

(245)

At a meeting held by free Africans and other free people of colour in the Town and county of Newport and State of Rhode Island &c on tenth of November 1796 at the house occupied by Mr Abraham Casey to hear an Address from the convention of Deputies from the Abolition Societies in the United States read.

A considerable number having met together Mr Charles Chaloner was voted moderator and Newport Gardner Clerk

The clerk then read the Address: and after many things said in testimony of esteem for said Address, the following motion was introduced by Newport Gardner, to wit.

Whereas an Address to the free Africans and other free people of colour in the United States by the convention of Deputies from the Abolition Societies in the United States assembled at Philadelphia dated January 6. 1796 and signed by order and in behalf of the convention by Theodore Toster as ~~the~~ their President has been read to us the second time this evening: And we having taken the said address into serious consideration are of opinion that the members of said convention are sincere friends to us the free Africans and other free people of colour. And that if their advice were attended to it would promote not only our happiness and our children at present but generation yet to come: Therefore it is voted and that a committee be appointed to take into consideration the 7th article of said address, and report may and means that the said article may be

carried

carried into execution. On motion by the chairman the above was unanimously adopted. And Newport Gardner, Mr Prince, Amy and Mr Zingo Stevens were appointed a committee to prepare and report as above to <sup>this</sup> meeting to be holden on the first day of December next at Mr Abraham Cassey's for that purpose adjourned.

Attest Newport Gardner Clerk.

December 1<sup>st</sup> 1796

At a meeting of free Africans and other free people of colour in the County of Newport and State of Rhode Island &c on the day and year afore written by adjournment to hear the report of the committee at Mr Abraham Cassey's Mr Charles Chaubner was voted moderator and Newport Gardner <sup>clerk</sup>. The moderator having taken his seat the clerk read the report of the committee as follows.

The committee to whom it was referred to consider the 7<sup>th</sup> article of an address to free Africans and other free people of colour in the United States by the convention of Deputies from the Abolition Societies in the United States dated at Philadelphia January 6<sup>th</sup> 1796 and to report the way and means that the said article may be carried into execution.

The said committee report that

the said article into their serious consideration in opinion that if the said article were executed it would be a great benefit and blessing even to generations yet to come; And that it appears to be within the competence of these persons in this town to whom the said address is directed, and they only are the proper persons to carry this 7<sup>th</sup> article into execution so far as it concerns themselves.

- I By raising a sum of money in such way as may be thought by them most convenient sufficient to purchase three books suitable and proper for record; one for births, one for marriages and one for Deaths of every free family in this town.
- II By choosing one whom they may judge fit to be clerk to record all marriages births and Deaths of every free family in this town.
- III That it be recommended to this meeting to cause proper notice to be given to all free blacks and other people of colour to get a copy of their marriages births and deaths in their respective families and deliver them to said clerk to be recorded in the said books.
- IV And that it be recommended to this meeting to express their gratitude to said convention for their good and friendly advice in some suitable way and manner as they shall think fit.

Zingo Stevens  
Prince Amy  
Newport Gardner

Committee

On

the above was unanimously adopted and Cassey was chosen to make inquiry to know the

the price of these books and report it to  
to be holden on the thirteenth instant at  
Charles Chaloner's. Newport Gardner was chosen  
Clerk to keep the office of recording as afore said.

It is agreed that every person now in this meeting do  
all in their power to notify all our brethren who  
are not here present to get a certificate of their  
marriages, also a list of births and deaths occurring in  
their respective families, and deliver them to the clerk  
to be recorded in those books.

Whereas, it is the duty of every rational being to  
express gratitude to those person or persons who  
appear to be their friend, and out of the purest prin-  
ciple do all in their power to promote the happi-  
ness and prosperity of their fellow mortals; and  
whereas it appears in the opinion of this meeting to  
be the case with the convention of Deputies from the  
abolition Societies in the United States assembled at  
Philadelphia with respect to their address to free  
Africans and other free people of colour in the  
United States. And being impressed with this  
address wishing to express our gratitude to them  
in some suitable way and manner, it is voted una-  
nimosly that the thanks of this meeting be given  
to the honourable Convention of Deputies from  
the Abolition Societies in the United  
States for their good and friendly  
advice dated January 6<sup>th</sup> 1796.

It is voted unanimously that the said  
be recorded in the beginning of each of  
before mentioned books in testimon

for the said Address.  
It is voted unanimously that the moderator of this  
meeting sign these our proceedings respecting  
the afore said address; and that they be Attested by the  
Clerk, and by them be transmitted to the honourable  
Theodore Foster Esq<sup>r</sup> one of the Senators from  
this State in the Congress of the United States, and mem-  
ber of said convention; that he would be pleased to  
to communicate these our proceedings to the honourable  
Convention when ever he finds most convenient and  
suitable.

By order and in behalf of the meeting of  
free blacks and other free people of colour in the  
town of Newport

Chaloner Moderator  
Attest Newport Gardner Clerk

MANUSCRIPTS COLLECTION – Transcription

Call No.: MSS 9001-A African Union Society

Item: Page 1

Date: 10 November 1796

Neg. No.: RHi (X17) 2929A

Medium: ink on paper

Transcriber: Dana Signe K. Munroe

Transcription Date: 2 Oct 2020

LINE BY LINE TRANSCRIPTION:

[missing] a meeting held by free Africans and other free people of colour in the Town and county of Newport and State of Rhode Island &c on tenth of November AD 1796 at the house occupied by M<sup>r</sup> Abraham Casey to hear an Address from the convention of Deputies from the Abolition Society in the United States read. A considerable number having met together M<sup>r</sup> Charles Chalonder was voted moderator and Newport Gardner Clerk

The clerk then read the Address: and after many things said in testimony of esteem for said Address, the following motion was introduced by Newport Gardiner; to wit.

Whereas an Address to the free Africans and other free people of colour in the United States by the convention of Deputies from the Abolition Societies in the United States assembled at Philadelphia dated January 6<sup>th</sup> 1796 and signed by order and in behalf of the convention by Theodore Foster as their President has been read to us the second time this evening: And we having taken the said address into Serious consideration are of opinion that the members of said convention are sincere friends to us the free Africans and other free people of colour. And that if their advice were attended to it would promote not only our happiness and our children at present, but generation yet to come: Therefore it is voted and [missing] that a committee be appointed to take into [missing]tion the 7<sup>th</sup> article of said address, and report [missing]vay and means that the said article may be Carried

MANUSCRIPTS COLLECTION – Transcription

Call No.: MSS 9001-A African Union Society

Item: Page 2 and 3

Date: 10 November 1796

Neg. No.: RHi (X17) 2929B

Medium: ink on paper

Transcriber: Dana Signe K. Munroe

Transcription Date: 2 Oct 2020

LINE BY LINE TRANSCRIPTION:

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carried into execution.

On motion by the chairman

the above was unanimously adopted: And Newport

Gardner M<sup>r</sup> Prince Amy and M<sup>r</sup> Zingo Stevens

were appointed a committee to prepare and

report as above to <sup>^this</sup> meeting to be holden on the

first day of December next at M<sup>r</sup> Abrahams

Casey's for that purpose adjourn'd

Attest Newport Gardner Clerk.

December 1<sup>st</sup> 1796

At a meeting of free Africans

and other free people of colour in the <sup>^town & county</sup> of New-

-port and State of Rhode Island &c on the day and

year before written by adjournment to hear the re-

-port of the committee at M<sup>r</sup> Abraham Casey's

M<sup>r</sup> Charles Chaloner was voted moderator and

Newport Gardner <sup>^clerk</sup> The moderator having taken

his seat the clerk read the report of the committee

as follows

The committee to whom it was referred to

consider the 7<sup>th</sup> article of an address to free Africans

and other free people of colour in the United States

by the convention of Deputies from the Abolition

Societies in the United States dated at Philadelphia

January 6<sup>th</sup> 1796 and report the way and means

that the said article may be carried i[missing]tion.

The said committee report that [missing]

[right side of paper]

[missing] the said article into their serious consideration

[missing] opinion that if the said article were executed

it would be a great benefit and blessing even to genera-

-tions yet to come: And that it appears to be within the

competency of these persons in this town to whom the said

address is directed, and <sup>^that</sup> they only are the proper per-

-sons to carry this 7<sup>th</sup> article into execution so far as it con-

-cerns themselves.

I By raising a sum of money in such way as may

be thought by them most convenient sufficient to purchase three books suitable and proper for record: one for births, one for marriages and one for deaths of every free family in this town.

II By choosing one whom they <sup>may</sup> judge fit to be clerk to record all marriages births, and deaths of every free family in this town.

III That it be recommended to this meeting to cause proper notice to be given to all free blacks and other people of colour to get a copy of their marriages births and deaths in their respective families and deliver them to said clerk to be recorded in the said books.

IV And that it be recommended to this meeting to express their gratitude to said convention for their good and friendly advice in some suitable way and manner as they shall think fit

Zingo Stevens

Prince Amy

Newport Gardner

Committee

On [missing] above was unanimously adopted and [missing] Casey was chosen to make inquiry to know the

MANUSCRIPTS COLLECTION – Transcription

Call No.: MSS 9001-A African Union Society

Item: Page 4 and 5

Date: 10 November 1796

Neg. No.: RHi (X17) 2929C

Medium: ink on paper

Transcriber: Dana Signe K. Munroe

Transcription Date: 2 Oct 2020

LINE BY LINE TRANSCRIPTION:

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the price of those books and report it <sup>^</sup> t[missing]  
to be holden on the thirteenth instant at [missing]  
Charles Chaloner's. Newport Gardner was chosen  
clerk to keep the office of recording as afore said.  
It is agreed that every person now in this meeting do  
all in their power to ~~ge~~ notify all our brethren who  
are not here present to get a certificate of their  
marriages, also a list of births and deaths occurring in  
their respective families and deliver them to the clerk  
to be recorded in those books.

Whereas <sup>^</sup>it the duty of every rational being to  
express gratitude to those person or persons who  
appear to be their friend, and out of the purest pri-  
-nciple do all in their power to promote the happi-  
-ness and prosperity of their fellow mortals: and  
whereas it appears in the opinion of this meeting to  
be the case with the convention of Deputies from the  
abolition Societies in the United States assembled at  
Philadelphia with respect to their address to free  
Africans and other free people of color in the  
United States. And being impressed with this  
address wishing to express our gratitude to them  
in some suitable way and manner; it is voted una-  
nimously that the thanks of this meeting be given  
to the honourable Convention of Deputies from  
the Abolition Societies in the United  
States for their good and friendly  
advice dated January 6<sup>th</sup> 1796.

It is voted unanimously that the said [missing]ress  
be recorded in the beginning of each of [missing]  
before mentioned books in testimony[missing]

[right side of paper]

[missing]m for the said Address.

[missing] voted unanimously that the moderator of this meeting sign these our proceedings respecting  
the afore said address; and that they be Attested by the  
Clerk, and by them be transmited to the honourable  
Theodore Foster Esq<sup>r</sup> one of the Senators from  
this State in the Congress of the United States, and mem-

-ber of said convention: That he would be pleased to  
to communicate these our proceedings to the honourable  
Convention when ever he finds most convenient and  
suitable.

By order and in behalf of the meeting of  
free blacks and other free people of colour in the  
town of Newport

Moderator

Attest Newport Gardner Clerk