

To his Excellency Elbridge Gerry Esq. Governor of the
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

We the subscribers proprietors, with others, of the land
called Gayhead humbly shew That we are accidentally told
that several [^]Petitions were lately pending in the General Court respecting
us, our land, property, liberty and privileges; of which petitions
we have not had proper notice We are also accidentally told
that your Excellency has been requested to appoint over us Guardians,
mostly, we apprehend, men whose Property would be enlarged if
we ~~were~~ [^]should be deprived of ours We are allarmed at these things and
constrained to mention, that neither the town of Chilmark which
lies contiguous and next adjoining Gayhead nor any other Corporate
body has given instructions to have private Petitions formed and
exhibited against us contrary to the true spirit of Republicanism

We have acted as proprietors nearly twenty years succefsively,
supported our own poor and schools and have not been chargeable to any
town

And during ten years last past we have acted as Republicans in
defending our landed property at a considerable expense, have built
a Meeting house and otherwise increased the value of our real property
not lefs than ten thousand Dollars We have a Clerk & [^]a Treasurer
of respectability There is no tribe or people of colour in the Common
wealth that live so well as we do.

We submit to your Excellency's own wisdom humbly praying
that you would interpose in our behalf and suspend the appointment
of Guardians until January next that we may have a Meeting
of all the Proprietors and choose some Gentleman of integrity to
acquaint both your Excellency and the General Court with our Circums-
tances We beg for Mercy and like Mordecai the Jew wait in
Sack cloth and with all pofsible respect are your Excellency's to Command
Gayhead July 13th, 1811

Abraham Cooper
jean Cooper
x Abigail Nevers hur mark
Johnson Peters
x Mary Cooper hur mark
Mary Peters

Alexander Brown
x Abigail Brown Her mark
x Jemiah garshom Her mark
Amos Jeffers -- -- -- --
Bethiah Jeffers
Joshua Johnson
Anna Johnson
X Sarah amos her mark
x Rebecca Dodge her mark

[folio 2:

x Betsy potpher
 Aaron Cooper
 Shehelaiah Howwoswee
 Samuel Johnson
 Thomas Cooper
 James Cooper
 Elesabeath Cooper
 Susana Cooper
 Bethiah Pocnet
 Rebekah Howwoswee
 esther Howwoswee
 William Potopher
 Abiah johnson
 potnee w Cole
 Hannah Divine
 Simon Johnson
 willam Johnson
 Peter Tolman
 Patence Wamsley
 x margret pond her mark
 Hepzibeth occooch {or Elizabeth?}
 Bulah occooch
 Beershabee occooch
 x mary ^{^the first}. Francies her mark
 x mary Garshom her mark
 Joshua Stevines
 Eshter Stevines
 Nathan Francis
 Desiah stoks
 Naomi Solburary

x Sarah hennary her mark
 John Cole ~~and wiffe~~
 x Abigail Rogers her mar[*torn*]

X Rachel Comes her mark
 Dorcas Rogers
 Paul Cuffee
 Hannah Cuffe
 J Jonathan Slocum
 Heburn Wamsfley
 Amy Wasmfley
 x pero petes
 x hannah peters her mark

John Divine
 Joel Rogers

I certify that there is a Meeting
 of the proprietors of Gayhead to be
 holden by adjournment on the
 first Monday of December 18th
 at which time a Number of the
 proprietors now absent will be at home
 Joel Rogers Moderator

His Excellency Governor Gerry
 Sir

I have collected of the people of Color propri-
 -etors of Gayhead who attend on my instructions in
 religion seven Dollars, and ^{^by their desire} have inclosed the
 same for your disposal towards relieving the
 fufferers by the late fire at Newbury Port
 Gayhead July 23 ~1811.

And am your fervant
 Thomas Jeffer Elder and Pastor
 of the Baptist Church at Gayhead

the seven dollars sent enclosed to Honble
 M^r Story of Salem

[verso:

Dukes County

GayHead
Petition from
a number of its
Inhabitants
regard to the new
appointment over
them of Guardians

13th July 1811

Indians

In Council 20 Aug 1811

read & referred to
Honble Mr Kinsly
&
Mr Fowler

Committee reported verbally
that this petition be filed
til the next Sesion of the
Legislature : 21st August 1811.

In Council 23d Jan^y 1812
Recommitted to the
Honble Mr Kinsley & Mr Fowler

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