Contents

List of Illustrations ........................................ xxv
Foreword by Annette Gordon-Reed .................. xxvii
Introduction by James G. Basker .................... xxxi

Briton Hammon
A Narrative of the Uncommon Sufferings, and
Surprizing Deliverance of Briton Hammon,
A Negro Man ............................................. 3

Jupiter Hammon
An Evening Thought ...................................... 11
“O Come ye youth of Boston town” ............... 14

Phillis Cogswell
Conversion Testimony .................................... 17

Phillis Wheatley
“Mrs Thacher’s Son is gone” .......................... 20
On VIRTUE ................................................. 20
An Address to the Deist—1767— ..................... 21
To the University of Cambridge, wrote in 1767— 22
On the Death of Love Rotch ............................ 23
On Messrs. Hussey and Coffin ......................... 23
On being brought from AFRICA to AMERICA .... 24
America ..................................................... 25
To the King’s Most Excellent Majesty on his
Repealing the American Stamp Act ................ 26
To the Hon. ble Commodore Hood on his
pardoning a deserter .................................... 27
Untitled Lines on the Boston Massacre ............. 27
AN ELEGIAC POEM, On the DEATH of that
celebrated Divine, and eminent Servant of
JESUS CHRIST, the late Reverend, and pious
CONTENTS

GEORGE WHITEFIELD, Chaplain to the Right Honourable the Countess of Huntingdon, &c &c &c... 28
Letter to the Countess of Huntingdon .......................... 30
Thoughts on the WORKS of PROVIDENCE .......... 30
Letter to Obour Tanner ................................. 34
To the Right Honourable WILLIAM, Earl of DARTMOUTH, His Majesty’s Principal Secretary of State for North-America, &c ....... 35
To the Empire of America, Beneath the Western Hemisphere. Farewell to America .......... 36

Cesar Lyndon

from Sundry Account Book ............................. 39

Arthur

The LIFE, and dying SPEECH of ARTHUR, a Negro Man ....................... 41

Andrew, “A Negro Servant”

Testimony at the Trial of Captain Thomas Preston ........ 48

Newton Prince

Testimony at the Trial of Captain Thomas Preston .... 51

Richard Peronneau

Notice in The South-Carolina Gazette ....................... 53
Last Will and Testament .......................... 53

Lucy Pernam

A Free Black Woman’s Petition for Alimony in Massachusetts .................. 56

James Albert Ukawsaw Gronniosaw

from A Narrative of the Most Remarkable Particulars in the Life of James Albert Ukawsaw Gronniosaw, An African Prince ............... 59
A Few Providential Deliverances in America .......... 69

Sip Wood

Petition to the Connecticut General Assembly ............ 71
## CONTENTS

**Felix Holbrook**  
Petition to Governor Hutchinson and the Massachusetts General Court ...................  73

**“The Sons of Africa”**  
Thoughts on Slavery ...........................  76

**Cuffee Wright**  
Cuffy’s Relation March 1773......................  78

**Peter Bestes, Sambo Freeman, Felix Holbrook, and Chester Joie**  
Petition to the Massachusetts Provincial Legislature ....  80

**“Crispus Attucks”**  
Letter to Governor Thomas Hutchinson ..........  82

**Phillis Wheatley**  
Letter to the Countess of Huntingdon ..........  84  
To MAECENAS ..................................  85  
To His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, on the Death of his Lady. March 24, 1773 ..........  86  
On IMAGINATION ................................  88  
An HYMN to HUMANITY ..........................  90  
To S. M. a young African Painter, on seeing his Works ........................................  91  
Letter to David Wooster ..........................  92  
Letter to Obour Tanner ...........................  94  
Letter to the Rev. Samuel Hopkins ...............  95  
*from* Letter to the Rev. Samson Occom ..........  96  
Letter to Obour Tanner ...........................  97  
Letter to the Rev. Samuel Hopkins ...............  98  
Letter to John Thornton Esqr. ......................  99  
To a Gentleman of the Navy ........................ 101  
To His Excellency General Washington ..........  103  
On the Capture of General Lee ...................... 104  
On the Death of General Wooster ................... 107  
An Elegy, Sacred to the Memory of that Great Divine, The Reverend and Learned Dr. SAMUEL COOPER 108

LIBERTY AND PEACE, A POEM ..................  110
## CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kudjo Holms</th>
<th>Letter to William Redwood .............................................</th>
<th>113</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“A Son of Africa”</td>
<td>For the <em>Massachusetts Spy</em> ........................................</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“A Great Number of Blacks”</td>
<td>To his Excellency Thomas Gage Esq., Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over this Province</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caesar Sarter</td>
<td>To Those Who Are Advocates for Holding the Africans in Slavery</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bristol Lambee</td>
<td>To the Sons of Liberty in Connecticut ..................................</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lemuel Haynes</td>
<td>The Battle of Lexington ................................................</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Liberty Further Extended ..............................................</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antonio Muray</td>
<td>Petition to the Inferior Court of Craven County, North Carolina</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scipio Fayerweather</td>
<td>Petition of Scipio Fayerweather .......................................</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sezor Phelps</td>
<td>Letter to Charles Phelps, Jr. ...........................................</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster Hill, Peter Bess, Brister Slenser, Prince Hall, and Others</td>
<td>“The Petition of a great number of Negroes who are detained in a state of Slavery”</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince Demah</td>
<td>Last Will and Testament of Prince Demah ..................................</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CONTENTS

Jupiter Hammon
An ADDRESS to Miss Phillis Wheatly, Ethiopian Poetess, in Boston, who came from Africa at eight years of age, and soon became acquainted with the Gospel of Jesus Christ ........................ 157
A Dialogue, intitled, The Kind Master and the Dutiful Servant. .......................... 161
from A Serious Exhortation, with a Call to the Unconverted: and a Short Contemplation on the Death of Jesus Christ ......................... 166
A Poem for Children with Thoughts on Death. .......................... 167

Prince Hall
Regulations of the African Lodge, No. 459 ..................... 170
Letter to Nathaniel Willis, Publisher of the Independent Chronicle .............. 173

Judea Moore
Letter to Sir Henry Clinton ............................... 174

Ofodobendo Wooma, or “Andrew, a Member of the Moravian Church”
“The blessed Brother Andrew the Moor has had the following drawn up of his life” ............ 175

Prime and Prince
Petition to the Connecticut General Assembly .......... 179

Great Prince, Little Prince, Luke, and Others
Petition of Nine “Poor Negroes” to the Connecticut Legislature ............. 182

Pomp
Memorial of Pomp a Negro Man . ..................... 184

Phillis Wheatley and John Peters
Proposals ..................................... 186
Wheatley’s Final Proposal .............................. 189
Notice in the Independent Chronicle .................. 189
Nero Brewster and “Others, Natives of Africa”
   Petition to the New Hampshire State Legislature . . . . . 190

Adam
   Notices in the New-Jersey Gazette . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 194

John Cuffe and Paul Cuffe
   “Petition of Several poor Negroes & Molattoes who
   are Inhabitants of the Town of Dartmouth” . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 196
   A Request to the Select men of the Town
   of Dartmouth . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 198

“The Poor and Oppressed Negro Servants”
   Petition to the State of Connecticut . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 199

Thomas Nichols
   Letter to Benjamin and Phoebe Nichols . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 203

Murphy Stiel
   Murphy Stiel of the Black Pioneers . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 205

“A Black Whig”
   A Sermon, on the Present Situation of the Affairs
   of America and Great-Britain . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 207

Cato
   Letter to the Freeman’s Journal . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 216

“Negroes Who Obtained Freedom”
   To the Honourable the Representatives of the
   Freemen of the State of Pennsylvania . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 218

“An African American”
   A Sermon on the Capture of Lord Cornwallis . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 221

Cudjo Vernon
   Letter to Samuel Vernon III . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 232

“An Æthiopian”
   A Sermon on the Evacuation of Charlestown . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 233
CONTENTS

Belinda Sutton
   The Petition of Belinda an African .................. 246
   The Memorial of Belinda an African ................. 248

“Vox Africanorum”
   To the Maryland Gazette ............................ 249

Judith Jackson
   Appeal to General Sir Guy Carleton ................ 253

Ned Griffin
   Petition for Freedom by a Black North Carolina
   War Veteran ........................................ 254

Prince Hall
   Letter to William Moody, Worshipful Master
      of Brotherly Love Lodge, No. 55 .................. 257
   Letter to Henry Frederick, Duke of Cumberland,
      Grand Master of the Moderns Grand Lodge ...... 258
   Letter to James Bowdoin ............................. 259
   Petition by a Committee of Twelve Blacks of the
      African Lodge to the Massachusetts State Legislature . 259
   Petition to the Senate and House of Representatives
      of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Bay ...... 262
   Petition to the Massachusetts Senate and House
      of Representatives .............................. 263

Absalom Jones
   Narrative Written by Himself ....................... 265

Sarah Greene
   Petition to the Virginia House of Delegates ........ 267

John Marrant
   A Narrative of the Lord’s Wonderful Dealings with
      John Marrant, A Black ........................... 270
   from A Sermon Preached on the 24th Day of
      June 1789 ....................................... 290
## CONTENTS

### Jane Coggeshall
- Petition to the Rhode Island General Assembly  
  
### Johnson Green
- The Life and Confession of JOHNSON GREEN  
  
### Jupiter Hammon
- An Address to the Negroes in the State of New-York  
- An Essay on Slavery, with Submission to Divine Providence, Knowing that God Rules Over All Things  
  
### Presence Flucker
- Letter to Henry Knox  
  
### James Armistead Lafayette
- Petition to the Virginia General Assembly  
  
### Anthony Taylor and the Free African Union Society of Newport
- Letter to William Thornton  
  
### Daphney Demah
- Letter to Mrs. Christian Barnes  
- The Petition of Daphne an African  
  
### Absalom Jones and Richard Allen
- Preamble and Articles of Association of the Free African Society  
  
### Cyrus Bustill
- An Address to the Blacks in Philadelphia  
  
### “Humanio”
- Memorial and Petition of the Free Negroes and Slaves in the City of New York  
- Letter to the New York *Daily Advertiser*  
- Letter to the New York *Daily Advertiser*
“A Number of Black Inhabitants of Providence”
  Letter to Bennett Wheeler of the United States Chronicle .......................... 346

“The Blacks of New Haven City”
  Petition to the Connecticut General Assembly .................. 348

Olaudah Equiano
  from The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African ........ 350

James Durham
  Letter to Benjamin Rush .................................. 354
  Letter to Benjamin Rush .................................. 355
  Letter to Benjamin Rush .................................. 356

Bristol Yamma and James McKenzie
  Letter to the African Union Society of Newport .......... 357

Margaret Blucke
  Letter to John Marrant .................................. 359

Benjamin Banneker
  Letter to George Ellicott .................................. 362
  Letter to Andrew Ellicott .................................. 364
  Letter to Thomas Jefferson .................................. 365
  Letter to James Pemberton .................................. 368
  “Behold ye Christians! and in pity see” .................. 370
  Dream .................................................. 370
  A Mathematical Problem in Verse .......................... 371
  Letter to Susanna Mason ................................. 372
  Dream .................................................. 372
  Dream .................................................. 373
  Untitled Observations and Study of the Cicada ........ 373

“Africanus”
  To the Editor of the Gazette of the United-States .... 375
  To the Editor of the Gazette of the United-States .... 378
xx CONTENTS

Cyrus Bustill, William White, and Others
   Letter to the African Union Society of Newport ........ 380

Cynthia Cuffee
   A Remarkable Dream .................................... 382

Yamboo
   The Sufferings of Yamboo, an African,
   in South-Carolina ..................................... 385

Thomas Peters
   Petition to William Grenville .......................... 389

Thomas Cole, Peter Bassnett Matthews, and
Matthew Webb
   Petition to the South Carolina Senate ................. 392

“J.-B.”
   Letter and Sonnet to Benjamin Rush .................... 395

Absalom Jones and Others
   To the Friends of Liberty and Religion in the City of
   Philadelphia ............................................ 397

David Simpson
   David Simpson, Hair-Dresser .......................... 399
   A Sable Son of Misery at Newark ...................... 400

Stephen Blucke
   Letter to Dr. Charles Taylor .......................... 401

George Liele
   An Account of several Baptist Churches,
   consisting chiefly of Negro Slaves ..................... 403
   Recommendatory Letter of Hannah Williams,
   a Negro Woman, in London ............................ 409

Susana Smith and Sarah Peters
   Letter to John Clarkson .............................. 410
   Letter to Alexander Falconbridge ..................... 411
CONTENTS

Prince Hall
  A Charge Delivered to the Brethren of the African Lodge ......................... 412

John Moore
  Petition of John Moore to the North Carolina Legislature ................................ 420

David George
  An Account of the Life of Mr. David George, from Sierra Leone in Africa ............. 421

John Morris, William Morris, and Others
  A Petition Against Discriminatory Poll Taxes ........................................... 433

Absalom Jones and Richard Allen
  A Narrative of the Proceedings of the Black People, During the Late Awful Calamity in Philadelphia, in the Year 1793 ......................... 436

Citizens of South Carolina
  The Petition of the People of Colour ..................................................... 451

Peter McNelly
  Affidavit of Peter McNelly Concerning the Treatment of Himself & Wife by Sundry Persons ................................................................. 454

Cato Hanker
  Petition to the General Court of Massachusetts ........................................... 458

Absalom Jones and Others
  The Causes and Motives for Establishing St. Thomas’s African Church of Philadelphia ................................................................. 460

Judith Cocks
  Letter to James Hillhouse ................................................................. 463

Margaret Lee
  Petition to the Superior Court of Washington District, Tennessee ................... 465
xxii CONTENTS

The African Society
The Rules of the African Society .......................... 468

James Hemings
Inventory of Kitchen Utencils .............................. 472

William Hamilton
Letter to His Excellency John Jay Esqr Governour
of the State of New York ................................. 474

Anonymous
The Africans’ Prayer for Freedom .......................... 477

Boston King
Memoirs of the Life of Boston King, a Black Preacher 481

Richard Allen
from Articles of Association of the African Methodist
Episcopal Church .......................... 504
Untitled Memorial in Honor of White Supporters .... 505

Anonymous
from The American in Algiers, or the Patriot of
Seventy-Six in Captivity .......................... 508

Jupiter Nicholson, Jacob Nicholson, Job Albert, and
Thomas Pritchett
Petition to Congress of Four North Carolina
“Fugitives” ........................................ 519

Harry, Cuff, and Cato
To the Honorable the General Assembly of the State
of Connecticut .......................... 524

Prince Hall
A Charge, Delivered to the African Lodge, June 24,
1797, at Menotomy .................................. 534
Letter to William White, Grand Secretary of the
Moderns Grand Lodge .......................... 543
## CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Margaret Moore</td>
<td>North Carolina Black Woman’s Petition to Emancipate Her Husband</td>
<td>545</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abraham Johnstone</td>
<td><em>from</em> The Address of Abraham Johnstone</td>
<td>547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Dying Words of Abraham Johnstone</td>
<td>551</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Letter to His Wife</td>
<td>560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patty Gipson</td>
<td>Letter to Her Husband</td>
<td>565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abraham Jones</td>
<td>A Free Man’s Petition to Emancipate His Enslaved Children</td>
<td>566</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venture Smith</td>
<td>A Narrative of the Life and Adventures of Venture, a Native of Africa</td>
<td>567</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primus Grant and Others</td>
<td>Petition of Africans to Enable Them to Return to Africa</td>
<td>590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lemuel Haynes</td>
<td>The Influence of Civil Government on Religion</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Carruthers Stanly</td>
<td>Petition for Confirmation of Emancipation</td>
<td>606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lemuel Overton</td>
<td>Petition to the North Carolina General Assembly</td>
<td>608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Johnson</td>
<td>Portrait Painting</td>
<td>610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Godfrey</td>
<td>Letter to the United States Congress</td>
<td>611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Allen</td>
<td>Eulogy for George Washington</td>
<td>613</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CONTENTS

The People of Colour, Freemen Within the City and Suburbs of Philadelphia
The Petition of the People of Colour, Freemen within the City and Suburbs of Philadelphia .......... 616

James Forten
Letter to the Honourable George Thatcher, Member of Congress .............................. 621

George Middleton
To the Honourable Gentlemen of the School Committee of the Town of Boston .................... 623

Sylvia
Petition to the Hustings Court of Alexandria ............. 626

Andrew Bryan
A Letter, from the Negroe Baptist Church in Savannah ........................................... 627

Chronology ............................................. 633
Note on the Illustrations ................................ 640
Note on the Texts ...................................... 643
Notes .................................................. 661
Index .................................................. 675