



The Cesar & Sym Peters Site: A Multidisciplinary Collaboration building awareness of Racial Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity in Hebron, Connecticut

Teacher Resources

Using Primary Sources – After Cesar Peters’ family was rescued in September of 1787, they were bound out to their neighbor Elijah Graves for a period of two years to protect them from being sold again. In 1789, Cesar Peters applied to the Connecticut Legislature to be freed. The following is the testimony submitted by Elijah Graves who originated the story of Cesar Peters not paying for clothes he had purchased which allowed the Hebron Selectmen to bring the family back to Hebron rather than to be sold. For two years Cesar Peters’ family were bound out to Elijah Graves living on Burnt Hill.

Testimony to Cesar Peters’ Character --Affidavit of Elijah Graves

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. 260A-260B

The Deposition of Elijah Graves of Lawfull age is as follows who Says he has Lived more than fifteen years a near Neighbor to Cezar and Lois his Wife. Dureing which Time he has observed but few if any of the common Vices of Mankind in them but that they have ever Maintained an honest and Sober Character, also been Diligent and Laborious in their calling and a Degree of Frugality much beyond what is

common People of their Colour – Just at the eve of the American War the Rev. Saml. Peters, who then Considered Cezar and Lois as his Property Left them and the Rest of his Estate and Took Refuge among the British; whose Lands was Soon after Taken by the State’s attorney and Rented out for Publick Use. Cezar and Lois with Three Children was Turned out to Procure a Living for themselves without Much help from their Masters Property. However by good Economy and Close application to business Did Procure a very Comfortable Liveing some years and in the Mean Time had Two or Three Children – about four years Since Mr. Peters’s Estate being Relinquished by the Publick, Cezar moved himself and Family again into one of Mr. Peter’s Houses where he enjoyed himself but for a short Season. Mr. Peters sending over from London a Power of Attorney appointing John Man and his Son his agents who not Long after made Cezar acquainted that it was their Intention to Sell him and his Family into foreign Parts which threw them into Great Consternation and Concern, which in fact not Long after they really Did to one David Prior, an Inhabitant of South Carolina who Came with a Waggon and an armed force of Seven or Eight Men, toward the Close of the Day in the month of September a Little more than a year Since, and Laid violent hands on sd Family bound Some of them in Irons and threw them into a Waggon and Drove of [sic] with Great Precipitation whilst their Cries and Shreiks were Shocking to humane Nature, as your Deponent was an Eye Witness to this Scene it Left Such an Impression on his mind as is not worn out to this Day. The Minds of People in general appeared to be Much agitated and filld with Indignation at Such Cruelties a Number of Persons movd with compasion under the Colour of Lawfull authority Pursued and over Took them 20 Miles from this Place and within one Mile of a Vessel Bound to the sd. Carolina which was to Receive them on Board, as I afterward heard to carry them hence – and reTook them and Brought them Back to the Place from whence they Taken – yet still the sd. agents of Mr. Peters manifest a Determination to Sell and Disperce the aforesd. Family which Renders their condition very Miserable and unhappy and further your Deponent Saith not.

- Elijah Graves Tolland County SS Hebron January 5th 1789

Then personly appeared Elijah Graves the Subscriber to the foregoing Deposition and made Solemn oath to the Truth of the Same before me.

- Benjm. Buell Justice Peace

Reading for evidence. Find the quote that answers the following questions.

Who owned Cesar Peters family at the start of the American (Revolutionary) War?

At that point what was the size of Cesar Peters' family?

When the Connecticut government took over the owner's property, did they free the slaves?

When the Revolutionary War ended, what did Cesar Peters do?

What was the size of his family then?

How did John Mann and his son become involved with Cesar Peters' family?

Were the Mann's friendly toward Cesar Peters?

What happened in Late September of 1787?

How long had Elijah Graves known Cesar Peters?

How did he get the information for his testimony?

Why was it necessary to find some legal protection for Cesar Peters' family once they were returned to Hebron?

Discussion Point

Slaves in 18th century Connecticut were considered property like owning a car, furniture, or even a pet are today. Did Elijah Graves and other Hebron people act legally to bring Cesar Peters' family back to Hebron?

Do you think Elijah Graves and other Hebron people acted morally in rescuing Cesar Peters' family?

If David Prior, identified as coming from South Carolina, had already paid John Mann for Cesar Peters' family, do you think David Prior should be compensated?

Using another Primary Source

Patience Graves was the wife of Elijah Graves and neighbor of Cesar Peters. She is one of the few women who gave legal testimony during the emancipation proceedings. She stands out because in Connecticut at the time women could not vote or generally own property. Patience Graves testimony is different from her

husband's and provides an insight as to how Cesar Peters' neighbors viewed the actions of their fellow neighbor John Mann and his son Nathaniel Mann.

Testimony to Cesar Peters' Character—Affidavit of Patience Graves

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. 260C

The Deposition of Patience Graves of Lawfull age is as follows that she was Present at the Time that Cezar & his family was Taken by Prior to carry of [off] & that Nathaniel Man [sic] was then Present and held a Drawn Sword in his hand and as I attempted to go into the House from whence the Negroes was Taken he shook the sword over my head and charged me with great anger in his countenance not to go in upon my Perrel.

(s) Patience Graves

Tolland County SS Hebron, January 5th, 1789

Then Personly appeard Patience Graves the Subscriber of the foregoing Deposition and Made Solemn

oath to the Truth of the Same before me.

(s) Benjamin Buell, Justice Peace

Reading for evidence

Using quotes from the above, answer the following questions

What two facts does Patience Graves use to establish the validity of her testimony?

What did Nathaniel Mann do?

Discussion Point

Why would Patience Graves consider Nathaniel Mann's actions improper amongst his Burnt Hill neighbors?

How would you feel if someone in your neighborhood threatened to use a dangerous weapon?

Researchers have thought that Cesar Peters' family was living in a blacksmith shop located at Burnt Hill Park. Carefully go through the testimonies of Elijah and Patience Graves, do their words support this hypothesis?



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Using Primary Sources

David Sutton was a neighbor of Cesar Peters' family living close by in what would eventually become Andover.

Testimony to Cesar Peters' Character – Affidavit of David Sutton

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. 258A-258B

The Deposition of David Sutton of Lawfull age is as follows I have been well acquainted with Cesar a Negro, and his Family; Servants to the Rv. Samuel Peters late of Hebron, now of Great Britain, **said** Negroes Servd their Master faithfully, & was treated by him tenderly during the Time that they livd together; after S. Peters left Hebron which was in Sept. 1774 Cesar livd in his House, & Conducted his Business with Prudence, until sd Peters's Lands were taken, & Leased out by the State of Connecticut; at which time sd. Cesar and his Family were turnd off and Supported themselves Comfortably for about five or Six years, without any Assistance from their sd. Master, or his Estate, except the Privilage of Fire wood, although at that Time sd. Cesar had a Number of Small Children unable to do any Business towards their own Support. After the National Peace sd. Cesar returnd to

one of his sd. Masters Houses, & Cultivated the Farm which was much Damagd by Tenants, and by Industry & Frugality Supported his Family, and at the Same Time was at no Small Cost in Repeating [sic] the Fences & Buildings & he has given his Family good Schooling, and has been at Considerable Expencc by Sickness, & I understand that he has paid all the Taxes that have been calld for. He livd in a Comfortable Thriving Situation, until Sd. Peters appointed Mr. John Man & Nathanl. Man his Agents in America after which sd. Cesar was forbid to collect or pay Debts or to trade in the most trifling Affairs, a Privilage that he always enjoyd, when under his sd. Master Peters, and the said Man's, made it their Constant Practice to See sd. Negroes, by thretning to Sel [sic] them; and I understood that they the Sd. Negroes were in fact Sold to one Prior, to be Sent to South Carolina, & were forcibly taken & Carried as far Norwich but they were Persud by a Small Number of People from Hebron, & Rescud but a few Moments before their intended Incarcation, we brot. Sd. Negroes back, & returnd them to the Home from Whence they were taken and Said Negr. are now in Daily Expectation of being Sold & Departed. Said Cesar, for a long Time after his Return, was unable to do any Business as I understood being badly hurt by Irons being put on his Wrists. Said has Eight Children, the oldest about Eighteen years of age & the Youngest about a year & half old, two of sd. C'ren [children] which were Carried away by sd. Man's & Prior were free Born, agreable to a Law of this State. Soon after the Return of Said Negroes, I Saw a Ltr from sd. Peters, to one Mr. Buckinham [sic], in which [he] wrote to Said Buckinham to tell Doct Man not to Sell his Negroes, but to let them Remain in Statu Quo.

Question, Have you ever heard sd. Agents thretton to sell sd. Negros since they were Rescued from Prior

Answer, I have heard Mr. John Man say that he believd must turn out one of sd. Negroes to Settle an Execution in Favour of Col. Elderain

(s) David Sutton

Reading for Evidence

After reading the above, answer the following questions.

What fact does David Sutton use to establish his authority on knowing anything about Cesar Peters?

Samuel Peters supported the English crown and was driven from his home in Hebron by a mob organized by the Sons of Liberty. When did this happen? Was it during the American Revolution?

Is there any indication in David Sutton's account that suggest that a slave would have any money or could own things?

David Sutton's testimony suggests that during the abduction Cesar Peters received a long term injury? What was it and how would this affect Cesar Peters' life back in Hebron?

Does David Sutton's testimony suggest that John Mann had given up the idea of trying to sell Cesar Peters' family after they were rescued?

Discussion Point

David Sutton's testimony introduces a new element of evidence to the case: **Said (Cesar Peters) has Eight Children, the oldest about Eighteen years of age & the Youngest about a year & half old, two of sd. C'ren [children] which were Carried away by sd. Man's & Prior were free Born, agreeable to a Law of this State**

Were John and Nathaniel Mann breaking the law in abducting the two children?

What do you think would have happen to the two children?

Look at this picture of the descendants of Cesar and Lois Peters taken at Burnt Hill Park. They are some of the living descendants of the youngest child of Cesar and Lois Peters at the time they were abducted. Do you have any thoughts about how history is connected to the present?





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Using Primary Sources

John Peters was the oldest brother of the Rev. Samuel Peters who owned Cesar Peters' family at the time of the American Revolution. He was also the brother-in-law of John Mann and uncle to Nathaniel Mann. His testimony provides an interesting insight as to how one of the members of the family that owned Cesar Peters viewed the situation.

Testimony to Cesar Peters' Character—John Peters

Hebron January ye 5 A.D. 1789 The evidence of John Peters of lawful age as folet h , 'my Morthor Mrs Mary Peters, late of Hebron, dost, bought a Negro boy near 30 years ago his name is Sessor and he proved to be a good faithful man and I have heard her say many times that said Sesor Negro should not be a slave but his marrying to Lois negro so displeased her that she sould him said Sesor and Lois his wife of Mr. Samuel Peters, said Mary Peters own son and said Samuel gave said Mary a note of L 110 lawful money on demand with lawful interest till paid. Said Samuel went off to England and left said Negroes on his farm in Hebron, but the state atorney took said estate from said Negroes and let it out to tenants and let poor Sesor negro shurck for himself and Sesor and Lois had a number of small children and nothing but their hands to help themselves with until the war was over and the Stat Atorney through up said farm and said Sesor took possession and lived on said farm in peace and plenty by his own industry until Mr. John Man and his son Nathaniel Man sould said Sessor and his family to one David Prior."

Reading for Evidence

Read the above testimony and answer the questions below.

According to historians Barbara Rose and James Brown, Cesar Peters was 8 years old when he first came to Hebron. How old would Cesar Peters have been in 1789 when he was freed?

Why did Mary Peters sell Cesar Peters? To whom did she sell him? For how much money did Mary Peters sell Cesar Peters?

Discussion Point

How do you think Mary Peters felt about Cesar Peters?

Why do you think she decided to sell Cesar and Lois Peters to Samuel Peters rather than selling them separately to someone else?

Testimony to Cesar Peters' Character—Affidavit of Joseph Wain Case

Joseph Wain Case was a neighbor and possible relative of the Rev. Samuel Peters.

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 personally appeared Joseph Wain Case the Subscriber to one of the forgoing

Reading for Evidence

Read the above testimonial and answer the following:

How does Joseph Wain Case validate his authority to give testimony?

How old was Cesar Peters when he came to live on Burnt Hill?

Were the abductor's armed?

Discussion Points:

How does the evidence of Joseph Wain Case support the evidence of other witnesses?

How does Joseph Wain Case describe the attempted abduction in the Burnt Hill neighborhood? If something like this happened today in your neighborhood would you get involved or stay away?



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Testimony to Cesar Peters' Character – Affidavit of Hebron Selectmen

Resolution of the Hebron Board of Selectmen
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. 259

Hebron, Decem. 5th, 1789

Know, all whom it may Concern that, we the Subscribers, Select Men for the Town of Hebron, have been well acquainted with Cezar Servant to the Rev. Saml. Peters **& cannot say anything Respecting his Morrels but that they are good, and that he has the character of being a Sober Honest Industrious fellow.**

Elijah Kellog)

Silvester Gilbert) Selectmen

John H. Buell)

Joel Jones)

Discussion Point – This is the briefest testimonial given during the hearing of Cesar Peters, but in many ways the most interesting.

Who is providing testimony?

Why would this testimony be considered important?

In 18th century Connecticut, a slave could not be freed unless the owner promised to take care of them if they fell on hard times. When the Hebron Selectmen gave their testimony to the Connecticut Legislature to emancipate Cesar Peters' family, the Rev. Samuel Peters was living as a British citizen in London and thus legally could not be asked to support Cesar Peters' family.

Discussion Point

Do the Hebron Selectmen take responsibility for Cesar Peters, if he should fail to support himself?

If not, what would happen to Cesar Peters' family?



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Interesting History Written on Tolland County's First Governor by Hebron Woman
Susan Pendleton published in the Rockville Leader January 22, 1937

"A story is told of the governor (John S. Peters) by Mrs. Annis Welles, a niece, now deceased. At the time he was serving his state the stage coach and mail wagon were the only public conveyances. He was in Hartford and coming home by way of stage.

A colored woman asked for a passage. "I cannot take you. I have got to take the governor," said the driver. "Let me see the governor," said the woman.

"Get right in, Liddie, get in!" said the governor as soon as he saw her. She knew very well that she had only to see him. Her husband was Henry (or Harry) Peters a descendant of one of the Rev. Samuel Peters slaves, whom the governor used to call "his colored cousins".

"The birthplace of Governor Peters is remembered by an older generation of Hebron people, as a long, low story and half high house, painted red." And stood next to Burnt Hill Park.

Discussion Point – This narrative took place almost 50 years after the rescue of Cesar Peters' family. Is there anything in it that suggest how former owners and slaves felt or reacted to one another at that point?

Gov. John S. Peters was Connecticut Governor in the 1830's a time when there was growing racial tension in Connecticut and the nation. Nat Turner's rebellion took place in 1831 and Prudence Crandall's school in nearby Canterbury, CT was closed down in by passage of the Connecticut Black Laws in 1833. How do you suppose Gov. Peters felt about these events?



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Using Primary Sources

Historical Tax Lists

Historical tax listings provide information that help historians learn about what people owned in the past. In 1812, it is possible that Cesar Peters, as a property owner could have voted. However, to do so, he would have had to pay a “poll tax” which is not recorded. By 1818 when Connecticut adopted its new constitution, African Americans were barred from voting.

Hebron , Ct 1812 Tax list

First Society

Caesar Peters listed with 1 cow three years old, 2 acres of mowing land, and a house with 2 fireplaces at the 4th rate for a total tax assessment of \$12.18

Discussion Point

Do you think it is fair to be taxed, if you cannot vote?

How might people who grew up around the time of the American Revolution feel about this situation?

Historical Inventories

When a person died in the 18th and early 19th century, a list or inventory was created of everything of value they owned, so that if necessary these items could be sold to settle any debts. Each item was given a realistic value. An inventory provides historians with a way of knowing what people owned when they died. However, it's important to realize that during a person's lifetime, they may have sold or given away other things that would not appear in an inventory. When Cesar Peters' inventory was taken the values were given in dollars and cents. The quantity of items is listed on the far left, the item or items are then described and the value appears on the far right.

Many terms in an early inventory will seem strange to you and understanding them requires much investigation. The following might help to make things a little more clear:

Do means ditto or same as the above

Bedstead is the wooden frame for what we call a bed today

Bed means something like a mattress

Scythes, sickles and snathes are tools used to harvest grain or cut hay

Beettle is a large hammer

Porter is a type of beer

A bason is a bowl

A clevy is a ring used to hook a farm cart to horses or oxen

Earthen ware was usually locally made pottery

Pewter was a soft metal used to make plates, bowls and mugs

Looking glass was a mirror hung on the wall

Warming pan was a metal pan filled with hot coals to warm the bed sheets at night

An inventory of the estate both real and personal of Cesar Peters late of Hebron deceased—

Taken and appraised by us the subscribers

Real Estate and farm assets

1	House 2 stories high, small barn and 2 acres of land	250	00
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Farm related

1	cow	21	00
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1	hog	15	00
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2 ½	tons of hay estimated at \$10	25	00
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Books

1	prayer book		50
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Textiles

3	old beds (<i>mattresses</i>) @\$4	12	00
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3	under beds (<i>mattresses</i>)	2	00
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5	old bed quilts	3	75
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1	pair new linen sheets @\$2.50	2	50
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2	pair old linen sheets \$3 each	6	00
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1	old sheet		75
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1	pair pillow cases		17
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2	old bolsters		50
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2	old pillows		34
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Textile production and care

1	pair wool combs		25
1	do damaged		25
1	pair flat irons		83
3	clothes baskets		66
1	clothes line		40

Wearing apparel

1	Napt hat	4	00
1	silk vest	1	50
1	Kerseywear (<i>finely woven wool</i>) vest		75
2	old vest		34
1	Pair Nankin (<i>pale yellow cotton cloth</i>) pantaloons		75
1	Neck handkerchief		25
1	old shirt		25
1	shirt check'd		20
4	old pair pantaloons		50
1	surtout (<i>coat</i>)	2	00
1	woollen coat	4	00
1	colored Nankin (<i>pale yellow cotton cloth</i>) coat		50
1	pair of stockings		50
1	silk handkerchief		50
1	pair old shoes		34
1	pair stockings		50
1	pair mittens		17

1	razor and strap		25
1	leather apron		34
1	Pocket book		50

Furniture

4	bedsteads	1	25
2	chest @ \$1	2	00
2	chests @ \$.25		50
1	Meal chest		50
12	Kitchen chairs	2	00
1	stand table		25
3	tables	1	50
3	bed cords	1	00
1	looking glass		50
1	do small		25

Household Kitchen equipment

26	round porter (<i>beer</i>) bottles		2
	25		
4	do do do		31
4	square do do		72
1	two quart bottle		50
1	do do do		34
1	warming pan (<i>for warming beds on cold nights</i>)	2	00
1	frying pan		75

2	spiders (<i>small frying pan</i>) @ 7 Skillet /7 1 do /10		44
3	iron pots	3	50
3	do kettles	2	25
1	tea kettle		25
1	iron bason		34
1	small brass kittle (<i>kettle</i>)	1	25
1	pair steelyards (<i>scale for measuring weight</i>)		34
3	candlesticks		75
1	do firedogs (<i>andiron</i>)	1	00
2	trammels and hooks (<i>for hanging pots over fire</i>)	1	50
	Slice (<i>fireplace shovel</i>) and tongs		50
	Gridiron		10
	Old chains	1	00

Serving or Table wares

8	earthen plates		67
1	quart mug		17
2	pewter plates	2	00
5	quart basins	1	67
1	do cup		75
1	tea pot qt		83
1	do do small		42
1	Quart glass 2 pints do 4 ½ pt do and 8 wine do	1	34
1	old pewter tea pot		25

1	whiteware pot	1	00
1	stone pot		34
2	small jugs		17
1	tin roaster		17
2	wooden bowls		34
2	pewter platters		34
1	tin pail 1 do pan 1 do with handles		83
2	wood pails		67
6	tea cups and saucers		50
1	sett china (tea)	5	00
1	tea basket		10

Dairy Equipment

2	earthen milk pans		34
1	cheese tub and hoop	2	50
1	churn		34

Farming tools

1	beetle rings and 2 wedges		
1	cradle (<i>support to catch cut grain</i>) and scythe		50
1	small grain scythe		50
1	half bushel		50

6	meal bags	4	50
2	old dry casks		17
1	Man's saddle	2	00
1	old half bushel		10
1	old wheel spindle		50
2	old scythes		44
1	snathes and blades		34
1	sickle		25
3	old bushel baskets		75
1	taper bit 2 gimblets and pincers <i>basic carpenter tools</i>)		50
2	Provision Barrels @ / 50	1	00
10	old cider do at /34		3
1	axe __ 1 shovel __1 old axe 34	2	34
1	plough 4 cleve and pin (<i>hook for a cart</i>) 31 pitch fork /7 and 1 do	5	35
1	iron pin /7 2 rakes /34 2 hoes 84	1	35
1	sieve		08
2	pad locks		34
18	old casks	2	50

Food stuffs

1 ½	barrels of cornmeal	1	50
1 ½	do rye do	2	00
	Pork estimated 30 lbs at 12 cts	3	60

400 07

add 62

400 69

Reuben Mann

Joseph T. Burnham

A list of receipts on the estate follows totaling \$232.36

\$7.61 funeral expense related items

Reading for meaning and understanding

Answer the following questions quoting from Cesar Peters' inventory

When Cesar Peters died, how much was his total estate worth?

How much did he owe in debt and expenses?

Did Cesar Peters die solvent (money left over after debts are settled)?

What were the most expensive thing(s) Cesar Peters' owned?

Is there any evidence Cesar Peters could read?

Do you think Cesar Peters owned any luxury items (items he did need, but had because they were fashionable)?

Using the tax list and inventory references, draw a picture of what you think Cesar Peters house might have looked like on the outside or inside when he died.

Understanding a will as a primary document

A will is written (or drawn up) before a person dies. The person must be of "sound mind" in order to do so and its purpose is to provide those who will inherit items (heirs) with an understanding of what the person making the will wants done after they die. A will also names who will carry out the deceased wishes (an executor). Imprimis means "in the first place". A codicil is an attachment

Will of Cesar Peters

I Ceser Peters of Hebron in the County of Tolland being of sound mind disposing memory do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner following

Imprimis I give and bequeath unto each of my Children Cesar, Doras, Henry, Sally Sussanah Ziba and Lovinia each ten cents paid by my executor out of the _____ of my estate paying all my just debts and funeral charges for within twelve months of my decease.

Item I give and bequeath unto each of the Children of my son James deceased one cent if called for within twelve months after my decease to be paid by my executor

Item the remaining part of my estate both real and personal I give to my well beloved wife Sim Peters so long as she remains my widow and is further my will that whenever she shall cease to be my widow that whatever of my estate she shall receive in consequence of this my last will and testament shall go to such one of my Children as she shall direct but if she neglects to make such decision the estate shall go to my son Henry to be his solely and absolutely

Item I do hereby nominate appoint and constitute John S. Peters to be sole Executor of this my last will and testament.

In witness whereof I have _____ to set my hand and seal this 25th day of June 1814

Cesar Peters his mark

Since making the within will I Ceser Peters have thought proper to make the following alterations by way of a Codocil viz To my wife Sim Peters I give in

addition to what I have given her before the following articles to be hers forever viz two beds and bedding one iron pot and kettle one looking glass which she brought with her two tables two chests nine chairs and all such other articles as she brought with her at the time I married her together with my sett of China Ware

Cesar Peters his mark

We the undersigned heard the foregoing Codicil to the written will _____

The presence of the testator and in the presence of each other and heard him declare the same to be part of his final will and testament

Hebron 25 June 1814

Daniel Kellogg

Reuban Mann

Leonard Hendee

Discussion Point

Look at Cesar Peters will

Who does Cesar Peters leave money to?

Who does Cesar Peters leave his real estate and personal goods to?

Why do you think Cesar Peters wrote a codicil to his will?

What do you suppose it means by “Cesar Peters his mark”?

Digging Deeper

Sim or Sym Peters was Cesar Peters second wife. His first wife Lois died in the 1790's. Sim Peters inherited property from Cesar Peters, but died about a year later. As a result, a historian is able to gain a greater understanding of items that might have been in Cesar and Sim Peters house on Wall Street in Hebron, since when Sim married Cesar Peters she probably owned some goods of her own. Thus, the goods listed in Sim's inventory such what an African American woman might call her own.

An inventory of the estate of Sim Peters late of Hebron

Appraised by Capt Amos Strong & Capt. Reuben Mann

Under oath

1	featherbead	\$3.00
1	do do	3.00
2	under do	00.50
1	green quilted coverlid	1.00
—	_____ do	00.50
1	do do do	00.12 ½
1	pr cotton sheets	3.00
1	do Hum do	2.00
1	do old linen	00.25
1	pillow case	00.25
2	bolsters	00.50
1	bonnet	00.12
1	Brown outer gown	2.00
1	striped do	3.00
1	gingham do	1.67
1	cotton do	00.50
1	old striped linen do	00.25
1	silk cloak	4.00
1	cotton half shawl	00.25
1	do white do	00.42
1	_____ do	00.25

1	muslin _____	00.42
2	petticoats	00.25
1	umbrella silk	2.50
1	red broad cloth cloak	00.10
1	bake kettle	00.34
1	iron skillet	00.34
1	looking glass	00.25
1	pot iron	1.34
1	kettle	1.00

Carried up 34.96

Second column

Brought up 34.96

2	tables	1.00
2	chests	1.75
9	chairs	2.34
	Quart basons (pewter) _____	
5	pt do do	00.85?
8	pewter plates	2.00
2	teapots	00.50
1	pewter platter	00.17
1	tea kettle	1.00
1	pr andirons	2.00
1	slice & pair tongs	1.50
1	spider	00.12

1	pr shoes	00.17
1	great wheel	00.50
1	small do	2.50
1	hand reel	00.06
1	wheel head	1.25
1	sassage jack	00.25
2	bedsteads	1.50
	Note on N Russel	8.33
	3 glass tumblers	00.67
35	junk bottles	2.50
4	case bottles	00.34
1	frying pan	1.00
1	toasting iron	00.12 ½

Total 73.17

Amos Strong

Reuben Mann

Inventory Analysis

Compare the inventories of Cesar and Sim Peters.

Highlight any goods listed in Sim inventory that are mentioned in Cesar Peters' codicil.

Underline any items that appear in Cesar Peters' inventory that appear in Sim Peters' inventory.

Put a circle around any items that appear in Sim Peters' inventory, but not that of Cesar Peters.

Discussion Point –Did Sim Peters own any luxury goods?

Will of Sim Peters

In the name of God amen

I Sim Peters of Hebron in the County of Tolland and State of Connecticut, being some what in a low state of Health, but of a sound disposing mind and memory, do hereby make this my last Will & Testament in manner & form following (viz)

Premis- I will that my just Debts be paid by my Executor hereafter named

Item? -I give & bequeath to my daughter Celia Peeton wife of Samuel Petton all my moveable Estate to be hers forever, except what I have hereinafter given to Sally Morgan, Susanna Fitch, Zeba Worthington Louisa Williams, daughter of my late husband Caesar Peters deceased.

Item I give & bequeath to said Sally one iron pot the pot holding a pailfull.

Item I give & bequeath to said Susanna five shillings in money to be paid by my executor.

Item I give & bequeath to sd Louisa one middling sized pewter platter.

And whereas my late husband said Caesar Peters deceased in & by his last Will divised all his Real Estate to me during my widowhood and in & by sd Will empowering me to give the same to such one of his children as I should appoint and divest – now therefore I have this day in pursuance of sd power executed & delivered to Henry Peters who is one of the children of sd deceased a Quit Claim deed of all the Real Estate of which the sd deceased did possessed –Which Deed I hereby direct to be considered as the completion & fulfillment of said power vested in me by sd Will and I do hereby appoint John S. Peters Executor of this my estate?

Analysis of Wills

Researching African American families is difficult, especially in keeping track of daughters who married and took their husband's last name. Compare Cesar and Sym Peters' wills. Both Cesar and Sim Peters had been married to spouses who died previous to their marriage. Can you construct a family tree of who was a child of Cesar and Lois Peters and who was a child of Sim Peters'?

