

**Deposition of Joseph Wain Case, Eyewitness to Seizure of
Cesar Peters Family by David Prior and Other Southern Slave Traders,
Regarding 1789 Petition of Cesar and Lowis Peters and their Family
To Connecticut Legislature for Emancipation**

**Original Document On File at Connecticut State Library
Hartford, CT**

**RG 1, Early General Records
Connecticut Archives, 1629-1820
Revolutionary War, Series I, II, III
Volume XXXVII, doc. 260B-260C**

The Deposition of Joseph Wain Case of Lawfull age is as follows; that Cezar Came into This Neighbourhood when about 8 or 9 years of age and I have Lived by him and known him well for thirty years and do fully Join in Testamony with the foregoing Deposition as Touching his Morrels and every other Circumstance therein Contained, and Especially that of the family being Taken by Men armed with Clubs & Staves and Thrown into a Waggon. (being an Eye witness to the Whole Transaction) it Ehibted [sic] Such a Scene of Cruelty as was unparelel to any thing I had ever Seen and Furthermore Testafy that the agents of Mr. Peters was then Present and one of them viz the young Man held a Drawn Sword in his hand, and by his Words and Gestures fully Indicated to me that he would Make use of it upon Such as Made the Least attempt to Relieve the Sufferers as he Used Strong Imprecations to that Purpose. Deponent Further Says that he has often Conversed with Mrs. Mary Peters the former owner of said Negroes that She had a Note against her Son Samuel Peters of a Hundred and ten Pounds, for Said Negroes and that She should Never to Receive any thing thereon as she intended that the Negroes Should be free and agreed, with her Son at the Time of their Sale to the Same Purpose as She always Said to the Last of her Life which Expired in July 1784 which Note Still Remains unpaid.

(s) Joseph W. Case

Tolland County SS Hebron January 5th 1789

Then personly appeard Joseph Wain Case the Subscriber to one of the forgoing Depositions and Made Solemn oath to the Truth of the Same before me.

N. B.* Mr. John Man attorney to the Rev Saml. Peters was Notified and Present at the Taking of all three of the foregoing Depositions. [*Editor's note: the three foregoing depositions being those of Elijah Graves, Patience Graves, and Joseph Wain Case.*]

- Benjamin Buell Justice Peace
- Opined in General Assembly Newhaven Janry 1789
Test. George Wyllys Secrety

* Latin for Nota Bene, or "Take Notice"