

Slavery and Enslaved Persons: Petition of Nathaniel Chevin, 1712

Transcription

No[rth]Carolina ss.

Gen[era]l Court Nath[aniel] Chevin Esq[ui]r[e] is pl[aintif]f ag[ains]t

W[illia]m Reed

Esq[ui]r[e] def[endan]t in a plea of the Case:

And the s[ai]d pl[aintif]f demands of the Def[endan]t the Sume of
Twenty nine pounds: five shillings w[hi]ch to him he oweth
&ca. for that whereas at a Committy of both houses of
assembly holden at the house of Capt[ain] John Hecklefeild
in Little river on the 20th of march anno: 1711 it was
Taken into Consideration, th[at] Certaine Indian Captives
belongen to the Town of Bare River should ^be^ Exposed to
sale: to such persons as should bid Highest for them
and that the money, thereby ariseing upon the sale of the s[ai]d
Indians should be paid into the hand: of the s[ai]d pl[aintif]f on or before
the Tenth of March then next Ensueing, at w[hi]ch time &
place the af[ore]s[ai]d def[endan]t for and in Consideration of five
of the af[ore]s[ai]d Indian Slaves upon himselfe did assume:
and then & there did faithfully promise: That
he the af[ore]s[ai]d Sume of Twenty nine pounds & five
Shillings: would well & Truely [pay] to the ^s[ai]d^ pl[aintif]f
[for the ??? the publick] ^convey & pay^ on or before: the tenth day
of march then next following. Yett the Def[endan]t the
af[ore]s[ai]d Sume of Twenty nine pounds five Shillings
to the pl[aintif]f hath not yett paid but the Sume to pay
hath & Doth still refuse tho often thereunto
required whereby the pl[aintif]f [??] is

Reflect & Discuss

In this document, Nathaniel Chevin pursues a debt of 29 pounds from William Reed. The court determined that the sale of “Indians” by Reed will satisfy the debt he owes to Chevin.

Note that the American Indians are first noted to be “belongen to the town of Bare River,” yet when they are described as being available for sale, they are simply “Indians.” Reflect on this removal of identity by English colonists in this situation.

English colonists never sold French or Spanish captives. Examine why English colonists find it acceptable to sell Native American captives.

The Native American experience in American slavery is sometimes overlooked. Consider similarities and differences between the experiences of enslaved Native Americans and enslaved Africans during this period.

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Dam[n]ified & hath Damage to the value of five
pounds & therefor he bring this Suite &ca.

Chevin Pl[aintiff?]

Coll[onel] W[illiam] Reed is Def[endan]t at the suit of Nath[a]n Chevin
Esq[ui]r[e]
[RC?] in a plea of the case &c

And the said Def[endan]t by E. Moseley his Att[o]rney comes and
defends the force & Injury when &ct and Saith That he did not Assume
in manner & forme &ct. And of this he putts himself upon the Country.
Moseley for the Def[endan]t

And the Pl[aintiff] in like manner
Bonwicke [to?] def[ence?]

March 1711 is just a few
months before the Tuscarora
War begins. Could
interactions such as this have
influenced the Bear River
community to become allies
of the Tuscarora?