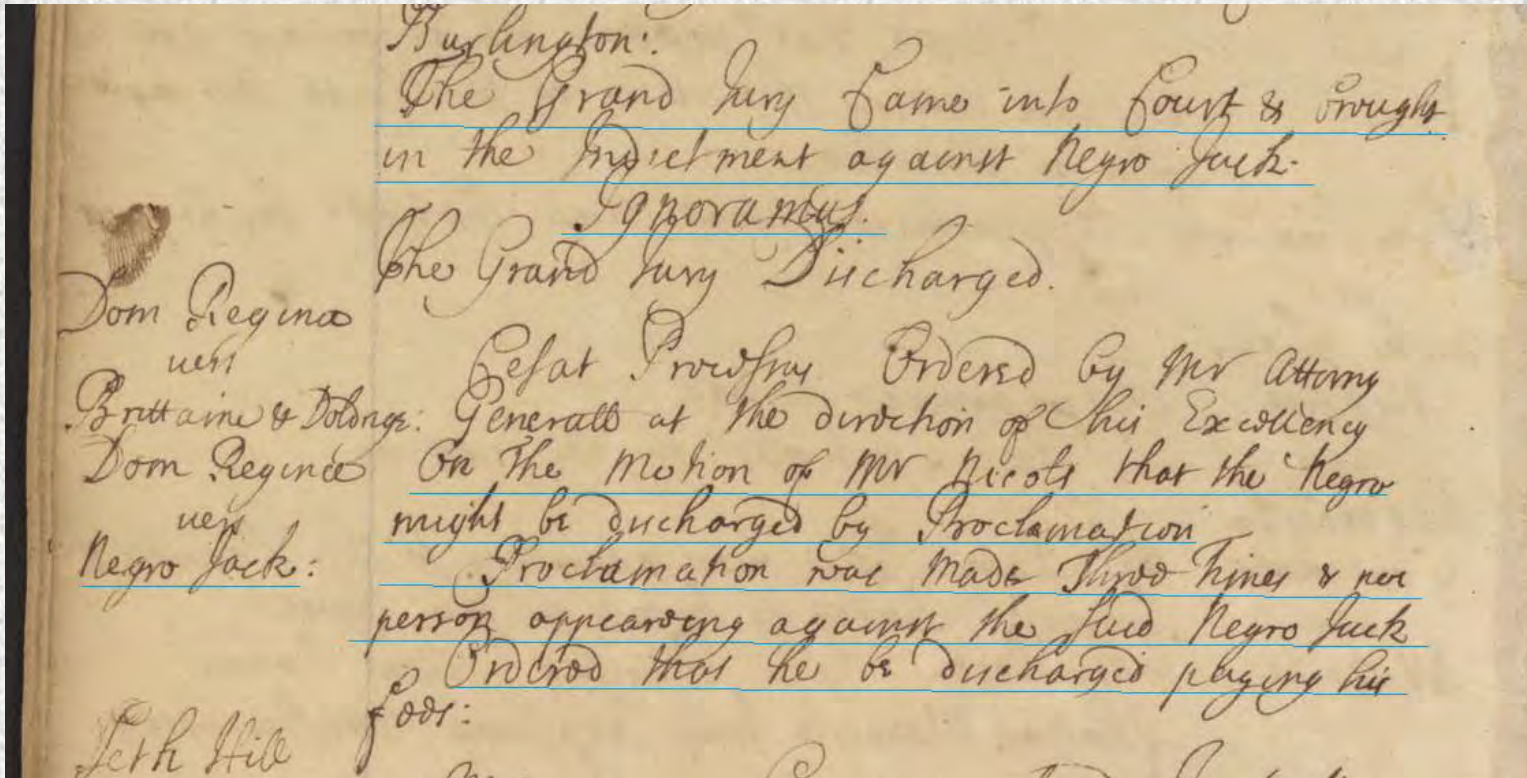
and Counsel of that Office until the afternoon

John Nicolls



December 9, 1706. Supreme Court at Perth Amboy.

The Grand Jury returns the Indictment against Negro Jack. Ignoramus. Motion of Mr. Nicols that Negro Jack might be discharged. Proclamation was made and no person appearing against the said Negro Jack. Order that he be discharged paying his fees.





Supreme Court Minute Book A. November 1704 – November 1715. Page 93

November 10, 1710.  
Supreme Court at Perth  
Amboy.

Indictment against a Negro  
Slave called Frank for a rape  
on the body of Abigall  
Dennis. Being called he  
pleaded Not Guilty.  
Petty Jury called over and  
sworn and several evidences  
sworn. The Chief Justice  
summed up the evidence.  
The panel is secured by the  
Constable. Court adjourned  
for one half hour.

Court house <sup>per curiam</sup>  
And one Indictment against a Negro Slave  
called Frank for a Rape committed on the body  
of Abigall Dennis and the said Negro Frank  
being called Appeared v' Pleaded  
Not Guilty  
The Grand Jury Discharged  
The Petty Jury called over & Sworn of the  
Panel & the several Evidences sworn  
& then the Chief Justice summed up the Evidence  
by a Constable was sworn to attend the  
Jury & the Court adjourned for half an hour  
Proclamation made & the Court opened  
The Hon. Roger Mompesson Esq. Ch. Justice  
Col. D. Cox  
Peter Jonman  
The Jury came in to Court and were called  
over & each named to their names and the  
prisoner was set to the bar and the Jury  
being asked whether they were agreed they said  
Yes & said that they found Negro Frank  
Not Guilty of the Indictment & the Record  
being read to them they all consented to  
it  
The Jury Discharged  
Ordered that the Prisoner be kept in Close Custody  
till the fees are paid  
Adjourned till the Morrow in evening eight



93  
Borrow  
Whether by  
Whether  
Borrow  
Harris  
Mastey  
Dorland  
Hickman  
On the motion of Mr. Legner  
The defendant is pleas by the first of  
Opus or Judgment  
Plaint. Master Ekers defendant in this cause  
in hospital and lodgment in the room of Cook  
at the first of Barnes pleading Not Guilty working  
into the Common Pleas  
On the motion of Mr. Pinhone  
Ordered that on filing a Declaration in a small  
bill defendant is pleas by the first of Opus or just  
by Default  
Adjourned for half an hour  
The Court met & Proclamation was made &  
the Court opened Present  
The honorable Roger Mompesson Esq. Ch. Justice  
Col. D. Cox  
Peter Jonman  
The Grand Jury came into Court and were called  
over one after another whether they had any present-  
ment & Indictments to lay before the Court  
they brought in a Bill for the recovering the  
Court house per curiam  
And one Indictment against a Negro Slave  
called Frank for a Rape committed on the body  
of Abigall Dennis and the said Negro Frank  
being called Appeared v' Pleaded  
Not Guilty  
The Grand Jury Discharged  
The Petty Jury called over & sworn of the  
Panel & the several Evidences sworn  
& then the Chief Justice summed up the Evidence  
by a Constable was sworn to attend the  
Jury & the Court adjourned for half an hour  
Proclamation made & the Court opened  
The Hon. Roger Mompesson Esq. Ch. Justice  
Col. D. Cox  
Peter Jonman  
The Jury came in to Court and were called  
over & each named to their names and the  
prisoner was set to the bar and the Jury  
being asked whether they were agreed they said  
Yes & said that they found Negro Frank  
Not Guilty of the Indictment & the Record  
being read to them they all consented to  
it  
The Jury Discharged  
Ordered that the Prisoner be kept in Close Custody  
till the fees are paid  
Adjourned till the Morrow morning eight  
of the Clock  
at Perth  
The Hon. Roger Mompesson Esq. Ch. Justice  
Col. D. Cox  
Peter Jonman  
Proclamation made & the Court opened  
Proclamation made & the Court adjourned  
till the first Tuesday in May to meet at  
Court house  
J. B. P.

The court reconvenes. The prisoner is set to the bar. The jury is asked and agrees they find Negro Frank Not Guilty. Jury is Discharged. Ordered that the Prisoner be kept in Close Custody till the fees are paid.



June 15, 1711. Supreme Court at Burlington.  
Retrial of Negro Jack [same charge?]

Negro Jack is called and pleads Not Guilty. The evidence being the same as in the former trial, the Chief Justice summed up. Without going from the bar the Jury found the Indictment Not Guilty.

Dom Regineus  
 neg  
 Negro Jack

They all agreed to itt  
 Negro Jack called and appeared in Court and  
 was arraigned and pleaded Not Guilty and the  
 Attorney Generall Joynd Issue on the same  
 The Petty Jury Sworne at ft the Pannelled  
 the evidence being the same or in the former  
 Inyall the Ch: Justice summed up the Evidence  
 and Gaug the Charge to the Jury who without  
 going from the bar found the Indictment  
 Not Guilty  
 which Was Recorded and Read to them and  
 they all agreed to itt  
 The Petty Jury discharged

Dom Regineus



18

Dom Regineus  
 neg  
 Negro Jack

Pay for them Five hundred five sherman who  
 were asked whether they found them Guilty  
 or Not Guilty they said Not Guilty  
 And the Record of the Verdict being Read to them  
 they all agreed to itt  
 Negro Jack called and appeared in Court and  
 was arraigned and pleaded Not Guilty and the  
 Attorney Generall Joynd Issue on the same  
 The Petty Jury Sworne at ft the Pannelled  
 the evidence being the same or in the former  
 Inyall the Ch: Justice summed up the Evidence  
 and Gaug the Charge to the Jury who without  
 going from the bar found the Indictment  
 Not Guilty  
 which Was Recorded and Read to them and  
 they all agreed to itt  
 The Petty Jury discharged

Dom Regineus  
 neg  
 Peter Tammor

On the motion of Mr. Attorney Generall  
 Regineus being put in and the doctantion  
 filed Ordered that the defendant plead  
 by the first of July or forego  
 Ordered that the former Rule be  
 annulled  
 Admitted into the Grand Jury in  
 August next at Amboy  
 P. M. 16 Amboy  
 Die Martis A. M. 14<sup>th</sup> August 1711  
 by a Supreme Court held for the province  
 of New Jersey  
 1711  
 The hon. David Jamison Ch: Justice  
 Proclamation made and the Court  
 opened  
 And her Majesty writ for the Discharge  
 of the same being delivered to the Ch: Justice  
 Proclamation was made as follows  
 O Yes  
 The Queens Justice of this place doe  
 command every person to keep silence and  
 hear the verdict with  
 And then the Verdict being Read in the  
 following words  
 Now Hear ye  
 Atunto by the grace of God of  
 Queen of Great Brittain France and Ireland  
 Defender of the faith etc by our Justices of the  
 Supreme Court of the County of our province  
 of New Jersey in New Jersey  
 Whereas for reasons therein set forth and the  
 Common Safety of our said province at present  
 remaining and of this for the present or future  
 as aforesaid and the defence of our said province  
 against any attempt which may be made upon the  
 same from our enemies we have this present before  
 us have ordered that all such writs habeas  
 corpus and process and other things whatsoever  
 before you in our said Court at New Amboy with  
 terms of August terming in the second Court day  
 etc

# Slave Revolts and Conspiracys

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1712 – New York Slave Revolt – British Province of New York

1741 – New York Conspiracy – British Province of New York



Supreme Court Case Files  
1708 – 1740

Case # 48020

November 7, 1708. Somerset County.

William Hooper (Esquire) v. Peter Sonmans  
Replevin.

For the return of one Negro woman named Dinah and her child, Nan, taken by Peter Sonmans of Perth Amboy, “against gages and promises”, from Hoopers Farm on the south side of Raritan River on July 31, 1707, and damage, £500.

The phrase “gages and promises” indicates a contract, possibly for purchase or for exchange of goods or services, but it is likely boiler plate.

Province of New Jersey, Novber Term Anno R<sup>e</sup> & A<sup>n</sup>e Annae Reginae Britanniae Septimo.

Summoned for Peter Sonmans of the town of Amboy in the County of Middlesex was summoned to answer William Hooper Esq<sup>r</sup> of a plea wherefore he took his goods & chattells of him & of his Hoopers and of lands unjustly detained agt<sup>s</sup> gages & pledges &c. and thereupon by W<sup>m</sup> Hooper by James Erskine his attorney complains that by afores<sup>d</sup> Peter Sonmans on the thirtieth first day of July - in the seventh year of the reign of our said sovereign Lady Anne Queen of Great Britain &c. at the County land of his Hoopers or at a place called & known by the name of Hoopers farm on the south side of the Raritan River in the County of Middlesex the goods & chattells of his Hoopers (to wit) one Negro woman named Dinah and her child called Nan and of lands unjustly detained agt<sup>s</sup> gages & pledges until &c. whereupon he says he is much wronged & hath damage to the value of five hundred pounds & thereupon he brings his suite &c.



first day of July - in the seventh year of the reign of our said sovereign Lady Anne Queen of Great Britain &c. at the County land of his Hoopers or at a place called & known by the name of Hoopers farm on the south side of the Raritan River in the County of Middlesex the goods & chattells of his Hoopers (to wit) one Negro woman named Dinah and her child called Nan and of lands unjustly detained agt<sup>s</sup> gages & pledges -

Hooper }  
Con: } Lepplein J  
Sonmans }  
  
Suprem Court 1708 -  
Novber Term



Case # 48019

November 7, 1708. Middlesex County

Daniel Hooper and Robert Lettis Hooper v. Peter Sonmans

Trover and Conversion.

A Negro Man called Jack.

October 1, 1707, at the town of Amboy, Daniel Hooper and Robert Lettis Hooper were possessed of one Negro Man called Jack, of the price of £100 current money of New York.

On the same day the said Daniel and Robert Lettis the said Negro man out of their hands and possession did casually loose, which said negro man so lost afterwards, to wit, November 1, 1707, at the place aforesaid to the hands and possession of the said Peter [Sonmans] by finding did come.



New Jersey November Term Anno Septimo Anne Reg  
Middlesex Daniel Hooper & Robert Lettis Hooper complain of Peter  
Sonmans Gent in the Custody of the Sheriff & for that Whereas  
the said Daniel & Robert Lettis the first day of October in the  
sixth year of the Reign of our Lady Anne now Queen of England  
ye at the town of Amboy in the County of Middle were possessed  
of one Negro man called Jack of the price of one hundred pounds  
Current money of New York as of their own proper goods and Chattels  
and being so possessed the said Daniel & Robert Lettis after  
wards to wit the day year & place aforesaid the said negro man out  
of their hands & possession did casually loose, which said negro man  
so lost afterwards to wit the first day of November in the year  
aforesaid at the place aforesaid to the hands & possession of the  
said Peter by finding did come, Nevertheless the sd Peter  
altho he well knew the said Negro man to be of proper goods  
& Chattels of y<sup>e</sup> said Daniel & Robert Lettis and to them of right  
to belong & appertain yet Extremely & fraudulently intending  
the said Daniel & Robert Lettis in this behalf craftily and  
Subtly to deceive and defraud the said Negro man to whom  
sd Daniel & Robert Lettis (altho often desired) had not yet delivered  
but the same to them to deliver had alwayes hitherto refused  
and still doth refuse, and the said Peter the sd Negro man aforesaid  
to wit the day year & place last above mentioned to his own proper  
use & behoof had conveyed and disposed, Wherefore y<sup>e</sup> said Daniel &  
Robert Lettis say that they are prejudiced and have dammage  
to y<sup>e</sup> value of two hundred pounds and three of they bring this  
sue &c  
Regner per Reg

Pley 11



Case # 21081\*

November 30, 1711. Monmouth County.

The Queen v. Benjamin VanClive (Slave owner of Negro Sam)

Recognizance.

£80 to guarantee the appearance of Negro Sam before the Court of Oyer and Terminer.



Memorandum that on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of November in the tenth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lady Anne by the Grace of God of Great Britain &c. Queen Defender of the Faith at Freehold in the County of Monmouth and Province of New Jersey appeared before me John Reid one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace in the County of Monmouth Benjamin Vanclive of the said Freehold and did acknowledge himself indebted to our Sovereign Lady the Queen in the Sum of Eighty pounds money of the Province to be levied of his goods and Chattels lands and Tenements to the use of our said Lady the Queen Her Heirs and Successors. On condition that if the said Benjamin Vanclive shall have his Negroman Sam in his proper Person at the next Court of Oyer and Terminer or general goal delivery to be holden for this County of Monmouth to answer to such things as shall be by the Court asked him then this Recognizance to be void & to remain in full force and virtue. taken and acknowledged before me

John Reid



Case # 14470\*

August 20, 1714. Middlesex County.

Thomas Gordon v. Charles Morgan

Trespass (for harvesting hay)

On August 23, 1711, Charles Morgan, with his Negro Slave Jamie, is accused of illegally harvesting hay, to the value of £5, and committing other damage, on meadows at Amboy, lying between the branches of Cheesequakes Creek, to the Damage £10, money of the province.

The fact that Jamie is referred to specifically in the complaint indicates he may have been called as a witness. The surviving records do not say.



New Jersey: May Term at Amboy anno Regni Regis  
Georgij 8<sup>is</sup> primo.

Midd<sup>x</sup> ss. Charles Morgan of Amboy in S<sup>d</sup> County of Middlesex  
yeoman was attached to answer Thomas Gordon Esq<sup>r</sup>  
of a plea of trespass &c: and whereupon y<sup>e</sup> said  
Thomas Gordon in his own proper person complaining y<sup>e</sup>  
the said Charles the twentieth third day of August  
in the tenth year of y<sup>e</sup> Reign of our Late  
Lady anno 8<sup>c</sup>: By force & arms the Close of  
Meadow of him the S<sup>d</sup> Thomas lying & being in  
the Town of Amboy in y<sup>e</sup> afores<sup>d</sup> County of Middlesex  
between two Branches of Cheesequakes Creek  
bounded South Westerly by y<sup>e</sup> meadow formerly  
Belonging to Gawine Lawry Esq<sup>r</sup>: Do<sup>g</sup>: Now to  
John Melvind & Round y<sup>e</sup> other sides by two Bran-  
=ches of S<sup>d</sup> Creek he did break and Enter and his  
graze there then growing to y<sup>e</sup> value of forty  
two Shillings he with his Negro Slave Jamie  
walking w<sup>th</sup> their foot did tread down & consume  
and his hay there then being to y<sup>e</sup> value of five  
pounds into Cocks & then into Stacks did make  
and other harms to him he then and there did aggr<sup>vate</sup>  
y<sup>e</sup> peace of our said Lord the King that now is &  
to the Damage of him the S<sup>d</sup> Thomas Gordon Ten  
pounds money of said province and thereupon he  
brings this Suit &c:

pldg: profs: } John Doe  
Rich: Roe







Case # 21080\*

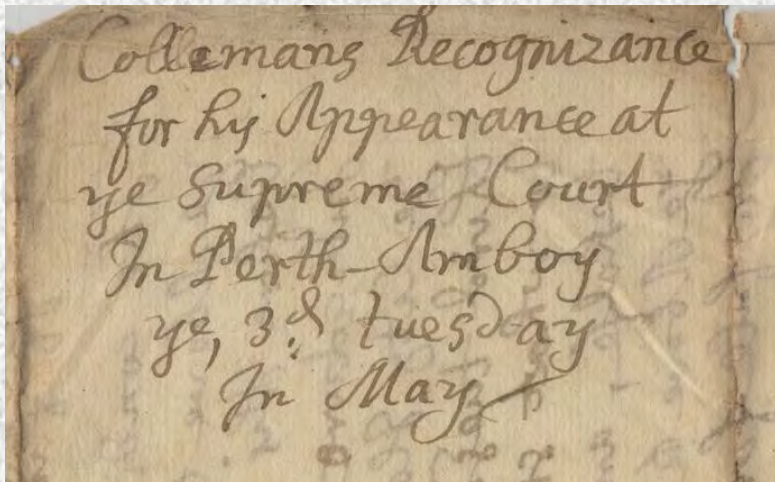
March 6, 1725/1726. Middlesex County.

The King v. Colleman, a Negro man

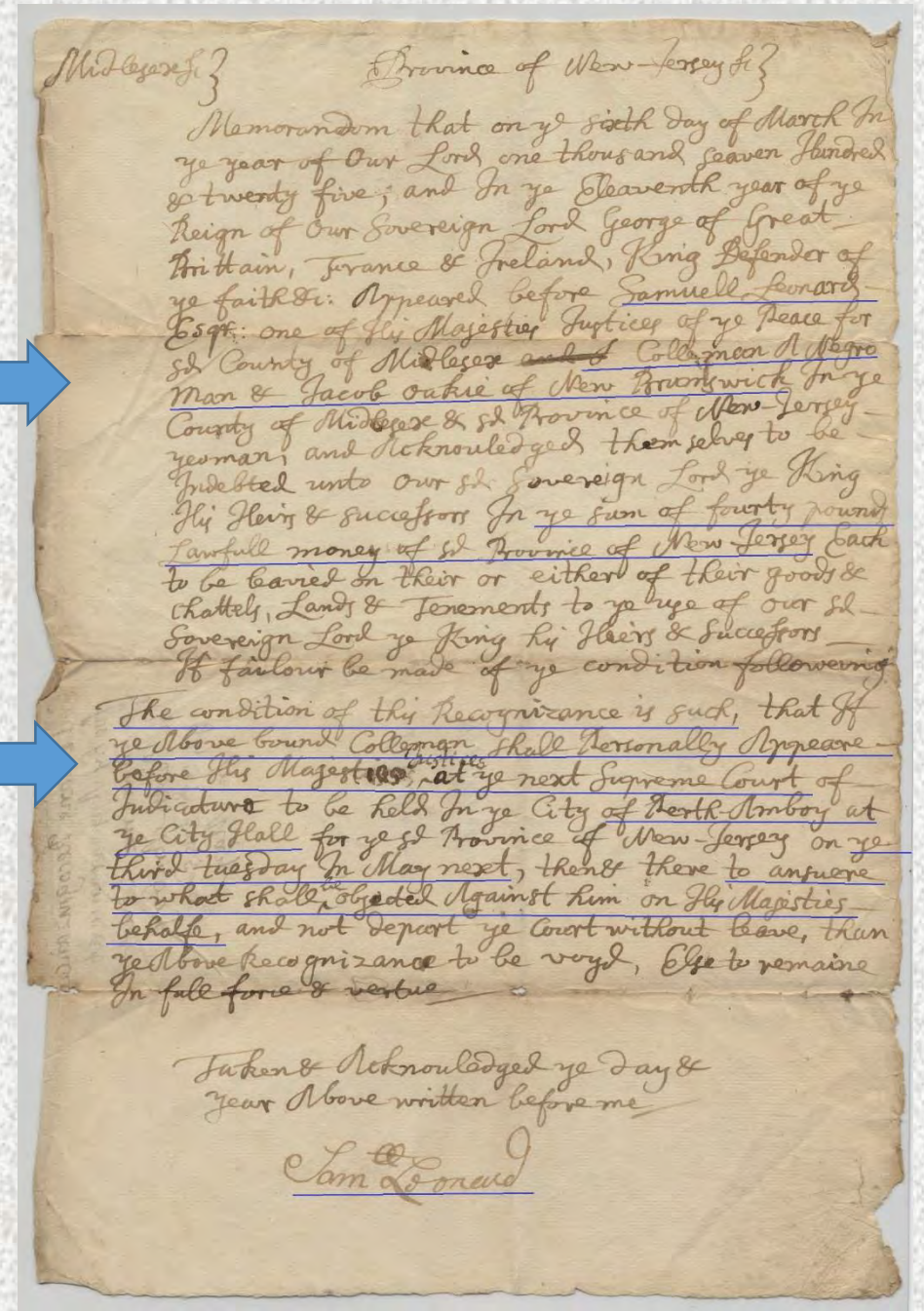
Recognizance.

£40 to guarantee the appearance of Colleman before the Supreme Court, May 3, 1726.

**“To answer to what shall be objected against him on His Majesty’s behalf”**: indicating a criminal proceeding. Jacob Oakie is his surety.



Collemans Recognizance  
for his Appearance at  
ye Supreme Court  
In Perth Amboy  
ye, 3<sup>d</sup> Tuesday  
In May



Middlesex } Province of New Jersey }

Memorandum that on ye sixth day of March In ye year of Our Lord one thousand seven hundred & twenty five; and In ye Seventh year of ye Reign of Our Sovereign Lord George of Great Britain, France & Ireland, King Defender of ye faith &c. Appeared before Samuell Leonard Esqr. one of His Majesties Justices of ye Peace for sd County of Middlesex and Colleman A Negro Man & Jacob Oakie of New Brunswick In ye County of Middlesex & sd Province of New Jersey yeoman, and Acknowledged them selves to be Indebted unto our sd Sovereign Lord ye King His Heirs & Successors In ye sum of forty pound Lawfull money of sd Province of New Jersey each to be levied on their or either of their goods & Chattels, Lands & Tenements to ye use of our sd Sovereign Lord ye King his Heirs & Successors To favour be made of ye condition following

The condition of this Recognizance is such, that If ye above bound Colleman shall personally Appear before His Majesty's <sup>Justices</sup> at ye next Supreme Court of Judicature to be held In ye City of Perth Amboy at ye City Hall for ye sd Province of New Jersey on ye third Tuesday In May next, there to answer to what shall be objected Against him on His Majesties behalf, and not depart ye Court without leave, than ye above Recognizance to be void, Else to remaine In full force & vertue

Taken & Acknowledged ye Day & year Above written before me

Sam Leonard



Case # 9479

May 15, 1728. Bergen County.

Peter Demarest v. Richard Ashfield

Replevin [or Trespass on the Case].

Richard Ashfield, Gentleman, on May 15, 1727, at Bergen, took one Negro man Slave named Wan, and him unjustly detains against sureties and pledges.

Damages, £200.

New Jersey Supd Court  
Peter Demarest }  
                          } Donee in  
                          } Replevin  
Richard Ashfield }  
  
Filed 15<sup>th</sup> May 1728



New Jersey Supd Court Do Termino Septembri Anno primo Georgii  
Tercii Regis

Bergen County s<sup>t</sup> Richard Ashfield Gout was Summoned to answer Peter  
Demarest Of a plea wherefore he took the goods and  
Shattles of him the said Peter and them unjustly  
detained against Sureties and pledges & whereupon  
the said Peter by John Chambray his attorney complains  
that the aforesaid Richard the fiftenth day of May  
in the year of our Lord One thousand Seven  
hundred and twenty Seven at Bergen in the County of  
Bergen aforesaid did take the goods & shattles of him  
the said Peter (to wit) one Negro man Slave named  
Wan and him unjustly detained against Suretye and  
pledges untill & whereupon the said Peter saith that  
he is undo worse and hath damage to the value of  
Two hundred pounds and therof he brings this Suite &c  
Chambray Editor & pledge  
Alexander Doffo }  
  
Bergen County s<sup>t</sup> the said Peter Demarest puts in his place John  
Chambray Gout his attorney ag<sup>t</sup> the said Richard  
Ashfield in a plea of trespass on the case



Case # 9489\*\*

May 15, 1728. Bergen County.

David Demarest v. Richard Ashfield

Replevin [or Trespass on the Case].

Richard Ashfield, Gentleman, on May 15, 1727, at Bergen, took one Negro boy Girl named Jenny, and him unjustly detains against sureties and pledges.

Damages, £200.

New Jersey Supd Court

David Demarest } Doct in  
 id } replevin  
 Richard Ashfield }

Filed 15<sup>th</sup> May 1728

New Jersey Supd Court Do Ferrisio Septembri -- anno primo Georgij  
 Tenthii Regis

Bergen County s<sup>t</sup> Richard Ashfield Gents was Summoned to answer David  
 Demarest of a plea whosofores he took the goods and  
 Chattels of him the said David and them unjustly detained  
 against Suretyes and pledges &c Whoroupon the said David  
 by John Shambour his Attorney complained that the aforesaid  
 Richard the fiftenth day of May in the year of our Lord  
 One thousand seven hundred and twenty seven at Bergen in  
 the County of Bergen aforesaid did take the goods and Chattels  
 of him the said David (to w<sup>it</sup>) one Negro girl named Jenny  
 and her unjustly detained against Suretyes and pledges --  
 w<sup>it</sup>h &c Whoroupon the said David saith that he is made  
 worse and hath damage to the value of two hundred pounds  
 and therooof he bringz this Suite &c

Shambour & Quor }  
 Alexander & deffe } play &c

Bergen County s<sup>t</sup> the said David Demarest putt in his plea John  
 Shambour gent his Attorney ag<sup>t</sup> the said Richard Ashfield  
 in a plea of trespass on the case





Case # 9489\*

May 15, 1728. Bergen County.

David Demarest Jr. v. Richard Ashfield

Replevin [or Trespass on the Case].

Richard Ashfield, Gentleman, on May 15, 1727, at Bergen, took one Negro boy Slave named Claes, and him unjustly detains against sureties and pledges.

Damages, £200.



New Jersey Supr Court  
 David Demarest Junr } Deed in  
 v } replevin  
 Richard Ashfield }  
 filed 15<sup>th</sup> May 1728

New Jersey Supr Court De Termino Septembri Anno primo Georgij 5<sup>di</sup> Regis

Bergen County Richard Ashfield gent was Summoned to Answer David Demarest Junr. of a plea wherof he took the goods and Chattels of him the said David and them unjustly detained agt Sureties and pledges & wherupon the said David by John Chambers his Attorney Complains that the said Richard the fifteenth day of May in the year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and twenty seven at Bergen in the County of Bergen aforesaid did take the goods and Chattels of him the said David (to witt) One Negro boy Slave named Claes and him unjustly detained against Sureties and pledges untill &c wherupon the said David saith that he is made worse and hath damages to the value of Two hundred pounds & thereof he brings this Suit &c

Chambers & Duod J. ploy &c  
 Alexander deo the J. ploy &c

Bergen County of the said David Demarest Junr put in his place John Chambers gent his attorney agt. the said Richard Ashfield in a plea of trespass on the case



Case # 17871

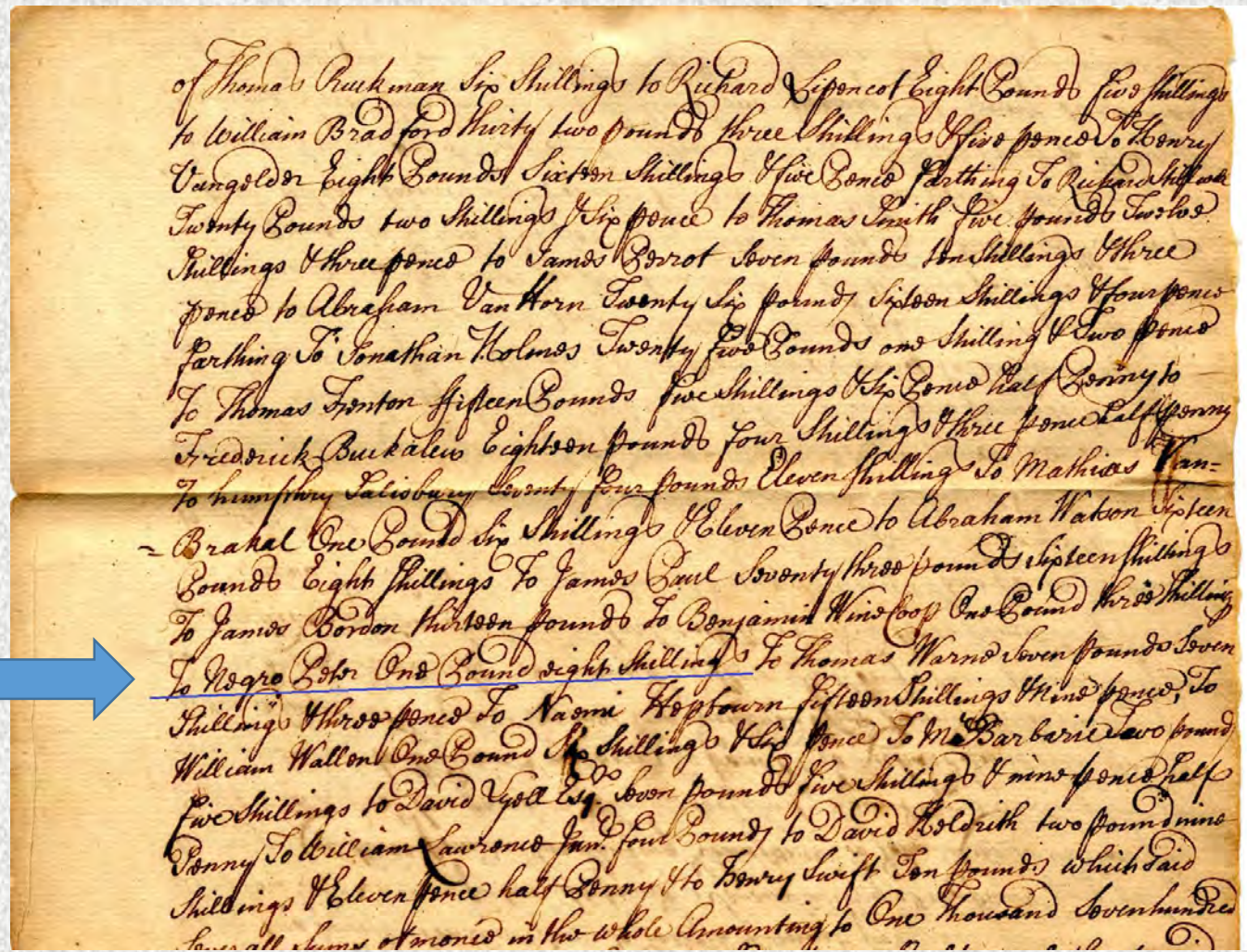
1729. Monmouth County.

Robert Hunter (late Governor of New Jersey) v. Johannes Smock (Surety for Obadiah Bowne, deceased, late Executor of Captain John Bowne)

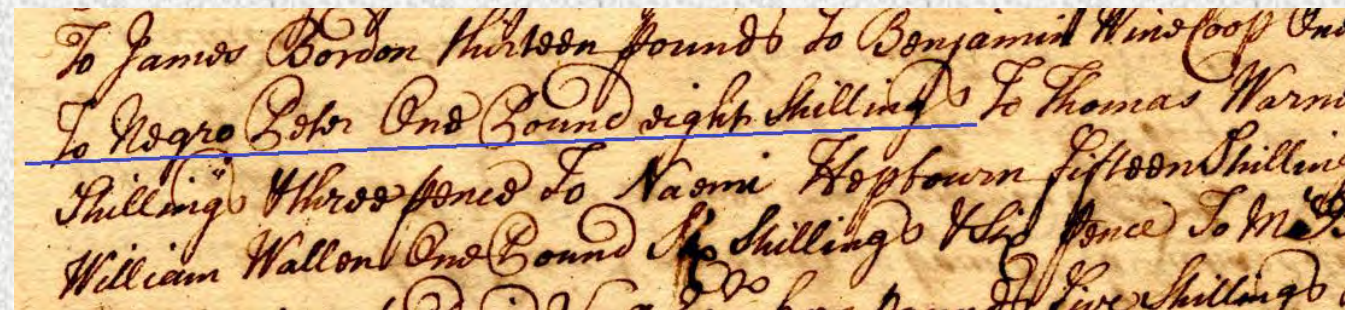
Rejoinder in Debt on Bond (from 1719)

On a £10,000 surety bond for Obadiah Bowne, deceased, late Executor of Captain John Bowne; for money owed Stephen Delancey, Peter Barberie, and John Moore.

In a pages-long list of creditors on the estate is Negro Peter, owed £1.8s.0d. For what? It does not say.



of Thomas Cruikman Six Shillings to Richard Ligonot Eight Pound five Shillings  
to William Bradford thirty two pound three Shilling five pence To Henry  
Van golden Eight Pound Sixteen Shilling five Pence farthing To Richard Hillcock  
Twenty Pound two Shillings five pence to Thomas Smith five pound two Shilling  
Shillings & three pence to James Borrot seven pound ten Shillings three  
pence to Abraham Van Horn Twenty six pound sixteen Shillings four pence  
farthing To Jonathan Holmes Twenty five Pound one Shilling & two pence  
To Thomas Tanton fifteen Pound five Shillings & six Pence half Penny to  
Friedrick Buckalew Eighteen pound four Shilling & three pence half penny  
To Humphrey Salisbury Seventy four pound eleven Shilling To Mathias Van-  
-Brakel One Pound six Shillings & eleven Pence to Abraham Waton sixteen  
Pound eight Shillings To James Paul Twenty three pound & fifteen Shilling  
To James Gordon thirteen pound To Benjamin Winslow One Pound three Shilling  
To Negro Peter One Pound eight Shilling To Thomas Warno seven pound seven  
Shilling & three pence To Naomi Hopfourn fifteen Shilling & three pence To  
William Wallon One Pound six Shilling & six pence To Mrs Bar barie two pound  
five Shilling to David Yell six pound five Shilling & nine pence half  
Penny To William Lawrence Jan. four Pound to David Holwith two pound nine  
Shilling & eleven pence half Penny to Henry Swift Ten pound which said  
be all sum of money in the whole amounting to One thousand seven hundred



To James Gordon thirteen pound To Benjamin Winslow One Pound three Shilling  
To Negro Peter One Pound eight Shilling To Thomas Warno seven pound seven  
Shilling & three pence To Naomi Hopfourn fifteen Shilling & three pence To  
William Wallon One Pound six Shilling & six pence To Mrs Bar barie two pound  
five Shilling to David Yell six pound five Shilling & nine pence half  
Penny To William Lawrence Jan. four Pound to David Holwith two pound nine  
Shilling & eleven pence half Penny to Henry Swift Ten pound which said  
be all sum of money in the whole amounting to One thousand seven hundred



Case # 41320

September 28, 1734

Adam Hude, Henry Freeman, John Heard and Richard Cutler (Justices of the Peace, of Woodbridge) v. Janna Payne

Disorderly House.

For serving of liquor on Sunday, May 26, 1734, and disturbing the peace, £0.10s fine; and Contempt of Court, for refusing to appear before the Justices.

The papers include several depositions [affirmations] offered by the good people of Woodbridge.

John Hamilton is the Commissioner for taking Bails and Affidavits.



Province of New Jersey }  
County of middlessex }  
Samuel Allen one of the Constables of the township of Woodbridge in the County of middlessex being duly attested upon solemn affirmation saith that upon the Tenth Day of June last past he this affirmant then being one of the Constables of said town of woodbridge by order of Adam Hude, Henry Freeman & John Heard Esq's: three of his Majesties Justices of the Peace for the said County summoned Janna Payne of said Town Inhabitant to come & appear before them <sup>at the house of John Heard</sup> to answer a Complaint made to them & to bring her License with her whereupon the said Janna Payne cursed & damnd all y<sup>e</sup> said Justices & said that she would not come or appear before them & further saith not —  
Affirmed this twentieth eighth Day of September 1734.  
Samuel Allen  
Commiss<sup>r</sup> John Hamilton



John Ford Esq One of his Majesties Justices of the Peace for the County of Middlessex Affirms & saith that the Afforesd Several Affirmations of Thomas Guch & Hope Bloomfield & Affidavits of Benjamin Bloomfield Foreman Bloomfield & John Brooks & James Thompson were duly taken & sworn to by them before the said Justices above Mentioned And that the Matters and Facts besides above set forth are True as near as this deponent does remember and further saith Not...  
Shown this first Day of October Annoq<sup>ue</sup> Domini: 1734  
Com<sup>o</sup> Me<sup>o</sup> John Hamilton



Case # 41320

September 28, 1734

Page 1 of sworn testimony.

Including that of Benjamin Bloomfield, who reports that "he saw the aforesaid Janna Payne Play at Cards with Black Frank Bunn, A Negroe, and Nehemiah Moores"...

Benjamin Bloomfield of the said Town of Woodbridge being duly sworn before the said Justices Doe declare to the same Effect as the aforesaid Hopps Bloomfield, and also further with that he saw the aforesaid Janna Payne Play at Cards - With Black Frank Bunn a Negroe and Nehemiah Moores of the said place and further saith that he saw the



*Resons*  
 At private hold at the Town of Woodbridge in the County of Middlesex and  
 Province of New Jersey on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of June in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven  
 Hundred and thirty four I the said John Dore, Esq. of Freemen, John Dore Esq.  
 Richard Carter, Esq. Justices of his Majesties Justices of the Peace for the said County of Middlesex  
 This proceeded as follows

Upon Complaint to us the said Justices that Janna Payne of the said Town of Woodbridge in the  
 Parish and County aforesaid was a disorderly house and bar house and suffers Divers Inhabitants of the said Town to  
 be drunk and to be drinking in her house as well by Night as by Day to the Disturbance of her Neighbours &  
 others Inhabitants of the said Town and we the said Justices having taken the Oaths of the said Justices  
 Do Order the Constables of the said Town to forthwith Summon the said Janna Payne to appear immediately  
 before us to answer the said Complaint and to bring her License with her

The said Janna Payne being summoned and informed by the said Justices that the said Janna Payne  
 Refused to attend or appear before us and that she caused all the Justices and void the Writ  
 not being in Words to that the like Effect whereupon we the said Justices considering the said Janna  
 of the said Janna Payne to be returned in Execution of his Majesties Authority by a Writ  
 to take the several Affidavits in Manner following

Thomas Galt of full Age being duly Sworn before the said Justices Doe declare that he being at the house of Janna Payne in the said  
 Town of Woodbridge on the 26 Day of May last past being the Lord Day being the 26<sup>th</sup> of May last past and Inhabitants  
 of the said Town for divers much Drunken in Signer and If in Signer saith that the said William Dore good  
 had been drinking & Drunken there all the Night before the said 26<sup>th</sup> of May and was there drunk and further  
 saith not

Hopps Bloomfield of the said Town of Woodbridge being duly sworn before the said Justices Doe declare that the  
 being a Neighbor of the said Janna Payne has several Times this Spring seen Divers Drunken & being in the  
 Inhabitants of the said Town on the Day time and for the most part of the Night Drunken and Drunken in the House  
 of the said Janna Payne and has also Divers Times seen them play at Cards in the said House and has sometimes  
 been disturbed in the Night Time from taking his Natural Rest by the Noise and Disturbance of the Company  
 frequenting the said House and further saith not

Benjamin Bloomfield of the said Town of Woodbridge being duly sworn before the said Justices Doe declare to the  
same Effect as the aforesaid Hopps Bloomfield, and also further with that he saw the aforesaid Janna Payne Play at Cards -  
With Black Frank Bunn a Negroe and Nehemiah Moores of the said place and further saith that he saw the  
 aforesaid William Dore good at the house of John Galt on the Town of Woodbridge on the 26<sup>th</sup> Day of May last past very much Drunken  
 in Signer and that went from the said Hopps Bloomfield to the house of the aforesaid Janna Payne where the next  
 Day being on the 27<sup>th</sup> Day of May aforesaid he saw the said William Dore good when he returned and Drunken  
 in Signer and that the said William Dore good frequents there till about the 28<sup>th</sup> of May aforesaid and further saith not

1750 - 1760



Case # 41885

June 27, 1750. Burlington County.

Overseers of the Poor of Chesterfield Township v.  
Overseers of the Poor of North Hanover Township

Appeal on an Order of Removal (for Peter, "an old  
Negro man")



Burlington and one of us of the Quorum that a certain old Negro  
man named Peter came lately into the said Township of Chesterfield  
not having gained a legal Settlement there according to the Law



Burlington County  
The overseers of the poor  
for the Township of New  
Hanover app<sup>ts</sup> —  
v.s.  
The overseers of the poor  
for the Township of  
Chesterfield app<sup>ts</sup> —

The Appellants by Abraham  
Collman their Attorney Apperals,  
from the Order of Isaac DeGus and  
Joseph Scattergood Esq<sup>s</sup> Two of His Justices  
of the peace for the County of Burlington  
In the removal of Negro Peter  
from the Township of Chesterfield to the Township  
of New Hanover app<sup>ts</sup> to the Honor of your  
quarters Sessions of the peace to be held in & for the  
County aforesaid, And David McVane may be Entred  
June 27<sup>th</sup> 1750 —  
Collman att. for the  
app<sup>ts</sup> —

County of Burlington Se

To the Constable and Overseers of the Poor of the Township  
of Chesterfield, and to the Overseers of the Poor for the  
Township of New Hanover in the said County Greeting

Upon the Complaint of Roweth Beck one of the Overseers  
of the Poor of the Township of Chesterfield unto us whose names are  
Subscribed two of his Majestys Justices of the Peace for the County of  
Burlington and one of us of the Quorum that a certain old Negro  
man named Peter came lately into the said Township of Chesterfield  
not having gained a legal Settlement there according to the Law  
in that Case made and Provided nor produced a Certificate to them  
owning him to be settled elsewhere, and that the said Peter is  
now chargeable to the said Township of Chesterfield and likely to con-  
tinue chargeable so long as he dwelleth there. We therefore upon  
due proof made thereof, and likewise upon due consideration had  
of the premises do adjudge the same to be true. And we do like-  
wise adjudge that the last place of the Lawful Settlement of  
him the said Peter was in the Township of New Hanover

We do therefore require you to convey the said Peter to the Township  
of New Hanover AND we do also hereby require you the said  
Overseers of the Poor of the Township of New Hanover to receive  
and provide for him the said Peter as an Inhabitant of the Town-  
ship of New Hanover Given under our hands & Seals this 27<sup>th</sup> day  
of June Anno Dom. MDCCL.

Ja. DeGus  
J. Scattergood



Case # 21074\*

June 28, 1750. Morris County.

King v. a Mallatto Woman called Hannah

Indictment for Assault and Battery.

On June 28, 1750 at New Hannover, A Mallatto woman called Hannah is accused of assaulting Elizabeth Crane.



New Jersey: The Jurors for our Sovereign Lord the King for the County of Morris Being duly charged and sworn upon the respective Oath of at least Twelve Honest and Lawfull Men of the said County Do present that a Mallatto woman called Hannah late of Hannover in the County of Morris aforesd. the Twenty Eighth day of June in the Twenty fourth year of the Reign of our said Sovereign Lord George the Second by the grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith &c at Hannover aforesd. in the County of Morris aforesd. and within the Jurisdiction of this Court, in and upon our Elizabeth Crane an Assault, did make, and to the said Elizabeth Crane, she the said Hannah did then & there Deal & Evilly Intreat and other Harms to her the said Elizabeth Crane, she the said Hannah then & there did, to the great Damage of the said Elizabeth Crane and against the peace of our said Sovereign Lord the King that now is his Crown & Dignity &c

Harrell attorn.



Case # 21074\*

June 28, 1750. Morris County.

King v. a Mallatto Woman called Hannah

Verso of Indictment

Shows the Jury foreman, the ruling of the jury, the evidences (witnesses) and the plea of the defendant.

The King v. Indictment for  
Mallatto Hannah at the Court  
Sept. 28 1750  
Guilty  
24 Sep

Billa Vera  
Jamuel Swayze foreman  
Evidences  
Eliz<sup>th</sup> Grand  
Wm Johnson  
Sarah Quice



Case # 36922

September 1, 1750.  
Somerset County.

Rachel Stockton  
(Widow and Relict  
of Samuel  
Stockton) v.  
Andrew McMackin

Replevin.

New Jersey. GEORGE the second by the grace of God of great Britain France and Ireland King Defender of  
the Faith &c. To our Sheriff of our County of Somerset GREETING we command you that justly and  
without Delay you cause to be displayed to Rachael the now Widow and Relict of Samuel  
Stockton late of the County of Somerset Deceased her Goods and Chattels to witt Two Looking  
Glasses, one Table, and Tea Table, two pair of Andirons, one Iron Kettle, one Chest of Drawers  
Two Iron Trammel, one Dozen of Chairs, three Heather Beds, and a Straw Bed, three Coverlids, a Sheet  
and two Pillows, one Jeweler Dish, one Tea Kettle, and Kettle Tea Pott, four Punch Bowls, with other  
China, one Bedstead, one Bottle Case, one Chest of Drawers, one Negroe wench called Pegg, one  
old Dressing Table, one Lignum Vita Mortar and Iron Pestle, one Heather Bed and Bedstead, one  
Iron Pott, one pair of Small Andirons and Tongues, one water Pail and Funnel and one old Jeweler  
Tankard, which Andrew M-Mackin, Did take and unjustly Detains, (as tis said) And cause her the  
said Rachael forthwith of the said Goods and Chattels to be Restored and Possessed, so that we may  
hear no more clamour thereof for Default of Justice, And how you shall have Executed this our Writ,  
make known to us at our next Supreme Court of Judicature to be hold for this Province, at Burlington  
on the first Tuesday in November next, Witness my self at Burlington aforesaid this first Day  
of September in the Twentieth Year of our Reign

Rachel Stockton & Andrew M-Mackin  
Writ of Replevin to the Sheriff of Somerset returnable at Burlington  
on the first Tuesday in November Teste 1<sup>o</sup> September 1750

Based on the form of the writ, as well as the status of Widow Stockton, this was probably issued from Chancery Court.

Returnable to the Supreme Court in Burlington, the Sheriff of Somerset County is ordered to reclaim a variety of household goods, and “one Negro wench called Pegg”, against pledges of prosecution.



Case # 21190

December 31, 1751. Morris County.

The King v. Daniel Roberts

Felony [Murder]  
or Chance Medley [Homicide by  
“chance affray” or “misadventure”]

In the death of Phillis, his Negro  
Wench.

Daniel Roberts savagely beat Phillis  
on December 8, 1751, and she  
subsequently died of exposure, on  
December 20, 1751.

This is the Order to remand Daniel  
Roberts to custody.

Signed by Justice of the Peace Jacob  
Ford

morris) To the Sheriff or gale Keeper of the County of morris  
(County) ) ~~Whereas~~ whereas Daniel Roberts stands Charged with  
beating abusing and hardly using phillis his negro  
wench by which hard usage it is said the sd phellis  
is frozen and now dead

Therefore these are in his majestys name to Charge and  
Command you to Reseave into your Custody and gale the  
Body of him the sd Daniel Roberts Late of morris  
Town and County Taken by Joseph Stayward  
Constable of our said County and Brought before  
me for Suspicion of felony or Chansmedley &  
that you safely Keep him in your gaol til he  
is from thence discharged by due Course of Law  
given under my hand and seal at morris  
Town in the County of morris this 31<sup>st</sup> Day  
of Desember a no<sup>o</sup> Dominion 1751  
Jacob Ford Justice



Case # 21190

December 31, 1751. Morris County.

The King v. Daniel Roberts

Felony Murder or Chance Medley.

Recognizance £30, for Gifford [or Gilbert] Heady and John Marsh to give evidence at the next Court of Oyer and Terminer on behalf of the King concerning the death of Phillis.

Jacob Ford, Justice of the Peace



newjersey ) gilbert Heady and John marsh both of  
Morris County ) the County of morris are laid under recogni-  
ance to our sovereign Lord King george the second  
His heirs and successors each in the sum of  
thirty pound p<sup>ro</sup>ock money to be levied upon their  
and each of their goods and Chattels Lands and  
Tenements upon the failure of the Conditions  
following

The Conditions of the above recognizance is such that and  
if the above sd gilbert Heady and John marsh they and each  
of them personally appear at our next Court of oyer and  
terminer and give and deliver to be held for our said  
County of morris then and their to give in evidence in the  
behalf of our sovereign Lord the King for and concerning  
the death of Daniel Roberts his negro wench and any  
other or thing concerning the peas of our sovereign Lord the  
King and not to be put without leave of the sd Court  
then the above ~~delegation to be~~ recognizance to be void or  
else to stand in full force and virtue in the Law

Taken and acknowledged before me Jacob Ford one of the  
Justices of the inferior Court for the County of morris this  
thirtieth Day of December in the twenty fifth year of  
the reign of our sovereign Lord King george the second King  
of Great Brittain France and Ireland and in the year of our Lord Christ  
one thousand seven hundred fifty and one

Jacob Ford Just



Case # 21190

December 31, 1751. Morris County.

The King v. Daniel Roberts

Felony Murder or Chance Medley.

Daniel Roberts stands charged with beating abusing and hardly using Phillis his negro wench by which hard usage it is said the said phillis is frozen and now dead." The initial incident occurred on December 8, 1751 and continued through December 20, when Phillis died.

This is the earliest murder indictment thus far found in the collection for an enslaver killing a slave.

Indictment, full view.

Morris County In the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty one the Body of the County of Morris Benjamin and these duly charged and sworn upon the respective oaths of the Lord Justice of the Peace and Law Officers of the said County Do present That Daniel Roberts late of Morris Town in the County of Morris a free and lawful man, not having the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty one and by the instigation of the Devil on the eighth Day of December in the twenty fifth year of the reign of our Sovereign said King the second by the grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King Defender of the faith &c. with force and arms at Morris Town aforesaid in the County aforesaid and within the Jurisdiction of His said Majesty and under the King's Majesty a Negro wench servant of His Majesty and Daniel Roberts, In the presence of God and of our said Lord the King then and there being solemnly, wilfully and of his Malice aforethought an assault did make, and there said Phillis with certain whips a Rods called Wallnut Tree Switches, which the said Daniel Roberts in his right hand then and there had and hold then and there solemnly, voluntarily and of his Malice aforethought, on Divers parts of the Body of the said Phillis (that is to say) on her Back, Breast and Side, did strike Bruise and wound, and did then and there give unto her the said Phillis four hundred Lashes with the said Whips a Rods called Wallnut Tree Switches as aforesaid, and that he the said Daniel Roberts did then and there altogether neglect and refuse to give and exhibit unto the said Phillis necessary Health Remedies or to take any Care for the preservation of the Life of the said Phillis, By reason and means of which said striking bruising wounding and Lashes By which the said Daniel Roberts given unto the said Phillis as aforesaid, and for want of necessary Comforting Soothing and Medicines given Exhibited unto her the said Phillis, She the said Phillis from the said eighth Day of December in the year aforesaid did then and there languish and so languishing did live, until the twentieth Day of the same Month of December in the year aforesaid, on which same twentieth Day of December in the year aforesaid, By means of the striking bruising wounding and Lashes aforesaid By him the said Daniel Roberts given unto her the said Phillis as aforesaid, and for want of necessary Comforting Soothing and Medicines being given and exhibited unto her the said Phillis She the said Phillis did then and there dying, And so the said Justice upon the said respective Oaths Do say that the said Daniel Roberts on the aforesaid twentieth Day of December in the year aforesaid at Morris Town aforesaid in the County and within the Jurisdiction aforesaid, Her the said Phillis a Negro wench called Phillis in the said County and from aforesaid, solemnly, wilfully and of his Malice aforethought did Kill and Murder, Against the peace of our said Sovereign and the King's Majesty his Crown and Dignity &c.

James M. O'Connell



Case # 21190. January 2, 1752. Morris County. The King v. Daniel Roberts. Indictment Part 1.

Morris County. The Jurors sworn Jurors under the King's Majesty of the County of  
Morris being lawfully and duly charged and sworn upon the Oath of Office that  
least Justice Honor and Lawfulness of the said County Do present That Daniel  
Roberts late of Morris Town in the County of Morris a free and lawful person, not having  
the year of Grace before his Eyes but being moved and seduced by the Instigation of the  
Devil on the Eighth Day of December in the twenty fifth year of the Reign of our  
Sovereign Lord George the Second by the grace of God of Great Britain France and  
Ireland King Defender of the Faith &c with force and Arms at Morris Town  
in the County aforesaid within the Jurisdiction of His Court In and under one  
Phillis a Negro woman servant of his, named Daniel Roberts, in the presence of  
God and of our said Lord the King then and there being, feloniously Wilfully and of  
his Malice aforethought an Assault did make, And the said Phillis with certain  
whips or Rods called without Iron Switches, which the same Daniel Roberts in  
his Right hand then and there had and held then and there feloniously & voluntarily



and of his malice aforethought, on divers parts of the Body of the said Phillis (that  
is to say) on her Back, Shoulders, Breasts, and Sides, Did Strike Bruise and Wound, and  
Did (then and there) give unto her the said Phillis four hundred Lashes with the said Whips  
a Rods called Walnut Tree Switches as aforesaid, and that the said Daniel Roberts  
Did then and there altogether Neglect and Refuse to give and Exhibit unto the said Phillis  
necessary Cloaths, Bedding and Medicines, or to take any Care for the preservation of the  
life of her self, or the said Phillis. By reason and means of which said Striking, Bruising,  
wounding and Lashes By him the said Daniel Roberts given unto her the said Phillis as  
aforesaid, and for want of necessary Cloathing, Bedding and Medicines given or exhibited  
unto her the said Phillis She the said Phillis from the said eighth Day of December  
in the year aforesaid Did (then and there) Languish, and so Languishing Six Days  
until the Twentieth Day of the same Month of December in the year aforesaid,  
on which same Twentieth Day of December in the year aforesaid, By means  
of the Striking, Bruising, wounding and Lashes aforesaid By him the said Daniel  
Roberts given unto her the said Phillis



Case # 21190. January 2, 1752. Morris County. The King v. Daniel Roberts. Indictment part 3.

Roberts given unto the said Miller as aforesaid, and for want of necessary  
Chattels, Bedding and Medicines being given and exhibited unto the said Miller  
The said Miller did (then and there) depose, and is the said Juror upon the  
said respective Oath do say that the said Daniel Roberts on the aforesaid  
twentieth Day of December in the year aforesaid at Morris Town aforesaid  
in the County and within the Jurisdiction aforesaid, the said aforesaid Negro  
wench called Phillis in Manner and form aforesaid, feloniously, wilfully  
and of his Malice aforethought did Kill and Murder, Against the peace  
of our said Sovereign Lord the King, His Majesty's Crown and Dignity, &c.  
The said Miller



Case # 21190.

January 2, 1752. Morris County.

The King v. Daniel Roberts.

Verso of the Indictment shows the Grand jury returned:

Billa Vera. Samuel Swayze. Foreman.

Evidences (Witnesses)  
Gilbert [Heady] and John [Marsh]

Roberts plead Not Guilty.

Attorney General, [Joseph] Warrell

Billa Vera  
Samuel Swayze foreman  
Evidences  
Gilbert Heady  
John Marsh  
Not Guilty to  
Warrell & Son

Case # 21379\*\*

March 1752. Middlesex County. The King v. Joseph Taylor

Indictment for Forgery.

On August 25, 1751, at Woodbridge, for creating a false certificate in the name of William Brown, master of Closs, a Negro slave, verifying that a certain horse belonged to Closs, which he could thereby sell.

Middlesex: The grand Inquest for our Sovereign Lord the King for the Body of the County of Middlesex Being then and there duly sworn and returned upon the respective Oath and Affirmation of at least Twelve Honest and Lawfull Men of the said County Do shew that Joseph Taylor late of Woodbridge in the said County of Middlesex Subour the twenty fifth Day of August in the Twentieth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Second by the grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith &c at Woodbridge aforesaid in the County of Middlesex aforesaid of his own Head and Imagination a certain and Counterfeit Instrument in Writing in the Name of William Brown of Woodbridge in the County aforesaid Yeoman, purporting to be a Certificate under the Hand Writing of the said William Brown, Signifying that one Negro Closs, the then Negro Servant of the said William Brown came Honouring in a certain Horse then in the Possession of the said Negro Closs, and Impowering him the said Negro Closs to sell and Dispose of the said Horse, which said false and Counterfeit writing a Certificate follows in these words I William Brown of Woodbridge do hereby Sincerely testify that the said above mentioned Horse Manly, Race Manly, Is the Lawfull Property of my Servant Closs, as follows <sup>him</sup> Impower I the said Closs to Dispose and Make Seal of the said Horse as witness my Hand this the 25<sup>th</sup> of August 1751, William Brown, Did voluntarily and falsely forge and Counterfeit make and Publish, And Did Cause to be forged, Counterfeited made and Published, with an Intent, falsely and Deceitfully his Majesty's loyal Subjects of his Majesty's Province of New York to Impose upon Decease and Cheat, the then said Joseph Taylor then and there well knowing the aforesaid Instrument to be false and Counterfeit, In violation Example of all others in such Case Delinquent, And against the Peace of our said now Lord the King his Crown, and Dignity &c

Wm. L. Atty. Gen.



Case # 20451\*

December 27, 1753. Middlesex County.

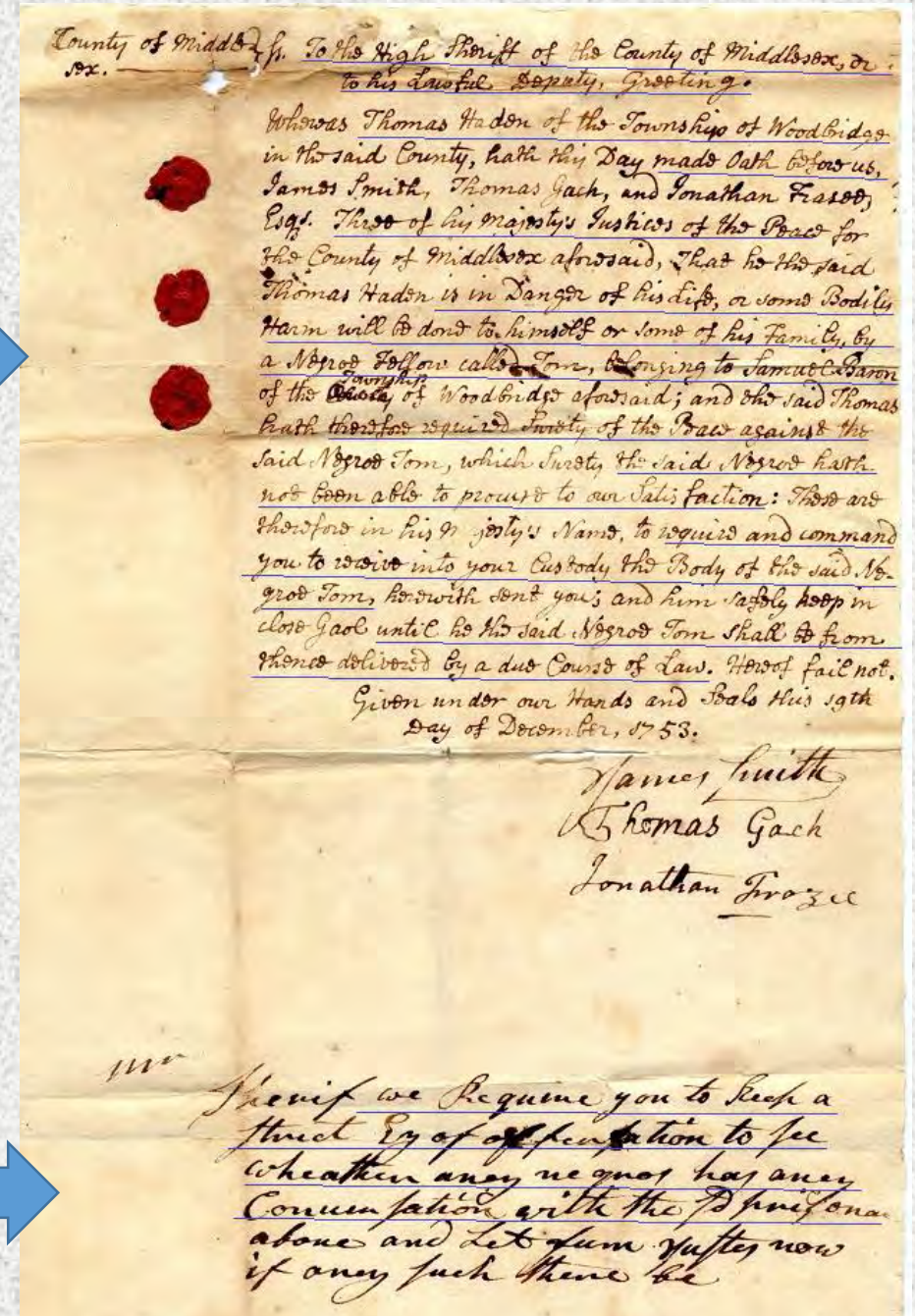
The King to the Sheriff of Middlesex

Affidavit answering a writ of Habeas Corpus

Submitted in support of the imprisonment of a Negro fellow named Tom, belonging to Samuel Baron, signed by three Justices of the Peace.

On December 19, 1753, Thomas Haden swore a complaint of menace. He claimed that he was “in danger of his life, or some bodily harm will be done to himself or his family, by a Negro fellow called Tom” belonging to Samuel Baron of Woodbridge. The sheriff was ordered to confine Tom in jail and “keep a strict eye ... whether any Negroes has any conversation with the prisoner.”

The Habeas Writ is in too poor condition to reproduce here.





Case # 21075\*

March 22, 1754. Middlesex County.

The King v. Negro Tom, commonly called Subal Smith's Tom

**Grand Inquest of Subal Smith's Tom.** [I cannot be sure the exact charge. Perhaps menace.]

Suspected of having the power and art of poisoning on the accusation of Thomas Heady [Possibly Heden – see list of Evidences.]

**Subal Smith having “expressed himself in the extraordinary manner ... That if over the said Heady was in Danger, that his is now twice as much in danger than he was before the later Prosecution of the said Tom... and being further informed upon oath that divers of the Inhabitants of Woodbridge in this country that have Slaves are in Great and Constant T]error of present mischief from the said Negro Tom”**

The Grand Inquest now sitting at North Amboy in and for the Body of the County of Middlesex, Do Present to this Honorable Court That Notwithstanding, a certain Negro Man, commonly called Subal Smith's Tom was lately bound over to the peace and Good Behavior, upon the oath of one Thomas Heady, upon fresh Complaint to us made, of the said Tom's being a very Dangerous Person, and strongly Suspected of having the power and art of Poisoning Persons, and we being confirmed of the Truth thereof upon oath, <sup>for</sup> that his Master the said Subal Smith, hath expressed himself in the extraordinary Terms following to wit) That if over the said Heady was in Danger, that he is now twice as much in Danger ~~of~~ than he was before the late Prosecution of the said Tom: and we <sup>being</sup> further Informed upon oath that divers of the Inhabitants of Woodbridge in this County that have Slaves, are in Great and Constant Danger Terror and apprehension of present Mischief from the said Negro Tom if not soon prevented, we pray that the Court will Consider of further, and more certain Measures of quieting the Minds of his Majesty's Subjects in this behalf:

March 22. 1754. James Smith foreman

Laurences  
Thomas haden  
thomas gack  
David donham



Case # 21379

April 30, 1754. Monmouth County.

The King v. Joseph Taylor, Salvester Tilton, Henry VanCamp, David Parker, and a Negro Man Slave called Bob (belonging to the aforesaid Joseph Taylor) all of Freehold

Indictment for Riot.

At Freehold, on April 18, 1752, for tearing "to pieces and pulling down" with axes the home of Edward Taylor, Yeoman of Freehold.



Monmouth County ss: The Jurors for our Sovereign Lord the King for  
the Body of the County of Monmouth being then and there  
Duly Sworn and Sworn upon the respective Oath of at  
least Twelve Honest and Lawfull men of the said County  
Do present That Joseph Taylor Salvester Tilton Henry  
VanCamp, David Parker and a Negro Man Slave  
called Bob, Belonging to the aforesaid Joseph Taylor  
all late of Freehold in the County of Monmouth aforesaid  
on the Eighteenth Day of Aprile in the Twenty fifth  
year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the second  
by the grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King  
Defender of the Faith &c. at Freehold aforesaid in the County  
of Monmouth aforesaid and within the Jurisdiction of this  
Court, with Force and Arms &c. as Rioters Routs and  
Disturbors of the peace of our said Lord the King, themselves  
to Disturb the peace of our said Lord the King Riotously  
Routously and Unlawfully, did assemble and gather  
themselves together, And being so assembled & gathered  
together, then and there, the House of Edward Taylor of  
Freehold aforesaid, with force and Arms &c. with  
Chopping Axes did then & there Break and Enter, and  
the same House did then and there Tear to pieces &  
pull Down, ~~the~~ And other Rooms to him the said Edward  
Taylor, then and there, did To the great Damage of him  
the said Edward Taylor, Against the peace of our said  
Lord the King that now is This Crown and Dignity, And  
Against the form of the Stat. in that Case made and  
Provided  
Wm. M. A. G. 1754

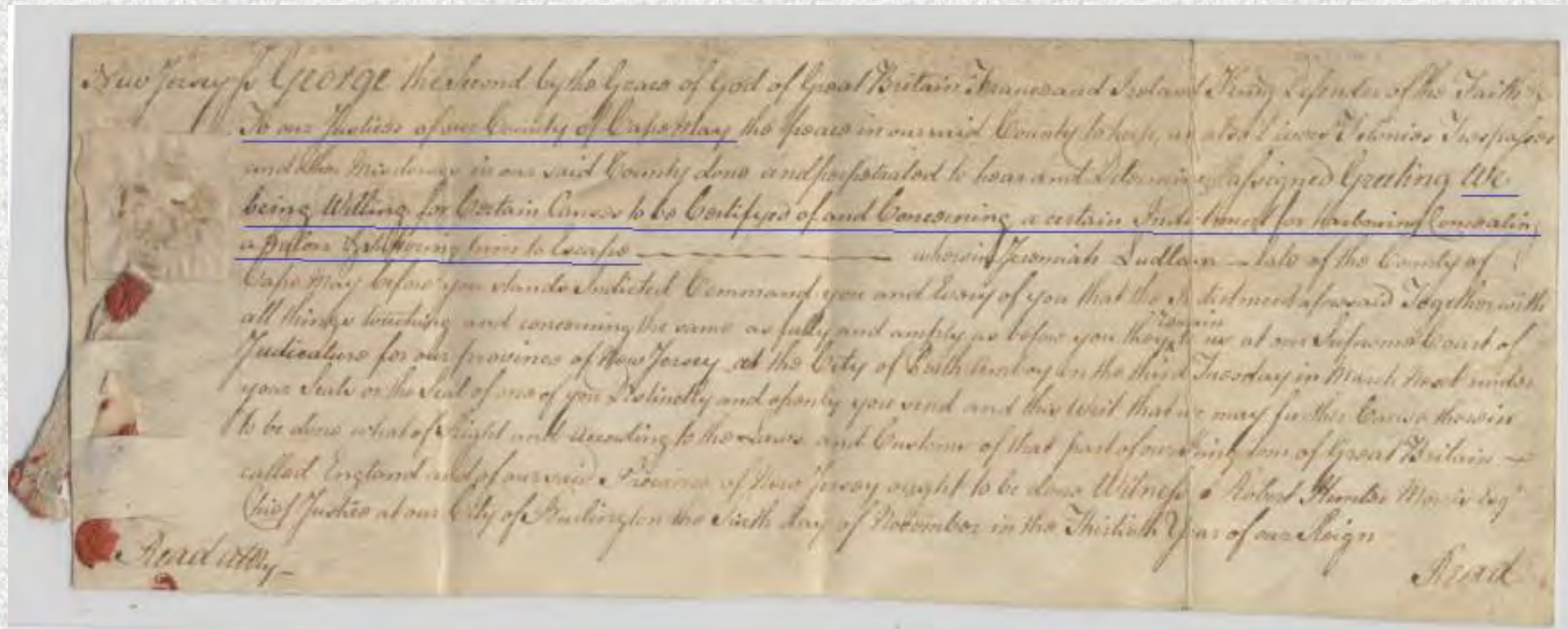


Case # 21325

August 12, 1756. Cape May County.

King v. Jeremiah Ludlam.

Appeal on Indictment for Escape (aiding the escape of Cesar Shack, a Negro slave belonging to Joseph Ludlam)



By the King's special Command under the Great Seal of Great Britain, His Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the County of Cape May, do hereby certify and declare, that the said Jeremiah Ludlam, late of the County of Cape May, before you stands indicted, Command you and every of you that the said indictment, together with all things touching and concerning the same, as fully and amply as before you they <sup>came</sup> at our High Court of Judicature for our Province of New Jersey, at the City of South-Branch on the third Tuesday in March next under your Seal or the Seal of one of you distinctly and openly you read and this writ that we may further know therein to be done what of right shall according to the Laws and Customs of that part of our Kingdom of Great Britain called England and of our said Province of New Jersey ought to be done. Witness our Right Honourable Majesty's Chief Justice at our City of Burlington the sixth day of November in the Thirtieth Year of our reign.

Read atty-  
Sicut



Case # 21325

August 12, 1756. Cape May County.

King v. Jeremiah Ludlam.

Appeal on Indictment for Escape (aiding the escape of Cesar Shack, a Negro slave belonging to Joseph Ludlam)

On July 2, 1756, Cesar Shack committed a nighttime burglary of the house of his master, Joseph Ludlam, and escaped with the aid and comfort of Jeremiah Ludlam.

to make his Escape after y<sup>e</sup> Felony by him the said Cesar Shack so done & committed against y<sup>e</sup> peace of our said Sovereign Lord the King his Crown & Dignity.  
Nestday who provided for y<sup>e</sup> King by Order of Court

Grand Inquest for our Sovereign Lord the King for the County of Capriellan  
God & Lawfull Justice of the County duly charged and Sworn on the Respective Oath of at least twelve honest & Lawfull Men of the County do present that Cesar Shack late of the upper Shire in the County of Capriellan of a Negroe Slave belonging to one Joseph Ludlam of the place Yeoman the Second Day of July in the twenty fifth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the second by y<sup>e</sup> Grace of God of Great Britain France Ireland King Defender of Faith at y<sup>e</sup> upper Shire of the County of Capriellan feloniously break & invasion of the Goods of the said Shack in the Night Time of the said Year & then & there feloniously Steal take & carry away a Chest belonging to the said Master Joseph Ludlam and took out & stole out of the Chest twenty Pounds of Lawfull Money or thereabouts in Gold Silver & Paper Money the Property of his said Master Joseph Ludlam then & there found in the said Chest against y<sup>e</sup> Peace of our said Sovereign Lord the King his Crown & Dignity  
And that a certain Jeremiah Ludlam of the upper Shire of the County of Capriellan of a Yeoman knowing that the said Negroe Cesar Shack had done & committed the said Felony in y<sup>e</sup> Manner of aforesaid Second Day of July in the twenty fifth Year of at the upper Shire of the County of Capriellan feloniously & willfully received Comforted & entertained & suffered y<sup>e</sup> said Negroe Cesar Shack



Case # 21002\*

August 12, 1756. Middlesex County.

King v. Jeremiah Ludlam

Aiding an Escape.

In August 1756, "Jeremiah Ludlam did feloniously and willfully receive, comfort, entertain, and suffer a Negro Man called Cesar Shack to make his escape, he knowing that the said Cesar Shack had Committed **Burglary**".

Probably part of Case # 21325

New Jersey: To the High Sheriff of the County  
of Middlesex - Greeting

Sheweth into your Custody the Body of  
Jeremiah Ludlam, ~~who~~ ~~has~~ ~~not~~ ~~appeared~~  
me, that he the said Jeremiah Ludlam stands indicted  
in the County of Cap. May, for a Misdemeanour, for that  
he the said Jeremiah Ludlam did feloniously & willful-  
ly receive, comfort, entertain, & suffer a Negro Man  
called Cesar Shack to make his escape, he knowing  
that the said Cesar Shack had committed Burglary  
& him the said Jeremiah Ludlam safely keep if  
your Goal, until he shall from thence be delivered  
By a due Course of Law

Given under my Hand & Seal at Perth  
Amoy the 12th day of August 1756  
Samuel Nevill

A true Copy John Bars Sheriff



Case # 21067

February 14, 1759. Burlington County.

King v. Ben, a Negro (alias Ben Johnson); slave belonging to Samuel Smith, Esquire

Indictment for Rescue (of himself) and Breaking Prison, from the common jail at Burlington.

Burlington County Sessions  
of the Peace  
The King  
v. Ben. Negro Indictment for  
a Rescue & Break  
ing Prison  
Billa Vera  
Filed Feb<sup>ry</sup> 14. 1759  
J. Sam. Blount



Case # 21067

King v. Ben, a Negro

Indictment for Rescue (of himself) and Breaking Jail.

Indicted for burglary, of the house of Thomas Wetherill on December 13, 1758, at Burlington Town, Ben Johnson was, secured in custody at the common jail in Burlington. On February 6, 1759, he rescued himself breaking jail.

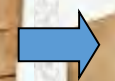
The Grand Inquest of our Sovereign Lord the King that now is and for the Body of the County of Burlington being duly charged Sworn Affirmed upon the Respective Oath and Affirmation of at least Twelve honest & Lawful men of the said County Do Present that Ben a Negro Slave belonging to Samuel Smith Esq; of the City of Burlington Commonly Called Ben-Johnson the Thirtieth day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand Seven hundred & fifty eight at the City of Burlington in the County of Burlington and within the Jurisdiction of this Court on Suspicion of Burglary in breaking open the house of Thomas Wetherill of the said



aforsaid with force and arms did break and out of the goal aforsaid and from the Custody of the Sheriff aforsaid himself did Rescue and there Escapes against the Oaths of our Sovereign Lord the King that now is his Crown & Dignity and against the form of the Statute in such Case made and provided

Lawrence of Don'thoge  
 Wm: Curiam Esq; Esq;

Antho: Woodward  
 fore man



Burlington Indicted for Burglary in breaking into the House of the said Thomas Wetherill as aforsaid: And by the Order of the same Court was Ordered to be continued in the said Common Goal in the safe Custody of the Sheriff of the said County of Burlington And the said Grand Inquest do further Present that the said Ben alias Ben-Johnson in the Common Goal aforsaid in manner aforsaid in the Custody of the Sheriff aforsaid: then there being the Sixth Day of February in the Thirty second year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Second Now King of Great Britain &c the aforsaid Common Goal of our said Lord the King in and for the said County of Burlington at the City of Burlington



Case # 21067.

King v. Ben, a Negro. Recognizance, January 18, 1759, for witnesses in the Burglary trial of Ben Johnson.

The Condition of this Recognizance is such that if the above Bounden James Smith shall personally appear at the Next Supreme Court of Judicature to be held for the Province of New Jersey at the City of Burlington aforesaid on the second Tuesday in May, and then there give Evidence on the Part of our said Lord the King against a certain Negro Slave called Ben. who stands Charg'd with Burglary, and do not depart thence without leave of the said Court, then this Recognizance to be void.

Taken & Acknowledged the Day & Year aforesaid Before me  
Ramsay Clerk

Abigail Bishop Sent in £20. Conditioned as above  
Acknowledged the Day & Year aforesaid Before  
Ramsay Clerk

John Carty Sent in £20. Conditioned as above  
Acknowledged Before me the Day & Year aforesaid  
Ramsay Clerk

John Lawrence Sent in £20. Conditioned as above.  
Acknowledged the Day & Year aforesaid Before  
Ramsay Clerk

John Neal of the City of Bristol Sent in £20. Conditioned for the Appearance of his wife Sarah at the Day place for the purpose of James Smiths Recognizance  
Acknowledged Before me the Day & Year aforesaid  
Ramsay Clerk

Daniel Smith Junr Sent in £20. Conditioned for his own Appearance at the same place & for the purpose of James Smiths Recognizance above  
Acknowledged the Day & Year aforesaid Before me  
Ramsay Clerk

Thomas Wetherill Junr. Sent in £20. Conditioned for his own Appearance at the same place & for the purpose mentioned in Smiths Recognizance aforesaid.  
Acknowledged the Day & Year aforesaid Before  
Ramsay Clerk

Thomas Bishop Sent in £20. Conditioned for his personal Appearance at the same place & for the purpose mentioned in Smiths Recognizance.  
Acknowledged Before me the Day & Year aforesaid  
Ramsay Clerk

Elizabeth Smith Sent in £20. Conditioned for her Appearance at the same place & for the purpose aforesaid in Smiths Recognizance aforesaid.  
Acknowledged the Day & Year aforesaid Before  
Ramsay Clerk



Case # 21075\*\*

August 22, 1759. Somerset County.

King v. Tom Negro, Slave of John Van Doran

Recognizance to appear at the next Court of **Quarter Sessions** and answer “**all matters** as shall be objected against him by Robert Allen to do and receive what the Court shall then and there enjoin and that he do in the **meantime keep the peace**”.

Appears to be a recognizance for the good behavior of Tom.

Justice of the Peace Bryan Lefferty, signatory

Be it remembered that on the twenty second day of August  
in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and  
fifty nine John Van Doran of the County of Morris and  
Jonathan Jones of the County of Somerset Guomen personally  
came before me Bryan Lefferty one of his Majestys Justices of the  
peace for s<sup>d</sup> County and Acknowledged themselves to owe to our  
Sovereign Lord the King the sum of twenty pounds separately to  
be made and levied of their Goods and Chattles Rights and Credits  
Lands and tenements to the use and Behoof of our s<sup>d</sup> Sovereign  
Lord the King his heirs and Successors if Defaults be made in the  
under written Conditions

The Condition of this Recognizance is such that if Tom  
Negro of John Van Doran shall personally appear before  
the Justices of the peace of our s<sup>d</sup> Sovereign Lord the King at  
the next General Sessions to be held in the s<sup>d</sup> County of Somerset  
to an<sup>d</sup> to such matters as shall be objected against him by  
Robert Allen to do and receive what the Court shall then and  
there enjoin and that he do in the mean time keep the peace of  
our s<sup>d</sup> Sovereign Lord the King towards the Kings Majesty & all  
his Liege People and especially towards the s<sup>d</sup> Robert Allen Guomen  
that then this Recognizance to be void and of none effect or else to be  
and remain in full force and Virtue

Taken before me  
Bryan Lefferty



Case # 21452\*

September 1, 1759. Somerset County.

King v. Gershom Van De Barrah

Recognizance to appear before next General Quarter Sessions in Somerset County to give evidence against Tom Negro, Slave of John Van Doran.

Justice of the Peace Bryan Lefferty, signatory

Be it remembred that on the first day of September in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty nine Gershom Van De Barrah of the County of Morris and Ephraim Harriott of the County of Somerset personally came before me Bryan Lefferty one of his majestys Justices of the peace for the County of Somerset and Acknowledged themselves to owe to our Sovereign Lord the King <sup>that is to say</sup> Gershom Van De Barrah twenty pounds and Ephraim Harriott ten pounds to be levied of their Goods and Chattles Rights and Credits Lands and Tenements to the use and Bechoof of our s<sup>d</sup> Sovereign Lord the King his heirs and Successors if Default be made in the under written Condition

The Condition of this Recognizance is such that if the above Couder Gershom Van De Barrah shall personally appear at the next General Sessions to be holden for the County of Somerset to give his Evidence against Tom Negro of John Van Doran and then this Recognizance to be void and of none Effect or else to be and remain in full force and Virtue

Taken Before me  
Bryan Lefferty

6  
1759



Case # 21375\*

October 1, 1759. Somerset County.

King v. William Leonard Sweap

Recognizance to appear before Justice of the Peace Benjamin Lefferty to give evidence against Tom Negro, Slave of John Van Doran.

Justice of the Peace Bryan Lefferty, signatory



Be it remembered that on the first day of October in  
the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty nine  
William Leonard Sweap of the County of Somerset personally came  
before me Bryan Lefferty one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace  
for the County afo<sup>r</sup> and acknowledged himself to owe to our Sovereign  
the King the sum of ten pounds to be levied of his Goods and Chattels  
Lands and Tenements to the use and behoof of our S<sup>d</sup> Sovereign Lord  
the King his heirs and Successors if Default be made in the under  
written Condition

The Condition of this Recognizance is such that if the above  
bounden William Leonard Sweap shall personally appear at the  
next General Sessions to be holden for the County afo<sup>r</sup> to give his  
Evidence against Tom Negro of John Van Doran and not to  
depart without leave of the Court then this Recognizance  
to be void and of none Effect or else to be and remain in full  
force and Virtue

Taken before me  
Bryan Lefferty



Case # 21066

July 12, 1760.  
Bergen County.

King v. Dinah, a  
Negro Slave

Indictment for  
Petit Larceny.

On July 12, 1760,  
at New Barbadoes,  
for stealing "three  
strings of  
Wampum", valued  
at 10 pence from  
the house of Peter  
Zabriskie.

Courtland Skinner,  
Attorney General

The King  
 }  
 Dinah, a Negro }  
 girl }  
 Petit  
 Larceny  
 Wid<sup>d</sup>  
 Peter Zabriskie  
 Jacob Tisont  
 Minnie Earle  
 Jacob Zabriskie  
 Henry Earle  
 Tompkins Earle  
 Mary Walker  
 Abrahm Acherman.  
 Attest  
 Johanne Seyers for man

New Jersey: The Jurors for our Sovereign Lord the King for the  
 body of the County of Bergen being duly sworn  
 & charged upon the respective Oaths of at least twelve  
 honest & lawful men of the County do Declare  
 That Dinah a Negro Slave, belonging to  
 Abraham Acherman, on the twelfth Day of July  
 in the thirty fourth year of the reign of our now Sovereign  
 Lord King George the fourth, at New Barbadoes in the  
 County of Bergen within the Jurisdiction of this Court  
 The house of one Peter Zabriskie, in New Barbadoes of  
 did enter & there steal three strings of Wampum of the value of  
 Ten pence of the goods & Chattels of the said Peter Zabriskie  
 then & there being found that the said Dinah by deed  
 doal take & carry away against the peace of our  
 Lord the King his Crown & Dignity &c  
 Skinner Atty for.



1761 - 1775












Case # 40592

November 7, 1766. Hunterdon County.

Samuel Tucker (late Sheriff of Hunterdon) v. John Hackett (Esquire; Deceased)

Retorno Habendo (Reversal of Replevin, to return Negro Mingo to Samuel Tucker)

New Jersey **By George the Third** By the Grace of God of Great Britain France & Ireland King Defender of the Faith. To the  
Sheriff of our County of Hunterdon **WILLIAM WINTERS** Samuel Tucker Esq. late High Sheriff  
Of the County aforesaid lately in our Court before Us at our City of Burlington was summoned to answer John Hackett Esq.  
in a plea wherefore he took a Negro man named Mingo slave of the said John and unjustly Detained the same  
Against Wages & Pledges, as it is said, and whereas in our said Court before Us it is made appear That the same  
John since the issuing of the Writ aforesaid by him the said John is become deceased whereby his said Plea is abated in  
Law wherefore it was considered in our same Court before Us that he the said Samuel should have a return of  
the Negro aforesaid Therefore We command You that the Negro aforesaid be returned to the said Samuel without delay You cause  
to be returned And here You shall execute this our Writ Certify to Us on the second Tuesday in April next at  
our Supreme Court to be held at the City of South Amboy, and have there then this Writ Witness Frederick Smyth  
Esq. Chief Justice of our Province of New Jersey at our City of Burlington the tenth day of November in the  
Seventh Year of our Reign  
Exec.  Seal



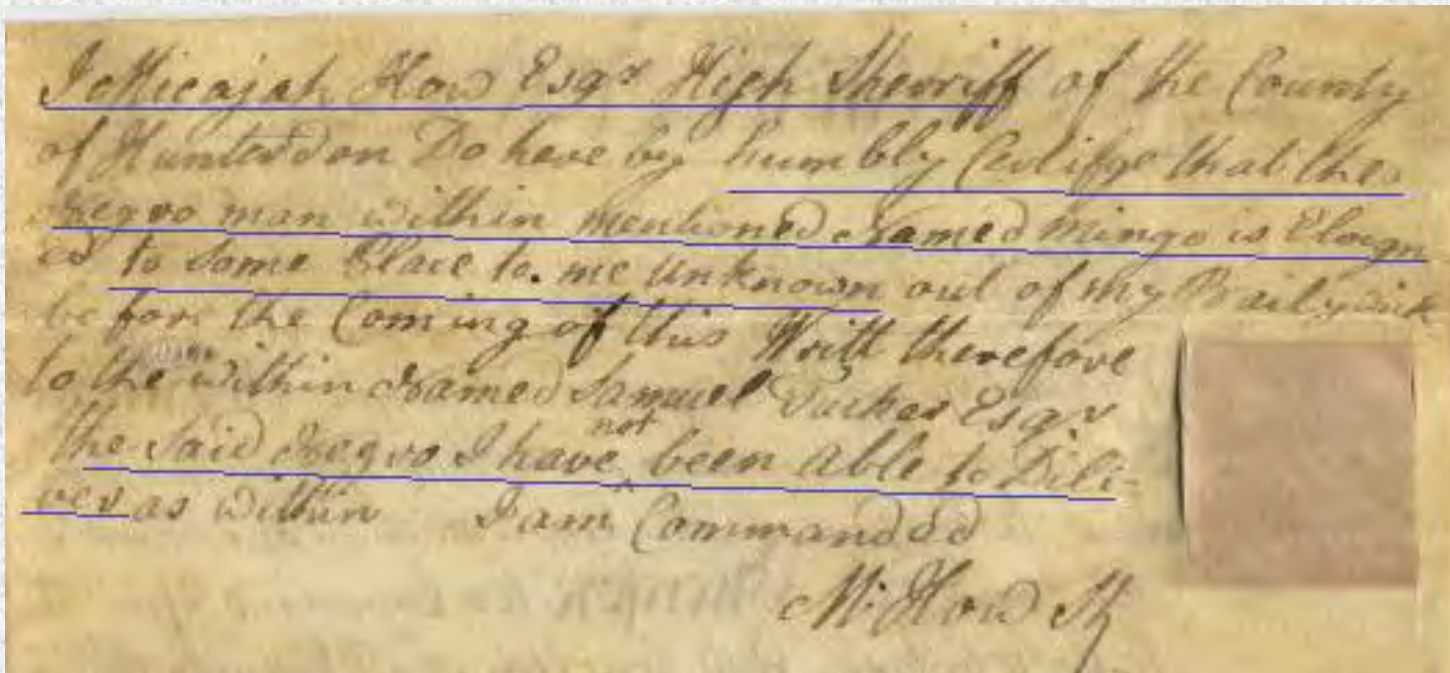
Case # 40592

November 7, 1766. Hunterdon County.

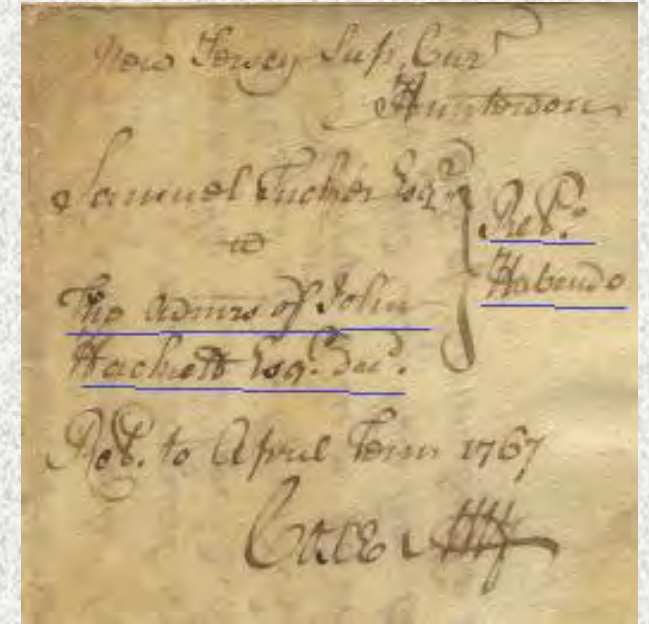
Samuel Tucker (late Sheriff of Hunterdon) v. John Hackett (Estate of; Slave owner of Negro Mingo)

Retorno Habendo (Reversal of Replevin, to return Negro Mingo to Samuel Tucker)

“Mingo is Elagned [?] to some place unknown”



Jethicajah How Esq<sup>r</sup> High Sheriff of the County  
of Hunterdon Do here by humbly certify that the  
Negro man within mentioned & named Mingo is Elagned  
to some place to me unknown out of my Bailwick  
before the coming of this writ therefore  
to the within named Samuel Tucker Esq<sup>r</sup>  
the said Negro I have <sup>not</sup> been able to deli-  
ver as within I am Commanded  
W. How Esq<sup>r</sup>



New Jersey Sup<sup>r</sup> Court  
Hunterdon  
Samuel Tucker Esq<sup>r</sup> } Ret.  
to } Habendo  
The Estate of John }  
Hackett Esq<sup>r</sup> }  
Ret. to April Term 1767  
C. How Esq<sup>r</sup>



Case # 21073\*

April 4, 1774. Hunterdon County.

The King v. Esther Barber and James Burton (Enslavers of Beulah, a Negro girl)

Habeas Corpus (to produce a Negro Girl named Beulah).

Summons is only document in file. See Minute Book 60, 142.

New Jersey for GEORGE the Third by the Grace of God of Great Brittain France and Ireland King  
Defender of the Faith &c. To Esther Barber & James Burton and to each of them. <sup>some of you</sup>  
Greeting We command you that the body of Beulah a Negro Girl in your Custody  
as in said detainer together with the Cause of her detention by what ever name  
the said Beulah may be Charged in the same you have before us at our City of  
Burlington on the second Tuesday in May next to do be Subject to and to receive those things  
which our Court of her then and there shall of Right Consider in this behalf and this you are in no  
wise to omit on the perill thereon depending and have then there this writt Witness Frederick  
Smyth Esq. Chief Justice of New Jersey at Perth Amboy the fourth Day of April in the  
fiftenth year of our reign.  
Morgan



Case # 21145

1774. Burlington County.

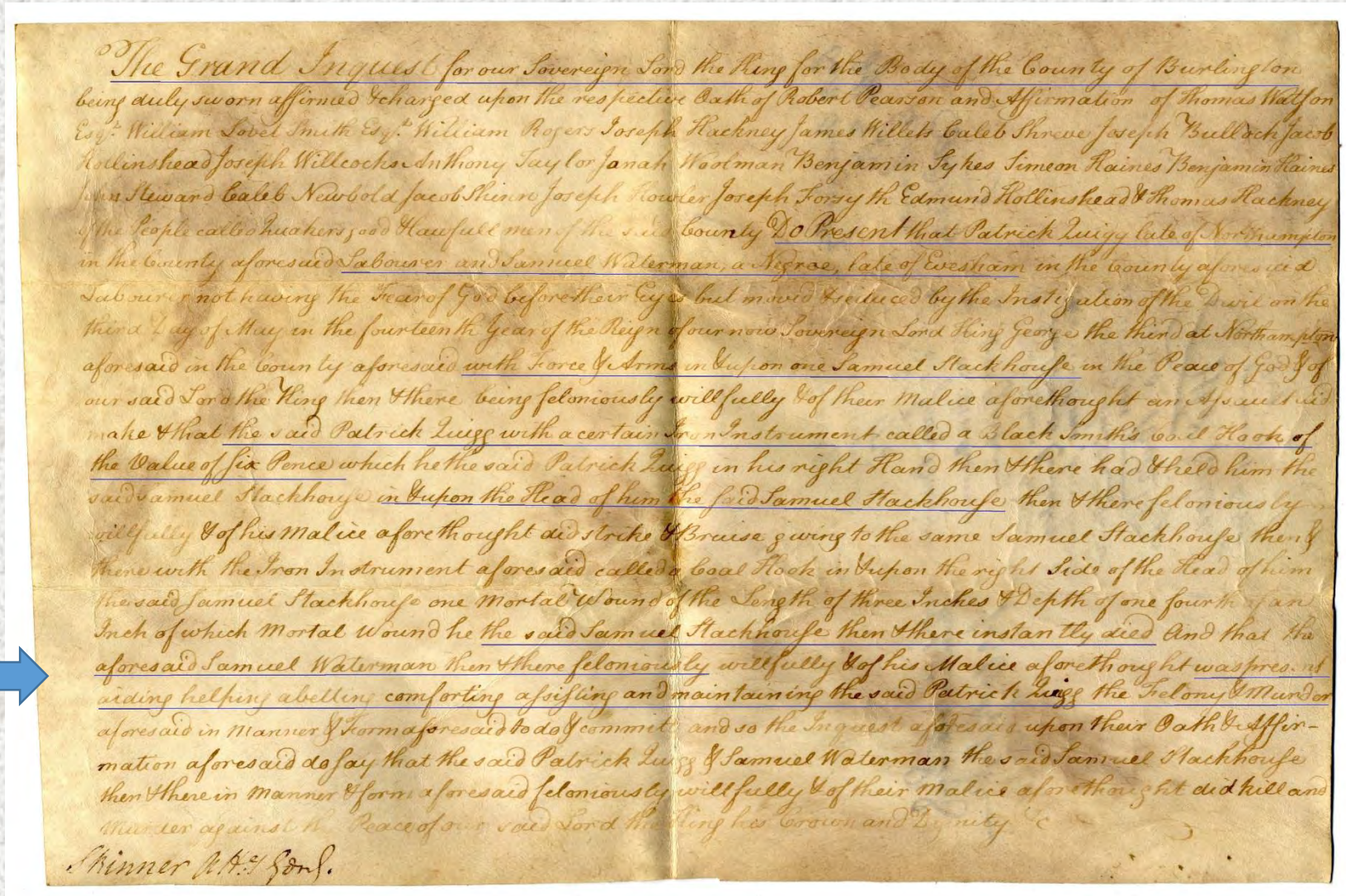
The King v. Patrick Quigg  
(laborer of Northampton) and  
Samuel Waterman, a Negroe  
(late of Evesham)

Indictment for Murder

On May 3, 1773, at  
Northampton, Patrick Quigg is  
accused of attacking Samuel  
**Stackhouse with a Blacksmith's**  
coal hook; Samuel Waterman  
is charged as an accomplice.

Courtland Skinner, Attorney  
General

Full view.



The Grand Inquest for our Sovereign Lord the King for the Body of the County of Burlington  
being duly sworn affirmed & charged upon the respective Oath of Robert Pearson and Affirmation of Thomas Wallon  
Esq: William Lovel Smith Esq: William Rogers Joseph Rackney James Willets Caleb Throoe Joseph Bullock Jacob  
Kollinshead Joseph Willcocks Anthony Taylor Janah Woolman Benjamin Sykes Simeon Raines Benjamin Raines  
John Steward Caleb Newbold Jacob Skinner Joseph Rowler Joseph Forsyth Edmund Kollinshead & Thomas Rackney  
of the People called Quakers good Lawfull men of the said County Do Present that Patrick Quigg late of Northampton  
in the County aforesaid Labourer and Samuel Waterman, a Negroe, late of Evesham in the County aforesaid  
Labourer not having the Fear of God before their Eyes but moved & seduced by the Instigation of the Devil on the  
third Day of May in the fourteenth Year of the Reign of our now Sovereign Lord King George the third at Northampton  
aforesaid in the County aforesaid with Force & Arms in & upon one Samuel Stackhouse in the Peace of God & of  
our said Lord the King then & there feloniously willfully & of their Malice aforethought an Assault did  
make & that the said Patrick Quigg with a certain Iron Instrument called a Black Smiths Coal Hook of  
the Value of six Pence which he the said Patrick Quigg in his right Hand then & there had & held him the  
said Samuel Stackhouse in & upon the Head of him the said Samuel Stackhouse then & there feloniously  
willfully & of his Malice aforethought did strike & Bruise giving to the same Samuel Stackhouse then &  
there with the Iron Instrument aforesaid called a Coal Hook in & upon the right Side of the Head of him  
the said Samuel Stackhouse one Mortal Wound of the Length of three Inches & Depth of one fourth of an  
Inch of which Mortal Wound he the said Samuel Stackhouse then & there instantly died And that the  
aforesaid Samuel Waterman then & there feloniously willfully & of his Malice aforethought was present  
aiding helping abetting comforting assisting and maintaining the said Patrick Quigg the Felony & Murder  
aforesaid in Manner & Form aforesaid to do & commit and so the Inquest aforesaid upon their Oath & Affir-  
mation aforesaid do say that the said Patrick Quigg & Samuel Waterman the said Samuel Stackhouse  
then & there in Manner & Form aforesaid feloniously willfully & of their Malice aforethought did kill and  
murder against the Peace of our said Lord the King his Crown and Dignity  
Skinner N. H. & Sons.



Case # 21145

The King v. Patrick Quigg (laborer of Northampton) and Samuel Waterman, a Negroe (late of Evesham)

1774. Burlington County.

Indictment for Murder. Partial views.

The Grand Inquest for our Sovereign Lord the King for the Body of the County of Burlington being duly sworn affirmed & charged upon the respective Oath of Robert Pearson and Affirmation of Thomas Walton Esq<sup>r</sup>. William Lovel Smith Esq<sup>r</sup>. William Rogers Joseph Hackney James Millets Caleb Shreve Joseph Bullock Jacob Hollinshead Joseph Willcocks Anthony Taylor Janah Woolman Benjamin Sykes Simeon Haines Benjamin Haines John Steward Caleb Newbold Jacob Shinn Joseph Fowler Joseph Forsyth Edmund Hollinshead & Thomas Hackney of the People called Quakers good Lawfull men of the said County Do Present that Patrick Quigg late of Northampton in the County aforesaid Labourer and Samuel Waterman, a Negroe, late of Evesham in the County aforesaid

aforesaid in the County aforesaid with Force & Arms in Upon one Samuel Stackhouse in the Peace of God of our said Lord the King then & there feloniously willfully & of their Malice aforethought an Assault did make & that the said Patrick Quigg with a certain Iron Instrument called a Black Smiths Coal Hook of the Value of six Pence which he the said Patrick Quigg in his right Hand then & there had & held him the said Samuel Stackhouse in Upon the Head of him the said Samuel Stackhouse then & there feloniously willfully & of his malice aforethought did strike & Bruise giving to the same Samuel Stackhouse then &



Case # 21145

The King v. Patrick Quigg (laborer of Northampton) and Samuel Waterman, a Negroe (late of Evesham)

1774. Burlington County.

Indictment for Murder. Partial views.

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there with the Iron Instrument aforesaid called a Coal Hook in & upon the right Side of the Head of him  
the said Samuel Stackhouse one Mortal Wound of the Length of three Inches & Depth of one fourth of an  
Inch of which Mortal Wound he the said Samuel Stackhouse then & there instantly died And that the  
aforesaid Samuel Waterman then & there feloniously willfully & of his Malice aforethought was present  
aiding helping abetting comforting assisting and maintaining the said Patrick Quigg the Felony & Murder  
aforesaid in Manner & Form aforesaid to do & commit and so the Inquest aforesaid upon their Oath & Affir-  
mation aforesaid do say that the said Patrick Quigg & Samuel Waterman the said Samuel Stackhouse  
then & there in Manner & Form aforesaid feloniously willfully & of their Malice aforethought did kill and  
murder against the Peace of our said Lord the King his Crown and Dignity &c

Skinner A. A. & Sons.







Case # 21333\*

May 22, 1775. Cape May County.

The King v. James Schelinger

Indictment for Homicide by Misadventure

On December 26, 1774, in the Lower Precinct, James Schelinger accidentally shot Mark, a Negro slave, the property of Abraham Woolson, mortally wounding him.

New Jersey }  
Cape May }  
County }  
The Jurors for our Lord the King for the  
County of Capemay aforesaid upon their Oath  
Present that James Schelinger late of the  
Lower Precinct in the said County of Capemay  
Labourer on the Twenty Sixth day of December in the  
Fifteenth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George  
the third by the Grace of God of Great Britain France  
and Ireland King Defender of the Faith &c. with  
force and Arms at the Lower Precinct aforesaid  
in the County of Capemay aforesaid in and upon  
one Mark (a Negro <sup>man</sup> slave the property of Abraham  
Woolson) in the peace of God and our said Lord the King  
then and there being feloniously did make an assault  
and the said Mark with a certain Gun of the  
value of three shillings being charged with Gun  
powder and a Wood block but not with any Lead  
which he the said James Schelinger in his right  
hand then and there had and held the said Gun went  
off and the said Gun powder both fire and discharged  
from the said Gun with out the intent or design of  
the said James Schelinger and the said Mark  
happening accidentally to stand before the Muzzle  
of the said Gun the said Gun powder <sup>and wood</sup> entered the  
belly of the said Mark about one inch above the  
navel and so without the intent of the said James  
Schelinger <sup>then and there</sup> gave the said Mark <sup>in</sup> one mortal wound  
of the breadth of three inches and depth of three  
inches of which said mortal wound the said Mark  
from the time of receiving the said wounds until  
Ten of the clock at night of the said Twen ty  
Sixth day of December did languish and  
consequently did live on which said hour of  
Ten of the clock at night of the said  
Twenty Sixth day of December he the said Mark  
of the said mortal wound in the precinct and  
County aforesaid died. And so the Jurors aforesaid  
upon their Oath aforesaid do say that the said  
James Schelinger against his will and design and  
without his intent <sup>and by accident</sup> in manner and form aforesaid  
in the precinct and County aforesaid then and there  
feloniously did kill and slay against the peace of  
our said Lord the King his Crown and Dignity





Case # 21333\*

May 22, 1775. Cape May County.

The King v. James Schelinger

Indictment for Homicide by  
Misadventure

Verso of Indictment.

Witnesses  
John Scott  
Thomas Bueth  
Richard Crofford

Billa vera  
Daniel Smith foreman

By virtue of a Commission of Oyer and Terminer and  
Genl Goal Delivery hold at Casummay in and for the County  
of Casummay on the 22 day of May 1775 Before the Hon<sup>ble</sup>  
The Hon<sup>ble</sup> Joseph Edge Chief Justice Aaron Learning Just.  
Learning James Willdin Esqrs Justices of the said Court  
of Oyer and Terminer and General Goal Delivery. The Within  
Indictment I Certify to be found as Within mentioned  
E. Hughes Clerk

Cape May  
The King  
v.  
James Schelinger  
Indictm.  
for  
Homicide  
by  
Misadventure



1776 to Mercy Hill (1783)



Case # 34939

October 1777. Hunterdon and Morris Counties.

State of New Jersey v. Imlay Drake

Indictment for Misdemeanor (Incitement to Join the Enemy)

On September 12, 1777, at Alexandria Township in Hunterdon County. For conspiring with other persons to the jurors unknown, to go over to the enemy; and for persuading Richard Steven's Negro Slave [not named] to go over to the British.

Morris Esqr. Clerk.  
 Bk. 10. 1777.

The State } Indict. for  
 vs. } Misdemeanor  
Imlay Drake } Inc.

At this Court

Elijah Horton, Esq.,  
 The Defendant being charged  
 with, plead Not Guilty  
and put himself on his  
Country

Et. sic.

Wm. Caldwell  
Att. Gen.



The Jurors, in Behalf of the State of New Jersey, for the County of Morris, do upon their Oath and Affirmation swear, that this State of New Jersey, and the United States of the thirteen American Colonies, and for some time past have been at open War and Enmity with, George the Third, King of Great Britain, and that Imlay Drake, late of the Township of Alexandria, in the County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey, and divers other Persons, Subjects of this State, (Whom since we have not embraced, not having any regard for the Duty of their Allegiance, and withdrawing that cordial Love, and that true and due Obedience, and Fidelity, which every Subject of this State ought to bear towards the said State, and the Government thereof, on the twelfth Day of September, in the Year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred, and seventy seven, and during the Continuance of the War aforesaid, in the County of Hunterdon aforesaid, did unlawfully meet, assemble, confederate, conspire, conclude upon, and agree, then and there, falsely, maliciously, advisedly, and traitorously to go over to and join, to aid, assist, and adhere to the Army of the said King of Great Britain, and the Enemies of this State, and of the said United States; and that the said Imlay Drake, on the Day aforesaid, at the Place aforesaid, did advise, persuade, and induce a certain Negro Slave, belonging to Richard Steven, Esq. one of the Justices of the Peace in and for the said County of Hunterdon, and a Subject of this State, to leave the said Richard Steven, the Owner and Master of the said Negro, in order to go over to and join the Enemy aforesaid, on Staten Island aforesaid; to the great Example of all others in the like Case depending, against the Form of the Act of the General Assembly in such Case made, provided, against the Peace of this State, the Government, and Dignity of the same.

Wm. Caldwell  
 Att. Gen.



Case # 39179

April 1, 1779. Bergen and Somerset Counties.


State of New Jersey v. Sergeant Jacob Vandal


Appeal (to JP Isaac Vanderback and Jacob Terhune, Bergen County) on Condemnation and Seizure of Goods

Returnable to the Court at Hillsborough, Somerset County.




We Isaac Vanderback & Jacob Terhune Esquires, Justices within  
named, unto the Justices of the Supreme Court at the Day and  
Place within mentioned, do humbly testify, That the Plaint in this  
is contained with all Things touching the same as fully as the  
same is before us distinctly & openly under our Seals: we  
send — as within we are commanded —

Isaac Vanderback 

Jacob Terhune 

New Jersey, Bergen Co. The State of New Jersey To Isaac Vanderback & Jacob Terhune Esquires — Justices of the Peace of the Peace of the said State for the same County of Bergen Greeting; The Justices of the Supreme Court of Judicature of the State of New Jersey being willing for certain Causes to be certified of a certain Pleas before you levied and brought by Jacob Vandal — against — in a Pleas, as it is said, it is commanded you, That the Pleas of — with the Pleas, Memorandums, Entries and all other Things touching the same, as fully & entirely as before you it doth remain, by whatever Names the said Parties may be called therein, before the Justices of the Supreme Court of Judicature of the State of — at Hillsborough on the first Tuesday in April next, under your Seals distinctly and openly you send without delay and this writ, that therein may be done what of Right, and according to the Laws of this State ought to be done. Witness

Robert Morris Esquire (Chief Justice of this State, at Burlington the Twelfth Day of November in the Year of our Lord One Thousand seven hundred of Seventy Eight)

Wm. Woodin 

Wm. Woodin  
 Attest  
 Wm. Woodin

I allow this writ, let it be sealed —  
John Cleves Symmes



Case # 39179

April 1, 1779. Bergen  
and Somerset Counties.

Appeal on the claim,  
upheld by the lower  
court, of Sergeant Jacob  
Vandal to a Negro man,  
**a Negro "wench"**, and a  
Negro girl, captured  
near Bergen Town, and  
claimed as prize.

Boudinot Jr., Attorney  
for the Plaintiff in  
Appeal.

New Jersey Sup: Court  
Jacob Vandal } Certiorari  
The State - }  
Directed to Justice Tschune  
& Leberman and to file the  
1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in April 1779  
Wm Boudinot Jun  
Att: for Cert

February 12<sup>th</sup> 1779  
Bergers County S<sup>r</sup>. Said Day personally appeared  
be fore us Isaac vanderbeck and Jacob Ter heur Esqs  
two of the Justices of the peace for said County Sergeant  
Jacob wandel of Col Spencers Regiment and brought  
before us a certain negro man a negro wench and  
negro girl claimed by the said Sergeant Jacob  
wandel as a Prize captured near the Town of Bergers  
We the said Isaac vanderbeck and Jacob Ter heur after  
mature Consideration of the premisses and adjournment  
of the trial to this Day being the thirteenth of february  
no person appearing to claim the said Slaves give  
Judgment in favor of the plaintiff  
Isaac vanderbeck  
Jacob Ter heur  
A B Evidence Sworn  
in the Case



Case # 35080

December 1780.  
Monmouth County.

State of New Jersey v.  
William Evringham

Indictment for  
Misdemeanor (Breaking &  
Entering and Armed  
Robbery)

On December 13, 1780, for  
breaking into the house of  
Primis, a free Negro man,  
and with gun and bayonet,  
robbing him of one vest  
and one blanket.

Account of Eyes & Tears  
December 1780.  
The State of New Jersey  
vs. William Evringham  
A true Bill  
David Forman & Thomas



The Jurors, in Behalf of the State of New Jersey, for the  
Body of the County of Monmouth, upon their Oath do certify,  
That William Evringham, late of Newark County, Yeoman,  
on the thirteenth Day of December, in the Year of our  
Lord, one thousand, Seven hundred, & eighty, with Force  
and Arms, <sup>to wit,</sup> with a Gun, Bayonet, and other offensive  
Weapons, at the Township of Shrewsbury, in the same  
County of Monmouth, unlawfully & maliciously did  
break and enter the Dwelling House then situated of one  
Primis a free Negro Man, and one Vest and one  
Blanket, of the Goods & Chattels of the said Primis,  
in the said Dwelling House being then & there  
unlawfully and injuriously did take & carry away,  
against the Peace of this State, the Government,  
and Dignity of the same,  
Wm. Caterer,  
Att. Gen.



Case # 37536

May 12, 1781. Bergen County.

State of New Jersey v. Adrian Post

Habeas Corpus (to produce Negro Charles and his wife Margaret, also called Peg)

New Jersey. The State of New Jersey To Adrian Post of the County of Bergen Greeting: You are hereby Com-  
manded that the Body of Negro Charles together with his Wife under your Custody do-  
tained, as is said, under safe & secure Conduct, together with the Day & Cause of the taking & detaining them  
the said Negro Charles & Margaret his Wife, by whatsoever Names they are known in the same  
you have before Our Justices of our Supreme Court of Judicature of said State at Trenton on the first Tuesday  
in September next, to do & receive all & singular those things which our said Court shall then & there consider of them  
in this Behalf, & have you then there this writ. Witness David Brearley Esq. Chief Justice at Trenton of the  
twelfth Day of May in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & eighty one  
Boudinot AMH  
Reed Elk

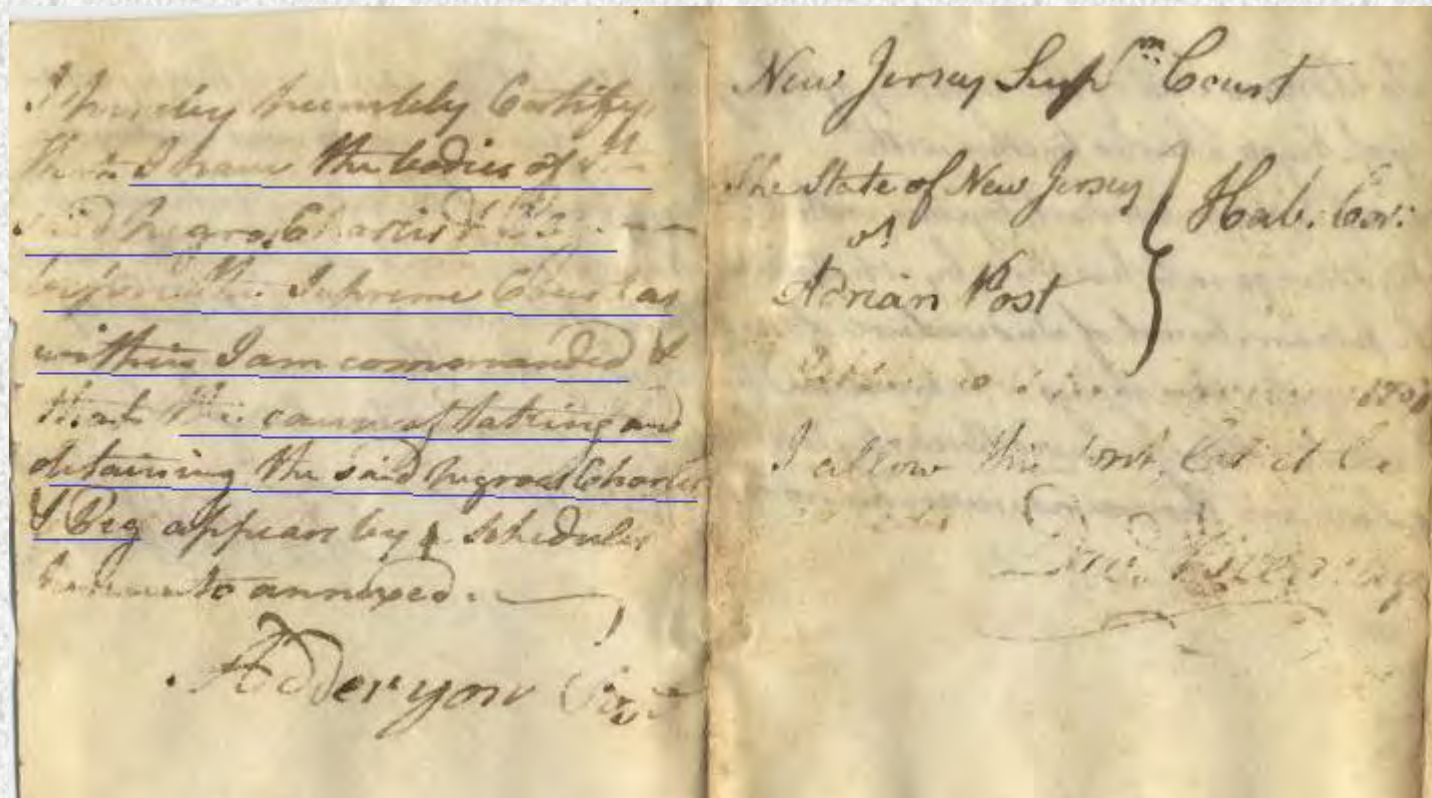


Case # 37536

May 12, 1781. Bergen County. State of New Jersey v. Adrian Post.

Habeas Corpus (to produce Negro Charles and his wife Margaret, also called Peg)

The case apparently remained unresolved in May 1783 when (according to Supreme Court Minute Book 62, p. 33-34) the Court issued another Habeas Corpus to Adrian Post.



The Minute Book reads:

**“This Court having several terms past, during the lat war, on a Habeas Corpus brought against Adrian Post for the bringing up of Negro Charles and wife, on hearing Counsel, [ordered] that the said Negroes should be delivered to the charge of the then Sheriff of Bergen, to abide the further order of this Court, and now on the motion of Mr. Elias Boudinot for Nicholas Covenhoven, Master of the said Negroes, it is ordered by the Court that the Sheriff of Bergen do, on Service of this rule, deliver to the said Nicholas Covenhoven, or his order, the said Negro Charles and wife”.**



Case # 10066

April 7, 1782. Middlesex  
County.

David Dunham v. Benjamin  
Flaing and Cato (a Negro man)

Appeal (to JP Henry Freeman)  
on Condemnation and Seizure  
of Goods.



New Jersey vs. The State of New Jersey to Henry Freeman Esquire  
one of the Justices of the Peace in & for the County of Middlesex  
County - It being proper for certain causes that it should  
be certified to the Justices of the Supreme Court of Judicature for the State  
of New Jersey of a certain Pleint laid and brought before you by  
Benjamin Flaing and Cato a Negro Man against David Dunham  
-----  
(as is said) - We therefore Command you that the pleint afo. with all  
things touching the same as fully and clearly as it now remains  
before you, before the Justice afo. at Trenton on the second Tuesday  
in May next under your seal distinctly and openly you find and the  
Writ. That therein may be done what of right and according to the  
Laws and Customs of this State ought to be done - Witness David  
Brewer Esq. Chief Justice at Trenton the fourth day of April in the  
year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty two  
Williamson Atty



Sup. Court  
David Dunham  
Benj. Flaing & Cato, a Negro man  
Williamson Atty  
I allow this Writ. let it be  
sealed.  
Jno. C. Symmes  
2d Mo. Term 1782



Case # 10066

April 7, 1782. Middlesex County. David Dunham v. Benjamin Flaing and Cato (a Negro man)

Appeal (to JP Henry Freeman) on Condemnation and Seizure of Goods.

The account from the lower court does not mention Cato.

State of  
New Jersey  
Middlesex County

Woodbridge August 15-1781 Beniaman Flaing Brought David Dunham  
to Me for trial with goods Wares and Merchandise Brought from the  
East not Bought from the Enemy which he tho to David Dunham forrest  
and Brought in this State 1 hat 1 watch 1 Pair of Buckles a small  
Peace of Gunse some Bullets 2 Swords and from his own Confession I  
considered the Matter as the above articles as they were Bought of  
the Enemy and Brought in this State I Condemn them to Be a Prize to  
Captains Mearns I have set My hand and seal this 3- Day of May in y<sup>e</sup>  
year of our Lord 1782

Henry Freeman Jus. J.



Case # 37615\*

September 2, 1782. Salem County.

State of New Jersey v. Enloes Philpot

Affidavit of Jack Tapin in Habeas Corpus (to produce Anthony Tapin, his son, a Negro child).

The hand writing matches that of **Joseph Bloomfield's office.**

Bloomfield deserves more attention. He was an abolitionist, as was his father, Moses Bloomfield of Woodbridge.

This type of Habeas action, *ad faciendum, subjiciendum et reciendum*, which underlines the force of the court to execute justice in the matter.

New-Jersey, Supreme Court  
The State v. Enloes Philpot } Affidavit  
Habeas Corpus, &c.  
Filed September Term 1782  
Amstoy

The State — } *ad faciendum, subjiciendum et reciendum*  
v. Enloes Philpot } *ad faciendum, subjiciendum et reciendum*

Jack Tapin maketh oath, that a certain Anthony Tapin, a Negro child aged about one year, is the son of him and Violet, his wife. That a certain Enloes Philpot, of the County of Salem, Yeoman, holds the said Anthony in Bondage and Slavery. That this Deponent served the said Enloes the Term of Four Years for the Freedom of the said Violet. That the said Anthony was born of the said Violet during the said Term. That this Deponent conceives, that the said Anthony is not a Slave, but free and of his own Right.

And further this Deponent faith not.  
Sworn at Salem }  
the 2<sup>d</sup> September }  
1782 before me }  
Jack + Tapin  
Mark

Sam Dick Comm.



Case # 16877

April 5, 1783. Morris County.

Mercy Hill v. Dr. William Liddel

Habeas Corpus (The State to Dr. Liddel; to produce Mercy Hill)

This is a very interesting case; Mercy Hill is personally bringing suit against her enslaver; the file includes extraordinary supporting materials.

Many of the details I have are found in the Minute Books, proving the value of looking for details in other court records.

Slide 1

New Jersey to the State of New Jersey to <sup>Proctor</sup> William Liddel Greeting We command  
you that the body of Mercy Hill in your custody detained, as is said,  
together with the cause of her detention by whatsoever name the said  
Mercy Hill may be called in the same you have before the Justices  
of our Supreme Court of Judicature to be held at Trenton on the second Tuesday  
in May next to do, submit to and receive those things which the Justice  
of our same Court of her then and there shall ordain and direct in this  
behalf and that you must in no wise omit on the penalty thereon incumbent  
and have you there then this writ Witness David Barclay Esquire Chief  
Justice at Trenton aforesaid the fifth day of April in the year of our Lord one  
thousand seven hundred and eighty three.  
Morris Att. Houffson

Merely humbly by letter from  
the Justices of the Supreme Court  
that have the body of the within  
said Mercy Hill as within I am  
I am commanded and that the  
cause of detaining the said  
Mercy is contained in the  
whole hereto annexed  
William Liddel  
New Jersey.  
Mercy Hill Hab. Corp.  
Dr. William Liddel Morris Att.  
So May Term 1783.  
I allow this writ let it  
be sealed.  
John C. Tymmes



Case # 16877

May 13, 1783.

Mercy Hill v. Dr. William Liddel

The response of Dr. Liddel. He cites a bill of sale from Major Cook.

The bill of sale is not in the file.

Slide 2

Mendon 13<sup>th</sup> May 1783.

Sirs,

In Compliance of a Writ of Hab. Corp.<sup>us</sup>

I have Caused the Body of Mercy Hill, as a Slave  
in my Custody, to be taken to Town, and do herein  
Return the S<sup>d</sup> Writ, together with the Bill of Sale  
thereto Annexed (by the Hands of Major Cook) as the  
Authority by which I hold her in, I am

Your Honour, Most Obedt<sup>l</sup>  
& Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>  
Wm Liddel,

The Honourable the Justices  
of our Supreme Court.

Mercy Hill. } Out<sup>n</sup> of  
ad } Hab. Corp<sup>us</sup>  
William Liddel }

Filed Sept<sup>r</sup> Term 1783  
Houghton



Case # 16877

August 15, 1783

Mercy Hill v. Dr. William Liddel

Affidavit of John Scott, relating events during the war.

The affidavit outlines other depositions and supporting materials gathered in the case; naming them in enumerated detail.

It is a draft and difficult to interpret, but it conveys the impression that Mercy Hill, a servant, was falsely enslaved so she could be sold to settle debts. It names a community of Doctors in Morristown and makes reference to activities during the Revolutionary War.

Slide 3

New Jersey: John Scott of full age being duly sworn deponeth that  
 some time in the summer of 1776 or 1777 the same year that D. Budd  
 and others were apprehended for counterfeiting money which at Morristown  
 town <sup>an English relation who was imprisoned by the British</sup> Mercy Hill  
 came with her the said Mercy Hill a servant  
 of Thomas Budd to the house of Dr. Bern Budd and afterwards to the  
 house of this Deponent, who examined her, and from her information  
 collected the substance of Paper No. 1 to this deposition annexed, which  
 that to ascertain the truth thereof he wrote the substance of the said  
 paper to a Mr. Howel (son of Aaron Howel) then a President or Judge  
 in the Obsequial College, and requested him to inquire into the  
 of the truth thereof, that not long after he rec'd. a letter from Mr. Howel  
 enclosing the Depositions N<sup>o</sup>. 2 & 3 also to this deposition annexed, in  
 which Mr. Howel informed him that the said Mercy Hill was  
 undoubtedly free if she had not done any thing to enslave herself  
 that in consequence of these letters the information he derived from  
 this source he decided from prosecuting a claim to the said Mercy  
 Hill which he should have otherwise done had she appeared to be the slave  
 of Dr. Thomas Budd or Dr. Aaron Gillett, or he supposed them both in his  
 debt. That the said Mercy Hill was sometime after seized as the  
 Deponent understood sold as the property of Dr. Thomas Budd, and the  
 Deponent and afterwards was she was <sup>kept in the hands of</sup> ~~sent to~~ several other persons,  
 that the Deponent has at different times since receiving the said De-  
 positions published the substance of them to many people, and to several  
 who held the said Mercy Hill as a slave, to wit, to Capt. <sup>James</sup> ~~James~~ <sup>John</sup> ~~John~~  
 White, Matthias Williams Esq; John Crofton, Robert Brown, <sup>and</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>Jonathan</sup> ~~Jonathan~~ <sup>Esquire</sup> ~~Esquire~~  
 and the Deponent thinks to Gerardus Duykinck. That the letter to  
 the Deponent from Mr. Howel is mislaid, and the Deponent cannot now  
 ascertain where it is, but thinks it was lost when the Deponent  
 sent the affidavits to Mr. <sup>John West for Mr. Howel's use</sup> ~~James~~ <sup>Howel</sup> ~~Howel~~  
 and further that the Deponent saith not.

John Scott

Subscribed before me the  
 day of August 1783  
 1777 1783 before me.

John Cleve Lyndon



Case # 16877

August 15, 1783. Mercy Hill v. Dr. William Liddel

“Genealogy of Mercy Hill who says as followth.”  
Document No. 1 (cited in John Scott’s affidavit)

The document is hectic and difficult to interpret. Mercy Hill begins with her grandparents, who lived in Rhode Island, and whose surname Hill she claimed as her own. She claims to be the free born child of Deliverance, or Dill, and a Negro slave called Jupiter [Lee], bound to a shipwright. It tells of her siblings, and her marriage to a Negro slave named Prince, who was bound to a drover of cattle to Albany. She entered service in New York, that somehow led her to Morris County. It requires more interpretation, and I likely have some details wrong.

Slide 4

My mother she had one son named  
George that was bound to one John Allen  
in the town of Rhode Island

Genealogy of Mercy Hill who says as followth  
1<sup>st</sup> My <sup>Grandmother</sup> Grandfather was George Hill of Boston who  
lived in Dillon of his Wife's name was Letta or Deliverance  
Hill Daughter of And George of Boston of his Wife's name  
Hill also lived at Dillon being all Indians there well known  
She says her mother Deliverance had look for husband a Negro  
Man Slave named Jupiter the property of Mr. Amwell a  
Shipwright of the town of Durham her father Jupiter &  
mother had 3 living children when she left Rhode Island  
2<sup>nd</sup> The oldest named John her uncle who lived his time with  
the Honored Mr. John Luther of the town of Bristol in the town of  
Rhode Island who took his name from his mother being the 2<sup>nd</sup> child  
his time with Mr. John James a Black who lived in Albany  
his brother of John Black who was younger than she & John  
Mercy was bound to one Mr. Samuel a Whitman a seaman  
of the town of Wickliffe of the town of Dillon I was not out  
of his time when she left Rhode Island she & Mercy  
took for husband a Negro Man Slave named Prince the property of Mr.  
John James a Black who lived in Albany New York  
James James a drover who drove cattle to Albany  
James James James about 30 miles from Albany  
she about a year after Mr. James James James James James James  
there with James James James James James James James James  
she stayed in Albany New York after her husband James James James  
she worked about among the Neighbours in the town of Albany  
James James James James James James James James James James  
old matters daughter in law James James James James James James  
of his old matters James James James James James James James James  
she lived at Albany New York she worked about & James James James  
James James James James James James James James James James  
of James James James James James James James James James James

My mother she had one son named  
George that was bound to one John Allen  
in the town of Rhode Island



Case # 16877

April 13, 1774.

Mercy Hill v. Dr. William Liddel

Affidavit of Esek Brown, of Swanzey, Bristol County [then Rhode Island, now Massachusetts].

He identifies Mercy Hill as a free born Indian or Mollato woman; confirms the details of her parents in the Genealogy.

Verified by JP Jeathaniel Bowes.

Slide 5

Swanzey April 13<sup>th</sup> 1774

I Esek Brown of Swanzey in the County of Bristol & Count<sup>y</sup> being of Lawfull age testifieth and Saith that by my own knowledge I knew Mercy Hill an Indian or Mollato woman was born free who was known or said to be the Daughter of of Dill or Delivrance Hill the Wife of Jupiture a Negro man Servant to M<sup>r</sup> Samuel Lee of Said Swanzey Shippersright and was bound out an Apprentice to M<sup>r</sup> James Powers of Said Town and that I bought the remaining part of her Apprenticeship of S<sup>r</sup> Powers who lived with me about Three or four Years

Esek Brown.

Bristol In Swanzey April y<sup>e</sup> 13 day 1774

then personally appeared Esek Brown Subscriber to the Above Exposition and after being Examined made oath to the truth of the Same before me

Jeathaniel Bowes Justice of peace



Case # 16877

April 13, 1774.

Mercy Hill v. Dr. William Liddel

Affidavit of Esek Brown, and others.

Again, identifying Mercy Hill as a free born Indian or Mollato woman; and adding details of her apprenticeship.

Verified by JP Jeathaniel Bowes.

Slide 6

Swansey April 13<sup>th</sup> 1774  
They are to certify all. whom it may concern that the <sup>the</sup> Subscribers  
whose Names are hereunder Written do Testify and Say that  
by <sup>our</sup> own Knowledge we know that Mercy Hill an Indian  
or Molatto Woman was born free or a free Woman and lived  
in Swansey aforesaid who was known or Said to be the  
Daughter of Dill or Deliverance Hill the Wife of Jupiter  
a Negro man Servant to M<sup>r</sup>. Samuel Lee of Said  
Swansey ~~Shipwright the said Dill or Deliverance being~~  
known to be a free <sup>Native</sup> woman furthermore we testify that said  
Mercy Hill was an Apprentice to M<sup>r</sup>. James Powers of  
Said Town.  
Esek Brown  
Samson Mayon  
Frederick Luther  
Christopher Mason  
Caleb Hill  
Edward Luther <sup>Clark</sup>  
Town

Bristol to Swansey Amily 13 Day 1774  
then personally appeared the above named Esek Brown  
Samson Mayon Frederick Luther Christopher Mason  
Caleb Hill and Edward Luther. Subscribers to the above  
Disposition and after being sworn in and oath to the  
truth of the same before me Jeathaniel Bowes Justice of peace







Case # 16877

April 1, 1748.

Mercy Hill v. Dr. William Liddel

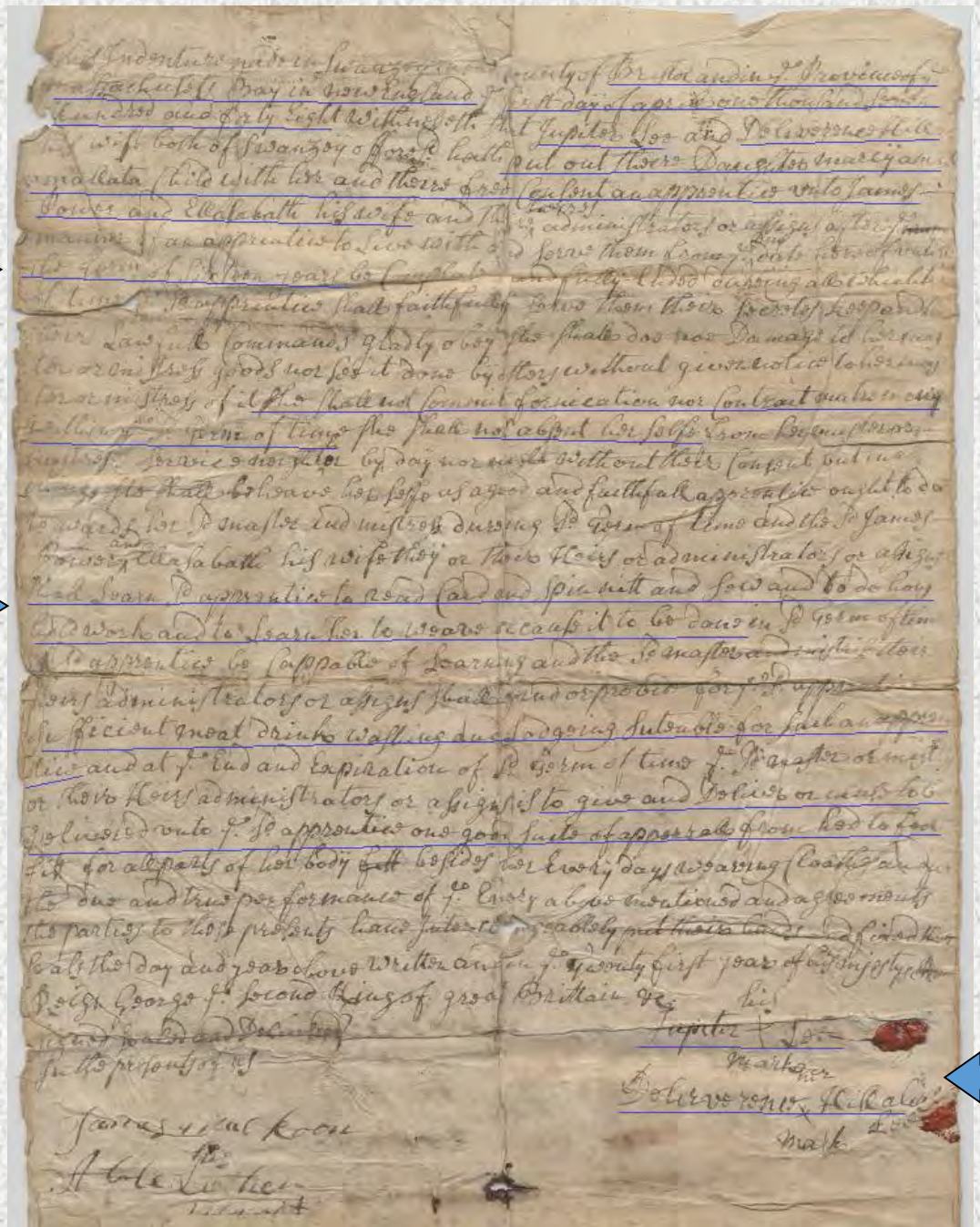
Indenture Contract

Mercy Hill to James Power and his wife, Elizabeth, for a term of 16 years.

Includes permissions from her parents, morality clauses, guarantees of training and material support, and other terms and conditions of her apprenticeship.

Signed by Jupiter Lee and Deliverance Hill.

Slide 8





Case # 16877

August 8, 1749.

Mercy Hill v. Dr. William Liddel

Verso of Indenture Contract.

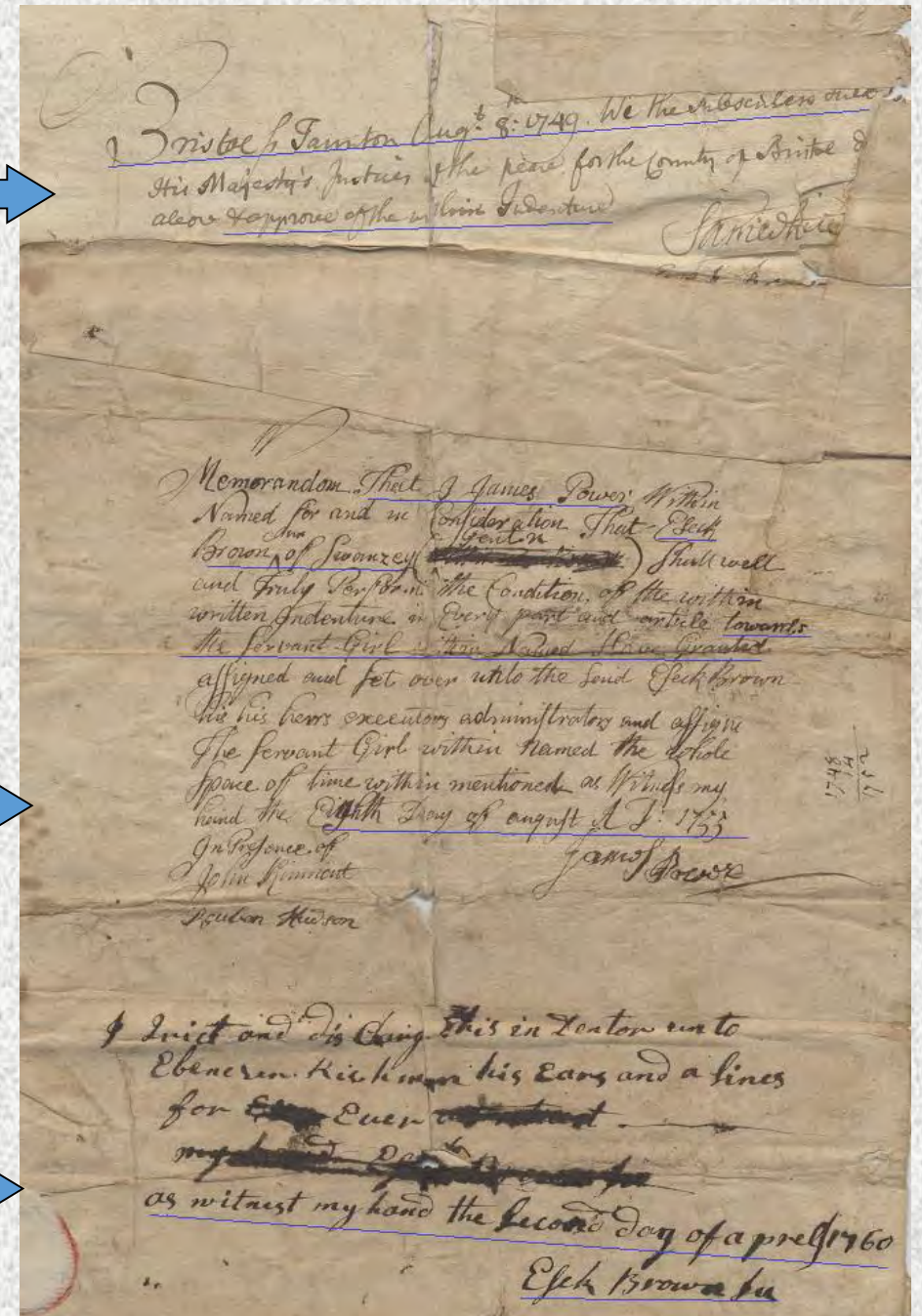
Sworn at Taunton in Bristol County, August 8, 1749.

Transfer and affirmation of the indenture of Mercy Hill, a servant girl, to James Power and his wife.

The transfer of indenture to Eseck Brown Jr. for a term to August 8, 1755, and sworn to by James Power.

Affirmed April 2, 1760 by Eseck Brown Jr.

Slide 9





Case # 16877

February 14, 1783.

Mercy Hill v. Dr. William Liddel

Additional affidavits of Thomas Rose and Ebenezer Richmond, both of Bristol County, supporting the truth of Mercy Hill's history, her race, her indenture, and her freedom.

Signed by JP Ezra Richmond

Slide 10



*Thomas Rose of Dighton in the County of Bristol in the  
Commonwealth of the Massachusetts of Lawful Age Do  
Testify & say that One Mercy Hill a Mollato woman  
with me for some time and I was well acquainted with  
her and always understood that she was free born  
her mother being an Indian woman & the reputed  
Father a Negro man Named Jupiter Lee, the said  
Mercy Hill is a Lusty able bodied person with a bushy  
head of hair and about forty year of age and I depose  
further saith that one Robert Latham of Bridgewater  
informed the Deponent that he had sold the said Mercy  
into one of the Southern States Further saith not  
Dighton February 14<sup>th</sup> 1783 Thomas Rose*



*Ebenezer Richmond of Taunton in the County of Bristol  
& Commonwealth of the Massachusetts of Lawful Age Do  
Testify & say that one Jeth Brown of Swansea signed over an  
Indenture of an A Mollato girl named Mercy Hill a Lusty  
able bodied woman with Mollato bushy hair to serve for  
a certain time mentioned in the said Indenture and at the end  
or Expiration of said Indenture was free, said Jeth Brown  
informed me the said Mercy mother was a free woman  
one of the Natives of the Country & that the said Mercy was born  
Free Further saith not February 14<sup>th</sup> 1783  
Ebenezer Richmond  
Commonwealth of the Massachusetts - Bristol 14<sup>th</sup> February 1783  
personally appeared the above named Thomas  
Rose & Ebenezer Richmond the two above Deponents and  
after being carefully examined & cautioned to tell the whole  
Truth & nothing but the Truth made solemn Oath to the above  
Deposition by them Subscribed  
Before Ezra Richmond Justice of Peace*



Case # 16877

February 14, 1783.

Mercy Hill v. Dr. William Liddel

Affidavit of Widow Abigail Lee in support of  
**Mercy's cause.**

Attesting to her birth at the house of her  
father, Samuel Lee, at Swansea; attesting to  
her indenture at the age of two years old;  
and to her knowledge that Mercy Hill had  
traveled to the Jerseys, but had not seen her  
in some years.

Slide 11



*I Abigail Lee late of Swansea in the County of Bristol the wife  
of lawful Age do testify & say that one Mercy Hill formerly  
of D Swansea a Molatto woman was born at Swansea off  
one Deliverance Hill a free Indian woman and the said  
Deliverance Hill lived at my Father Samuel Lees in D  
Swansey until the D Mercy was near two years old then she  
mother when the D Mercy Hill was of proper age bound  
her out untill she arriv to the age of eighteen years & then  
went at her Liberty as other free born persons commonly do  
the said Mercy was a Lusty Able bodied person with a  
Bushy head of hair and as I always understood that  
shee the said Mercy Traveled towards the Jerseys have  
not been knowing of her for some years past & further  
I doth not. dated Dighton Feb: 14<sup>th</sup> 1783 - Abigail Lee*

Commonwealth of the  
Massachusetts. -

Dighton Feb: 14<sup>th</sup> 1783 - Then  
personally appeared the above named Abigail Lee, and after  
being Carefully examined and cautioned to tell the whole  
truth, and Nothing but the truth; made Oath to the above  
Declaration by her subscribed.

Before me - Ezra Pittmonrd,  
Justice of  
the peace



Case # 16877

April 5, 1783. Morris  
County.

Mercy Hill v. Dr.  
William Liddel

Mercy Hill was set  
free by the Court.

From Supreme Court  
Minute Book 61, folio  
270.

Slide 12

Mercy Hill  
vs.  
William Liddell } On Habeas corpus pro Manumissione -  
Plaintiff. }  
That she is the Daughter of a certain Jupiter See a negro Slave  
heretofore belonging to Samuel See of the Town of Swansey in the then Colony  
of Massachusetts Bay now Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and Deliverance Hill  
a free-born native Indian Woman; that in her Infancy she was put App-  
rentice to James Power of that Place, with whom, or his Apprentices, she served  
many years and then laboured for her livelihood in different Places as  
other free persons usually do; that long afterwards she was, by some  
means, sold as a Slave, and by sundry Transfers, and Sales came at  
length into the Possession of the Defendant William Liddell; the Court  
having heard the Testimony with sundry Affidavits offered and read to  
prove the Truth of the foregoing Allegations and having also heard the  
Arguments of Counsel on both sides, and maturely considered thereof are  
unanimously of Opinion that the said Mercy Hill is entitled to her Freedom  
and ought not to be held in Slavery, and do accordingly adjudge and order  
that the said Mercy Hill be discharged and set at liberty from the said  
William



To be continued....



Painting of Dido Elizabeth Bell and her cousin Elizabeth Murray.  
Collection of the Earl of Mansfield, Scone Palace, Perth



# Supreme Court Database

Available on the NJSA website.

[https://wwwnet-dos.state.nj.us/DOS\\_ArchivesDBPortal/SupremeCourt.aspx](https://wwwnet-dos.state.nj.us/DOS_ArchivesDBPortal/SupremeCourt.aspx)

This screen allows you to search by any combination of First Name, Last Name, Case Type.

Filter by County, Gender, Ethnicity, Year span, or specific Case #.

Selecting a Case # adds that record to your shopping cart, from which you can request a copy.

[Back to Main Page](#)

Last Name: <input type="text"/>	First Name: <input type="text"/>	Role in Case: <input type="text"/>
Case Type: abduction	County: <input type="text"/>	
Gender: <input type="text"/>	Ethnicity: African American	Corporate Entities: <input type="text"/>
Year Span: <input type="text"/> to <input type="text"/>	Case No. <input type="text"/>	

[Reset Search Criteria](#) [Search](#)

Select	Case#	Name	Case Title	Case Type	County	Dates
<a href="#">Select</a>	37028*	Negro, Caroline (Slave of James Morgan) (Named in Case)	State of New Jersey v. James Morgan	Appeal on Misdemeanor (Conspiracy and Abduction, for the purpose of selling Negro Caroline out of state)	Middlesex and Out of State	1818 - 1819
<a href="#">Select</a>	37029	Negro, Ann (Slave of Eelsey Morgan) (Named in Case)	State of New Jersey v. Eelsey Morgan	Appeal on Misdemeanor (Conspiracy and Abduction, for the purpose of selling Negro Ann out of state)	Middlesex and Out of State	1818 - 1819
<a href="#">Select</a>	35950	Negro, Sam (Slave of Peter F. Hendry, two-years old) (Named in Case)	State of New Jersey v. Peter F. Hendry	Appeal on Misdemeanor (Conspiracy and Abduction, for the purpose of selling Negro Sam out of state)	Middlesex and Out of State	1818 - 1819



# Supreme Court Database

Available on the NJSA website.

[https://wwwnet-dos.state.nj.us/DOS\\_ArchivesDBPortal/SupremeCourt2.aspx](https://wwwnet-dos.state.nj.us/DOS_ArchivesDBPortal/SupremeCourt2.aspx)

There is also a second version of the database on our website which allows more detailed view of the indexing.

Entering the initial letter or string of letters into the name fields will return all records beginning with that string. To search a string within a name use the wildcard character \* followed by the string. For example, the surname "Smith" may be searched to include the variant "Smyth" by entering "Sm\*th" in last name field. To sort the search results click on the [header](#) of each column.

The search function below is oriented to research by name. Since a name can appear as a litigant, victim, witness, named party, etc., the search results may contain more than one reference to the same case file.

The Archives hosts two other prototype versions of the Supreme Court database which allow the records to be searched in other ways. In these versions, the list of search results will contain just one reference to each case file.

- [Supreme Court Version 2](#) will return a list of case files based on a search by county, case type, case number, and/or year span. The advantage to this search is, for example, if you want to know how many murder cases are recorded before 1776, this search will show you there are currently 42 cases identified, instead of showing results by every name in all the cases. On this interface, you can click on the case number and see a list of all persons in the case. It will also display any case notes currently recorded for the file. *You can order copies of records from this page.*
- [Supreme Court Version 3](#) allows you to search for plaintiff/defendant combinations. For example, if you want to search for cases where John Smith is suing someone named Brown, this interface will allow for that search. *You cannot order copies from this particular interface.*

To order a copy, click "[Select](#)" next to the record.

Selected records are added to the shopping cart at the bottom of the page.

Click the "[Back to Main Page](#)" button to continue searching or request additional records.

Click "[Check Out](#)" or "[View Cart](#)" and follow the payment instructions to order copies.

***Please read the instructions on the shopping cart page and order form carefully.***

[Back to Main Page](#)

Last Name: <input type="text"/>	First Name: <input type="text"/>	Role in Case: <input type="text"/>
Case Type: <input type="text"/>		County: <input type="text"/>
Gender: <input type="text"/>	Ethnicity: <input type="text"/>	Corporate Entities: <input type="text"/>
Year Span: <input type="text"/> to <input type="text"/>	Case No. <input type="text"/>	

[Reset Search Criteria](#)

[Search](#)



# Supreme Court Database

Available on the NJSA website.

[https://wwwnet-dos.state.nj.us/DOS\\_ArchivesDBPortal/SupremeCourt2.aspx](https://wwwnet-dos.state.nj.us/DOS_ArchivesDBPortal/SupremeCourt2.aspx)

Here you can search only by Case Type, Case #, or Years, and filter by County.

The screenshot shows the NJSA website interface for the Supreme Court Database. At the top, there is a header for the State of New Jersey Department of State, including the state seal and navigation links for Governor Phil Murphy and Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver. Below this is the NJSA logo and the title "SEARCHABLE DATABASES AND RECORDS REQUEST FORMS". A breadcrumb trail indicates the current location: "DOS Home > New Jersey State Archives > Search the Collections > Searchable Databases Index". The main heading is "Supreme Court Case Files, 1704-1844". A red warning message states: "Please do not use the browser 'Back' button while navigating the database pages and record request forms. Instead click on the 'Back to Main Page' button below to return to the list of searchable databases and online records request forms." Below this are two bullet points: "We now accept credit card payments. Or print the request form and pay by check or money order." and "You may combine up to 10 records from different databases and record request forms in a single order." A paragraph explains that the search form is a prototype for researchers to search 54,998 case files by case types, counties, and/or date ranges. Another paragraph describes the search capabilities, such as compiling statistical record sets for murder cases before 1776 or misdemeanor prosecutions in Essex County from 1776 to 1782. Instructions for requesting a copy are provided, including a "Back to Main Page" button. At the bottom, there is a search form with fields for "County:", "Case Type:", "Case No.", and "Year Span:" (with "to" between two input boxes). "Reset Search Criteria" and "Search" buttons are located at the bottom right.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Governor Phil Murphy and Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver  
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NEW JERSEY  
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STATE ARCHIVES

SEARCHABLE DATABASES AND RECORDS REQUEST FORMS

DOS Home > New Jersey State Archives > Search the Collections > Searchable Databases Index

### Supreme Court Case Files, 1704-1844

Please do not use the browser "Back" button while navigating the database pages and record request forms. Instead click on the "Back to Main Page" button below to return to the list of searchable databases and online records request forms.

- We now accept credit card payments. Or print the request form and pay by check or money order.
- You may combine up to 10 records from different databases and record request forms in a single order.

This Supreme Court database search form is a prototype designed for researchers who primarily wish to search the 54,998 case files for case types, counties, and/or date ranges. To search for names return to the [Supreme Court main database page](#).

The advantage to this search is the ability compile statistical record sets, for example, of all the murder cases recorded before 1776. This search will show you there are currently 42 identified. Or all the misdemeanor prosecutions in Essex County for 1776 thru 1782. There are currently 151 recorded. Click on the Case Number to dynamically see the list of all persons in the case. The "Case Notes" column displays any abstracts currently available for the case file (these notes are all drafts).

To request a copy click "Select" next to the record.  
Selected records are added to the shopping cart at the bottom of the page.  
Click the "Back to Main Page" button to continue searching or request additional records.  
Click "Check Out" or "View Cart" and follow the payment instructions to order copies.  
**Please read the instructions on the shopping cart page and order form carefully.**

[Back to Main Page](#)

County:  Case Type:  Case No.

Year Span:  to

[Reset Search Criteria](#) [Search](#)



# Supreme Court Database

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[https://wwwnet-dos.state.nj.us/DOS\\_ArchivesDBPortal/SupremeCourt2.aspx](https://wwwnet-dos.state.nj.us/DOS_ArchivesDBPortal/SupremeCourt2.aspx)

No individual names are listed in the main results, however, users can see an additional note field with additional information provided by indexers.

[Back to Main Page](#)

County: <input type="text"/>	Case Type: abduction <input type="text"/>	Case No. <input type="text"/>
Year Span: <input type="text"/> to <input type="text"/>		

[Reset Search Criteria](#) [Search](#)

CASES						
Select	Case#	Case Title	Description	County	Dates	Case Notes
<a href="#">Select</a>	<a href="#">35950</a>	State of New Jersey v. Peter F. Hendry	Appeal on Misdemeanor (Conspiracy and Abduction, for the purpose of selling Negro Sam out of state)	Middlesex and Out of State	1818 - 1819	Involves an attempt to remove a two-year old negro boy named Sam, indentured to Peter F. Hendry, by placing him out of state into the custody of one Charles Morgan, and thereby establishing his residency outside the state of New Jersey, presumably for the purpose of enslavement. Case type is derived from description of the charges
<a href="#">Select</a>	<a href="#">37029</a>	State of New Jersey v. Elsey Morgan	Appeal on Misdemeanor (Conspiracy and Abduction, for the purpose of selling Negro Ann out of state)	Middlesex and Out of State	1818 - 1819	Involves an attempt to remove a negro girl named Ann, indentured to Elsey Morgan, by placing her out of state into the custody of one Charles Morgan, and thereby establishing his residency outside the state of New Jersey, presumably for the purpose of enslavement. Case type is derived from description of the charges
<a href="#">Select</a>	<a href="#">37028*</a>	State of New Jersey v. James Morgan	Appeal on Misdemeanor (Conspiracy and Abduction, for the purpose of selling Negro Caroline out of state)	Middlesex and Out of State	1818 - 1819	Involves an attempt to remove a negro girl named Caroline, indentured to James Morgan, by placing her out of state into the custody of one Charles Morgan, and thereby establishing his residency outside the state of New Jersey, presumably for the purpose of enslavement. Case type is derived from description of the charges



# Supreme Court Database

Available on the NJSA website.

[https://wwwnet-dos.state.nj.us/DOS\\_ArchivesDBPortal/SupremeCourt2.aspx](https://wwwnet-dos.state.nj.us/DOS_ArchivesDBPortal/SupremeCourt2.aspx)

Clicking on the case # displays the full list of all persons named in the file.

Participants for Case Number: 37029		
Role	Names	Notes
Plaintiff	State of New Jersey	
Defendant	Morgan, Eley	of South Amboy, Slave owner of Ann
Named in Case	Morgan, Charles	Out-of-State reciever of the negro girl Ann, slave of Eley Morgan
Named in Case	Negro, Ann	Slave of Eley Morgan
Evidence (Witness Called)	Brewster, John	
Evidence (Witness Called)	Young, John	
Official	Deare, William (Clerk)	
Official	Frelinghuysen, Theodore (Attorney General)	
Official	Hance, Thomas (Judge of Common Pleas)	
Official	Kirkpatrick, Andrew (Chief Justice)	

[1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#)

Page 1 of 4 Total Records: 32

CASES						
Select	Case#	Case Title	Description	County	Dates	Case Notes
<a href="#">Select</a>	<a href="#">35950</a>	State of New Jersey v. Peter F. Hendry	Appeal on Misdemeanor (Conspiracy and Abduction, for the purpose of selling Negro Sam out of state)	Middlesex and Out of State	1818 - 1819	Involves an attempt to remove a two-year old negro boy named Sam, indentured to Peter F. Hendry, by placing him out of state into the custody of one Charles Morgan, and thereby establishing his residency outside the state of New Jersey, presumably for the purpose of enslavement. Case type is derived from description of the charges
<a href="#">Select</a>	<a href="#">37029</a>	State of New Jersey v. Eley Morgan	Appeal on Misdemeanor (Conspiracy and Abduction, for the purpose of selling Negro Ann out of state)	Middlesex and Out of State	1818 - 1819	Involves an attempt to remove a negro girl named Ann, indentured to Eley Morgan, by placing her out of state into the custody of one Charles Morgan, and thereby establishing his residency outside the state of New Jersey, presumably for the purpose of enslavement. Case type is derived from description of the charges
		State of New Jersey v. James	Appeal on Misdemeanor	Middlesex and Out of	1818 - 1819	Involves an attempt to remove a negro