

To the Honorable General Assembly now
 sitting at Hartford within & for the State of
 Connecticut — the Petition of John Henry
 A Negro man, ~~Humbly sheweth that~~ now
 residing in Colechester in New London County
 Humbly sheweth that ~~was~~ was a Slave to Mr. John
 Henry of Colechester from seven years of age until I
 was 26 years of age at which time J. Henry sold
 me to one Paul Field of Northfield with whom
 I lived about one year when J. Field died. I
 then told my owner that I was Determined to
 to go into the war and gain my freedom
 Accordingly a little before the Dark Day so called
 I went to Norwich and enlisted in Capt. Benjⁿ
 Throop's Company and went for my first expedition
 to ~~the~~ Ticonderoga Retreat from there to
 Albany was in the action at Saratoga received
 a Deep Cut or wound on the back of my head with
 the broad sword of a light horse Enemy from
 thence I was Marched to Yorktown was at
 the taking of Cornwallis and I served to the
 End of the war and did my duty well without
 a single days sickness or any loss of time except
 3 or four weeks when wounded on my head which
 wound still troubles me the Cord being cut off
 it is weak and always has a numb feeling
 disable me from work in some degree from
 which account and my age which is now 72
 years renders me Incapable in the winter
 Season to support myself my Wife and 2
 and no one left to support me and the Town of
 Colechester helps because I obtained my freedom from
 them by selling and leaving the State
 and that I ought to look to the State for Relief

Ms 79092a

Military Records - American Revolution
- Joshua Huntington, Col. David Scales

Folder 3
1776

MS 79092

To the Honorable General Assembly now sitting at Hartford, within and for the State of Connecticut,

The petition of John Henry, a Negro man, now residing in Colchester in New London County.

[This petition] shows that I was a slave to Mr. John Henry of Colchester from the age of seven until I was 29, at which time, John Henry sold me to one Paul Field of Northfield, with whom I lived for about one year, when the said Mr. Field died.

I then told my [new] owners that I was determined to go into the war and gain my freedom. Accordingly, a little before the dark day, so called, I went to Bozrah and enlisted in Captain Benjamin Throop's company. Went for my first expedition to Ticonderoga, retreated from there to Albany, [and] was in action at Saratoga. [I] received a deep cut or wound on the back of my hand from a [light lashing] with a broadsword from the enemy. From thence I was marched to Yorktown, was at the taking of [General] Cornwallis, and I served to the end of the war.

I did my duty well, without a single day's sickness or any loss of time, except three or four weeks when wounded on my hand--which still troubles me. The cords being cut off, it is weak and always has a numb feeling, disables me from work in some degree. On account which, and my age, which is now 72 years, renders me incapable in the winter season to support myself. My relatives are dead and no one [is] left to support me. The town of Colchester refuses because I obtained my freedom by enlisting and serving the State [and in fact, said] I ought to look to the State for relief.