

SLAVERY IN COLONIAL SUDBURY & WESTON



Josiah Smith Tavern, Weston, home to two enslaved persons

Jane Sciacca, Nov. 18, 2021

Puritan Village

Sumner Chilton Powell

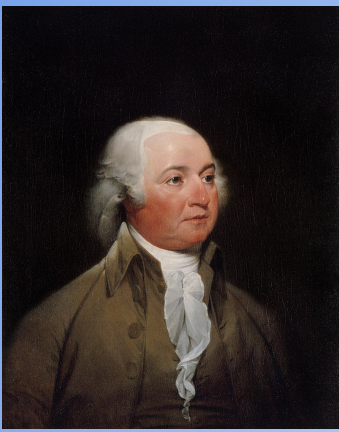
“One town, well documented in relation to its specific origins, can serve as a representative study for most New England towns....”

TIMELINE: SLAVERY IN MASSACHUSETTS- 1600s

- 1638- Probable date of arrival of enslaved people from the West Indies.
- 1641- “Body of Liberties” enabled the legalization of slavery in the Massachusetts Bay Colony
- 1644- Boston traders began importing slaves directly from Africa
- 1670- Body of Liberties revised to allow for the children of slaves to be enslaved

The Massachusetts Body of Liberties
1641

The background of the bottom half of the slide is a textured, aged parchment or paper. It features a faint, large-scale watermark or background image of a historical document. The document is titled "The Massachusetts Body of Liberties" in a large, elegant cursive script, with the year "1641" centered below it. The text of the document is written in a smaller, similar cursive script, with some words like "Whereas", "And whereas", and "It is enacted" visible. The overall tone is historical and academic.



VICE-PRESIDENT JOHN ADAMS, 1795

“I have through my whole life, held the practice of slavery in such abhorrence, that I have never owned a Negro or any other slave, though I have lived for many years in times when the practice was not disgraceful; when the best men in my vicinity thought it not inconsistent with their character, and when it has cost me thousands of dollars for the labor and subsistence of free men, which I might have saved from the purchase of Negroes at times when they were very cheap.”



Rev. Samuel Parris

b. 1653, London, England

d. 1720, Sudbury, Massachusetts

Noyes- Parris House,
Wayland

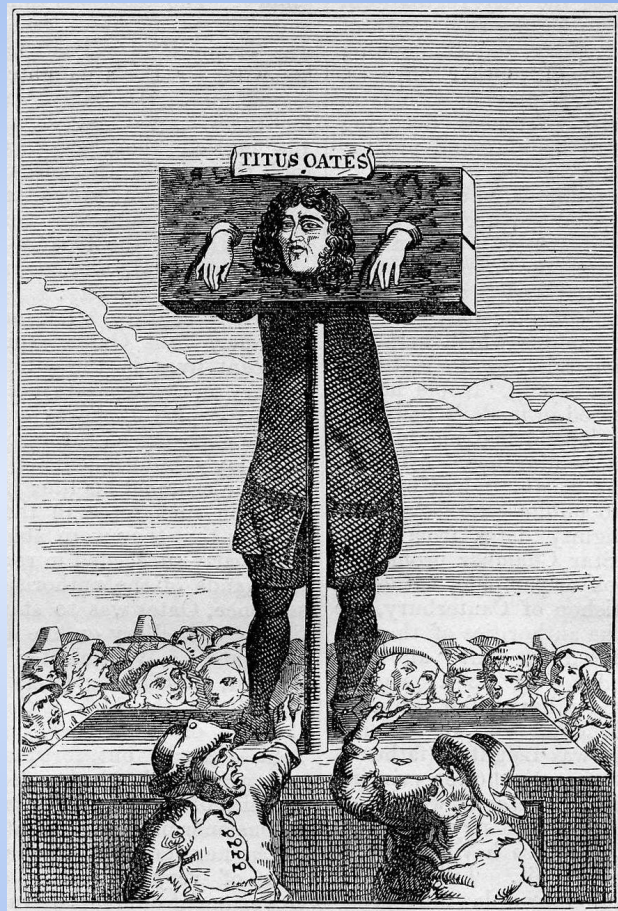
Home of “Violate””
and Rev. Samuel Parris



Still standing



“Spare the rod....”



Diary of Rev. Israel Loring, March 13, 1729

“Heard of the sad accident fallen out in the family of Mr. Josiah Brown. His Negro man servant dangerously wounding himself by a gun, which he designedly discharged against himself, both shot and wadding went into his body.”

Phebey's Bill of Sale

***"A Negro female Child
named Phebey about two
years old"***

Courtesy of the Framingham History Center
Original at the Framingham History
Center

Now All men by these Presents that I Josiah
Richardson Son of Sudbury in the County of
Middlesex Gent man for and the in Consideration
of the Sum of one Pound five Shillings and Eight
pence Lawfull money to me in hand will and Truly
payed at the Enselling here of by Elizabeth
Batch of Framingham in the County afore said
widow the Receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge
and for the Consideration thereof do sell to the said
Elizabeth Batch and to her heirs and assigns forever
a Negro female Child named Phebey of about
two years old with her wearing apparel She
now hath and I do Josiah covenants to give with
the said Elizabeth Batch and her heirs and assigns
that the said Negro Child is my Slave for Life
and that I have good Right to Sell and Convey her
in manner afore said for the time of her natural
Life and that by force and virtue hereof the said Elizabeth
Batch shall hold her & so Phebey for a Slave for
the time of her natural Life In witness where
of I the said Josiah Richardson have hereunto sett
to my hand and seal this 13th Day of August Annoque
Domini 1764 and in the fourth years of his Majestys Rejgn

I signed Sealed and
Delivered as in Presents of us

Jamuel Long

Josiah Richardson Son

Witnessed by



Loring Parsonage
Home of Simeon
and Hannah Harry
and Rev. Israel
Loring

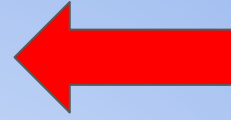
Courtesy of Sudbury Historical Society.

Emancipation of Nero Benson

“The said Nero Benson is absolutely a free man and fully set at liberty from all slavery whatsoever by or under me.”

“to indemnify and save the town harmless from all and any charges towards the support and maintenance of a Negro man named Nero Benson”

Original in Sudbury Town Records



The Flagg Tavern, Weston

Home of at least one enslaved person



Golden Ball Tavern, Weston

Home of Venice

Diary of Jerusha Howe (d. 1842)

“The Negro man who took care of me when a young child and to whom I became very much attached was purchased by Ezekiel Howe, my grandfather, for £44 lawful money (in April 1773.) The instrument said he was about 33 years of age. He was taken from the Guinea coast while at play with other children and was carried aboard ship. He remembered screaming for his mother when (men) took him one under each arm to carry him off.”

Ezekiel
Howe's
Tavern

Home of
Portsmouth
and at least one
other enslaved
person.

Today
Longfellow's
Wayside Inn,
Sudbury



Item I further give unto my son Jonathan. The other
half of my personal Estate That shall Remain
after my Debt and funeral Charges are paid.
and I do Order. That ~~my Negro servant~~ ^{my Negro servant} ~~James~~
shall be Manumitted, at my Decease. And That
he shall have a Home, or Habitation, allowed
and provided, by my son Jonathan. in my now
Dwelling House. if he desire it, — and be
provided. for by my said son. in case of sickness
or the Infirmitie of Old age. being unable
to provide for himself —

WILL OF JONATHAN BULLARD, DIED 1778

1749 Tax list for Sudbury lists 17 slaves


1754 Slave Census: Sudbury, 9 males and 5 females; Weston, 8 male, two females

1765 Slave Census: Sudbury, 14 males, 5 females; Weston, 11

1771 Provincial Census lists: Sudbury and Weston each owning 12 “servants for life”

1773 Weston Tax list: 16 “servants for life”

Inventory of the estate of Jonas Noyes, 1775



1 Pair Head Oxen	10.0.0	one pair Oxen	10.0.0	20.0.0
one Ox	5.0.0	one young bear	5.0.0	10.0.0
one pair Steers	10.0.0	four 2 Year old Steers	10.0.0	40.0.0
one Yearling Calf	2.0.0	three Yearling Heifers	3.12.0	11.0.0
one Head Cow	7.0.0	Black & white Cow	7.0.0	7.0.0
one Heifer	Black with white face	6.0.0	one Heifer & calf	8.0.0
Oats	Black Cow & calf	6.0.0	one farrow Cow	6.0.0
one Cow	8.0.0	one Cow	8.0.0	11.0.0
Eight Head Sheep	3.14.8	Seven Head Sheep	3.14.8	3.14.8
Eight Lambs	6.0.0			6.0.0
Negro Man Named Cato				53.6.8
Wages	3.4			6.0.0
20 Bushel Indian Corn	at 2/6 per Bushel			2.0.0
70 Bushel Rye	at 2/3 per Bushel			10.0.0
30 Bushel Oats	at 1/6 per Bushel			3.0.0
Bushel Flax	had 5/4 per Bushel			0.10.4
Money at Interest	Five on 10th of June			
Real Estate				
About Thirty Acres on which the House stands				250.0.0
also a 1/2 Acre on the same				
About 1/2 Acre of Meadow				100.0.0

Negro Man Named Cato

RESEARCH

Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the American Revolution

Census Records, especially 1771

Tax Lists

Wills and Estate Inventories

Family Histories and Genealogies

Vital Records

Property deeds

Receipts for Payment

Church and Court Records

Town Meeting Records

Poor Records

Ancestry (fee) and Family Search (free)

Records of other (especially neighboring) towns

Town Histories



Elisha Jones House, 22 Church St. Weston

June 148

Samuel P. Savage

27 Dec 6, 1776 M. Savage reported that the commissary
when you are married, study addition, practice multiplication
and avoid division.

February 21, 1774 — The coldest day for many years!
water in well 20 feet from surface of ground froze
too hard as scarce to be broken by the bucket.
Vest numbers froze themselves going and coming
from church

April 27, 1776 — Jube, by my consent, left me.