

**Testimony 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 Expench 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 Incarceration, 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, agreeable 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

Tolland County SS Hebron January 5 1789

Then personally appeared David Sutton the Subscriber to the foer going Depositions and Made Solomon [sic] oth [sic] to the truth of the same Befoer me.

- Benjamin Buell Justice Peace

N. B.* John Man attorney to the sd. Revd. Mr. Saml. Peters was notefied and present at the takeing both of all three of the foregoing Depos's. [*Editor's note: It is not clear what is meant by "both these depositions, as only David Sutton's testimony precedes this statement."*]

- Benjm. Buell Justice Peace

Opined in General Assembly Newhaven
Janry 1789
Test. George Wyllys Secrety

* Latin for Nota Bene, or "Take Notice"