

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of Massachusetts, in General Court assembled.

The undersigned, members of the Christiantown tribe of Indians and people of color, in Dukes County, would respectfully represent to your Honorable body, that by the gradual encroachments heretofore made by the surrounding whites upon their territory, they are deprived of a great portion of their wood and meadow lands. That by the curtailment of their meadows, their live stock has become reduced to twenty one "head" of cattle and one horse; the crop of hay (so reduced) being insufficient to sustain a great number. That a valuable fishery, heretofore enjoyed by them and their fathers, has been for many years past, enjoyed and improved by the surrounding whites, to their exclusion, and depriving them of a valuable means of support for themselves and their families.

Wherefore your petitioners pray your Hon. body to devise some meethod by which their ancient privileges may be restored to them.

And as in duty bound will will ever pray.

Christiantown
Jan^y. 12. 1861.

Charlotte M. Belain
Hepsybeth Peters,
Martha J Spencer,
Almyra Sanders
Judith James
Hannah. E. Homes
Adraner E Simpson
Doris. P. Casey
Hepszbeth Goodwrich

Samuel Mingo
Asa L Peters
William S James
Charles W James x
George E James
Joseph Ming
John Anthney
William Jeffers

[verso:

Ellen O Farnan

Petition of the Chris-
tiantown Indians,
January A.D. 1861

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