

1664-1665 Resistance Petitions, Literal Transcriptions

by Adrian Chastain Weimer

Note: Brackets [] indicate a “mark,” a symbol used in place of, or alongside, a signature, usually by those with limited writing literacy. To see the marks, [click here](#) for the petition images. For a modernized text of the petitions, [click here](#).

Cambridge Petition, 17 October 1664

To the honoured Generall Court of Massachusetts Colonie.

The humble representation of the inhabitants of the towne of Cambridg.

For as much as we have heard that there have beene representations made unto his Majesty concerning divisions among us and dissatisfactions about the present gover[n]ment of this colonie; we whose names are under written, the inhabitants and house-holders of the towne above mentioned, doe hearby testify our unanimous satisfaction in and adhearing to the present government so long and orderly established, and our earnest desire of the continuance their of and of all the liberties and privileges pertaining their unto which are contained in the charter granted by King James and King Charles the First of famous memory, under the encouredgment and security of which charter we or our fathers ventured over the ocean into this wilderness through great hazards, charges, and difficulties; and we humbly desire our honored General Court would addresse themselves by humble petition to his Majesty for his royall favour in the continuance of the present establishment and of all the privileges their of, and that we may not be subjected to the arbitrary power of any who are not chosen by this people according to their patent,

Cambridge the 17th of the 8. [October] 1664.

Charles Chauncy	Robert Stedman
Edward Oakes	Thomas Cheny
Sam[ue]ll Andrewe	Willyam [] Heally
Jonathan Mitchell	John Palfray
Elijah Corlett	Francis Moore, senr
Richard Champny	John Gove
Edmund Frost	Will[iam] [] Michelson
Gregory Stone	Edward Hall
John Bridge	William Barrett
John Stedman	John Holman
Francis Whitmor	Will[iam] Bordman
Richard Jackson	Zechary Hicks
Edward Shephard	Sam[ue]ll Manning

Gilbert [] Cracbon	Richard Cutter
John Fisenden	John Green
John Cooper	Fra[ncis] Moore, junr
Abraham Erringtoon	John [] Adams
Humfry Bradsha	Beiniman Crackbone
John Gibson	John Marritt
Richard Hassell	Nathanell Hancocke.
Danill Kempster	Willyam Town
Thomas [] Fox	Abraham Holman
George [] Willis	John Shepard
Thomas [] Hall	Samuell Frost
Richard Dana	Walter Hasting
Nicolas [] Wythe	Nath[aniel] Green
Thomas Chesholm	Ester Gossom
Samuel Green	Peter Towne
Tho[mas] Swetman	Edward Mitchellson
Richard Robins	Andrew Belcher
William Diksone	Edmund Angier
Richard Eccles	Richard Park
Thomas Longhorne	Joseph Cooke
John Watsonn	Jermie Fisman
Roger [] Bukk	John Taller
Andrew [] Stevenson	Daniel Cheeaver
John [] Parents	John Eliot
James Hubbard	Edward Jackson
Robert [] Wilson	Samuel Haden
Rob[ert] [] Parker	John Jackson
John [] Bouttell	Gregory Cooke
John [] Parker	John Wintor
Mathew [] Boone	John Collar
Thomas Hammond, senyor	Joseph Miriam
Thomas Hammond, junyor	Isack Starnes
Vincent [] Druse, junyor	David Fiske
John [] Hanchet	Solomon Prentes
Job [] Hides	Joseph Sill
Samuell [] Hydes	Samuell Hasting
Rebecca[] Daniell	Richard [] Frances
Jonathan Hides	Robert [] Brown
David Stone	Thomas [] Brown

Samuell Stone
Jeames [] Cutler

John Swan

We, whose names are subscribed, being of the traine band and singell men in the above sayd town, doe also desire to manifest ourselves to be of the same mynd with our parents, masters, and the aged men and housholders of the place.

Thomas Oliver	John Hastins
Jonathan Jackson	John More
John Jackson	John Holis
Sebeis Jackson	Gershom Frost
Steven Cooke	Abraham [] Howell
Jacob Goble	Benjaman [] Russell
Joseph [] Stevenes	Sameuel Bucke
Daniel Champnes	Joseph Frost
John Steadman	William Reyle
Thomas Gates	Samuell [] Garry
Arther [] Henbury	Nath[aniel] Patten
Robart [] Shepard	Stephen Frances
Daniell [] Prat	Reuben Luxfford
Philip Eastman	Samuell [] Robines
Arthur Call	Benony [] Eaton
Thomas Marritt	Rodger Chandler
Joseph Pratt	Joseph Holme
Thomas Fledg	

(Lucius Paige, *History of Cambridge* (Boston, 1877), 75-76) [The manuscript was at one time in the Judicial Court Files for Suffolk County in the Boston Court House.]

Billerica Petition, 19 October 1664

To the Honor[e]d Generall Court, held at Boston, October 19, 1664:

The Humble Representation of the Inhabitants, both Freemen and others, of the Town of Billerica, Humbly Sheweth:

That whereas we have understood that there have bin complaints made unto our Sovereigne Lord the king concerning our dissatisfaction in this collony with the present Government, we whose Names are subscribed, the Inhabitants of the Towne above mentioned, being not a little Sensible what occation of Discouragement would be laid upon you, and what reproach and blame would Justly fall upon us, if such complaints should be true, have thought it our duty (both for the vindicating of our owne Innocency and for the promoting of anything, in an orderly way, which may tend to the incouraging of your hearts and strengthening of your hands, in the discharge of your great trust) to testify unanimously that we doe Rest Satisfied in the present Government, and that we have cause to bless God for our past and present pretious and peaceable enjoyments, desiring that God would make you farther Instrumental for the continuing of our mercies and priveleges, both civil and ecclesiasticall, to his honour and the good of us and our posterity. And we doe reingage ourselves and promise (by the help of God) to be faithful, obedient, and serviceable (to our utmost power) to the present Authority (so long and orderly established by patent amongst us) in all things, according to God, as by duty, equity, or oath wee are bound thereunto; thus hoping that this our Aplication unto your selves shall be accepted as a testimony of our unfeigned fidelity and sincere Affection to your selves and to the good of this comon wealth, wee comit you to him who is Able to direct you in all the weighty matters you have in hand and remaine yours in all humble observance.

John Parker	W[i]ll[ia]m Chamberlain	Nathanell Hill
William Tay	Ralph Hill	Wille Haille
George Farley	Simon Crosbee	James Patterson
Thomas Foster	John Durant	Benjamin Parker
James Kider	John Marshall	John Rogers, junr
Jonath[an] Danforth	Joseph Thompson	Roger Toothackar
John Sheldon	Samuel Chamynes	Samuell Kemp
William Hamlet	Thomas Willis	John Trull
John Rogers	Thomas Paton	John Poulter
John Brakie	Joseph French	Jonathan Hill
Henery Jeiffs	Steven Willis	Samuel Trull
Peter Bracket	Simon Bird	

(Henry Hazen, *History of Billerica* (Boston, 1883), 185) [The manuscript was at one time in the private collection of G.M. Elliott, of Lowell.]

Concord Petition, 19 October 1664

To the honoured generall court of the Massachusets Collonie, <held at Boston october: 19: 1664:> the humble representation
of the Inhabitants of the Towne of Concord both Freeman and others.

Forasmuch as we understand, that there have been complaints made unto his Majestie, concerning divisions amongst us, and dissatisfaction about the present Gover[n]ment of this Colonie; we whose names are underwritten do heerby testifie our unanimous satisfaction in, and adhearing too, the present Gover[n]ment, soe longe, and orderly established, and our earnest desire of the Continuance theroff, and of all the libertys, and priviledges appertaining therunto, which are Contained in the Charter graunted by King James, and King Charles the first of Blessed Memorie; under the encouragement, and security of which Charter, we or our fathers ventured over the Ocean, into this wilderness, through great hazzards, charges, and difficulties; And seeing our rightfull Sovereigne hath priviledged you with power by force of armes to defend this place and people (we having encour[a]gment from the honoured Council, cannot but acknowledge it a mercie of god, that you soe minde the good and preservation of this place, and people, according to oath) we doe declare that we are readie to assist both with persons and estates, that soe by the goodness and mercy of God we may ~~be delivered from unreasonable men.~~ [-] & still enjoy our present priviledges and Remaine yours in all Humble observance

Thomas Brookes	Boas Broune	John Heald	John Whelar
William Hunt	Gertiom Brookes	William Whelar	Rodger Draper
Robert Fletcher	Jabis Broune	Thomas Whelar	William Frizall
Joseph Wheler	John Graves	Joseph Haywood	Simon Davis
George Wheler	Samuell Wheler	Gertiom Heald	Samuell Davis
James Blood	John Scochford	Joseph Woodard	William Osborn
Obadiah Wheler	Cristopher Woolley	Samuell Marble	Frances Fletcher
Samuell Stratten	Samuell Wheat	Samuell Stow	Dollar Davis
Baptis Smedley	Steven Hosmore	Ciprian Stevens	John Smedley
Richard Rise	Edmond Wigley	Samuell Hartwell	William Batricke
Thomas Broune	James Hosmore	John Smedley	Hompfrey Barrat
Joseph Daine	Wh William Hall	John Barker	Samuell Star
John Farewell	William Tailor	John Whelar	Ephraim Flint
John Haward	Moses Wheat	Frances Dudley	John Flint
Samuell Meriam	Thomas Whelar	Patrick Facet	Nehemiah Hunt
William Doule	William Burton	John Slater	Edward Bight
William How	William Baker	James Blood	Henery Woodis
Joseph Jencks	Joshuah Wheler	John Hartwell	George Hayward
John Jones	Luke Fletcher	Samuell Smedley	Thomas Stow
Thomas Bateman	Thomas Daine	Joseph Busse	Michaell Wood
Nathaniell Ball	William Busse	Nathaniell Buse	John Miles

Daniell Hoare
George Meriam
John Heywood
(Concord Public Library)

Nathaniell Billings
Joshuah Brookes

Thomas Chosman
Caleb Brookes

Thomas Dacon
John Meriam

Dorchester Petition, 19 October 1664

Richard Curtis
Thomas Davenport senr
samuell Topliff
Thomas Davenport Jnor
will[iam] blake
Rich[ard] Frances
Joseph weekes:
Ezra Clap:
John Capen Jn
Samuell Paull:
Ebenezer Clap
Jn Clap
Increas Clap
Thomas Bird
Nathaniell Clap
Isreall meed
n nehemiah [] clap
Eleazer hawes
samuell Trescot
Johnathan Hill
Samuell hill
Nathan Bradley
nathanel homes
jos[e]ph burd
Samuell Capen
Barnard Capen
Samuell Maxfeild
Joseph: weekes:
Samuell Humfrey
Frances Baell
William Sumner
Daniel Elder
Hope still
Hope still foster: Jn
E. E will
Enoke wiswell
John Black<man>
william turins

To the Hon[or]ed Govern[o]r the Deputy Govern[o]r together with the rest of
the hon[or]ed magistrats and house of Deputies: Assembled In Gennerall
court at Boston this nineteenth day of octob[e]r 1664: The petition off
the Inhabitants of Dorchester: Humbly sheweth:

First of all That wee doe ecknowledg it with all Thankfullnes to god and to yourselves as a great mercy, that
the lord was pleased to put it into your harts, In your late session to expresse and declare, That it is your resolution
(god assisting) to beare faith & true Alegiance unto his majesty, And to adhere unto our Patent the duties and
privilidges therof, soe dearly obtained and soe long enjoyed by undoubted right, in the sight of god and men:
Likwise we doe ecknowledg it, A favor from god In Directing The Hon[or]ed Counsell In a late meeting of theirs at Boston
to give forth such a declaration wherin they doe recite the summe of sundry perticulers, what ye power and privilidges
are granted to us in the said patent, as this is one that, full power and authority is granted to this collonye for making
and executing all lawes for the gover[n]m[en]t of this people not repugnant to the lawes of England, Another is that it shalbe law-
full for this gover[n]m[en]t, by all fitting meanes and if need bee by force of armes to deffend ourselvs against all such as shall
attempt the detriment or anoyance of this plantation or the Inhabitants therof; some lawes they recite that are
established and printed In referenc to the former. i.e. to uphold and maintaine the said gover[n]ment:
All which considered, it is [-] our humble request unto this Hon[or]ed Court, That as you have expressed and de[c]lared
your Resolution, to adhere to ye patent, and the privilidges therof, soe there may be a constancy therein and noe
declining from the same, For you know how uncomfortable and dishon[o]rable it would be first to expresse such a
resolution as affore mentioned, and afterward to act contrary, w[hi]ch wee hope is farre from your Intention, And we pray
god that such a thing may never bee. It is well known how his Royall majeste by letters to this collony doth confirme
the said pattent and charter, and promiseth that wee shall Injoy all the libertyes and privilidges granted In and by the
same, w[hi]ch may be a further and great Incouragm[en]t to yourselves to adhere to your proffessed resolution, and to take course
by your authority and wisdom that all the people within this Jurisdiction may also doe the same.
Next of all, full power being granted by the patent for making and executing all lawes not repugnant to the
lawes of england, And one of the lawes here established being this: That noe Injunction shalbe put upon any church,
church officer or member, In point of doctrine worship or Discipline, whether for substance or circumstance
besides the Institutions of the lord, Therfor it is our Humble request that the liberty of our churches and faithfull
menesters [ministers, clergy] in this collony may bee still continued, without the imposition of any such Injunction not ordained of god,
w[hi]ch consciences truly tender would be trobled withall, but that as hitherto our churches and minesters have bine
freed from such human Inventions and impositions, soe they may bee still, it being well knowne to the world that
to be freed therfrom was one speiall cause that moved many to remove from theire deare native country Into this
wildernes, and how lamentable and greivous it would bee to be here burdened and encombred againe with such
matters is easy for any to Judge:
Thirdly, The patent expresly granting that the yeilding and paing of the fift[h] part of the oare of gold & silver
shalbe for and In respect of all duties and demands and services w[ha]tsoever, Therefore we humbly Intreer that the
Inhabitants of this collony may not bee urged and compelled to make any other paim[en]ts but what is by patent
expressed, unto any person or persons w[ha]tsoever but such as doe here reside and dwell, and are by the country chosen
to labor amongst us In the church and civill gover[n]m[en]t. for the low estate and condition wherunto the chardg of this

Abraham how
John Gurnell
Thomas Lake:
nicholas [] Boulton
Nickolas Gorge
Edward Savage
thomas trot
Jasper Rush
Samuel Clap
Robert spur
mathias evens
william Ponds
Daniell Preston
Edmond Browne
Thomas Mawdesley
William Pole
Timothy foster
Richard Baker
John Capen Sen
Rich[ard] Leeds
Daved Joanes
James White
Richard withingto[n]
James Humfrey
Peter lyon
Thomas Pope
James Robinson
Joshua Hinshaw
Obadiah haws
Benjamin Leeds
Clement Maxfield
Jeremiah haws
Thomas Andrew Se[n]
Thomas Andrew Jun.
Thomas Naramoore
Thomas Tolman
Jacob Hewens
James Blake
Richard Evans
Samuell Procer
John baker
william Clap sen

Thomas swift
william triscote
~~Obediah swift~~
Obadiah swift

wildernes worke and the afflicting providences of god have brought many unto is knowne to bee such, that small portions and sallaryes even much below there deserts are afforded to many that labor amongst <us> both in church and civill ~~govermt~~ common wealth, And therfore to impose further taxes and paiments on the country w[hi]ch the patent requireth not but freeth us from, seemeth to bee difficult unreasonable if not impossible to bee borne, and therfor we humbly desire it may be prevented. much honerd we have none other on earth to flee unto but yourselves into whose hands under god wee have committed the care and preservation of all our pretious things, hoping that this great trust by god and his people by you shalbe duly observed; we also engage ourselves to assist as we have hitherto with our persons and estat[e]s, soe farre as the lord shall enable us. unto whom we also pray for his spetiall guidance & grace to be with you in this soe great a worke:

Richard Mather	Will[iam] Stoughton	Thomas Jones	nicholas Clapp	william Weekes
George Minot	Henry Way	David Cummin [] his	Thomas Tilston	Ammiell weekes
Henry withington	Anthony Fisher Sen	mark	Clement Tapply []	Isack Jones
	John [] Smiths marke	Gabriel Mede	Richard Hall	Robert searell
	George Dier	will[ia]m Robinson	Sammuel Way	Mathew: Ball:
		Edmund Clap		

(Chamberlain Autograph Collection, Boston Public Library) [With reference for some names to version in “Old Dorchester,” *New England Historical Genealogical Register* 5 (1851): 395-396.]

Medfield Petition, 19 October 1664

To the Honored Generall Court of Massachusets Colonie assembled on the 19th day of the 8th month [October] 1664, the humble Representation of the Inhabitants of Medfeild.

Forasmuch as wee have heard that there have bin Representations made unto his Majestie concerninge divisions amongst us, and dissatisfaction about the present Government of this Colonie, Wee whose names are Underwritten, the Inhabitants & householders of the Towne abovementioned do Hereby testifie our unanimous Satisfaction in adheringe to the present Government, so long & orderly established, and our earnest desire of the Continuance thereof, and of all the Liberties perteininge thereunto, w[hi]ch are contained in the Charter Graunted by King James and King Charles the First of famous Memorie. Under the Encouragement & security of which Charter; Wee or our Fathers ventured over the Ocean into this Wildernesse through greate Hazzards Charges & Difficulties. And we humblie desire that our Honored Generall Court would addresse themselves by humble Petition to his Majestie for his Royall favor in the continuance of the present establishment, and of all the Priviledges thereof, and that Wee may not be subjected to the Arbitrary power of any, who are not Chosen by this People according to there Patent, so, earnestly begging ye sweete presence and blessing of God on all your faithfull Endeavors, Wee shall rest full obedience to support the present Government with our Persons and estates. Yours in all humble & faith

John Wilson Jr	Samuel Hinsdell	Nicholas Wood
Joshua Fisher Senr	Thomas Mason	Daniell Mors
Thomas Wight Senr	Robert Mason	Thomas Holbrook
John Thurstin [Senr?]	Thomas Ellice	James Aldridg
Henry Smith	William Partridg	John Fisher
Thomas Boyden	John Pratte	Benjamin Wheelocke
John Elice	Joseph Clerke Senr	John Bullward
John Turner	Joseph Clarke Jr	John Partridge
John Plympton	Seath Smith	Joseph Bullward
Thomas Thurstun	Thomas Wight Ju[nio]r	John Medcalfe
Samuell Bullin	Henry Leland	John Fussell
John Thurstun [Jr?]	Thomas Bass	John Frary [Jr?]
Samuell Wight	Gershom Wheelocke	Joseph Morse
Samuell Smith	John Frary	Ralph Wheelocke
Georg Barbur	Timothy Dwite	Martine Phillips

(“Medfield Memorial, 1664,” *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* 13 (October 1859): 346) [Manuscript was at one time in the private collection of Charles H. Morse of Cambridgeport.]

Roxbury Petition, 25 October 1664

The humble petition of the People of Roxbury
to the honored Gen[eral] Court now assembled at
Boston this 25t[h] of the 8t [October] 1664

Sheweth

That we whose names are here under written doe humbly
request the honored Gen[eral] Court both magistrats & Deputyes
that you would stand fast in our present libertys: w[hi]ch by his
Majestys letters Patents we injoy, & have bene long possessd
off. & we doe desire not to cease to pray for you who are
at the helme; that the Lord would please to guide, & assist you
to steere right in these shakeing times.

	Daniell <Eynsworth>	John Eliot John Bowles the mark of [] Edward Bridg Philip Torrey Robert Pepper the mark [] of petteer gardner Samuell williams. Samuell Scarbrow John Franklyn john nuell the marke [] of Thomas Waterman Joseph grigges Samuel may the marke of [] nickcolas williams the marke [] Joseph wilson Christopher pecke william lion moses Craffes
Abraham Newell sen[i]or		
Samuel Finch		
Samuel Ruggles	Rec[eived] & read the 26th.	
Hugh Clark	(8) 1664	
John Clark		
Uzijah Clark		
Thomas Foster		
Robert Prentice		
Isack Newel		
John Pepper		
william Curtis		
Isack Curtis		
Samuel Davis		
Abraham How		
John Totman		
John Bridg		
Jabesh Totman		
John Lyon		

Robert Harris

James Frizal

John Maye sen[i]or

(Photostats Collection, Massachusetts Historical Society)

Boston Petition (1), 25 October 1664

To the Honnoured Generall Court
Assembled & sitting at Boston this
25: 8th 1664:
The humble Petition of us under
written sheweth
That whereas Divers inhabitants of other townes
in this Jurisdiction have made their earnest
[-] request, for the encouragement of
the honoured Court that the present Govern
ment with the liberties thereof in their full
lattice may bee Continued: wee Also the
subscribers hereunto doe make the same our
Earnest request,
And that it is our hearts desire wee
Signifie by our hands desireing the
God of all wisdom & grace to bee your Guide
& protection to that end for ever s[i]r[s].

James Jonson	
Edward Belcher senior	Hen[ry] Rust
Edward Belcher Junior	Gamaliell Wayte
Thomas Snow	Robert Earle
James Bralston	Alexander Baker
Theophilus Frarey	John Baker
Jacob Eliot	Edward Corvell
Seth Perrey	Returne Wayte.
William Lane	Richard Carters [] mark:
Peter Warren	William Pickering
Henry Allen	Josias Belchar
Frances Bacon	William O Townsend mark
Peter Till	Robart [] Blot his mark
Abell Porter	Joseph [] weden mark
John Porter	John Hurd. Juner:
William Lytherland	Nathanell Woodward
John Harrisson	Peetter: Vergooss
Edward Davis	Isaac: Vergooss []
Joseph Gridley	[-]

Francis Eaist
David Eaist
Richard Peacock
Paul Batt.
Samuell Peacocke
Daniel Bradley
Willam Jepson
Steven Butler
Addam dinsdall
John ewell
Benjamin Ward
Tho[mas] Smyth
William Pell.
John dinsdell
Henirey breedshow
Morgan Jones
Richard Crase
Ambros Dew
Richard Richardson
John Glover
Thomas Waggett
John Pouwell
Mordett Enges
Willyam Dinsdl
Richard George
Nathaniell Bishope
Benjamin Bishoppe
John marsh
Nathaniell Reynolls

Robert Marshall	Robert Wallker	Benjamin Briscoelle
William Browne	Benjamin Thurston	Robert Masson
Alexander Bogle	Jacob Mason	Tho[mas] myler
Richard Hollingshead	Robert Sanderson	John Odlin
John: Sanford []	James Penimane	Richard Cooke []
		John Wiswall []
		tho[mas] Grubb
		John Mathew

(Massachusetts Archives CVI.97) [See also other Boston petitions with similar language below. An (incomplete) list of names on all three Boston Petitions in alphabetical order is in “The Boston Petitions of 1664,” *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, 3rd Ser. 52 (1919), 312-316.]

Boston Petition (2), ca. 25 October, 1664

To the Honored Generall Court now Assembled in Boston
the Honorable Petition of Inhabitants of Boston
Sheweth ./.

That whereas wee are informed that severall inhabitants of other
townes in this Jurisdiction have for the encouragement of [?]
Honor[e]d Court manifested there earnest request [ink faded]
Gover[n]ment and there Libertyes may [?] Con[tin]ued. wee also
the subscribers hereunto doe make the same [earnest?] request, as
being the desires of our Hart: and doe Manifest w[i]th our hands;
and Pray that God would be your [guide?] to that end [ever to the?]
end.

Edward [] Bood
Gorg [] Heskett <his mark>
Thomas Watken
John Baker
Thomas Wells
John Shaw
Edward Barker
Esdras Reade
Thomas Rallings
Caleb Rawlings
Richard Loft
Joseph Rallings
James Greene
Hicks dinnyng
Joshua Rice
Petter [] Plaice <his marke>
Robert Edmunds
Joseph bastar
John white
Cristfore [] Holland <his marke>
John [] Farnom <his mark>
John Starr
Henrie [] masson <his marke>

Jno. [John] Paine
John winslow
Thomas Edwards
Tho[mas] Moore
Anthony Checkley
Samuell flack
Timothy Prat
John Search
timothy Prout
Joseph Williams
Edward Blake
Richard Barnard
John [] Pearce <his marke>
John Anderson
Thomas [] Stephens
Richard Stephens
Richard [] Toutt
John Farnam
John Phillips
Bartholomew Cadd
George Burrill
the mark [] of nathan n[?]
nathanell Adams
David Adams

John Mayo
Daniell Stone
William Greenough
Richard Way
John [] Sunderland <his mark>
Nathaniell Greenwood
Hugh [] Amies <his marke>
John Snelling
Richard [] Benatt <his marke>
John Richards
John Amee
Waltter [] [page torn] <his m[ark]>
willium []m [page torn]
E[?] [] [page torn]
[?] [page torn]

Richard Smithe
John Strippe
Francis Hudson
[] Richard Colacott
david Copp
Jonathan Copp
John Atwood
william Copp
Danniel Fruis
Joh[n] farnam
Thomas [] williams <his marke>
John Orrise
phillep [] Philleps <his marke>
Henrey Dorsson
John E[?] [page torn]

Abraham Addams
John [] Kinge
Augusten Clement:
Samuell Clement

(Massachusetts Historical Society, Photostats Collection) [Note: This petition is damaged. Words in brackets are possibilities suggested by the editor. Transcribers for the Massachusetts Historical Society in 1919, who may have had access to less damaged manuscripts, have four additional names (on a combined list of all three Boston petitions): John Frinke, John Stoudly, Thomas Walker, William White].

Boston Petition (3), ca. 25 October, 1664

To the Honoured Generall Court now Assembled in Boston the Humble petition
of the Inhabitants of Boston sheweth:

That whereas wee are informed that severall of the Inhabitants in other townes
In this Jurisdiction have for the in coragement of this Honour[e]d Court manifested
there earnest request that the present Gover[n]ment w[i]th all there Libertyes
may in there Latitude be still Continued, wee also the Inhabitants, subscribers
hereunto make the same earnist request as being the desire of our hearts
w[hi]ch wee doe manifest by our hands and shall pray that God will be your Guide
in his owne way for that end ever to the end.

Richard Parker	James Penn	Edward Tyng
Peter Brackett	Joseph Swett	Thomas Clarke
Rich[ard] Truesdal	Jno. [John] Biggs	John Newgatt
Edmund Grenlefe	John Lowle	Augsutin Lyndon
Edward Porter		Edw[ard] Fletcher
Rob[er]t Woodmansey		John Glover
Henery Messenger		Tho[mas] Brattle
Robert Howard		Thomas Buttolph
John Checkley		Thomas Bumsted
Rob[er]tt Meares		Thomas Shearer
Benjamin Thwing		Henry Phillips
Edmond Eddenden		Benjamin Negus
Alexander Becke		J[o]hn tapping
Erned mackkene		Jo[hn] Morse
Richard Critchly		Ed[war]d Alleyn
Christopher Gibson		Hum[phrey?] Dawse
Michael Wills		James Allen
Godfree Armitage		[Ant]hony Stoddard
william Killcupp		Tho[mas] Underwood
Richard Mason		John Ratcliff
william Reade		Jeremiah Fitch
Thomas Fitch		Henry Fallch
Henry Horwood		Tho[mas] Watkins
Willim marble		Habbijah Savage
Joseph Webb.		Richard Taylar

Richard Brocke

John Collens

samuell hicks

John harker

David Saywell

John Bull

Georg kinge

Edward: Goodin

John Witherden

Benjeman Smith

Henry Powning

Increas Mather

(Massachusetts Historical Society, Photostats Collection)

william Salter

Theoder Atkinson

Theodor Atkinson: Junior

Charles Buckner

Isack Cullmore

David Hitchbon

Reading Petition, October 1664 [missing]

Chelmsford Petition, October 1664 [missing]

Woburn Petition, October 1664 [missing]

Northhampton Petition, 19 April 1665

NorthHampton 19 day of Aprill 1665:

To the honorable & much honored Gen[era]ll Court
assembled at Boston 3d May. 1665/

The humble petition of the Inhabitants of NorthHampton most humbly sheweth that being not insensible of the sad frownes of God upon us & threatnings towards us manifested both by signes from heaven & earth of his displeasure having forsaken our first love & forgotten to doe our first workes w[hi]ch wee came into this land to doe; the Lord having made it of a wilderness a fruitfull feild to us; wherein wee have enjoyed much of the presence of God affording us his owne ordinances both civill & ecclesiasticall in his owne way & according to his owne institution & that for so long a time, & now fearing the subversion thereof, wee owning you the fathers of our Countrey under whose shaddow wee looke for protection under God, our humble request is that you would vouchsafe seriously to waigh & consider the case & state of our Countrey, Churches, plantations, families & persons, & also the end wherfore wee & our predecessors have adventured our lives, families, & estates to purchase; Is it not a quiet & peaceable enjoyment of God in his ordinances & the advancem[en]t of the kingdome of Jesus Christ without humane traditions or molestacion, Wherfore our most humble request & petition to this honored Court is that you would bee pleased to Stand for, confirme, & maintayne our former & ancient rights, libertyes & privileges, both in Church & Common wealth (w[hi]ch God himselfe hath bestowed & Christ hath purchased for us) without any variation or altering from his most holy strict rule in his word Thus most humbly craving you to grant our humble request wee heartily desire the father of all mercyes & giver of all counsell to guide & counsell you to doe what is according to his good will & pleasure and humbly take leave to leave to his guidance & to remayne praying for your peace & prosperity

your most humble serv[an]ts
& petitioners

George Allexander	James Cornish	
nathanell Phellps	Samuel <Wright Senior>	
Richard Wellor	John: Frary	
John Wellor	Arthur williams	
John Allexand[e]r	Thomas Woodford	Eleazar Mather
Thomas W[ebster?]	Isacke shelden	Aaron: Cooke
Thomas Hanchet Junr	William Hannum	William Clarke
Tho: Bascum Senior	Thomas Cooke	David Wilton
Tho: Bascum Junr	John Lyman	Hinary Woodward
John Hulburd	Henery Conliffe	Willum holten
John Allin	Joseph Leeds	Robert Bartlet
Timothy Baker	John marsh	William Jeanes
Nehemiahah allin	John[?] stebing	John king
Robert Lyman	Allexander Alvard	William Hu[lb]urd
Natha[niel] Bartlet		John Ingersall
		thomas hanchat
		George Laugton
		Samuel Bartlet
		Joseph Jeanes

[verso]	
Zachariah Field Jouner [junior]	Joshua Carter
Thomas Dewey	Robert Butterworth
Josiah Deuey	Curnelius Merry
John Tailar	Mathew Cole
Mathew Clesson	John Hy[li?]er
Joseph Baker	Samuel Allin
George Fyler	David Burt
[Sa]muel Smith	Wiliam Miller
Thomas Lewis	Jonathan Hunt
Nathaneill Clarke	Thomas Strong
Medad Pomery	Jededyah Strong
R[al]ph hutchenson	Thomas Mason
Andrew Weeden	Praissever Turner
Alexander Edwardes	Enos kingsly
John searle	Increase Turnar

~~Samuel A.~~ <Samuel adword>
Preserved Clap
Josep[h] edwords
Christopher Smith
Maseh Cooke
William Smeades
John Bridgman
(Massachusetts Archives CVI.104-105a)

Thomas Salmon
Ebenezer Strong
Isreall [] Rust
John Holton
Samuel Holton

Hadley Petition, 25 April 1665

To the much honored General Court of the Massachusetts now assembled at Boston the humble
Petition of the inhabitants of the Town of Hadley.//. April 25th 1665

Honoured and Worthy fathers, if we call you fathers, and Gods too; we speake but after the most high. One of these Relative titles, bespeake the tender & naturell love; we Confide in you for: the other tells us what power you have in your hand to help us and the end for w[hi]ch God hath clothed you therew[i]th: both shew us our duty of repairing to you for help (in time of danger) under him who is over all. If ever there were appearances of danger towards us; we thinke now more; The Cry of our sins as well of the Lords threatnings being so manefest to them yt have ears to hear. Had the Lord but spoken, by the meanest of his messengers tender harts would have trembled; but w[he]n the Lord hath seconded so many voices of his precious servants, by the midnight cries of those portentous signes in the heavens, once and againe; & that in Conjunction w[i]th the disastrous state shakings among us: we would not Pharaoh like harden our harts, or refuse to see the lifting up of the Lords hand. Either of these might administer sad thoughts of hart, both together give us mo[re] abundant cause; to looke out yt w[i]th the prudent we may foresee the danger and hide ourselves; rather then w[i]th the simple. passe on & be punished. The Good Lord our God (for ever blessed be his name) hath in a day of danger in the world, bid us enter into our chambers; and hath kept us safe w[i]th himselfe His eyes have

bin upon us, his salvation for walls and bulwarks; when we nor had nor Could have any other. He hath graciously made his word to be verified to us, that he would goe before us, & be our rereward [rearward, rearguard]; himself creating on all our dwelling places, his cloud, and smoke, and flaming fire; & upon all the glory Causing a de

fence to be; affording here a tabernacle for a shadow from the heate; and a place of refuge and Covert from the storme [Isa. 4:5-6] Have we seene the Lord assaying so to do to any other since he brought his own redeemed, his sonn and first born out of Egypt? May we not looke from one end of the earth, yea & heavens too; to the other & not see it? And in what way the Lord hath done this for us, & what statutes and judgments he hath Caused us to keepe; which hath bin our wisdome & made us great in the sight of the nations; hath bin a thinge too publike and glorious to be Concealed or doubted of. By what shepheards the Lord hath led & fed us here, and what hath bin the integrity of their harts, and skillfulnesse of their hands: would be too wretched ingratitude if we should so soon, forgett; especially having so oft & lately sung the Lords praises for the same. That we have not so carried toward these as we ought, we know & desire to be humbled for. We know also that there is a dreadfull difference, betweene the service of the Lord under these, and other services, That we may not know this, as fooles Come to understand good & evill; is our humble Petition & request to your selves; who under God are the only means to save us therefrom: and whom we have trusted w[i]th all we have for this very end.

We humbly but most earnestly beseech you, that the same may be kept for us, & for the Lord. Nor do we herein aske any thinge more than the Lord allowes, & Commands us to doe. We would fear God, and honour the king: ~~And therefore~~ What ever royall grants of grace we have received, either from the Lord in heaven; or kings on earth; the accepting, holding fast, & maintaining of the same w[i]th due thankfulness; is the true magnifying of that grace: and to throw away or Cowardly to suffer our selves to be flattered, or frightened from it, is the despising and dishonoring thereof. The faster [tighter] we hold the grace of God, even when he seemes to be angry and thrust us away;

the more we honour & please him. The king of heaven, will give his poorest subject on earth leave, resolutely to Challenge his right in a Crumbe[?]; & not to let it goe for frowns or threats. And why should we thinke that just & gracious kings on Earth, will not do in like manner: We have Right from God & man to chuse our own Governors,

make and live under our own laws. Our liberty and priveledge herein, as men we prize and would hold as our lives; this makes us freemen and not slaves: Our privelege herein as Christians, in regard of the kingdome, name, glory of our God, is far more precious than our lives. Hereby we enjoy, & are not w[i]thout God in the world. And we must give an account

of our holding, and improving thereof; to the hazzard of much more than the worth of our lives. We would not live so accursed, as to live having betrayed our trust herein. [-]

We should then be ashamed to live, and afraide to dye; when now through the maintaining of the same, thro[ugh] the Lords grace, we are neither. Nor is it our own portion only, yt we trade w[i]th in this Case; but our childrens stocke also: even their advantages as men, & Christians to serve the Lord; & be accounted to him for a generation, forevermore. Can we bear, to thinke yt they should rise up; and Call us Cursed, for betraying them in their successive generations: and to publish the same, to to [sic] the ends of the earth.

Honor[e]d and Endeared in the Lord, you are our naile, we hope in a sure place. On you we hang our enjoyments, houses, lands, liberties, wives, children, lives, & all our sanctuary vessels. At your hands we looke for them againe, and the Lord will require them. True, what danger is you are in the forefront of it: but is it not the Lord that sett you there? And he yt gave Joshua so many charges, to be strong and very Couragious, knows what all his Joshuaes neede, & will w[i]thhold no good thinge, from them that walk uprightly. Your place is not worse than Davids valley of the shaddow of death; he yt was w[i]th him will be w[i]th you, & then no fear of ill. Nor is your help lesse then Jonathans, when the Lord wrought such deliverance for and by him. We w[i]th our prayers, and Endeavors, heads, and harts, and hands, and estates, and lives, will be w[i]th you; and subject to you. He can deliver if he will, if not we are not Carefull in this matter. We againe beseech you, Lett us give fear, honour, tribute, obedience, to the Lord, and the king: w[i]th all humility, Constancy, and willingnesse as tis due. And what is given us for ourselves, and for our God; lett us never bereave ourselves, nor rob him of We Crave pardon for the length and plainnesse of our speech, (w[hi]ch yet we hope hath not bin rude) our harts have bin, and are full of affection. We desire to leave this testimony of it, w[i]th yourselves, and to poure out the Remainder before the Lord; in our earnest & harty prayer, for his presence w[i]th, and blessing upon you & your Resolves; to your own Comfort, the Continuance and increase, of the prosperity of our Zion: & the advancement of the honor, of his most glorious name. And soe hoping in the Lord, we rest

Your humble Suppliants.

Henry Clarke	Phillip Smith	william webster	Phillip Russell
John Russell Junr	Richard Billing	Samuell moody	Nath[aniell] Stanly
will[iam] Goodwin	John [] Dickinson	Samuell Church	John dryt
samuell Smith	Sam[ue]ll S Gardiner senr	Samuell dickinson	Joseph warinor
Andrew Bacon	Robert Boltwod	John Allis	Samuell marsh
will[iam] westwood	John Hubberd	Benjemen waht	[] Samuell gardenner []
John Russell senr	Samuel porter	John westcarr	william [] [] pixly
Nathaniell Dickinson: sr	Thomas Dickinsone	Joseph allis	Jeames beebee
Peter Tilton:	Will[ia]m [] Gull	John Field	Henery Young []
Thomas mekinns senior	Nathanill Dickinson Junr	Samuel Allis	Obadiad Dickinson
Thomas Coleman	Thomas Welles	William Adams	Nehemiah Dickenson []
William Leawis	Edward Church	Natthaniel Foot	Hezechiah Dickenson []
Andrew: werner	Steven hopkins:	John Coulis	Azariah Dickenson []
John White sean [senior]	Steven [] Tailor	John chanmur	Isak woerner
william Allis	John graves	John [] pecke his marke	John Hawkes
Aron: Cooke	Samuell billing	[] Thomas mekinns	Timothy Nash
Steven Torry	william marcum	Samuell [] killegge his Marke	
Joseph kellog	danille warnare	John Walles	
Zachary feild	John Coleman	Samuell Partrigg	

Richard Goodman

Isack Graves

John [] Cole his mark

Rich [] ard Church his mark

William Partrigg

Joseph Bauldwin

John Smith

Elyazar Frary

Richard Mountague

Daniall White

Sam[ue]ll [] Beldin

Chileab Smith

John whit[e]

Thomas Partrigg

Francis Barnard:

Addam Nicholes

Noah Coleman

Joohn Ingram

(Massachusetts Archives 106.107)

Dedham Nonfreemen Petition, 3 May 1665

From Dedham

To the much Hon[o]red the Gov[erno]r D[e]pt Gov[erno]r Assistants
and Dep[u]t[ie]s assemb[le]d in Gen[eral] Court att Boston ye 3d May [16]65

The petition of us whose names are heerunto Subscribed, (being yet nonfreemen)
:most humbly Sheweth:

That whereas the gracious providence of our good God hath bene pleased, to lay out ye bounds of many of our habitations for us: that we may and (we hope)
shall say our portions are <falne> [fallen] amongst ye godly by whom wee are Incouraged to breath after God and Christ: Allthough not yet past our Noneage [youth] so as to
attaine

the fullnes of all mercies that itt doe please our God [full church membership and voting rights], heere to tender us the want whereof wee doe not. we cannot blame any for,
but our <own> selves: and desire to

be more quickened, up to waitt upon God, in the use of the meanes tendered [i.e., sermons], still to us in the holy Institutions of Jesus Christ acording to his owne
dispensations

And, wee further (as we acknowledg it to be our duty), from our harts, to blesse the Lord for that greatt blessing we Injoy under the shaddow of your wings in a Godly
righteous and peacable gover[n]m[en]t for which we Earnestly pray to him upon whose shoulders ye government is laid. that he would long preserve blesse and perfect

And whereas we heare it is reported that many in our stat[e] and relation are dissatisfied with and disaffected to this present government which
through an orderly long Establishment have bene so great a blessing to us and many others here: This being considered: we thought it our duty

to declare at this time that it is altogether un true in ye respect of us ye subscribers hereof: and whereas we are not with out fears: that some

not only: not well willers to our peace and privelidges. but Enimyres to ye cause of Jesus Christ now mannaged by your selves: whom we so love and

Honn[o]r; may possibly endeavour to make some disturbance in these our chiefest and dearest

enjoyments: we are afraid, least our Silence in this juncture of

time might lay us under ye curse pronounced against Meroz: Judg[es] 5. for not coming out to helpe ye Lord against ye mightie

The premises considered our Humble petition to your selves: and our Earnest prayers to ye Father of mercies is that you will be strong
onely be strong and very couragious. that neither for feare favour, threats or flatteryes: any ye least, part of our precious
liberties and privelidges civill or ecclesiasticall be enfrindged shaken or weakened. whereunto we have so undoubted and true right
in ye sight of God and good men: so fully and amply granted by Pattent and confeirmed to us that is to ye Governor and
Company of the Massachusets: and whereof we hope in Gods due tyme to be more fully Interested: and in this our request
we intreat we may be beleaved to be very realle and wherein (God asisting us by his grace) we purpose and
promise to be asisting to your selves to ye uttermost with our persons lives and estates when so ever need shall be:

And shall ever pray

John Richards
Thomas aldridg

John Hunting
Hezekiah Gay

Peter Woodward seni[o]r
John Pepper John Everid

John: farrington
Isaac Bullard

Samuel aldridg
Caleb Abell
Jonathan fuler
Rob[er]t Parker
James Allin
Nath French
Edward Cook
Thomas Payne

John kingbury
Eleazar Kingsbery
Michael Medcalfe
John Fuller
John payn
John ware
Nathaniel Chickering
Nathanell Gaye
Joseph Skelton
Jonathan Howard
Edward Scot
William Avery

Ezra Morsse
Samuell Everid
[Jo]hn Read
Robert Allin
Jasper Clarke
Edw: West
Michael. Willson
Samuel Gyles
Nathaniel Richards
Tobias Doble
Eleazer Gay
Quentin stockwell
Daniell Mackiah
Nathanael Colburne
John Colburne
John Man
Ephraim morse
Ephraim Clark
Henery Dering

Ralph Freman
Robert <Mason>
Elnathan dunkly
John <Mason>
James Curvery

James Thorpe
Edward hawes senior
Jonath fayerbank senior
John Eaton
Thomas Fisher
James Vayles
Nathanill Bullward
Nathaniell whiting
Joseph kingsbery
Samuuel Sheres
Samuell Huntting
John Lettelfeild
Nathanell Heaton
Thomas Clap
James Draper
John Ric

(Massachusetts Archives 106.110)

Boston Nonfreemen Petition, 4 May 1665

To the honoured Generall Court now Assembled and
Sitting [at] Boston in the Massachusetts Colony in New
England

The humble Petition of us whose names are underwritten being non
Freemen : Most humbly sheweth./.

That whereas it hath pleased Almighty God by his all wise Counsell to
fore appoint & by his Gracious providence whereby he Governeth & over
ruleth all things to grant unto us amongst many of his people our beings
habitations & estates in these remote ends of the Earth wherein wee have
lived some longer and some less time injoying precious liberties and priviledge
under a Pious & peaceable Governm[en]t which wee together with many others
have not so esteemed nor Prised [prized] as wee should, But since the solemne dispensacions
of God in his providences past & present seeme to threaten both Church & State
wherein God hath bin pleased heretofore to glad the hearts of his people with
prosperity & peace ourselves alsoe have had share therein and not knowing
how the hearts of such as stand in like relation with ourselves unto the present
Governm[en]t may stand affected, wee alsoe being doubtfull yt our sylence at such a
time as this might be a discouragem[en]t, unto mutuall proceeding of our honoured
Magistrates & Freemen [i.e., their representatives the Deputies]. And finally to remove suspition of unfaithfulnes
as well as for the honour & glory of God wee thought it our Duty most
humbly & freely to declare our reall contentment in & with the present
Government many of us haveing all our lives injoyed the same & <no> other and all
of us have great cause to bless God for the hapines wee have therein had above
other people else where both in Civill & Ecclesiast[ical] respects

Wee doe therefore declare hereby our humble and
hearty desire that the present Governm[en]t should
stand & bee maintained & that unanimously of all
if so it might please God, and that for our selves as wee
looke <at> our selves bound in duty, we shall as God shall inable us
be faithfully Assistant to your selves to ye utmost for the
honour of God & with all due respects & aleageance to our
Lord The King so farre as may concurre with the word of
God & the Patent Granted to our Anceist[o]rs by his Royall
Predecessors of happy memory & now wee hope Confirmed

by his Magisties owne approbation may bee our warrant
humbly Craveing yt all agreevances or differences <that> have
justly arisen to any persons by any deffect or deficiency in
Poynt of law may bee rectified & prevented for the future
Thus humbly Craveing your acceptance of our reall tender
& faithfull affection to your prosperity & peace & the long
Continuanc thereof, wee humbly Subscribe our selves
yours ever bound to pray

[Left margin:]

Joseph Belknape
Thomas Buttolph
Jonathan Shrimpton
Thomas Bligh
Thomas mattson
John Bull
John matson
Joseph Webb
David Saywell
George Manning
Seth perry
Thomas steaven
Thomas hull
Henry bird[?]
Joseph Davies
Abraham broune
Elisha Odlin
Richard R <his mark> Barnham
william Ballant[ine]
david Copp
Joseph Wheeller
Ambros Dawes
Moses Bradford
Lawrance Willes
Philip Wharton
William Morris
Thomas Clarke

Samuell Bucknall
Samuell Mason
his mark Joseph gidly
James [] hudson his mark
Nathanel harwood
James Penimane
Samuell Browne
Joseph Knight
John Cross his mark []
william Gibsone
John Claare
Edward Haward
Jacob Browne
Simon mesinger
John Drury
James Townsend
Sameuell Bridg
Samuel Rust his mark []
Samuell baker
John Mesenger []
John Morse
nathanell Keane
Thomas kingstun
William: Greenough:.
John how

Solomon Stoddard
Theo: Atkinson Junr
John Ratcliff
George May
Ralph Carter

[Right margin:]

Jonathan Getling[?]
John Grenlleaf
Tho[mas] Bolles:
Samuell Facklen:
John hill
matthew [] Hoos <hes mark>
Morgan Jones
Tho[mas] [] Irons his marke
Paul Batt
Mannest Becke. his mark
John [] Landone his mark
John Skeath
Joshua Hubbard
Thomas Jeffery
John marshall [] his marck
Richard Georg [] his mark
william day his marke
Larranc Walterrs
Peeter Woodhouse
Edmund Mountforte
John Moore:
Frannces maxewell
John Laurence
Jonathan Bragge
John <his mark> Daniell
johana Chamteyy[?]

Samuell East

Joseph williams

John Cotton:

Sammeull mers

Returne Wayte

Job Hawkiner

Thomas Stanbery

Peeter Townsind

Comfort Starr

Jeremiha Bumsted

Richard Brooke

William Smith

ye marck of [] John barkar

[page torn] Waler[?]

[111a]

william <[]> Toner his mark

John Tennle: Solomon <Raynssford>

John Pemberton

[] Sollomon Raynsford

(Massachusetts Archives 106.111-111a)

Samell Cllemment

Eleazer Fawre

Samuell ward

John wiswall Jnr

Will[iam] Read

Edward [] Budd his mark

benjamen phipon

George [] vickere <his mark>

Rich[ard] travis

Abraham Cheever

Richard greene