

Edgartown, (Chappequiddick) Oct. 27. 1845.
To His Excellency, George N. Briggs.
Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,

Feeling that we are laboring under difficulties and grievances not intended or anticipated by law, and believing that the power to remedy those evils, in part if not wholly, is possessed by your Excellency, we have taken the liberty to address you on the subject; being fully persuaded that the interest you have always manifested in promoting the right and suppressing the wrong, will not be wanting in the present instance.

In the first place, we, the Indians, and people of colour on the island of Chapequiddick and at Christiantown, beg leave to state that our present Guardian, in our opinion, is the cause of the evils existing among us. Instead of benefitting us by his supervision, the course pursued by him has decidedly the opposite effect. He does things which he ought not to do, and leaves undone, that which should be done. It would be impracticable to specify particular instances in this communication; yet we are thoroughly convinced that he takes no interest in our welfare, and his holding the Office of Guardian is very detrimental to us. We would therefore respectfully request that your Excellency would remove him and appoint some better man in his stead.

Another thing to which we solicit the attention of your Excellency is the state of the division line fence between us and the white inhabitants. This fence, which was erected and maintained in good order under our former Guardian, is now so dilapidated and destroyed, that a great part of it is entirely useless. Furthermore, the coloured people who live adjoining this line, wish to run their division fences to said

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line, thereby, saving considerable expense and trouble in fencing. But to this our Guardian objects, although we believe not one of the coloured people, and but one of the white inhabitants is opposed to the measure. Why our guardian should object to a measure which would so evidently be for our advantage, we cannot tell; and we wish your Excellency would inform us whether we are authorized to extend our fences to this division line, as above stated.

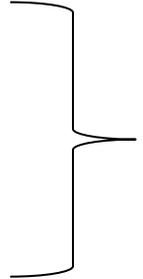
It being impossible to state with clearness in a letter, the difficulties under ~~under~~ which we labour, we should like to have your Excellency & the Hon. Council send a person among us, to whom we could more particularly state the condition of things existing at present to our great disadvantage and annoyance. And we do entreat that this last proposition may if practicable be complied with: for we are satisfied that the present state of things would not be suffered to continue, were it fully known to your Excellency. In case some one should be sent, we beseech that he may have no communication

with our present Guardian, but come directly to us, so
that we can make our own complaints in our own manner.

Very respectfully your Excellencys
obedient Serv^{ts}

Zadock Simpson
for and in behalf of
myself and
Isaiah Belain
Nelly Joseph
Fereby Harris
Peggy Peters
and others

Indians and
People of Colour
inhabitants of
the island of
Chappequiddick



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P.S. Should it please your Excellency to send
an answer to this, please direct to
Zadock Simpson. ~~Edgartown to the~~
~~care of Samuel Osborn Jr.~~, Edgartown.

[verso:

To His Excellency
George N. Briggs
Governor of the Commonwealth
of Massachusetts.
Boston.

Zadock Simpson & al
Chippiquidick Indians
Ref^d to. In Reid & M^r
Marston

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