

Peter Kiteridge to the selectmen of the Town of Medfield

Signed by Ebenezer Clark and Paul Hither as witnesses.

Medfield, Massachusetts, 6 April 1806.

Gentlemen

I beg leave to state to you my necessitious circumstances, that through your intervention I may obtain that succour, which suffering humanity ever requires. Borne of African parents & as I apprehend in Boston, from whence while an infant I was removed to Rowley and from thence again to Andover into the family of Doct. Jhan Kiteridge, with whom, as was then the lot of my unfortunate race, I passed the best part of my life as a slave. [struck: At the age of twentyfive] in the year of our Lord 1775 or 6 & in the twentyfifth of my age I entered in to the service of the U.S. as a private soldier where I continued five years and where I contracted a complaint from which I have suffered in a greater or less degree ever since & with which I am now afflicted. After leaving the army to become a sailor for two years; when I quited the sea & resided for some time in Newtown, from whence I went to Natick where I remained for a short time and then removed to Dover where I [inserted: tarried] as a day labourer during the period of seven years. Eight years past I removed to the place where I now live, & have untill this time, by my labour, assisted by the kindness of the neighbouring inhabitants been enabled to support myself and family. At present having arrived [2] at the fifty eight year of my life and afflicted with severe and as I apprehend with incurable diseases whereby the labour of my hands is wholly cut off, and with it the only means of my support.— My family at this time consists of a wife and four children, three of whom are so young as to be unable to support them selves and the time of their mother [struck: has] is wholly occupied in taking cair of myself & our little ones – Thus gentlemen, in this my extremity I am induced to call on you for assistance; not in the character of an inhabitant of the town of Medfield, for I have no such claim, but as a stranger accidently fallen within your borders, one who has not the means of subsistence, & in fact, one, who must fail through want & disease unless sustained by the fostering hand of your care.

I am Gentlemen your mos obedient, most
humble servant.

Peter Kiteridge - his X mark

Attest: Ebenezer Clark

Paul Hither

Medfield 6 April 1806

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