

In the Sheriff of the County of New York his office
on the return of the writ of Habeas Corpus in the
within said Cause - Grading

By Authority of the State of Connecticut
and being ~~now~~ ~~ordered~~ ~~to~~ ~~appear~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~said~~ ~~Court~~ ~~of~~ ~~Common~~ ~~Pleas~~
~~and~~ ~~to~~ ~~appear~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~said~~ ~~Court~~ ~~of~~ ~~Common~~ ~~Pleas~~
appears before the aforesaid Court of Common
Pleas to be holden at New York within and for
the County of New York on the first Tuesday
of December next then used there to answer
unto said Peter's date of said Writ now
of Colchester in the County of New York of a
said in a Plea of the Case whereupon the
Plaintiff declares and says that on or about
the 25 Day of September A.D. 1800 he the Plain-
tiff was in said Tobron in his own Dwelling
House with his Wife and eight Children all
Minors under the Age of twenty One Years
and all at Peace with all the good Citizens
of this State and about his lawful Proceedings
being entitled to Liberty and the Protection
of the Laws of this State as a Citizen thereof
altho the Plaintiff and his Wife and Children
were of the complexion of the Inhabitants
and Native of Africa who have been by
sundry of the more Barbarous European
Nations considered as Slaves and they
then are bought and sold as Merchandise
where their lives are no more protected
than

than the brutal Creation and the Defen-
dants being moved by the Justice of
their own wicked hearts and thereby
hoping to preserve themselves of ^{the} shinning
Dial which might be the avails of the
Price of the Blood of the Plaintiff and his
Wife and Children they the Defendants
did in said Prison on or about the
said twenty fifth Day of September A.D.
1791 conspire together with a Number
of others to the Plaintiff unknown for
the wicked purpose of kidnaping and
secretly carrying away the Plaintiff
and his Wife and Children to some
foreign and barbarous Country
there to dispose of the Plaintiff and his
Wife and Children to those barbarous
Nations as Slaves for Life where the
Lives of the Plaintiff and his Wife and
Children might be taken away by the
Will of a cruel Master with impunity
and having so conspired together as
aforesaid they the Defendants and
others unknown to the number of
Eight then and there armed themselves
with Swords and loaded Pistols and
other Weapons of Terror Danger and Death
and in pursuance of said wicked pur-
pose

4. ^{1. 2000}
John did then and there ~~with~~ ^{with} force and
right break into the Plaintiff's Dwellinghouse
and by force and violence with the Weapons
afore said seize and kidnap the Plaintiff and
his Wife and Children and forcibly put them
all in Irons and immediately loaded them
into a Wagon and drove them the Plaintiff
and his Wife and Children with great speed
towards the Sea Shore where the Defendants
then had a Vessel waiting to receive the Plain-
tiff and his Family for the purpose of trans-
porting them to some foreign Country and
there to be disposed of as Slaves for life to
some of the barbarous Nations aforesaid and
they the Defendants and others as afore said
in fact hold falsely Imprison and convey
the Plaintiff and his Family in the Night
Season from said Nelson to the Town of Boston
and within one mile of the Waters of the
Sea where said Vessel was waiting to receive
the Plaintiff and his Family for the aforesaid
purpose aforesaid during the whole Time
aforesaid the Defendants threatened the Plain-
tiff and Family with instant Death in case
of any Assistance or Alarm given by them
in which Situation the Plaintiff and his Family
were holden and continued until to their great
unspeakable joy at Boston aforesaid they were
released

the Plaintiff
overthrown by a Number of the good Citizens of
this State who being religiously moved
by a Spirit of Benevolence and Philanthropy
and strongly impressed with a Pious and
laudable Zeal for the support of the Rights of
Mankind voluntarily pursued overtaken
and nobly rescued from the Hands of cruel
Avarice and cruel and inhuman injustice
illany and wickedness the Plaintiff and
his unhappy Family and once more gave
them to taste the Sweets of Liberty without
which life itself is insipid and insipid
altho by the cruel Treatment, wrong Habits &
of the Defendants the Plaintiff and his
Family had received many grievous and
insupportable Wounds and Bruises
by means of which their Lives were in
jeopardy and actually impaired of for
a long time after and the Plaintiff was
moreover deprived of much Property and
many valuable Articles to the amount
of fifty Pounds lawful Money and other
Injuries and Inconveniences they the Defendants
then and there did and committed to the
Plaintiff by all of which doings the
Defendants in manner and for aforesaid
the Plaintiff is injured and hath sustained
Damage the Sum of two thousand Pounds
lawful

lawful attorney and for the recovery thereof
with just cost the Plaintiff brings this Suit

Thereof fail not but of this Writ with
your doings thereon make due returns
according to Law

Dated at Norwich
the 11 Day of November A.D. 1789

Two Shillings Duty received certified
and signed of Samuel Huntington Governor

Lebanon Sollard County November 14
A.D. 1789

Here read this Writ in the hearing
of the within named John Man and Nathan
Man Esq. J. H. Esq. David Sullon for the

The Defendants averrally defend plead
and say that they are not guilty in manner
and form as the Plaintiff in his Declaration
hath alleged and thereof put themselves
on the Country
Gilbert W. for the Defendants
Carabee

The Plaintiff replies to the Plea of the Defen-
dants pleaded and says that the same are
shalters therein contained are insufficient in
the Law Judgment — Kelley for the Plaintiff
& Hyde

The Defendants say their Plea is sufficient
Gilbert W. for Defendants
Carabee

foregoing is a true copy from the original
Files of Court Examined of Wm. Hutton Clerk

New London County & adjoyned County
Court at Norwich December first Tuesday Term
Domini 1789

Cesar Petrus late of Helron in Colchester
County now of Helchester in New London County
Plaintiff accuses John Mann and Nathan
Mann both of Helron aforesaid In a Plea
of the Case demanding £2000 as of that date
15 November 1789 — And now Juvenal
Haley of Boston in a New London County
and Luke Hyde of Norwich in said County
recognized themselves to be jointly and
severally to the said ~~John Mann and Nathan Mann~~
Cesar Petrus in the
Personal sum of twenty Pounds lawful Money
to be forfeited and paid by the said Haley
and Hyde to the said John Mann and
Nathan Mann if the said Cesar Petrus
Plaintiff shall fail to prosecute his said
Action to effect and pay all Damages if
he fail therein —

The Defendants severally deposed
and say they are not guilty — The Plain-
tiff demurs to the Defendants Plea and
the Court are of Opinion that the Plea
of the Defendants is sufficient whereupon
it is considered that the Defendants
recover of the Plaintiff his Cost taxed
at £ — — The Plaintiff made his
Motion for an Appeal to the Superior Court
to be holden at Norwich in and for the County
of New London on the Tuesday next following
the

The fourth Tuesday of March 1790 which
is allowed — and like Hyde of Norwich and
Jeremiah Halsey of Chesham both in New London
County recognized themselves bound jointly
and severally to the said John Mann and
Nathan Mann in the Penal Sum of twenty
Pounds lawful Money to be forfeited and
paid by the said Hyde and Peters to the
said Jonathan Hammond and Nathaniel Mann if
the said Jesse Peters Appellant shall fail
to prosecute his said Appeal to effect and
pay all Damages if he make not his Plea
good

True Copy of Record from the original
Minutes made in Court
Certified P^r Wm Sutton at Clerk

Duty Six Shillings lawful Money is
received on this Appeal

P^r Wm Sutton at Clerk

Superior Court March Term 1790
now the Plaintiff ^{changing} in the manner has
himself with ~~received~~ ~~paid~~ ~~himself~~ on
the County Making for Plaintiff
Hyde

John Peters
John Adams
John Adams

John Peters
John Adams
John Adams

10/2

and as to any other Treasons the ~~Plaintiff~~ ^{Defendant} protesting against the false coloring of their ~~Plaintiff~~ ^{Defendant} say they are not guilty in manner & form as in their declaration the ~~Plaintiff~~ ^{Defendant} have alleged & hereof protest themselves on the Oath —

Larrah } for Defendants
& Gilbert }

The Plaintiff replies to the Plea of the Defendant says that the ~~Plaintiff~~ ^{Defendant} Samuel Stuss some time in year 1775 absconded from this State and voluntarily put himself under the Protection of the Army of the King of Great Britain then Invoading the United States and left his family to take care of themselves ^{and since he returned into this State} and thereby has ever ~~not~~ ^{retained} relinquished all right & title therein as his property and after wards by an ~~instrument~~ ^{order} the 26th day of July 1784 ^{to the Plaintiff} by his letter totally Liberate & discharged him from all right he had to the Plaintiff as his property, and the Plaintiff further says that his family and Children were born since the ~~Plaintiff~~ ^{Defendant} Samuel absconded himself and two of them since the first day of March 1784 and the Plaintiff further says that he ought not to be Man of a action without that the Defendant

John A. Mann

County of New-London for Norwich Sup^r Court
March Term 1790

Caesar Peters &c
vs
John Mann^r } Action upon the Case

Now the Defend^t in Court charging severally defend
Plead and say, that the P^{ts} of having & maintaining
their Dⁿ Action ought to be Barred, because they say that
long before & until the 21st day of October 1772 the P^{ts}
were the legal property of, and ^{showing life} ~~justly~~ belong to, one
Mary Peters a sole feme tenor of Hebron & in full
life and the Dⁿ Mary on the 21st day of Oct. 1772
for a large & valuable consideration made over sold &
delivered them the P^{ts} ^{as she had right to do} to one Samuel Peters then of Dⁿ
Hebron but now of the City of London in the Kingdom
of Great Britain as & for Slaves for Life to him the
Dⁿ Peters who received them as such and continued them
in his lawful profession & service until on or about
the 24th day of Sept. 1787 ~~at~~ when the Dⁿ Nath^l Mann
one of the Def^t ~~by~~ by virtue of a legal Power of
Attorney ~~under~~ under the hand & seal of the Dⁿ
Peters & dated in London upon the 24th day of Oct.
1786 him therewith empowering ^{on 24th of Sept 1787} ~~dis~~ sell & dispose
of the P^{ts} & his Dⁿ family excepting two of their
youngest Children unto one David Prior of the
County of Wiltshire who received
them into his possession in Dⁿ Hebron & the P^{ts} & their
Children rode out of Dⁿ town in a good waggon & whether
the Prior carry them near the deep water of ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{mill} ~~the~~ in Preston
is unknown to the ^{Defend^t} ~~P^{ts}~~ and the Def^t say that the speed
of the Dⁿ Prior is the same ~~as~~ ^{as} complained of in the
writ of Habeas Corpus & that the ^{Defend^t} ~~is~~ ^{is} ready to satisfy
the Court in all things