

Colonial Court Records

Slavery and Enslaved Persons

Petition of Nathaniel Chevin, 1712	https://digital.ncdcr.gov/digital/collection/p16062coll38/id/7894
Petition of Mary Cole, Undated	https://digital.ncdcr.gov/digital/collection/p16062coll38/id/7691/rec/1
Petition of Thomas Pollock, Undated	https://digital.ncdcr.gov/digital/collection/p16062coll38/id/7364/rec/1 Last paragraph only
Petition of Thomas Sparrow, 1717	https://digital.ncdcr.gov/digital/collection/p16062coll38/id/8165/rec/1
Petition of William Derry, c. 1740	https://digital.ncdcr.gov/digital/collection/p16062coll38/id/8169/rec/1
Petition of Samuel Scollay, 1742	https://digital.ncdcr.gov/digital/collection/p16062coll38/id/7672

Reflect & Discuss

Notice how many of these documents refer to wills. How could individual attempts to list and distribute property disrupt slavery? How could the practice of wills maintain slavery?

Several of these documents are evidence of resistance to slavery. What actions could the enslaved take to resist their enslavers and/or emancipate themselves?

How did the enslavers in these documents price freedom? What do the variations in value for each case suggest?