

Complaint and Warrant Against Cesar and Lowis

After Cesar and Lowis Peters and their children had been seized and carried away, Elijah Graves, a local tailor, swore out a complaint against Cesar and his wife and children, claiming they "are all guilty of theft" of various articles of clothing belonging to him. Elihu Marvin, the local justice of the peace, issued an arrest warrant for Cesar and Lowis Peters, which gave the Hebron citizens the right to detain the Peters family and return them to Hebron before they could be sent to South Carolina. A year later, in a deposition taken out in response to Cesar and Lowis Peter's application to the Connecticut General Assembly for emancipation, Elijah Graves stated that he had sworn the complaint "'movd with compassion under the Colour of Lawfull authority."

To Elihu Marvins Esq a Justice of the peace Within and for the County
of Tolland Come Elijah Graves of Hebron In the County of Tolland
and Complaineth in his own name as well as in the Name of the Govr. & Company of the State
and gives said Justice to understand that Cesar commonly known By the Name of Cesar Peters and Lowis his wife
and James & Dorah and Talle & Ira and Susanna and Ziba the
Lowis and Cesar children to s^d Cesar and Lowis his wife all Negro
Persons Belonging to said Hebron are all Guilty of theft in that
they did in said Hebron on the Night after the 24th Day of September
feloniously steal and carry off from your Complainants
Dwelling house in s^d Hebron the following Articles viz one Blue
Broad Cloth Coat with white miller Buttons worth six Shillings
Lawfull money one pair of Caduroy Tricker Dostly Worn worth three
Shillings & money one Caduroy Soft Dist finished worth two Shillings
and the pence 2 mon^y one pair of Flower-Silver knee Buckles worth
three Shillings & mon^y all the Property of your Complainant
and in to your Complainants Damage the sum of Eighteen
Shillings Lawfull money and Against the Laws of this State
therefore your Complainant Prays that they the above Persons
may be apprehended and dealt with according to Law
Dated Hebron the 27th Day of September 1787 Elijah Graves

Elijah Graves Complaint

Courtesy, Hebron Historical Society, Hebron, CT

Transcription of Elijah Graves Complaint Against Cesar and Lowis Peters

To Elihu Marvin Esq a Justice of the peace within and for the County of Tolland Come Elijah Graves of Hebron In the County of Tolland and Complaineth in his name as well as in the name of the Govr. & Company of the State and gives said Justice to understand that Cesar commonly known By the Name of

Cesar Peters and Lowis his wife and James & Doris and Salle & Iri and Susanna and Ziba & Lowis and Cesar children to said Cesar and Lowis his Wife all Negro Persons Belonging to Said Hebron are all guilty of theft in that they did in Said Hebron on the Night N____ after the 24th Day of September Instant feloniously Steel and Carry of [sic] from Your Complainant's Dwelling house in Sd. Hebron the following articals viz. one Blue Broad Cloth Coat with white mettles Buttons Worth Six Shillings Lawfull money, one pr. of Coduroy Briches partly worn worth three Shillings L. money, one Coduroy Vest part finished worth two Shillings and six pence L. money, one pr. flower-Silver knee Buckles worth three Shillings L. money, all the Property of Your Complainant and is to Your Complainant's Damage the sum of Eighteen Shillings Lawfull Money and against the Laws of this State therefore Your Complainant Prays that they the above-Persons may be apprehended and Delt with according to Law.

Dated Hebron the 27th Day of September AD 1787.

- Elijah Graves