

Individual Rights and Accusations: Information of John Blacknall, 1725, AND Information of William Whitfield, c. 1720 (Interracial Marriage)



Transcription 1a

North Carolina Scilicet

The information of the Rev[eren]d Mr. Jno. [John] Blacknall of Edenton in Chowan precinct Clerk taken before Christopher Gale Esq[ui]r[e] Chief Justice of the s[ai]d province the 2nd day of March 1725.

Who saith on his oath th[a]t upon the s[ai]d 2d day of March, Thomas Spencer, a white man of Curratuck precinct, did in Edenton in Chowan precinct afores[ai]d joyn himself in Marriage according to the form prescribed by the Church of England to a Mulatto Wom[a]n named Martha Johnson ^ Paul of Curratuck precint ^ contrary to the direction of an Act of assembly in the Case made and provided, whereby he the s[ai]d Thomas Spencer has incurred a penalty of fifty pounds the one half to the informer, which this Informant therefore demands, the other half ~~to be lodged in the hands of the Governour or Commander in Chief for the time being~~ to be applied according to the directions of the s[ai]d Act.

Jno. Blacknall

Reflect & Discuss

Consider why the Assembly might make interracial marriages illegal.

Who receives the penalty money in cases of interracial marriage? How might that affect how neighbors act toward one another?

How might you research this Act of Assembly to determine the terms of the penalty?

Sources:

Marriages, 1686-1736. Colonial Court Record 194, Box 1, Folder 11, Marriages, 1686-1736. State Archives of North Carolina. Call no. SR.401.6. Digital ID CCR_194_B1F11_Marriages_1686_1736_00.

Interracial Marriage, 1725. Colonial Court Record 183, Interracial Marriage. State Archives of North Carolina. Call no. SR.401.3.6. Digital ID CCR_183_F1_Interracial_Marriage_1725_001.

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Jurat Coram me

Anno [that] die supradict.

Gale C[hief] J[ustice]

Transcription 1b

Information is made by William Whitfield that Mr. John Cotton
Being a Justis of the peace in the year 1720 and on the 31 day
of Decmbr the s[ai]d John Cotten married a molata man ~~tw~~ named
Edward Burkit two a white Woman named margreat makCartie
Both came out of nancimond County in Virginia
Evidances James Wood James Bryant Josiah Bridge

[~~Janit Vinsen~~]

Francis Benton Seym[ou]r

Who is being charged in this petition? Why is that important?

Sources:

Marriages, 1686-1736. Colonial Court Record 194, Box 1, Folder 11, Marriages, 1686-1736. State Archives of North Carolina. Call no. SR.401.6. Digital ID CCR_194_B1F11_Marriages_1686_1736_00.

Interracial Marriage, 1725. Colonial Court Record 183, Interracial Marriage. State Archives of North Carolina. Call no. SR.401.3.6. Digital ID CCR_183_F1_Interracial_Marriage_1725_001.