

Steloron December 26th 1788 260a

The Deposition of Elijah Graves of Lawfull age is as follows
who says he has lived more than fifteen years a near Neighbor
to Cezes & Lois his wife. During which Time he has observed
in them 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 for People of their
Colour — Just at the eve of the American War the Rev
Sam. Peter, who then considered Cezes & Lois as his Property
Left them and the rest of his Estate and took Refuge among
the British; whose Land, was soon after taken by the States
attorney and rented out for Publick Use. Cezes 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 Living some years and
in the mean Time had two or three Children —
about four years since Mr. Peters Estate being Relinquished
by the Publick. Cezes moved himself and Family again
into one of Mr. Peters Houses where he enjoyed himself but
for a short Season. Mr. Peters sending over from London
a Power of Attorney appointing John Marc and his Son
his agents who not long after made Cezes 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 Wagon and an armed force of seven or eight
Men towards the close of the Day in the Month of September
a little more than a year since, and laid violent hands on
his Family bound some of them in Saws and threw them into

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a Waggon and drove of with great Precipitation whilst their
Cries and Shouts 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 Mind, of People
in general appears to be much agitated ^{and} fill'd with Indignation
at such cruelties a Number of Persons ^{mov'd with Compassion} 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 Carolina which
was to receive them on board. as I afterwards heard to carry them
hence - and took them and brought them back to the Place
from where they was taken - yet still the 3^d Agents of M. Peters
manifest a Determination to sell and Dispose the ^{said} Family
which renders their condition very Miserable and unhappy - and
Elijah Graves

further your Deponent saith not
Solomon County. In 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.
Benj^e Bulli Justice Peace