

Slavery and Enslaved Persons: Petition of Thomas Sparrow, 1717



Transcription

These are to Certifie whom it
May Concern that I Discharge the Body of
Phillip Landers from being a servant to
any Person after my Descease for Reasons
best known to me he behaving himself
faithfull and Just towards me and I having
a Reall love for him do Set him ^free^ from any
further Slavery ^dated^ this 28 Day of Aprill
In the year of our Lord god 1717
Witness my hand
Thomas Sparrow

This I write on my bed being very bad

Reflect & Discuss

Notice the use of the words servant and slavery in this record. Were these terms used interchangeably in 1717? What clues indicate whether Phillip was indentured or enslaved? How might you use other documents to answer this question?

Why might Thomas Sparrow wait until he was on his deathbed to release Landers?