

[Summary statement written on the back of the document identifying the subject matter, date, and decision]

Jack Arabass [*Suggested pronunciation: **EH**·ruh·buhs*]¹ [Entered]

Habeas [*Pronounced **HAY** bee·uhs*] Corpus [*Pronounced **KOR** puhs*]

[November] 1784

Dismiss²

¹ The actual pronunciation is unknown as there are several variant spellings of Jack's last name. His name possibly derived from the Greek deity Erebus, "a personification of darkness in Greek mythology"

² The court dismissed the order.

At an adjourned [Superior] Court held at New Haven within and for the County of New Haven on the first Tuesday of [December] [Anno domini] [Pronounced: A·now DAA·muh·nee] 1784

One Jack Arrabas a Negro Man ^confined in [the jail]^³ in this place being [brought] before this Court by writ [*Pronounced: RIT*] of Habeas Corpus directed to the Sheriff of said County. directing⁴ Commanding him to bring his said prisoner, together with the time, cause and reason of his commitment and the Sherriff having returned that said Jack was committed by Thomas Ivers [*Pronounced: EYE vers*] of the City and State of New York as a [runaway] slave and by said Ivers claimed as a Slave for Life.

Whereupon this Court having fully examined into the State of the Facts relative thereto and fully heard the [said] parties with their proofs[,] pleas[,] and allegations thereon – and it appearing to this Court that [said] Negro Jack sometime in the year 1777, being then a Slave for Life to the said Ivers, was by his said Master[']s leave [and] consent[,] duly enlisted as a soldier into the Continental Army for and during the war – and that at said time of enlistment, his said master received the bounty for said enlistment – and that he[,] the said Jack[,] faithfully performed the duties of a soldier ^during the War and at the close ^there of ~~the War~~ was honorably discharged. Upon which facts this Court are of opinion – that, as none but freemen could by the regulations of Congress be enlisted into the Continental Army – the consent of said master to such enlistment in Judgment of Law amounts to a manumission [*pronounced: ma·nyuh·MI·shn*] – and that [said] Negro Jack can not be any longer held as a Slave for Life and therefore order and Decree that he be no longer held in custody but set at liberty.

³ This document contains text insertions indicated by the symbol ^ before and after the inserted text. The narrator should indicate that the words were added.

⁴ This document contains deletions indicated by a line drawn through the original wording. The narrator should indicate that the words were originally there but then stricken from the document.

Past and allowed in Court

Test[ified] by [George] Pitkin[,] Clerk

[end of document]