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### The Proceedings of the Free African Union Society and the African Benevolent Society: Newport, Rhode Island 1780-1824

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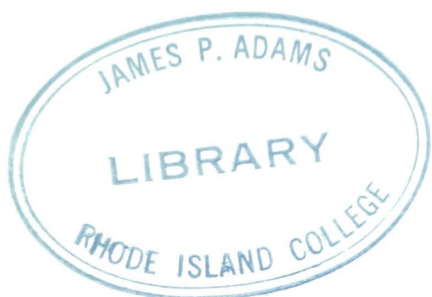
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**The Proceedings of  
The Free African Union Society  
and  
The African Benevolent Society  
Newport, Rhode Island 1780-1824**

**Edited with an Introduction by**

**William H. Robinson  
Director, Black Studies Program  
Rhode Island College**

**The Urban League of Rhode Island  
Providence, 1976**



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## Introduction

Known among the black community of Newport, Rhode Island for the almost 200 year life of their existence, the manuscripts of the Proceedings of the African Union Society, and the Proceedings of the African Benevolent Society have only recently been "discovered" and used by professional historians concerned with illuminating the colonial American experience, especially the colonial black American experience. Presented to the safekeeping of the Colored Union Congregational Church in 1844, where they remained until, that church dissolving in 1963, these proceedings were then handed over to the Newport Historical Society, where they have been housed ever since.

These manuscripts are easily among the most valuable documents of early black Rhode Island life known, for, among other things, they constitute an extremely rare, first-hand account of a wide range of early black Rhode Island concerns, as determined and viewed by the blacks themselves; these papers document serious attempts by such blacks to explore the possibilities for finding and sustaining a place of dignity and respect for themselves, their kin and posterity in a land that often sought to deny them equal human value and status. These proceedings are valuable, also, as they supply a long-needed, authentic notation of colonial blacks whose image would challenge the stereotyped image of the early black as childlike, dependent, undeveloped. Such a notion of the colonial black has been long fostered by repeated tellings of the colonial practice of 'Lecture Day activities.

From mid 18th century through early 19th century throughout almost all New England colonies and states, there was held annually a ritual called 'Lecture Day, which was the local blacks' version of election day for fellow blacks into offices of "Governor," "Judge," "Sheriff," and other "magistrates." This mock political exercise usually followed the time when general elections were held. In Massachusetts, slaves were allowed such a celebration from the last Wednesday in May to the close of that week; Connecticut permitted its 'Lecture Day to be held on the Saturday following its own elections. In Rhode Island this day was the third Saturday in June. Seen by many amused white people as so much therapeutic entertainment, 'Lecture Day featured favored slaves dressed in pomaded wigs, their masters' cast off finery, and riding in their masters' polished carriages. After a reception, the election of "officers," the announcements of winners, an inaugural ball usually followed. Thus came into being Negro "Governors" John Anderson of Connecticut in 1776, and John Potter, "Governor" of Rhode Island in 1800. At the inaugural ball, however, matters too often got out of hand, and brawling fights ended the matter. Indeed, one 19th century black man remembered, autobiographically, that it was because of just such rowdy aftermaths that Rhode Island 'Lecture Days were phased out by the blacks themselves. Slave masters and other authorities soon agreed that these celebrations were becoming too violent and caused them to end.

As long as they were held, there were quite sound and practical reasons why New England whites permitted and even encouraged these 'Lecture Day ceremonies, for by so permitting and encouraging these mock Negro governments, which induced blacks to inform on and punish and generally regulate their potentially dangerous fellows, whites thereby accommodated the frustrations of the more aggressive blacks and tended to make the naive slaves believe that they had status and power, even while they remained in bondage.

But these ceremonies also served, inadvertently, as a sort of political education class

whereby the more serious blacks could learn rudiments of parliamentary and political processes, which might be drawn upon for their own purposes, whenever time and place permitted. It was from participation in such 'Lecture Day' proceedings (and also from their work with legislative officials and church leaders) that free blacks in Newport assembled expertise enough to structure themselves into a self help organization, but an organization having ends far more earnest than the trivial make-believe elections. Free, but feeling despised and powerless, undergoing daily the trauma of being ignored by the mainstream as much as possible, suspecting that they were God-ordained to live out lives of wretched meniality, these Newport blacks nevertheless recognized the need to establish the Free African Union Society as early as 1780 in order to improve their own lot as best they could, to conduct the business pertinent thereto among themselves, which they did for over sixty years. In writing down their organizational proceedings, their correspondence, their proclamations, these enterprising blacks left behind them a precious record of their on-going aspirations, their failures, their triumphs. This record is in the form of two sets of manuscripts.

Ordinarily, proceedings of most organizations make for crushingly dull readings, but these proceedings are, for the most part, different. These proceedings are social documentation, valuable accounts of how they regarded themselves as human beings, "strangers in a strange land," of their prospects of becoming meaningful citizens of this country, of how best to contend with racist obstacles placed almost everywhere. These proceedings are unique in that they actually document the critical transition, of these black from self-proclaimed "Africans in America" to "coloured Americans." Peripherally, we learn also some of the thinking of contemporary blacks in other colonies, for the Newport Society was in correspondence with their fellows in Providence, Boston and Philadelphia.

One set of these manuscripts is bound in a ledger whose spine bears the dates 1772-1824, but the enclosed papers date from 1787 through 1797, displaying batches of letters, addresses, proclamations, but mostly the minutes, the proceedings of over one hundred annual, quarterly, monthly and special meetings held by the Free African Union Society. The spine of the second ledger shows the dates 1790-1796, but extant manuscripts date from 1807-1824, concerned almost exclusively with the pioneering efforts of the African Benevolent Society of Newport to educate the black children of that town. This second ledger notes the proceedings of only some fifty meetings.

Together, the two ledgers' manuscripts reveal an interesting array of issues thought to be most important to these colonials - the matter of emigration to Africa; the belief in black-directed and black-supported education for their young; lending organizational dignity to funeral processions of their fellows; assisting beleaguered members with loans of money; planning for the religious health of themselves and their descendants. Also, and distinguishing these papers from those of most other organizations, there are here delineations of human poignancy, emergences of personalities, clashes of group rivalries, as between the Providence and Newport groups over which should assume rightful leadership in planning emigration to Africa. One member feels abused and rejected, and quits the Society in undisguised petulance; the widow of another Society member, failing to receive any financial benefits from the Society upon her husband's death, angrily berates the group into having to disband itself; solicited, the African Female Benevolent Society feels it must appoint a three-woman committee to carry their donation of \$10.00 to the all male Benevolent Society.

While ledger no. 1 does not contain specific information about the exact date of the organization's beginning, it is known from other sources that the Free African Union Society was created in the home of Abraham Casey on Levin Street, in Newport, on November 10, 1780. With the Philadelphia blacks organizing their Free African Society on April 12, 1787, and the Boston blacks starting a similar group in 1796, the free African Union Society of Newport is the earliest such group in the United States.

Early on in the proceedings of the Union Society in ledger no. 1, we learn of their organizational structure and planned schedule of meetings. In an informational letter to Providence, dated October 15, 1789, the Newport group points out that their structure involved 1 President, 1 Vice President, 1 Judge, 1 Secretary, 1 Treasurer, 12 committee members, with other members merely members. From a roster of names of members as of August 2, 1792, we learn that "The Members of the African Union Society are to meet once in 3 months, viz, on the second Thursday Evening of February, May, August & November yearly. The Committee is to meet the first Thursday Evening in each month, if fair weather, if not otherwise. The Yearly or Annual Meetings are held the 2nd Thursday Evening in Aug. to choose officers for the year ensuing. Each member to contribute." This 12 man committee facilitated matters, conducting business on behalf of the entire membership which, at one early time, numbered as many as 70 persons; there were not many blacks owning homes or property large enough to accommodate such a large number at successive meetings.

Although the Society could boast of a one-time membership of 70 men, this number, for various reasons, soon dwindled as the problem of attendance soon loomed; some members simply resigned; others attended irregularly and paid dues even more irregularly; other members may have felt the Society was ineffectual. Yielding to such unforeseen - certainly unplanned for exigencies - this 12-man committee was compromisingly reduced to a 6-man committee, but even then there were continued attendance problems. To offset the financial impact of such negligence, the Society created a Pall and Bier Union Society, complete with its own officers, to bring in needed money by renting out a pall whenever necessary. The Society also resorted to purchasing lottery tickets. In a more vigorous effort to assure timely and regular attendance, the Society's authorities imposed fines of one shilling and six pence. At other times, a Sheriff or a special committee was appointed to collect delinquent dues, but proceedings of successive meetings wearily include lists and lists of these members in arrears. At the March 4, 1790 meeting, for instance, twenty-two members were delinquent to the collective amount of £ 5.12.5. Increasingly severer penalties were threatened and there were threats that a continuously non-attending, non-paying member would forfeit his accumulated deposits and "only his wife or other heirs, his children, may inherit all his rights after his death." At the annual meeting, August 4, 1791, so few members showed up that nominations of officers for the ensuing year could not democratically be made. Two years later, May, 1793, delinquency and attendance were so poor that the president ordered the membership to be polled to determine who wished to remain members and who did not; those wishing to remain members were to become financially current immediately, otherwise they were invited to quit the Society and forfeit accumulated privileges and monies. By August of 1793, it was reckoned that from April, 1789 to May, 1793, there had accrued a discouraging total of \$12.00 and five shillings, lawful money delinquent to the Society's Treasury. Members who had borrowed from the Treasury found repayment difficult, or they became downright indifferent and even hostile towards repayment. It was then resolved that delinquent members would be looked upon thereafter as unfriendly to the Society, and they

would be "set aside," and in February 13, 1794, four members were indeed "set aside."

Not surprisingly, the patterns of attendance and dues-paying had their direct affect on specific members. Caesar Lyndon, highly literate, one time lover, former purchasing agent and secretary for Josiah Lyndon, Governor of Rhode Island, understood that his salary as scribe and secretary for the Union Society was to be twelve shillings a year, and indeed this is so recorded in the proceedings. However, attendance falling off to what it did, and subsequently the Treasury becoming as reduced as it did, his salary was stopped by order of the Society. Used to a relatively comfortable life - back in 1766 he and seven friends spent over £33. for a single afternoon's picnic - Lyndon was now old and ill and reduced to near poverty - an extant letter of his dated August 10, 1793 (just months before he would die, January 23, 1794) asks Mr. Jacob Richardson for two dollars' worth of a share in a lottery ticket - and he found the Society's dealings with his salary too much. He resigned, writing a sarcastic letter to his former colleagues, but the Society only added insult to injury by receiving and reacting to his letter unfavorably, concluding in their reply to his letter, " ... But this we hope - there is no more such a member in this society."

The Society's problems with Lyndon spell out the realities of its difficulties. It meant admirably well and a few of them struggled almost heroically against all kinds of odds to persevere, but the very life of the organization was premised on the conviction that members not only could but would contribute their nine pence and other dues regularly. When economic obstacles and/or group indifference and apathy reared their ugly heads, the Society's grand designs were mauled almost out of recognition. Indeed it would be such financial deficiency (and personal vindictiveness) that would cause the Society to dissolve itself. Dinah Sisson, widow of Neptune Sisson, a Society member newly deceased, chose to quarrel with the group's reckoning of her late husband's financial history with the group, and she continued her berating of the members until one of them moved to break up the society and begin it anew," the reason he gave was that the members were getting a bad name from the widow." The motion carried, and on-hand monies were proportionately distributed to the remaining twenty-eight members, in 1794. Reorganized shortly after under the same name, constitution, by-laws and regulations, the new African Union Society soon learned that the widow had dealt a lastingly powerful blow to their group.

As with the old African Union Society, the same problems of inattendance and sporadic dues payment again plagued this membership. At the first meeting of the new Union Society "the major part being absent, there was nothing done this evening"; at the third meeting, February 11, 1796, "nothing peticully (sic) came before the Society this time..." Only a handful of members appeared at meetings. The recorded proceedings become routinely simple acknowledgements of there having been a meeting, that officers for the ensuing year were voted in, and there are repeated notations of solicitations of or thanks to some local white minister willing to preach the annual charity sermon before the Society. The last extant recorded date in this set of the manuscripts is of a June 8, 1797 meeting, but it is known that, somehow, with the determined efforts of a small group of them, the Society endured, struggling on for quite a few more years, to change their name in 1802 to the African Humane Society, to vote in March, 1807, to merge with the newly created African Benevolent Society, and to surrender their Treasury's assets to this new group that wished to underwrite the newly established Free African School.

Another ostensibly important aim of the African Union Society was to record the births,

marriages and deaths of all "Africans on the island community." Taking a piece of advice listed in an address to all free blacks in America made by Theodore Foster, (United States Senator from Rhode Island), at a January 6, 1796 convention of the deputies of all Abolition societies in America, convened at Philadelphia, The African Union Society purchased three ledger books for just such purposes in vital statistics. In fact, the title page of ledger no. 1 reads **The/Records,/ For Births./ Purchased by the Members/ of the/ African Union Society,/ In Newport Rhode Island/ For the Benefit of Free Africans/ and Other Free People of Color/ Within the same, and Adjoining Towns/ Who Shall Come and Bring the List:/ One Half the Feeds (sic., fees?) For Recording (illegible word) Union Society & Other For Recording/ December Twelve MDCCLXXXVI.** But for reasons unknown, there was not much done in the way of recordings of births, marriages or deaths. The closest tallying of births is a listing of the names and birthdates of Limas and Newport Gardner's thirteen children, seven boys and six girls, born between 1778 and 1800. There is a listing also of the names and birthdates of the seven children of Hannah and Charles Chaloner, Senior; and of the first son of Jurusha and Charles Chaloner, Junior. The nearest thing to a tally of membership deaths is found in the April 28, 1789 roster of members' names, where death dates of various members have been superimposed against various names.

Sought by fellow members in refereeing or adjudicating members' disputes over personal holdings and real estate claims, the Union Society was fully aware that it was officially powerless; still, leaving no recorded doubt about the Society's collective loathing of the slave trade and its rapacious personnel, the group realized it could - and it did - indict especially all black participants in that system, denying them any hope of membership into the Free African Union Society of Newport. Wherever else they could assert racial consciousness to their benefit, they did, as in keeping the enthusiastic (and perhaps badly misunderstood) William Thornton at arms' length while politely listening to him espouse his plans for settling American blacks in Africa. Also there was insistence that in the funeral procession for a deceased fellow member, members of the Society should "dress themselves and appear decent on all occasions that so they may be useful to all and every such burying...that all the Spectators may not have it in their Power to cast such Game contempt, as in times past."

This concern for racial pride would be carried from the times of the Union Society to the times of the African Benevolent Society, originated January 7, 1808, for the exclusive purpose of establishing and maintaining a charity school, the African Free School, located "at the southwest corner of Division and Mary Streets..." It was in this building that the Reverend Marmaduke Brown, a rector of Trinity Church, conducted classes for thirty black children (fifteen of each sex) from 1763 until his death in 1771. In the March 29, 1773 and March 14, 1774 issues of the **Newport Mercury**, Mrs. Mary Brett (1713-1799), a member of Trinity Church, and a long time hater of slavery, advertised to teach black children, but did not succeed in opening the school until 1785, from which time until her death she continued classes, with expenses coming mostly from her own pocket-book. The school remained closed until March 10, 1808, when it was again reopened by the African Benevolent Society, and irregularly sustained by them until 1842, when the City of Newport assumed responsibility for educating, finally, local black children.

When the African Free School opened its doors in 1808, however, it would be the first time in educational history of the United States that a school would be under the supervision, administration and, at first, the funding of a predominantly black organization, the

**African Benevolent Society.** This group's concern with racial predominance is clear from their stipulated composition of their chosen Board of Directors. The 8th article of the Society's constitution read "The Directors shall consist of seven coloured persons and four whites..." and article 10 mandates that "Seven of the Directors shall be the least number to transact business, and of the seven two shall be white; also no vote shall be carried by the Directors without the concurrence of a majority of the coloured and at least two of the white Directors." Again the membership asserted its racial preference in 1811 when they voted against the Directors' recommendation for a white instructor for the school, and voted, instead, for a black instructor.

The Society would soon discover, however, that concern with black predominance in administrative matters of the school would not be their greatest problem. As with the old African Union Society, so, annoyingly, again, with the new group the vexations of spasmodic attendance and delinquent payments plagued the progress of the Society and the Board of Directors. Things began in a flush of hopefulness when the school opened with a faculty of two men, Newport Gardner, who taught forty-nine students from March through September, 1808; and Arthur Flagg, Junior, who taught thirty-three evening students from October, 1808 through March, 1809; and Mary Davis (who may have been a white woman), who taught nineteen girls and boys from April, 1809 through October of the same year. Members of the Society were so righteously proud at hearing the very first annual Directors' sanguine report that they voted to double their dues, on the spot. Subscription papers were written up; pledges were made. But shortly there are notices of irregular attendance, and dues payment. Pledgers defaulted on their pledges. In January, 1809, members delightedly decided to double their dues, thus vowing to pay one dollar instead of fifty cents per year; this matter was to be resolved at a July meeting, but at the July meeting, "there being but five members present, and the shortness of the evening prevented much business being done. The collection that was made was \$6.89. The Society then adjourn'd." In 1810, Newport Gardner motions to amend the constitution requirement that two thirds of the members shall be the least number to conduct business, because at several meetings this number failed to attend. He recommended the number of eleven members, and it was accepted, but by 1813 this number would be lowered to five. In 1814 the Directors report their regret at not being able to open the school last year because of lack of funds from the Society's efforts. In reply, the Society confesses its embarrassment, especially since this humiliation was brought about by their fellow blacks, but the Society is nevertheless determined to continue.

And, despite even more frustrations - parents of their students even began sending their children to other schools - they did continue. Charged with writing annual reports on the condition of the Charity School, the Directors wrote expansive, genial, hopeful reports in the first years, but, reflecting the precarious life of the school thereafter, reports become gradually smaller and smaller in length until some of them are only a single paragraph long. It will be noted that there are more than half the years covered by these manuscripts that have no copies of Directors' reports at all. Instead of copying all of the reports, the Society took to the device of merely acknowledging receipt of annual reports - but they continued to function.

One of the problems with the African Benevolent Society was that several of the more responsible members were veterans of the old African Union Society, and now were quite old; in fact, several of them would die within the first several years of the Society's beginning. Proceedings contain only the barest of details, and not even then are all details

copied. Much is simply omitted: a member is chosen to write a few lines to the Female Benevolent Society, but nowhere are these lines copied; in another year the Society voted "to correspondence with the African Union Society in Providence," but this "correspondence" was not copied; several meetings to be held by adjournment are scheduled but are not copied. For the years 1815, 1817-1820 there are only a single entry of proceedings. The proceedings thus are routine entries, noting that there had been a meeting, officers for the ensuing year were chosen, a minister for preaching the annual Charity sermon was thanked or solicited, and the Directors' reports were read, and taxes (i.e., dues) were, hopefully, paid. Still the Society carried on long after the last dated entry in this set of manuscripts, August 10, 1824, because, for all of the various omissions from these proceedings, there remained intact - as is so recorded at every annual meeting - the officers of the Society and the black and white members of the Board of Directors. With the strength of men such as these, the organization persevered until 1842, when the city of Newport assumed the burdens of educating all of the town's children. It must be remembered, however, that Newport authorities opened and maintained racially segregated schools - usually rented private homes of willing school mistresses - for black children, and went on doing so, even after 1844, when the African Benevolent Society, considering its task of educating black children now assured, voted to disband itself and gave its papers to the Colored Union Congregational Church for safekeeping. It would not be until the likes of George T. Downing, wealthy black caterer moved to Newport from New York and reacted to the rejection of his daughter from a white school, and joined ranks with the unremitting efforts of Isaac Rice, secretary of the African Benevolent Society, and the powerful Thomas Wentworth Higginson that racially segregated schools in Newport were successfully challenged. Finally, by 1866, the city's schools were opened to all of its children.

Unquestionably valuable as the manuscripts are, there are considerable problems involved in reading, understanding and editing them. Taken down by the hands of successive copyists, these papers display successive difficulties in handwriting, grammar, spelling and punctuation. Too, there are many pages missing from these ledgers; for instance, from ledger no. 1, there are at least some thirty-two various pages missing, while from ledger no. 2 there seem to be eight pages missing. Some pages have no pagination indication at all, while other pages have inconsistent and careless indications, e.g., there are two pages marked "77," and one page reads "p. 177, 178, 179, 180, 181." Both letters and proceedings entries are sometimes recorded out of regular chronological sequence. There are 12 letters grouped at the beginning of ledger no. 1, but other letters are scattered throughout the rest of the volume. Even when these problems do not obtain, an overly zealous concern for exactitude and precision - or an indulgence for rhetoric - often render some of the writings unintentionally obscure and amusing.

There has been an editorial attempt to reproduce as much of the original manuscripts - problems and all - as possible, but, in the name of coherence and understanding, there necessarily were changes made. Letters and proceeding entries were arranged into separate chronological orders; missing words or phrases were placed with a question mark inside of brackets; illegible words were so noted by enclosing the word "illegible" in parentheses. There has also been a good deal of silent corrections throughout.

I wish to thank Rhode Island College for a Faculty Research Grant, which helped to finance the reproduction of these records; and I want to thank Captain Theodore E.

**Waterbury, Executive Director of the Newport Historical Society for his personal assistance and for his permission to use these papers; as always, I wish to thank my wife, Doris Carol.**

**William H. Robinson  
February 28, 1976  
Providence, R. I.**

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1787

(1)

Sir, our earnest desire of returning to Affrica and settling there has induced us further to trouble you with these lines, in order to convey to your mind a more particular and full idea of our proposal, agreeable to the Articles heretofore agreed upon by the Union Society, with a view to prosecute the affair, viz: That a number of Men from among Ourselves shall be sent to Affrica to see if they can obtain, by gifts or purchase of some Kings, or chief people, Lands proper & sufficient to settle upon. And if such Land can be obtained, and we may have a proper and good title to it, Then some of these Men who were sent shall return and bring information; and the company that shall then go shall go without their wives and children to make preparation for their families, unless any of the families shall choose to go with the Men.

This plan is agreeable to us, but as we are unable to prosecute it to effect for want of Money, this is the only reason for our troubling our Superiors, by petitioning for their assistance. And since God who knows the wants of the poor has been pleased to raise up for us many friends and benefactors to assist us in this affair, to procure Lands for us, & etc.

We want to know by what right or tenor we shall possess said Lands, when we settle upon them, for we should think it not safe, and unwise for us to go and settle on Lands in Affrica unless the right and fee of the Land is first firmly, and in proper form, made over to us, and to our Heirs or Children.

Your h'ble Serv't, Anthony Taylor  
in the Name of Union Society

Newport, Jan'y 24  
A.D., 1787

---

It is clear from references in letters 1 and 2 that the African Union Society was organized and had corresponded before the date of January 24, 1787. William Thornton (1761-1827) was born on Tortola, Virgin Island of a slave-holding family and became a friend to George Washington and was Superintendent of the U.S. Patent Offices from 1802 until his death. He long nourished notions of becoming a great leader of mankind, especially black mankind. See Gailliard Hunt, "William Thornton and Negro Colonization," **Proceedings of The American Antiquarian Society** (April 14, 1921), Vol. 30, New Series, part 1., (Worcester, Mass., 1920), pp. 33-61. Proceedings from the Society's beginnings on November 10, 1780 to the above date seem to be missing, but see Charles A. Battle, **Negroes on the Island of Rhode Island** (Providence, 1932) and Welcome A. Greene, **The Providence Plantations** (Providence, 1886), both of whom worked with these missing records.

(2)

My Friends,

There are many benevolent People in this, as well as in other Parts who are interested in your Prosperity; and I doubt not will endeavour to promote your Happiness - and that others might feel more particularly the Oppressed state of your Countrymen, I ventured to address to the Heart the inclosed Paper - <sup>1</sup>it has appeared in the **Herald** of this Place, and if any should hereafter be induced by it to favour such measures as will tend to advance your Rights, this little Effort will be well repaid. The Day of Light begins to dawn, and I trust that the Mercy of Heaven will, in a signal manner, shew itself in freeing from Bondage many whose cries have long pierced the Hearts of the humane.

Let me recommend to you to call continually upon the Father of Mercies for his assistance, who never fails to direct into the Path of true Wisdom those who wait his Time.

I thank you for the letters you addressed to me sometime ago.<sup>2</sup> I imagine you have been acquainted with my having conveyed your Sentiments to the Committee on African Affairs in London, whose answer on your account I now wait, and which I mean immediately on receipt to transmit.

It gave me much pleasure to be witness of the Respect that the Young men paid to the Elder in the Meeting which I attended. It is a becoming Respect which redounds to the honor of both, and I hope that Reason will still continue to point out the propriety of a strict adherence to the Dictates of Experience.

I am now taking leave of Newport, and have only to add that in a little Time hence I hope I shall be permitted, by Divine Providence, to assist you in the Plans for your temporal advantages, and shall earnestly pray for your future Happiness.

Your sincere Friend & well-wisher  
Wm. Thornton

Newport, March 6, 1787

To the  
Elders and Members of the Union Society  
Newport, Rhode Island

---

<sup>1</sup> This "inclosed Paper" was not copied.

<sup>2</sup> These letters were not copied.

(3)

Boston, June 1 in the year 1787

Dear Brethren,

We received your Letter by the Hands of Mr. Thornton<sup>1</sup> and we have conversed with the Gentleman on the subject, and we find him, we think, a friend to the Blacks, and to the Case [sic., cause?] we are now upon. We hartily agree with you in sending surcular Letters to our free Blacks to [in?] all the States, as it will Strengthen our Number. We are

sensible that the many Sufferings and Afflictions we suffer here on Earth are justly brought upon us is for the Sins of us and our Four Fathers, but let us put our trust in a Righteous God, Our sure Remedy is to make him our friend, that is, by complying and by confession and turning from our sins to him, through Jesus Christ. Thus Heaven made him our friend, of whom shall we be afraid, for in him is Everlasting strength. We hope God will dispose us all to seek his face by prayer and Supplication at all times and without Ceasing, for the Blessings we stand in need of, both Temporal & Spiritual. We must ask of him who is able to do all. We have presented our Petition to the General Court and is Excepted.<sup>2</sup> And they will grant us all we Require of them if we find a place to settle in. We hope we shall be on sure footing. We do not approve of Mr. Thornton's going to settle a place for us; we think it would be better if we could charter a Vessel, and send some of our own Blacks - We agree to keep the second Tuesday in July as a Day of Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer. We have been attended with inconveniences or we would have given you an answer before, but we hope we shall not delay so next Opportunity We are your affectionate friends and Brethren.

Samuel Stevens

June 1, in the year 1787

To Anthony Tiler (sic., i.e. Taylor) of Newport

By the favour of a friend

---

<sup>1</sup> This letter was not copied.

<sup>2</sup> But see Floyd J. Miller, **The Search for a Black Nationality** (University of Illinois Press, Chicago, 1975), p. 12, where he points out that these Boston Blacks were erroneously assuming that the General Court had approved their petition.

(4)

Newport, Oct'r. 4th, 1787

Dear Brethren,

We thank you for your kind and very acceptable Letter of the 1st of June last, which has been laid before our Union Society. We have much the same Opinion of Mr. Thornton which you Express. We think he ought to be treated with respect, and to be encouraged in his honest Zeal to promote the welfare of the Affricans, while we behave with caution, and are on our guard against being imposed upon in the very important affair which we have in view. We hope this exertion may be some way servicable to promote this design and the God will yet raise up other who shall assist us to effect our proposed plan. We are waiting and longing to hear what has been the issue and success of the attempt made in England to make a settlement of Blacks in Affrica, hoping this will open the way for us. We rejoice to hear of the encouragement given by the General Court in Boston State to assist in making a settlement in Affrica. We like your plan of chartering a Vessel & and desirous to join with you in it, but our poverty renders us unable to do much. We hope God will raise up friends and benefactors.

We highly approve of your religious sentiments expressed in your letter: there is a particular and loud call to us to repent and reform and devote ourselves to Jesus Christ; and to seek GOD by fasting and prayer, and wait upon him for help & deliverance. If we do

this, we shall have reason to hope and trust that he will appear for us in his own way and time - With much respect, we are your affectionate friends & brethren -

Anthony Taylor, in the name of Union Society  
& S+N (Salmar Nubia?)<sup>1</sup> Secretary  
in AD, 1787

To Mr. Samuel Stevens by him & to African Company at Boston

<sup>1</sup> Salmar Nubia (1756?-1826) is the African Name for "Jack Mason," who like several other African born American slaves and ex-slaves spoke his native dialect all of his life. Free from the age of 20, this one-time Preston, Connecticut resident eventually sailed with Newport Gardner and a few other Rhode Island Blacks to Liberia, where, shortly after arriving, he died.

## 1788

[No copies of correspondence made for this year.]

(5)

## 1789

[There follows an early draft of a proclamation, omitted here, which was revised into letter No. 6, below.]

(6)

To all the Affricans in Providence

Affectionate Brethren,

We the members of the Union Society in Newport, takeing into consideration the calamitous state into which we are brought by the righteous hand of GOD, being strangers and outcasts in a strange land, attended with many disadvantages and evils, with respect to living, which are like to continue on us and on our children while we and they live in this Country; and they yet more wretched state of many hundreds of thousands of our brethren who are in abject slavery in the West Indies and the American states, many of whom are treated in the most inhumane cruel manner and are sunk down in ignorance, stupidity and vice; and considering the unhappy state and circumstances of our brethren, the Nations in Affrica, from who we spring, being in heathenish darkness and sunk down in barbarity, and are and have been for many years, many of them, so foolish and wicked as to sell one another into slavery, by which means many millions have either lost their lives or been transported to a Land of Slavery. And GOD has been pleased of late to raise up many to compassionate and befriend the Affricans, not only in promoting their freedom and using means for their instruction, but by proposing and endeavouring to effect their return to their own country and the settlement there, where theym may be more happy than they can be here, and promote the best good of our brethren in that country - we takeing all this into view, thinking there is a loud call to us to form ourselves into a particular Society to be known by the name of the Union Society, to meet once in every three months to consider what can be done for our good and the good of all Affricans, and [in?] the meantime we still wait on the Lord, and are ready to do all the good we can, whether we are called to go there, or stay here.

Therefore our sincere desire is that you would join us in this Society so that we all may promote one common good. - We have agreed upon certain regulations to be maintained in the Society, which you may see, and if you should fully comply and join us, you shall have part of the Officers at Providence.

We should also inform you the the Prox (?) of this Society will be on the 1st Thursday in August, at evening, being the 6th of the said month against the second Thursday, being the thirteenth, wich is the Annual Meeting. If you should join us, we shall be glad if you will send the number of the men by your Deligade, to be chosen. We remain your friends and brethren in affliction,

By the order of the Society

Anthony Taylor, the P[resident]  
Salmar Nubia, S[ecretary]

Newport, July 27, 1789

Mr. Cato [Gardner] and London Spear  
At Providence

(7)

Dear Brethren,

Our earnest desire for to promote the welfare of our brethren, the Affricans, And the Nations in Affrica induces us at this time for to present to you these lines, in order to convey to you this epistle which was inclosed in your - (illegible) And we hope that you would assemble your brethren together there and lay before them this important affair. We trust also that you would forward this important plan in the best manner, as the highest wisdom shall direct you, and that you would do - your endeavour for to urge or write our brethren in the necessity of our uniting together as one Man's family. And that by the assistance of the most merciful GOD, we may be able to prosecute this grand design for the welfare of our Oppressed brethren, And the best interest of our poor, suffering nations in Affrica. N.B. We should inform you that the Annual Meeting of the Union Society will be on the second Thursday in August, which we should be very glad to have the Answer concerning of the matter before the Annual Meeting aforesaid, if possible.

We remain your friends and brethren in Affliction,

Newport, July the 28th, A.D., 1789

Mr. Cato [Gardner] and London Spear  
Providence

(8)

Honored Gentlemen,

We Received your kind letter, which was wrote June 28, and with great pleasur and gladness to hear that there is a Body of men which wish well to themselves and other

Brethren. We have called [a?] meeting last Evening and layed before them [the?] epistle which was inclosed to us, and as the evening being stormey, the matter did not go on, as we shall have Occassion to inform you hereafter: but as we know that your Meeting will be on Thursday evening, we think proper to send you a few lines to inform you the matter is like to take place, and we shall do our Endeavours to carry matters as far as lay in our power; therefore as Occassion offer, we shall send down to you every Opportunity we shall have. So no more at present, but we hope as we have put our hand to the plough, let us not look back, May the God bless us in so doing. Amen.

We are your loving brother [in?] afflictions,

Cato Gardner & London Spear

Providence, Aug. 4, 1789

To Anthony Taylor in Newport

(9)

Providence, Aug. 5th, 1789

Dear Brethren,

We are happy to inform you that we received your Letter directed to Mr. Cato Gardner and Mr. London Spear, in which you inclosed your Grand Proposals. They have exerted their Facultys and assembled our brethren together and laid before them your important Letter, and it is with pleasure we can inform you of the great satisfaction that it gave them in thinking that there is some of our own brethren that has taken that matter into Consideration, and therefore in order to compleat our happiness, we would be happy if you would, by the first Opportunity, send up your Regulations and every Particular of your Proposals, as we are only waiting to see them for the satisfaction of all our brethren in Providence. We assembled together twice on that occassion and this present Evening agreed upon the above Resolution.

Dear brethren, we are, with esteem, your afflicated Brethren,

Bristol Yamma <sup>1</sup>

James McKenzie <sup>2</sup>

To our Affrican Brethren in Newport

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<sup>1</sup> Under the aegis of the Rev. Ezra Stiles (1727-1795), Congregationalist minister in Newport, R. I., later president of Yale University, Bristol Yamma (1753?-1793) and another hand-picked intelligent Black, John Quamino (1753?-1779) were sent from Newport to study for a year at Princeton University (1774-1775) in preparation for missionary work in Africa. The Revolutionary War frustrated their continued education and neither graduated or went to Africa. Quamino, born on the Gold Coast (Ghana), was given, at age 10, by his father to a slave ship captain to be educated in America. The captain shortly sold Quamino into slavery; the slave came to Rhode Island in 1773. Philip Quaque (1741-1816), the first African born priest ordained in the Church of England,

[On his way to Boston to meet with black leaders there, Henry Stewart, a member of the Free African Society of Philadelphia, visited the African Union Society of Newport, staying long enough to secure the following recommendation.]

(10)

These are to certify that the bearer, Mr. Henry Stewart, one of the members of the Freeholders, African Society, established in the City of Philadelphia for the benefit of the sick of said society, and other commendable purposes, has been with us a traveler, and has behaved himself as a truly worthy member, and as such we recommend him to all our friends, more particularly to the African Company now in the town of Boston.

Anthony Taylor, President  
Kingston Pease, Vice President  
of the Union Society in Newport

Newport, August 22<sup>d</sup>, 1789

(11)

Newport, Aug. 24, 1789

Dear Brethren,

Inclosed are the Regulations and Rules we are pursuing; [we?] should therefore be glad [if?] you would assemble yourselves & lay them before the meeting for their perusal - Particularly please shew them [to] Messrs. Cato Gardner & London Spears for theirs & others of our brethren's approbations.

We should be glad [if] you would Appoint & choose such Officers as you shall judge necessary & required for the present undertaking, in the Administration of Justice and Exercise of Government in such meetings as may be called among yourselves to put into Executive such Methods, Rules, Orders and Directions - and not being contrary or repugnant to the Laws & Statutes of the State of Rhode Island - and [we?] do beseech and enjoin you to pursue such Methods as may appear to you necessary & requisite for the

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knew Quamino's African family and, in several letters to Abolitionist Rev. Samuel Hopkins of Newport, communicated their concern for his return, but Quamino was killed in action, aboard a privateer in August, 1779. Bristol Yamma fell into ill health and retired to North Carolina, where he died.

<sup>2</sup> James McKenzie, acting as a one-man advance party, did sail to Sierra Leone on behalf of other Rhode Island emigration-minded blacks, in a ship contracted by the business firm of Brown, Benson and Ives, which was initiating commercial trade with West Africa. After arriving in Freetown, Sierra Leone in February, 1796, McKenzie encountered unsurmountable difficulties with authorities, one of whom, the Rev. Samuel Hopkins back in Newport, refused to endorse McKenzie's Providence would-be settlers. See Floyd J. Miller, pp.15-18

benefit of the afflicted Brethren in almost every part of the Globe.

May God bless you in the present situation of Affairs - You are to contribute and lodge the moneys with some good Officer's custody untill a future day for further consideration.

We are your brethren in Affliction, but your heart well-wishers.

Caesar Lyndon, Secr't.

By order of our President,  
Anthony Taylor, Esquire, in behalf  
of the Members of the Union Society

To Messrs. Bristol Yamma & James McKenzie

Recorded Aug. 31, 1789

(12)

Newport, Aug. 24, 1789

Dear Brethren,

Your letter of the 4th August instant is received by us and it gives us much pleasure and satisfaction, especially finding the earnestness that seems to prevail with you - You say as you have put your hands to the plough, you must not look back, or words of like meaning - May the All sufficient & wise GOD be your supporter & carry you through every difficulty that shall or may interpose your Resolution on your present Proposals. We have caused the Rules & Regulations to be copied out and inclosed to Messrs. Yamma and McKenzie and have requested them to lay it before you for your immediate perusal - We have concluded that it will be best for you to Nominate and appoint all your own Officers, & gather what Money you judge necessary among yourselves untill further Consideration. We are your brethren in affliction, but your hearty well wishers.

Caesar Lyndon, Secr'y

By order of our President,  
Anthony Taylor, Esquire, in  
behalf of the Union Society (& approved by all the members present in a meeting)

Messrs Cato Gardner & London Spear

Recorded Aug. 31, 1789

(13)

Mr. Anthony Taylor, President  
Mr. Kingston Pease, Vice Pres.  
Mr. Prince Amy  
Mr. Zingo Stevens  
Mr. Salmar Nubia  
Mr. Thomas Ferguson

} These Black Gentlemen are at present  
Freeholders and Members of the African  
Union Society, chosen at our Annual  
Meeting, the 13th of Aug., 1789, in New-  
port, Rhode Island

Mr. James Dyre  
Mr. Bacchus Overing  
Mr. William Henshaw  
Mr. Bacchus Coggeshall  
Mrs. Rebecca Folger

} Freeholders and not belonging to the  
African Union Society

Newport, Sep. 1, 1789

Gentlemen,

The above & foregoing Persons are all the Freeholders of Blacks belonging to the Town of Newport, as also their capacitys. Mr. Henry Stewart having paid us a visit on his way for Boston, with your certificate, it appears to us that he is well deserving of the Recommendation you were pleased to send respecting him. - We pray & beseech Almighty God, the great Disposer of all things, to bless and prosper you in all things here & hereafter. I remain, Gentlemen,

Your most ob't Serv't,

Lymas Kieth, One of the Committee & Member  
of the Union Society at Newport, of the Union Society at Newport, Rhode Island

To Messrs. William White  
Absalom Jones  
Caesar Thomas  
Caesar Wethington  
Peter Miller  
Moses Johnston  
Mark Stevenson

Committees of the Free African Society  
at Philadelphia

By order of Anthony Taylor, Esq'r, President  
Caesar Lyndon, Secretary

Dera friend & brethren,

We, the Members of the Union Society now in the Town of Newport, being forty in Number, consisting of free Africans, having lately had the pleasure of being informed of your Society in Philadelphia for the good purposes therein mentioned, by one of your Members, Mr. Henry Stewart, who comes recommended by your committee;

We, taking into consideration the calamitous state into which we are brought by the righteous hand of GOD, being strangers & outcasts in a strange land, attended with many disadvantages and evils, with respect to living, which are like to continue on us and on our children, while we and they live in this country, and the yet more wretched state of many hundreds of thousands of our brethren, who are in the most abject slavery, in the West Indies, and in the American States, many of whom are treated in the most inhumane and cruel manner, and are sunk down in ignorance, stupidity and vice, and considering the unhappy state and circumstances of our brethren, the nations in Africa, from whom we sprang, being in heathenish darkness & barbarity, and are, and have been for many years, many of them, so foolish and wicked as to sell one another into Slavery, by which means many Millions have either lost their lives, or been transported to a Land of Slavery; and whereas GOD has been pleased of late to raise up many to compassionate and befriend the African, not only in promoting their freedom, and using Means for their instruction, but by proposing and endeavouring to effect their return to their own country and their settlement there, where they may be more happy than they can be here, and promote the best good of our brethren in that country; We taking all this into view, think there is a special and loud call to us, and all the Blacks in America, to seek GOD by extraordinary fasting and prayer, and do therefore request all who are disposed to join in fasting and prayer to Almighty GOD by meeting together for that purpose - more privately or in public, as shall be most convenient, on the first Tuesday in July, and on the first Day of every year, humbly to confess the sins of our fathers, and our own sins; and to acknowledge the righteousness of GOD in bring all these evils on us and on our children & brethren And earnestly to cry to GOD for the pardon of our sins, and that he would, of his great mercy, deliver us and our brethren and the nations in Africa from the sins and miseries in which we and they are now involved; and pour down his holy spirit upon us and cause us and them to become a wise, virtuous and Christian People; And that he would, in his wise and good providence, open a safe and prosperous way for our returning to Africa, and direct, assist and prosper all our friends (two lines are illegible) ... raise up friends and benefactors in this land who shall be willing and able to promote this important affair; And that GOD would, in his great mercy, succeed them and us in all endeavours for this end; That the Father of mercies would bless all the nation who enjoy the Gospel and cause them to conduct, agreeable to it, by doing to all men as they would that others should do unto them; That the Gospel may soon be preached to all the Nations in Africa, and the light of it be spread over all the World.

This letter was dated Sep't 1, 1789 (that is to say, the Copy) directed to Mr. Henry Stewart at Philadelphia to the care of Mr. William Allen in New York, to be forwarded as soon as possible.

(14)

Boston, Sep. 16, 1789

Dear Brethren of the African Society,

These lines come to acquaint you that we have your recommended brother, Mr. Henry Stewart, and am happy to hear that you have such a society built on so laudable a foundation. May God prosper you in this and all your undertakings for the good of your African brethren. I shall be always happy in hearing of your welfare. We here are not idle, but are

doing what we can to promote the interest and good of our dear brethren that stand in so much need at such a time as this.

We shall be glad therefore to hear of your proceedings, by letters of correspondence with us.

Your brother Stewart will inform you by word of mouth of some proposals we made to him, which I do not care to write at this time.

No more at present, but remain,

Your loving brother,  
Farewell,  
Prince Hall <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Prince Hall: Barbadoes born in 1748 of an English father and a free Black mother, Hall migrated to Boston in 1765, where, becoming an ordained Methodist minister, he led a lifetime of valuable Black leadership against Boston racism in his preachings, lectures, writings of protest tracts. He is best known today for having brought into being the first Black fraternal order of Masons, the African Lodge Number 459 (later Number 370), 1787 which is today a flourishing institution boasting thousands of members throughout Black America. He died in 1807.

[Despite repeated indications from Newport that the Providence blacks should form their own autonomous Union Society (see letters 11, 12), Providenc blacks clearly misunderstood and proceeded to form an organization which they felt, deferentially, should be a "subordinate part" of the Union Society in Newport.]

(15)

Providence, Sep. 22d, 1789

Dear Brethren,

We are happy to inform you of our Recieving your kind letter in which was inclosed your wise and well proposed Regulations, and agreeable to your Request, we assembled our brethren together and laid your Rules and Regulations before them in order to have there Opinions on the Urgent Ocassion, and according to our wisdom, we have un-animously agreed to forward these our proceedings Together with our Amendments and propositions.

And, dear Brethren, we have established ourselves in the name of the Union Society, to be a sibordinate part of the Society, as the officers that we have chosen are all inferior to your Officers in Newport, and, of coarse, we must be subordinate [to?] your part of the Society in Newport. The officers that we have made choice of are as following: A Vice President, Moderator, Six Representatives, and one Treasurer and a Deputy Secretary and a Sheriff to convene the Members at every Quarterly Meeting and Annual Meeting. And whereas, Brethren, we would wish for you to observe this Rule, that if any of our Members that belongs to Providence should by chance be in want of any sum of money and the our Treasury should not be sufficiently stored so as to supply his or our Neces-sary want, and we should make Application that they, or any of the Members so needful,

shall have Resource to the Treasury in Newport for Relief of such Members, and the same Rule is to be observed and maintained in Providence by our part of the Society for the Reliefe of any member in Newport that should happen to come within the line of such Necessitys - And, Dear Brethren, these are our Amendments and Addition of Laws to be observ'd and Maintained in this Society, that in the Absence of any of the Officers, the Officer next in Command shall act pro Tempore, and that the Treasurer shall give a sufficient Bond or Security in Land for his faithful performance of his Trust, and that there shall be [no?] Members admitted into this Society without paying two shillings Lawfull Money into the Treasury and at every Quarterly Meeting 1/6, and after the Treasury have been established Three Year, No Members shall be admitted without paying Eighteen Shillings Lawful Silver Money into said Society. And that any Members that or any one that should make application for Admition shall give Notis of such, his intention, Three Months before his Admitance, and shall be Examined by the Committee, and by the Aprobation of Two Thirds of the Committee, and by the Aprobation of Two Thirds of the Committee, the Candidate shall be Admitted. So therefore, Brethren, to avoid prolixity, we will conclude by Resting with an Expectation of a compliance to Our proposals, and an Answer as soon as posible will be happily Receiv'd. By your Brethren in Affliction.

By Order of the Society  
Cato Coggeshall, Esquire

James McKenzie, Sec'ry  
Messrs London Spears  
Bristol Olney  
Cudgo Brown  
Representative Cato Mumford  
William Stober  
Philix (sic) i.e. Felix Holbrook<sup>1</sup>

To Anthony Taylor, Esquire  
President  
President Cato Coggeshall, Esquire  
Moderator Bristol Yamma  
Treasurer Bonner Brown  
Secretary James McKenzie

Anthony Taylor Esquire, State of Rhode Island

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<sup>1</sup> Felix Holbrook was a veteran of the Revolutionary War, having served with the famous "1st Black Rhode Island Regiment" most notably in the Battle of Rhode Island at Butt's Hill, Portsmouth, Rhode Island, August 28, 1778. He is listed as being "37 years old, 5 ft 4 inches tall, a labourer, born in Boston, now living in Providence. A Negro enlisted at Providence." See Roster Book of Colonel Christopher Greene in Rhode Island Historical Society.

(16)

Newport, Octo. 15th, 1789

Dear Brethren,

Your letter of 22d Sep. last has been laid before the Committee of the African Union Society. They approve of the Request you was pleased to make respecting our Assistance in case any one, being a Member and belonging to Providence, should be under



By order of our President  
Anthony Taylor, Esquire

Lyman Kieth by consent & in  
behalf of the Committee.

Caesar Lyndon, Secretary

The hon'ble Cato Coggeshall, Esq'r  
President

The hon'ble Cato Coggeshall Esq'r in Providence

This Letter at a special meeting held on the Sixteenth Hov'r, 1789, was read and then, by consent of the Major part of the Members then present, order'd to be delivered to Mr. Bristol Yamma, then present at the said Metting, to be laid before the Members of the African Society or Union Society in Providence.

(17) [Undated reply from Newport to Prince Hall's letter (no. 14)  
dated September 16, 1789.]

Dear Brethren,

We read your epistle by the hand of Henry Stewart, one of our members who visited you. It afforded us matter of satisfaction to find that you are united with us in laboring in the same vineyard, we seriously hope to the honor of God and the benefit of mankind.

May you steadily continue in this labour, for the harvest is truly great, but the sincere and disinterested laborers are few. Notwithstanding, let none be discouraged, however low their station among men may be - for we find in holy writ that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong; but that one who has on the shield of faith shall chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight. Here is encouragement for us of the African race. The scriptures declare that God is no respecter of persons.

We beseech you therefore in much brotherly love to lay aside all superfluity of naughtiness, especially gaming and feasting, a shameful practice that we as a people are particularly guilty of. While we are feasting and dancing, many of our complexion are starving under cruel bondage, and it is practice of ours that enables our enemies to declare that we are not fit for freedom - and at the same time this imprudent conduct stops the mouths of our real friends who would ardently plead our cause. Let us therefore, dear brethren, learn to be wise by fearing the Lord, and shew that we have a good understanding by forsaking our foolish practices.

Now unto Him who is able to keep us from falling, and present us faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God, our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

Read and approved at our monthly meeting, and signed by the committee and clerk, on behalf of the same.

[Although free Northern blacks faced a common lot, by rejecting the invitation extended by Newport blacks (letter no. 13) to join them in planning emigration to Africa for free blacks in America, Philadelphia blacks early document the range of opinions held by various blacks through the country.]

(18)

[Undated]

Respected Friends,

We read your epistle from Newport, dated the first of the 9 mo., called Sep'r, 1789, which claimed our serious attention and are apprehensive that a lively and religious correspondence would be conducive to our religious improvement. With regard to the emigration, you mention, to Africa, we have at present but little to communicate on that head, apprehending every pious man is a good citizen of the whole world; therefore let us, as with the heart of one man, continue daily in fasting from sin and iniquity, and the corrupt conversation of the world, that the Lord thereby may be pleased to break every yoke and let the oppressed go free; and as it is a certain prophecy that swords shall be beat into plow shears, and spears into pruning hooks, that nations shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. A happy day this will be to us of the African race, and mankind in general; then captivity shall cease, and buying and selling mankind have an end; then shall we have a well-grounded hope that the knowledge of the Lord will cover the earth, as the waters cover the Sea. Now we have to behold with humble admiration, (that this prophecy is fulfilling daily for us. O that we may be sensible of so great a favour) seeing the Lord is raising up many to promote this peaceable Kingdom, with no other weapons than that of giving glory to God; and breathing peace and good will towards men. Persons who are sacrificing their own ease, time and property for us, the stranger and the fatherless, in this Wilderness, these persons declare in the expressive language of conduct that they are followers of him who taught his disciples to do unto all men as we would they would do unto us; how be it, if any apprehend a divine injunction is laid upon them to undertake such a long and perilous journey in order to promote piety and virtue, we hope such may meet encouragement is the sincere desire of a remnant, and that the Arm of divine protection may continually hover over them.

Cyrus Bustill

William White

Henry Stevens Joseph Williams

Abrahm Ingles

Cato Freeman

Peter Miller

The Committee of the free African  
SocietyJoseph Clark, Clerk  
The Union Society

[In William Thornton's letter to the Reverend Samuel Hopkins, dated September 29, 1790 (letter no. 23), he notes that he enclosed copies of letters he "wrote to England and France." These letters are dated November 7, [1789?] and addressed to "Monsieur Claviere, President de la Societe des Amis des Noirs" in Paris (letter no. 19); another is dated November 13, 1789 and is addressed to Thomas Clarkson, the London Abolitionist (letter no. 20); another is also dated November 13, 1789 and is addressed to the leading English colonizationist, Granville Sharpe (letter no. 21). The letter to Paris is extremely and tediously long, almost unctuous in its solicitation of French assistance in Thornton's paternalistic plans to help New England blacks emigrate to Africa. Copied into the

proceedings of the African Union Society, it is not printed here. The letter to Sharpe, also copied into the proceedings, is a repetition of the sentiments and details which are found in the letter to Thomas Clarkson, thus only one of these London letters - the one to Clarkson - is printed, below, placed here in the name of chronological consistency.]

(20)

Respected Friend,

Though I have not the honour of they acquaintance, I have received such satisfaction from they Labours that I cannot any longer deny myself the pleasure of thanking thee with the most cordial sincerity. No Person was ever better engaged than thou art, and no one I think has laboured more faithfully, nor with greater success. I am exceedingly happy that none of the difficulties, which have arisen and which might have overwhelmed even an expanded mind, have had the power of affecting thine. There is something in the cause of virtue that makes Man rise even above himself when he becomes her advocate. The World must admire thy perserverance in this Noble Cause, and justice will grant thee a Laurel, which will not fade while Liberty is the enjoyment of Man. Continue thy, endeavours and there is no doubt but they will be crowned with Success. - I am happy when I reflect on the influence of the friends of the abolition of slavery. Their cause is supported by reason and the Laws of Nature; the arguments of the Opposition rest upon the Narrow basis of supposed colonial convenience, or individual interest. The colonies, however, will not suffer by the abolition of the Slave Trade, and a whole Nation ought not to sanction the grossest violation of the Laws of God for the benefit of even Royalty, much less for the Emolument of a few despicable Traders. The insult to the common sense and humanity of the Nation is so gross that future ages will be astonished at the attempt of the Slave Traders to impose their pleas of right, and will brand the Names of these Men who support them with Judas - but with what pleasure will they read thy Name with Granville Sharpe, Wilberforce, &c. I am delighted to hear thou art an advocate of for the Settlement in Africa. It will doubtless be more productive of good in the Cause of the Blacks than any other Plan whatever. Thy benevolent Friend, Granville Sharpe, has exhibited great Exertion in that affair, and unequalled generosity for which he will receive the Overflowings of unaffected Gratitude by a People whose sensibility misery has been incapable of extinguishing. I am sorry the English have not yet abolished the Trade, as it would leave no obstacles to the immediate prosecution of the Settlement. However, I do not conceive that the Settlement would be much affected by its continuance, as they would be, according to their particular desire, supplied with all that can be necessary for their self defence.

I have written a Letter to the French Society in answer to a very polite one, which I received from the President, by order of the Society. My dear & worthy Friend, Dr. Lett-som, will shew thee a Copy of mine, in which I have urged the immediate Settlement of Africa; and I have written to Mons. Bristort de Warville on the same Subject. I must request thee, as one of the most able Friends of humanity, to extend thy views particularly to that point. The Blacks of this Country are numerous, and the Slave Trade, with all its consequences on the Coast, would die. - The Slaves of the West Indies would be **better treated than beasts** & would thereby increase prodigiously; at present they are not **so well treated** and therefore decrease. The Whites say they cannot work in the torrid Zone - what business have they, then, in a Region intended for Indians and Blacks alone? I con-

tend that the Nations of Europe would have been benefitted if the grounds in the West Indies had never been possessed by Slave holders. The Sugar & other provisions would have been as cheap as in Cochin(?), China. - Nothing but a Narrowness of Soul, a mean & ill-judged Policy ever dictated the Idea dependent of Colonies to any Nation. How much more would Mankind, of whom a Nation is but a family. I have been benefitted had there been a common intercourse with each other & had the enormous expenses of Fleets, Armies & burdensome sinecures to rapacious Tyrants, been unknown. I sincerely hope that if a settlement be affected in Africa, it is not under any pretense, whatever, to be made a dependent colony, nor subject to the Monopoly of any Nation. The Blacks of this Country cannot be expected to form a Colony for any European Power. They would not do it for even the benefit of this Government & what Logician can offer them reasonable inducement? Nature never appointed the Ant to rule over the Bee and sip its honey. - I was informed by my good friend, John Pemberton, who lately arrived here from London, that thou hadst given some Queries to James Thornton relative to the Blacks in this Country. I have not yet had the pleasure of seeing him since his arrival, but if I can render any Satisfaction, I shall not fail, and beg thee hereafter to command my services. I am, with the greatest respect, thy sincere Friend, Will'm Thornton.

Copy/ to Thomas Clarkson, Esq'r  
Philadelph'a, 13th of 11 mo., 1789

(22) Newport, Nov'r. 19, 1789

These are to Certify that the bearer hereof, Kingston Pease, Esq'r, is one of the Principal Members of the African Union Society, and held the office of Vice President thereof, whilst he resided in said Newport amongst the free Africans, for the use & benefit of the Sick of said Society, and other good purposes, and that he has behaved himself as a good, faithful member of this said Society, and as such, we recommend To all our Friends abroad.

Anthony Taylor's mark X	}	Committee
Pompey X    Scott's mark		
Lymas Kieth		
Zingo Stevens		
Charles Chaloner		

(23)

Respected Friend,

I am very sorry that I have never as yet been favoured with any Answer to my letter to thee of the 19th of the 11 mo., 1789, accompanied with four copies of the Temporary Regulations for the Settlement near Sierra Leona, written by the humane and benevolent Granville Sharp, Esquire, and which I sincerely wish may have been received. I cannot say I approve altogether of the Plan, for though it contains many excellent observations, it is otherwise very complex and difficult to execute. The Land is also too difficulty acquired by the Settlers, - I think the ground ought to be divided in equal Lots, and one given to each Settler, on his becoming Subject to the Laws & Regulations of the Community - which he must be bound with Life and property to support and the Land or property taxed

according to the exigencies of the Community, but by the voice of the Representatives of the People who should be elected by their free and uncorrupted Suffrage. As the community should increase, more Land could be purchased of the surrounding Kings and every child of a certain age made a proprietor of an equal tract, thus every Person would have ample justice and there could be no Distinction except what would be derived from virtue and superior abilities. All Religions should be tolerated and have equal Rights. All men should be equally free. Every man should be supplied with Arms, not only to defend himself but the community, and also to procure game. Public Lectures in Arts and Sciences ought to be delivered at the Public Expense. No Person should be tried but by a Jury, nor condemned but by the violated Laws, which should be read publicly at stated times, as the Community thought proper to enact them. Thus would the People prosper and be happy - I have been engaged in many studies for their Advancement, and am daily making preparations for their future benefit. The reduction of Language to the Eye, in the most philosophical and easy manner, has lately engaged very much my attention - which they may be taught to read their own Language perfectly in a few weeks, and when I return to the West Indies, I mean to collect all the Information in my power, respecting the cultivation of the Production of Africa, and the uses to which they may be applied, as well as to endeavour [to?] make a vocabulary of the Languages by which the Blacks of Sierra Leona may have intercourse with the Surrounding Nations. I shall endeavour also [to?] give them some knowledge of the most necessary and useful of the Arts, and such of the Sciences as would be immediately of Consequence to a New Settlement - and I am confident that knowledge would advance itself with greatest rapidity among these people than in any other Country - their minds being hitherto untaught would be found free from false prejudices, and unbiased by erroneous principles. I have enclosed the Copies of some letters, which I wrote to England and France, Answers to which are probably in the West Indies, as my Friends imagine me there. Thou wilt see. I there plead in behalf of the injured Blacks, and urge their independence of any power whatever. If the English and French should co-operate in prosecuting the proposed plan of the former, provided the Blacks be independent, I would gladly tender any Services in my Power; if they do not intend to render the Blacks independent, but mean to colonize them, it is still a species of Slavery, for it would shackle their Trade and consequently their Wills to try.

I would do everything in my Power to frustrate such a plan. If they intend to do nothing but permit Virtue, liberty & happiness to be smother'd under the Bed of Oppression, as perserverance in the cause of Treason, be tied by the strong Hands of Opposition I am resolved to stand forward myself and take a few chosen virtuous and resolute Blacks at our own Expense, if I can procure no assistance, and let the goodness of my Intention pleade the cause of my safety among a People to whom I should be a stranger - Without Courage & perserverance, as well as virtue, nothing can be affected and if we remember the small beginnings of flourishing Nations, we have great Inducements to awaken our Zeal. I shall take it as a particular favour if thou wilt be so kind as to forward the enclosed copies to the Blacks of Providence, to be sent thence to Boston to Prince Hall & his friends, after having been perused by the Blacks of Rhode Island who are members of the Union Society; and if it be agreeable, this Letter may also be sent along with the rest. I am agreeable, this Letter may also be sent along with the rest. I am going in a few weeks for Tortola. If I should be favoured with any Letters from my dear Friends, or any of the Blacks, please to direct to the care of Mr. Stockton at Mrs. House's, Market & Fifth Streets, Philadelphia. If you have any opportunities to Tortola, they may be directed immediately thither. I beg to be kindly remembered to Anthony Tylor (sic., i.e. Taylor) Solyman and the other Members of the Union Society of Rhode Island; to the Blacks also

of Providence, and to Prince Hall and the Blacks of Massachusetts, to whom, and to thyself, I wish present and eternal Happiness.

I am, thy dear & worthy Friend, thine most sincerely,

William Thornton

Philadelphia

29th of the 9th mo, 1790

Rev'd Samuel Hopkins

1790

(24)

[December 1, 1790]

Dear Sir,

In the Evening of the 11th November last past, being a Quarterly Meeting, it was ordered and agreed upon That there should be two Tickets purchased with some Money out of the Treasury belonging to the African Union Society, the Black People - which Tickets were purchased soon after, their Numbers being 17, 219 & 17, 249. If they should be lucky enough to draw a Prize or Prizes, one third part & the amount of purchase money [is?] to be lodged in the Treasury, and the remaining two thirds parts shared or distributed among all the Members that shall pay & discharge all that may be due as their Proportions (i.e., yearly and quarterly dues). If you design or [are] desirous to continue as a Member, pray be expeditious & send your proportionable parts of moneys due, agreeable to what is mentioned herewith, on or before the next Quarterly Meeting, which will commence the second Thursday of February, Anno Dom., 1790. If you do not send your parts of the Moneys due, you are not to be benefited by any part of Prize or Prizes which may be drawn in the Lottery, of which you will peruse the scheme thereof herewith sent you. I am empower'd in behalf of all the Members, My Compliments to you & your best friends and remain, Dear Sir, your most obed't h'ble serv't, Lymas Kieth in behalf of all the Members of the African Union Society, the Blacks in Newport. P.S. Your Proportions runs as follows:

1789	April 28	
Kingston Pease Esq'r paid	.....	0.1.6
August 6	.....	0.0.9
Nov. 12	.....	0.0.9
Feb'y 11, 1790	.....	0.0.9
May 13	.....	0.0.9
Aug. 12	.....	0.0.9
Nov. 11	.....	0.0.9

N.B. There are 3/9 lawful Money in silver due and unpaid.

To Kingston Pease, Esqu're, New York

(25)

Newport, Rhode Island, Dec'r 1st, 1790

Dear Cato Slocum,<sup>1</sup>

Sir, By an Agreement of the Members here in Newport, There are two Tickets purchased, their Numbers are 17, 219 & 17, 249, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Semi Annual State Lottery, of some Money taken out of the African Union Society, the Black People's Treasury; if any Prize or Prizes are drawn, One third part & purchase monies [are?] to be lodged in the Treasury, and the other two thirds parts to be shared among the members equally, [but only?] to those who pays their Proportionable parts into said Treasury before the drawing of said Lottery - If you are desirous to be continued a Member, be so good as to send us what may be due as your Proportion, agreeable to underwritten List, as soon as you can Conveniently, and an answer to this Letter. I am acting in behalf of the Members. My compliments to you & Friends, I remain, Sir,

Your most obed't h'ble Serv't

Lymas Kieth in behalf of Members  
African Union Society

Nov. 12, 1789

Mr. Cato Slocum's Proportionable part to pay:

	0.0.9
Feb'y 11, 1790 .....	0.0.9
May 13th .....	0.0.9
Aug. 12th .....	0.0.9
Nov. 11th .....	0.0.9
	<hr/> 0.3.9

<sup>1</sup> Slocum was living in Providence.

(26)

Newport, Rhode Island, Dec'r 1, 1790

To the Members of the African  
Union Society in Providence

Gentlemen,

Sometime ago, I wrote you expressing the sentiments of our African Union Society, established here in Newport, among the Blacks, setting forth the Manner & form of our Proceedings the Present Year - beseeching you to overlook all Errors, which might be committed among us, and to correspond in future with each other in love and Friendship, and in Expectation you would have wrote us an Answer before this time - Pray be so kind as to inform us of your proceedings, with your answer to the other Letter as well as this - I wish you all the happiness here and hereafter & remain, Gentlemen

Your heart well-wisher & h'ble Serv't,  
Lymas Kieth, in behalf of the African Union Society

Cato Coggeshall, Esquire & other Member of the African Union Society in Providence.

(27)

New York, Decem. 21, 1790

Mr. Lymas Kieth

Dear Sir,

Your favour of the 1st instant came duly to hand. & I note its contents. It will be perfectly agreeable to me to join the Society in the purchase of the Tickets, & I now forward, by Mr. Geo. Johnston, my proportion of expences, as by statement you forwarded me - 3/9 lawful Money. I shall always feel happy in being considered a Member of the African Union Society & shall freely contribute my proportion towards the support of it. This leaves my family all well, both my wife & children recovered very well of the small pox, after a short confinement. Please to give my best compliments to all the Members of the Society & all enquiring friends, & believe me, with much esteem, Your friend & h'ble Serv't,

Kingston Pease.

Lymas Kieth, Esq'r, to be communicated to the members of the African Society, Newport

(28)

1791

My dear Friends,

I wrote some months ago to our dear and worthy friend, the Reverend Mr. Hopkins, inclosing for his inspection copies of letters sent to Europe on your behalf, which I desired might be forwarded to you and your brethren of Boston. Soon after I wrote those letters I left America, and am at present with my Parents in Tortola. I am daily labouring in your cause, and hope the Father of all good will permit me to be an instrument of Service in promoting the happiness of his afflicted children, than which I desire nothing more heartily in this World. I am learning the Language of the Blacks of Sierra Leone, and am studying a Code of Laws for the regulation of the Settlers that will accompany me thither, which shall be submitted to your Consideration and which I hope will met with your Approbation. I constantly urge your being perfectly independent of every other Nation, and possessing your Lands for ever, Subject only to the Taxes which you as a People may deem proper for the support of your Government and Schools & with a perfect toleration of Religion, and a Free Trade with all the World. You cannot fail, I think, of becoming the most happy, instead of the most miserable, the freest instead of the most cruelly oppressed People. I have written much in your favour, and am confident that my writings will not be in vain. I have become, since I saw you, a Married Man, but neither the most amiable and affectionate of Wives, nor the love of Parents, nor the earnest intreaties of Friends, nor my profession, nor my small possessions, though amply sufficient, have any effect in staying my Soul in any part of the World except Africa, the finest and most fertile, and I hope by the smiles of a benevolent Deity, it will soon become one of the happiest portions of this Globe. I have lately purchased a few cannon, & I have a prospect of being supplied with some of the finest [quality?], but we shall be furnished more amply I hope with all kinds of Arms and everything necessary by the [General Assembly?] of Massachusetts, whose generosity I often think of [Next four lines have key words obliterated, making sentences impossible to understand.]. . . but I trust that Providence will open many hearts in your Favour before that time, and I wish you particularly to know whether the

State of Massachusetts continues still to promise their assistance in the ample manner they once gave you reason to expect. I beg you also to communicate to me everything worthy of my attention on the Subject of your intended departure from America, and whatever you may wish from me, I shall be happy to execute. I have already engaged an officer of distinction who has signalized himself in Bath and he is writing a book on Tactics for the Africans, which will be superior to any other yet published. He will dedicate his life to you, and like me will leave all the World for your sakes. He lives with me now and has one of the best of hearts. Please to communicate this to your different Meetings, and let me know of our dear [illegible] beloved Friends to Humanity, and to the distressed still living & well. I have, hoping this to be the (illegible) cause directed to his care and wish him every happiness that Heaven has in store for the good. I long, my dear Friends, to hear from you, and as I always remember you in my Prayers, so do I now recommend you to the blessing of Almighty God.

William Thornton/ Tortola, Jan 13th, 1791.

Please to direct to me at Tortola in the Virgin Islands and if you send to Philadelphia, to the care of Rich'd (illegible), Esquire, third street, Philadelphia, but if to New York, to the care of Wm. Backhouse Esquire, Banker, New York

Mr. Anthony Taylor, member of the Union Society by the Blacks, to the care of the Rev'd [Samuel Hopkins?]

Newport, Rhode Island

[The following letter helps to illustrate the growing prestige, the high regard in which the African Union Society was held by Blacks and Whites alike in Newport. The final disposition of Arthur Pease's difficulties is not known.]

(29)

Newport, Rhode Island

March 4, 1791

Dear Sir,

In the Evening, the first Thursday, the third of this instant March, our Committee met at Mr. Abraham Casey's, where among other things, at the desire of your Friends, whites & Blacks: That the Committee should write you respecting the Situation of your son, Arthur-who is now very sick, by information, said to be in a poor, distressed Condition, almost destitute of the Necessarys of Life.

The Committee, on his behalf, pray & beseech you to send as soon as may be, something towards his support, of which they think you are a suitable judge of what may be needful for one in his Situation. Nothing would be taken amiss for support of Nature, which you might judge to be for his comfort. You know better than we can inform you the

place of his abode, that is, you are more acquainted with the Family than any of us. I remain, Sir,

Your most obed't & h'ble Serv't  
Lymas Kieth, in behalf of the Committee  
of the African Union Society

Indors'd, Kingston Pease, Esq'r at New York

p.s. My Compliments to you & family, in behalf of all our Members. There are 9 pence due from Kingston Pease Esq'r, Feb. 10, 1791 and 4½ due to Caesar Lyndon for balance due him for writing for you some time back

(30)

Newport, May 19th, 1791

reverend and honored Sir,

This brings you our best wishes for your present and future Happiness as well this as also the World to come, and to return you One Thousand Thanks for your goodness in attending and Preaching so extraordinary a Sermon, held in Newport on the fast day by the Affricans at Mr. Bliss's Meeting House, on Thursday, the 28th Day of April last -

The Discourse & Advice delivered at the former part of said Day were so calculated that many of the hearers present were ready to cry out, "It is good for us to be here," but the indisposition, or affliction, with which Mr. Bliss then complained of, perhaps put it out of his power to deliver us, in the afternoon, a second Discourse so pleasing to his hearers, there on said Day. However we are ready to conclude that God's will must be done; who regardeth not the rich more than the poor, for they are both the workmanship of his hands. May the blessing of God Almighty ever rest on you, and to guide you into the Paths of Truth & Righteousness, that you be an Instrument who shall turn many to Righteousness & Peace; That, finally, when you shall depart hence, the Lord of Glory may pronounce on you, "Well done, thou good & faithful Servant, enter thou into the Joy of thy Lord-"; That the saying may be heard, after your departure, "Blessed are the Dead, which die in the Lord, from henceforth; yea, faith the spirit, for they rest from their Labours, and their works do follow them."

Now the God of Peace that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work, to do his will, working in that which is well pleasing in his sight, even unto your lives' end, and after death, everlasting happiness, being the sincere & hearty prayer of, Sir, your much obliged h'ble Serv't

Lymas Kieth in behalf of the Members of the  
African Union Society in Newport

Newport, 19th  
May, 1791

(31)

Boston, Dec. 19, 1791

Dearly Beloved Brethren,

We received your Letter<sup>1</sup> with an enclosed Letter from Mr. Doctor William Thornton of the Island Tortola, and have communicated the same to severall Meetings we have had, although the Number was small yet they Unanimously agreed to bide by the mode of the proceedings of our Brethren in Rhode Island & in order to make those benevolent Intentions more publickly known, We have desired the Letters of Mr. Thornton to be Publish'd in the Gazzette, in order that it may bring numbers to join us throughout this and other States - & shall communicate to you from time to time the success we meet with - and Remain In Behalf of the Socity

Your loving Friend,  
Boston Smith, Sec'y

To Mr. Caesar Lyndon, Secr'y of the Union Society of Blacks in Newport, Rhode Island

Rec'd (i.e., recorded) 24th Ap. 1792 by Mr. Cato Freeman.

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<sup>1</sup> This letter was not copied.

1792

(32)

Newport, 8th June, 1792

Reverend &amp; well-respected Sir,

We, the Committee of the African Union Society, having met the 7th of June instant, and among other things, it being the Opinion of all present that some acknowledgment, and a Letter of Thanks be presented for your extraordinary goodness in waiting on a poor Remnant - the 26th April last, on an exceeding wet & windy Storm - May you be bless'd with happiness here and a Crown of Joy and Felicity hereafter, being the desire and wish of the Committee as well as, Sir, your heart well-wisher & h'ble Serv't

Lymas Kieth, in behalf of the Members  
of the African Union Society

To the Reverend Mr. William Bliss in Middletown

The said Letter with the 6/ inclosed was sealed and delivered Mr. Tikey, to be delivered to the Rev. Mr. Bliss the 9th June, 1792.

(33)

Newport, July 28, 1792

Mr. Kingston Pease,

The two Letters you wrote me Nov. & Decem. last have been receiv'd, and the Message delivered me by Capt. Pearce, wherein and whereby you empower'd me to take your House and repair the same, & deliver the Land & House to Mr. Cupit Brown, all which has been done agreeable to your orders. No rent yet receiv'd of Mr. Baley. Mr.

Cupit Brown had the possession of your House ever since the first of April, but your Letters to me and the Committee of the 14th April, 1792<sup>2</sup> seem to Contradict and Appear to be a Mistake or Misunderstanding - We want to know whether your Land & House [are?] to be occupied by Mr. Cupit Brown, or whether the Committee are to rent it out as they please, or whether you design'd they should settle the acc't. subsisting between Mr. Anthony Taylor, Yourself and Mr. Prince Baley only - If you design'd the Committee should have your House, pray let us know, or only to settle the affair between Mr. President (i.e., Anthony Taylor), Mr. Baley and Yourself. Pray be expeditious - all things remain unsettled - Whether your House [is?] to remain in Mr. Cupit Brown's possession, or delivered up to the Committee. I am, Sir,

Your hearty well wisher,  
Caesar Lyndon

If you write, please to  
write plain to be understood.

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<sup>1</sup> These letters were not copied.

<sup>2</sup> This letter was not copied.

(34)

New York, 7th Aug't, 1792

Sir,

I received Yours of the 28 July, wherein I find Capt. Pearce represented the matter wrong - I meant that the money Mr. Baley owed for rent should be appropriated to the repairing of the House, And did wish you & Committee to see to the collecting, of the rent from Mr. Baley and appropriate the same as aforesaid, and also to pay Mr. Taylor - But if there is not enough to answer both these Ends, Let me know how the account stands and I shall see the same settled. Mr. Brown can stay in the House, and I am well satisfied that he is therein, and the rent that will come due from his I expect that Mr. Brown will settle the same with me, without giving you & Committee any further trouble about it. At the same time, I return my unfeigned thanks to you and Committee for that attention paid to my Business. I am, Sir, Yours with Esteem & regard, Your sincere Friend, Kingston Peas.

Mr. Ceasar Lyndon      Newport

1793

(35)

Newport, 7th August, 1793

Gentlemen,

As it has been some what displeasing to some of the Members to allow me about one quarter part of [what?] the writings was worth, for a year in my Office as Secretary of the Society, therefore I do make known to the members thereof that I do hereby resign as an officer or Member of the Society, ending the second Thursday of August instant. As the

business of recording as a Scrivener ought to do with other Business was great, my condition & circumstances would not admit of my Services without some reward, or the reward that was agreed upon. I am

Gentlemen,  
Your greatly afflicted h'ble Serv't  
Ceasar Lyndon

To the Committee & others,  
Gentlemen members of the African  
Union Society

(36)

Newport, Sept. 12th, 1793

Sir,

Your bill or note of 7th August has been read at our annual meeting, held at 8th August, and [we?] lamented that it has been such a member in this Society who has not the interest of the whole in his heart, but only his (illegible word) interest.

By this bill, it seem you are paid but one quarter part of [what?] your writing is worth for this Society in a year, and according to your own account there are but 36 members in the Society, and eighteen of them who has paid their full due to Treasury since the 29th of April, 1789. So there [are?] half the members who have not paid all that is due from the to the Treasury.

Besides, if all did paid, it will amount only to 18 dollars per year; so then if twelve shillings is one quarter parts of your due, (illegible word) thirty two Dollars is your whole due, which is fourteen Dollars more than the annual income of the Society.

The Secretary has not only twelve shillings per year, but he has a right to all the privileges of his Society as any of the members in it.

We are very sensible that the Secretary is an important office in the Society, but the circumstances of the Society are such that we cannot grant even the compensation which was agreed upon.

But if you was willing to do all the writing we should want in the Society, we will excuse you from paying your quarterage money; accordingly, we chose two of our members to inform you of it, but you refused the offer they made to you; And because we will not pay more then the annual income of the Society, you resign not only your office, but you have dismembered yourself from this Society.

If this resignation is your free, voluntary will, we have no objection to it; But this we hope - there are no more such member in this Society.

Prince Amy in behalf of the Committee-  
Charles Chaloner in the behalf of the Union Society  
Attest: Newport Gardner, Secretary

To Ceasar Lyndon, Esq'r.

[In the instance below, in which a portion of the proceedings becomes correspondence of explanation to the widow of a recently deceased member of the Society, is graphically displayed one of the fundamental problems that plagued the Society throughout its long life. As sincere and well-intentioned as he may have been, Wanton simply could not afford to pay the 9 pence fees which were due four times a year for an annual expected total of \$3.00.]

(37)

Newport, December 9th, 1793

Dear Friend,

I am requested by the members of the African Union Society in Newport, at their quarterly meeting, held on Thursday, the 14th of November last, to send their proceedings to you, respecting Newport Wanton, a member of said Union Society, now deceased, for your information.

I have the honour to be your humble Servant

Newport Gardner, Secretary

Mrs. Susannah Wanton, Newport

At the meeting of the African Union Society, held in the Town and County of Newport, and State of Rhode Island, on the second Thursday of November, the fourteenth of said month, A.D., 1793.

Resolved that the Secretary of this Society be and he is hereby requested to send the copy of our proceedings respecting Newport Wanton, a member of this Union Society, now deceased, to his widow, Susannah Wanton, for her information.

Extrated from the minutes:

Attest Newport Gardner, Secretary

Newport Wanton join this Union Society April 29, AD, 1789. He pay to the Treasury as follows:

April 29th, 1789 .....	0.1.6	November 11th, 1790.....	£ 0.0.9
August 13th, 1789.....	0.0.9	February 10th, 1791.....	0.0.9
November 12th, 1789.....	0.0.9	May 12th, 1791.....	0.0.9
February 11th, 1790.....	0.0.9	August 11th, 1791.....	0.0.9
May 13th, 1790.....	0.0.9	August 9th, 1792.....	0.0.9
		November 8th, 1792.....	0.0.9
		May 9th, 1793.....	0.0.9
		pay in all	[illegible \$6.75?]

Mr. Wanton to pay to the Treasury, which he has not yet payed, viz.

November 10th, 1791.....	£ 0.0.9	Lent to Mr. Newport Wanton while he	
February 9th, 1792.....	0.0.9	was sick:-April 29th, 1792.....	£ 0.6.0
May 10th, 1792.....	0.0.9	His lost by Lottery & expenses since	
February 14th, 1793.....	0.0.9	the year 1789.....	0.4.6
August 8th, 1793.....	0.0.9	Payed in Tea, Sugar and rum at	
	0.3.9	funeral .....	<u>0.5.11</u>
			0.16.5
		Quarterly due .....	0.3.9
		Due in all.....	£ 1.0.2
		He payed in all .....	<u>0.10.6</u>
		Remain due to the Treasury	
			0.9.10½

Resolved that Newport Wanton is full payed and therefor he has no more rights in this Society.

1794

(38)

Providence, January 15th, 1794

Brethren of the Union Society in Newport,

At a meeting held this fifteenth day of January, we have voted and resolved to send a Petition into the General Assembly of this State to give us permission to leave the State in order to go to Siere lone in Affrica to settle upon lands which was purchased by the Siere lona Company for the benfit of the blacks who went from England and America, and others who may be disposed to Imigrate; but, my Brethren, we have taken a proper method to inform ourselves of what we would wish to know by sending a man of our own complexion, one whome we may depend on, and a person of Learning sufficient to transact what Business we would want Done. We have made choice of a person in Providence who we think are sufficiently qualified to the undertaking, and we send you this Invitation to Partake of the benefits which we trust will Derive from the Imediate Prosecution of the matter. We would wish you to lay before your Society for their consideration. Forward as soon as possible the result. We propose further to raise, by subscription, a sum of Money Sufficient to defray the necisary Expenis, so as not to interfere with the (illegible). But us would wish to have three black men go on this Important Business, on Account of Accidents: one from Boston, one from Providence, and one from Philadelphia, acquainting them with our resilution. We have some hopes of Reciving assistance from the white People as they have Bestowed Large Encomiums on our Conduct. Now is the time, if ever, for us to try to Distinguish ourselves, as the More remote we are Situated from the white people, the more we will be respected, and until that [is?] affected, we will be Disposed to go; any of you yourselves you may hand our subscription about, which greatly oblige Sincere friends and well wishers.

By order of the African Society in Providence,  
 Bonnar Brown, President  
 James McKenzie, Secretary

The Union Society

Newport

[Perhaps there might be some justification for the obvious petulance in the reply letter, below, when it is remembered that the Providence African Union Society came into being only at the invitational prompting (letter no. 6) and organizational guidance (letter no. 11, no. 12, no. 16) of the longer established Newport African Union Society; now this offshoot Providence group plans a 3-man exploration party - not one of the 3 men from Newport - to initiate emigration plans which the Newport Society had considered even before the Providence Society was created. By asking, sardonically, if the proposed Providence delegate would speak for all Rhode Island blacks, Newport is reminding the Providence people that at least one member of the exploration party should come from Newport. The Providence people seem to have grasped the Newport group's sentiments, for in their next letter (letter no. 40) they invite the Newport Society to elect a Newport representative.]

(39) Brethren of the African Society in Providence

Your letter of 15 January, 1794 has been lay before us, and concerning the Petition to the General Assembly of this State has been a long time the sincere desire of this Society for their permission, assistance and support [for?] us in our emigration to Africa.

But we thought it best to take all the proper methods to acquaint our brethren, the free people of colour in every Town in this State of our proceedings, especially the Town of Providence; And if they agreed with us, we will wish them to form themselves into [a?] Society like ours throughout this State. This being effected, they by correspondence agree to establish [a?] Union Assembly consistant of one or two members from every Society in this State, with full powers and also instructions from each Society on the Subject; And being agreed upon certain (twon? towns?) to meet on the Subject there, they shall agree and draught this Petition, and each member or members shall carried the copy to their respective society, from whence they came; and adjourned, and a sufficient time shall be given to every Society to approve of it, and having approved of by [a?] major part, shall be sign by their President and Secretary of each Society.

Also the assembly shall determine how many men shall be sufficient to send to such part of the coast of Africa as may be thought proper for us to settle on, so as to enjoy our liberty, both civill and religion, and cannadate or cannadates shall be named and set up in the public view so that every members in every Society may vote for the same.

This was agreeable to us because it consists altogether in love and Union, for [the?] more we are in number, the better able we shall be to prosecute this important plain.

But it seemed to us that you have already agree the Brethren in the Towns, Boston and Philadelphia so as to fix and determine upon three candidates, one from each Town, to go to Africa on this important business.

We thank you for the invertation you give us to partake with you, but we wish to know

whether the gentlemen you have made choice of in Providences as candidates on the Subject are to act for the Society in Newport as well as that in Providence. We thought proper that this inquiry shall be made, not because we doubt the ability of the person you made choice of, but as you know that we can neither approved or disapproved anythings that is unknown to us.

We are very happy to hear the incouragement you like to meet from the white in Providence. Dear brethren we approved of our imigration to Africa; we also approved of Petitioning the general Assembly of this State for their promotion, assistant and support [for?] us in this important & intresting plan, but the business is so great and weighty, depending chiefly upon the unite heart, we think best for any many of us as approved of this plan to know our number, both in Providence and Newport, and also where to meet and agree upon certain mode by which we shall all follow with the unite hearts.

Should this proposal be adopted by your Society, we shall be glad if you will send a Deligat or Deligats invested with powers from you to us, that we may agree with him or them on some mode or other by which the two Society may pursue before the Petition be presented to the general Assembly.

Finally, brethren, let us with the united heart pray to that God who did promise the children of Israel that he "will gather them from the North country and all the country wherein they have been scattered and will carry them to their native country," that he will be pleased to bless and prosper our undertaking, and gather us also from all the country and carry us to our native country is the sincere desire of your brethren in affliction.

By order and the behalf of the African Union Society  
Charles Chaloner, President  
Newport Gardner, Secretary

Newport, Feb. 13th, 1794

To African Society, Providence

(40)

Providence, Feb. 25th, 1794

Brethren of the African Union Society in Newport

Your letter of February 13th came duly to hand, and was agreeably received by our Society. As you have expressed your high approbation of our proceedings, [we?] would wish to inform you further of our success. We have, since, we wrote the letter bearing date January 15th, Drawn up a petition<sup>1</sup> with an intent to [have it?] presented to the inhabitants of this state, but before we gave it into the hands of the printer, we consulted Messrs. Brown, Benson and Ives, and they have engaged to undertake it for us and procure the matter with there United efforts, if we will omit the matter until Messrs Moses Brown and Thomas Arnold arrive from Philadelphia, who are gone upon business of similar purposes. Inclosed we send you a copy of our Petition to your inspection together with our imigration bill.<sup>2</sup> Should you find them agreeable, you may lay them before your abolition Society in Newport; no doubt but you will meet with incouragement agreeable to your wishes.

Our Deligats have instructions to transact business agreeable to your desire. We would wish you to procure a proper number and list of your inhabitants who are desposed to imigrate, including your young women. You will be pleased to lay our Petition together with our imigration bill before the abolition Society in Newport and request immediate interference of there Society, as their influence with the inhabitants of this Town and State is very great. The bearer, our Deligate, Mr. Wm. Olney, the person whom we have made choice of to accompany Mr. James McKin, on the proposed business to Sireleone, is a worthy member of our Society, and his extensive knowlege in land affairs was a sufficient inducement to nominate Mr. Olney as a colleague for Mr. James McKenzie. You will, my worthy friends, be pleased to make a choice of a person in your Society to represent your members and others who may be desposed to imigrate, and to be ready to embark at a moment warning with our representatives. As for the instructions, they are not drawn up as yet, but we are only waiting for the return of our white friends.

My brethren, it is impossible for you to form any Idea of the incouragement we meet with. Every white person in Town seem to be forward in promoting the matter. My brethren, your knowledge of the benefit which we must derive with the assistance of God from the prosecuting of this matter is sufficient to induce you to remain unalterable in your opinion, as we are determined to observe the same here.

May God grant you success in your present and future undertaking is the wishes of your brethren.

In the behalf of the African Society in Providence

Bonner Brown, President  
James McKenziei, Secretary

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<sup>1</sup> No copy of the petition was made.

<sup>2</sup> No copy of the emigration bill was made

(41)

Newport, February 26th, 1794

Brethren of the African Society, Providence

We received your letter of February 15th by the bearers of your Society, and we called a special meeting where your letter was read before the major part of our Society and was greatly approved of by our Society.

The first motive which we thought to pursue was to make choice of a person to represent the business of our Society. The person whom we have chosen and nominated is Mr. Newport Gardner, who is a worthy member of our Society, and one in whom we can confide; him we think sufficient at present to accompany your Deligates, Mr. McKenziei and Mr. Olney, to pursue the business proposed, which is worthy of our attention.

We also approve of your conduct of the draft of the Petition you have drawn to present to the Inhabitants of this State and we further think that it will be of greater importance by your omiting this matter till return of those gentlemen who are to return from Philadelphia.

And as to the ccopy of your Petition and imigration Bill, we also approve of them and

have concluded to lay them before our Abolition Society here in Newport, for we cannot tell what progress we shall meet with before we make an attempt.

As to a list of the names of the inhabitants who will be disposed to immigrate, we cannot at present inform you, but in our next we will write more particular. We have sent you a list and names of the members belonging to the Society, and in our next shall include the number of there families together with the inhabitants and their number.

Dear brethren, may God of his great mercy bless and prosper all our undertakings both spiritual and temporal is the sincere desire of your brethren.

In the behalf of the African Union Society

Charles Chaloner, President  
Newport Gardner, Secretary

P.S. We cannot conclude without informing you the pleasure and satisfaction we enjoyed in thos gentlemen, Mr. Olney and Mr. Spear, and we highly approve of their conduct, thinking them both worthy of the station wherein they are placed, and hope that God in his Providence will enable them and all belonging to their Society to continue steadfast unto the end is the sincere wishes of your brethren.

[The next two notes are included here to illustrate the typical written requests made by Society members of their Treasurer.]

(42)

Arthur Tikey, Esq'r.

Sir, Please to let Robert Keith, Esq'r. have one shilling lawful money out of the Treasury of the African Union Society in your care, being the price of [a?] certain bag bought for the use of the Secretary office. By order of the Committee,

Newport Gardner, Clerk  
Newport, June 10th, 1794

(43)

Arthur Tikey, Esq'r.

Sir, Please to deliver to the bearer, Zingo Stevens, Esq'r., the sum of one dollar out of the Treasury of the African Union Society in your care, it being the sum granted by the committee to Genney Gardner, widow of late Poppy (sic.i.e.Pompey) Gardner for her present relief.

By the committee  
Newport Gardner, clerke  
Newport, July 26th, 1794

[Unlike another widow Mrs. Susannah Wanton, who simply accepted the Society's reported account of her late husband's financial transactions while he was a member of the Society, Mrs. Dinah Sisson, below, would challenge the Society's report of her late husband's financial status; she would begin and belligerently sustain such a loud mouthing campaign against the Society that it was quickly obliged to vote to disband their organization.

(44)

Resolved that the secretary of this society be and he is hereby requested to send the copy of this our proceeding with respect to Mr. Nupturn Sission (sic., i.e. Neptune Sisson) a member of this Society, now deceased, to his widow, Dinah Sisson, for her information, containing all the monies he pay into the Treasury; the money paid to him while sick; and his past expenses be redacted out from it, and give her the remainder, if any left.

Agreeable to above, I have search the record and found that Mr. Sisson join the Society April 28, 1789; he pay

one shilling, six pence or .....	\$0.25.	Paid Mr. Nepturn Sisson	
May 13, 1790 Dito.....	0.12½	August 14, 1794.....	1.00
November 11, 1790 Ditto .....	0.12½	Paid Dito Sep't 26, 1794 .....	0.50
May 12, 1791 Dito .....	0.12½	his past expenses	1.00
November 8, 1792 Ditto .....	0.12½		
August 8, 1793 Dito .....	0.12½	Due to the Society.....	\$2.50
November 14, 1793 Ditto .....	0.12½	All the money he ever pay ...	0.87½
February 13, 1794 Dito .....	0.12½		
	<hr/>	The Society over paid him.....	1.62½
	0.87½		

I here sumit to the inspection of the Society, And in the meant time, I remain

Your unworthy Servant  
Newport Gardner, Secretary

Newport, December 3d, 1794  
The members of the African Union Society in  
Newport, State of Rhode Island

Newport, December 5th, 1794

Mrs. Dinah Sission,

Dear friend, by order of the African Union Society, I transmit to you these proceedings

with respect to Mr. Nupturn Sission, your deceased husband, for your information. I have the honor to be

Your very humble serv't  
Newport Gardner

To Mrs. Dinah Sission, Newport, Rhode Island

**1795**

(No copies of correspondence made for this year.)

**1796**

(45)

Philadelphia, November 27th, 1796

We have wrote to you greeting, brethren. We have received a brother member of your Society, from recommendation which he brought with him, which mention African Humane Society, which calls our attention to writ to you in this manner. We will be glad if you will favour us with the copy of your rules and we also will send ours, in order that both may be a guide to each Society.

It gives us great satisfaction to hear that you still hang together and hope that you will continued to do [so?]; this will strengthen us to go on in the was (sic., i.e., ways) of well doing for ourselves and our brethren.

This is the only ways to set forth the glory of God, and will give us a knowledge of the truth as it [is?] in the gospel; this will regulate our love to our brethren, and also to ourselves. So no more at present.

#### **Founder**

William White, President  
Ceasar Wethington, Sec.  
Robert Williams  
Cyrus Porter, Treasurer  
Favorite Bush, Clerke

#### **Committee**

Nathan Gray  
John Emmery, chairman  
Alexande Weathered(?)  
Thomas Ross  
Cato Freeman  
Robert Noble  
Caleb Nash

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Concered with incorporating their association, the Union Society in April, 1802 was counselled by white friends to change the group's name (and also "a few articles"). Thus, at a June 10, 1802 meeting, a special committee reported that the society's petition for incorporation was presented to "the General Assembly of this State" in May, and that it was referred to their June session for action. Apparently all went well, for at this same meeting, "it was agreed that from and after the present meeting, this society shall be known by the name of the African Humane Society... and that all the Rules, Acts, Regulations, Resolutions and Votes of this society when called Union, shall be binding on the Humane Society to all intents and purposes." Recorded in one of nine ledgers and notebooks, among other papers (all newly deposited-1976-to the Newport Historical Society by the Congregational Church, now dissolved) the foregoing information comes from a notebook identified as "Notes on the African Union Society 1793-1810," but which contain the proceedings of the Union Society from 1793-1802, and, that Society changing its name to the Humane Society in 1802, also the proceedings of the Humane Society

1797

(46)

Newport, 7th May, 1797

Gentlemen of the African Humane Society

Sirs,

We received your letter, with the form of your recommendation, and also an address to the free Africans and other free people of colour in United States from the convention of Deputies from the abolition Societys in the United States by our brother Cudjo Gibbs. Except our sincere thanks for your goodness to him and his companion, Mr. Cuffee Benson, who is now a member of this Society.

We hope it may be in our powers to return the like to any of your member.

We herewith send you a copy of Article observed by us in this Society. We hope you will not fail to send your to us as soon as possible.

With a great esteem, we remain your most obence and humble servants,

By order of and in behalf of the Society

Charles Chaloner, President  
Newport Gardner, Secretary

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from 1802 through November 13, 1823, the last dated entry in the notebook. The Humane Society continued long after this date, however, for, working with now missing papers, Charles Battle, **Negroes on the Island of Rhode Island**, (1932) wrote that in March, 1808, "the African Union Society (sic., i.e., the African Humane Society) voted to merge with the newly created African Benevolent Society (p.19), and to turn over all of its Treasury's assets to the Benevolent Society which needed money to underwrite the expenses for establishing the African Charity School in Newport". After the City undertook the education of colored children, the African Benevolent Society felt that its mission had ended. In June, 1844, it voted to disband and turn all of its books, records and papers over to the care and keeping of the colored Union Church and Society.

**The Proceedings of  
The Free African Union Society  
Newport, Rhode Island  
January 21, 1789 - June 8, 1797**

April 25 1757

Mr Lynas West	Dec 21 1745	16
Mr Lingo Stevens		16
Mr Charles Chaloner		16
Mr Richard Vokery		
Mr Lemmy Gardner	Dec May 17 1772	16
Mr Prince Bailey		14 1/2
Mr Lemmy West		16
Mr Samuel Easton	1 Dec	
Mr Newport Winton	X Dec 17 1772	16
Mr Abraham Caffey		16
Mr Scipio Tanner		16
Mr George Lemmy West		
Mr Congo Jenkins		16
Mr Bristote Jamona of Providence	Dec	
Mr Gato Thurston		16
Mr Cugo Chaloner	Dec 17 1772	16
Mr Stephen Ligon	Dec 17 1774	16
Mr Pompey Levy		
Mr Newport Barr	Dec 17 1772	16
Mr Gato Rodum		16
Mr Pompey Burroughs	Dec 17 1772	16
Mr Lucas Rivera	Dec 17 1772	16
Mr Quaph Abwet		12 1/2
Cesar Lyndon	Dec 17 1772	16
Mr Cugo Gibbs		16
Mr Cubit Brown	entered Jan 6 1771	16
Newport Gardner	entered August 9 1772	
Mr Buliffe Benson	entered Jan 29 1777	1 7/8
Mr Prince Libbrege	Jan 23 1777	1 7/8
Mr Newport Easton	Feb 23 1777	16
Mr Caesar Gardner	June 8 1777	16
Mr Caesar Homen	Dec 17 1777	16

A facsimile of a partial roster of members of  
the African Union Society 1780-1802

1789

At a Meeting of the African Company (the Blacks) in New-  
port in the County of Newport and State of Rhode Island  
and Providence Plantations on the last Tuesday of January,  
being the twenty seventh Day of said Month, Anno Domini:  
1789

## The Committee Present

(1)

Mr. Anthony Taylor, President  
 Mr. Pompey Scott  
 Mr. Charles Chaloner  
 Mr. Lymas Kieth  
 Mr. Prince Amy  
 Mr. Burry Vernon

Mr. Arthur Tikey  
 Mr. Scipio Tanner  
 Mr. Abraham Easton  
 Mr. Abraham Casey  
 Mr. Richard Vickery

Caesar Lyndon, Clerk of the African Company

(2)

By Order of the Major part of the Members present, the following Persons were nominated and chosen, agreeable to the Titles affixed to their respective Names:

Mr. Anthony Taylor, President  
 Mr. Kingston Pease, Vice President  
 Mr. Arthur Tikey, Judge & Treas'r  
 Mr. Salmar Nubia, 1st Rep've & Secr'y  
 Mr. Prince Wanton, 2'd Rep've & Sh'ff  
 Mr. Cuffee Mumford, 3'd Rep've  
 Mr. Prince Amy, 4th Rep've & Jus'ce of the Peace  
 Mr. Cuffee Drew, 5th Rep've  
 Mr. Jack Sayer, 6th Representative  
 Mr. Cubbeer Rodman  
 Mr. Primus Thurston  
 Mr. John Greene  
 Mr. Thomas Ferguson  
 Mr. Quam Bowers  
 Mr. Abraham Casey  
 Mr. Lymas Kieth  
 Mr. Zingo Stevens  
 Mr. Charles Chaloner

Mr. Rich'd Vickery  
 Mr. Pompey Gardner  
 Mr. Prince Baley  
 Mr. Pompey Scott  
 Mr. Quash Mowet  
 Mr. Pompey Burroughs  
 Mr. Cudgo Hicks  
 Mr. Sam'l Easton  
 Mr. Newport Wanton  
 Mr. Abraham Easton  
 Mr. Scipio Tanner  
 Mr. Geo. Hampshear  
 Mr. Congo Jenkins  
 Mr. Cato Thurston  
 Mr. Newport Carr  
 Mr. Cudgo Chaloner  
 Mr. Neptune Sisson  
 Mr. Pompey Levy  
 Caesar Lyndon, Clerk of the  
 African Company

At a meeting of the african Union Society (the Africans or Black People) held in Newport, in the County of Newport & State of Rhode Island & on the last Tuesday of April, being the twenty-eighth Day of said Month, Anno Domini 1789(A).

(1)

Be it Remembered that whereas Mr. Anthony Taylor, Mr. Kingston Pease, Mr. Arthur Tikey, Mr. Cuffee Mumford, Mr. Prince Amy, Mr. Prince Wanton, and Mr. Salmar Nubia, praying that a Petition by them brought before a Meeting held in said Newport in the Month of October past, and from thence continued to this Meeting, where the said Petition being read and deliberately Considered by the Members present, the same was granted, agreeable to the said Petitioners' request, and the Rules and Regulations of said African Union Society being also read and Considered, the following Persons prayed and requested that their Names might be entered as Members of the said african Union Society, and that all Business relative thereto might be adjourned to the present Meeting, And that each Member thereof pay into the Treasury of said African Union Society the sum of One Shilling and six pence silver Lawful Money for the use of said Society, And the following Persons being chosen and elected at their Meeting held in January last past to the place and capacity as affixed to their respective Names & the Sums of Money paid by each Member:

Mr. Anthony Taylor, President.....	1.6
Mr. Kingston Pease, Vice President .....	1.6
Mr. Arthur Tikey, Judge & Treasurer Died, March 1816 .....	1.6
Mr. Salmar Nubia, 1st Representative & Secretary .....	
Mr. Prince Wanton, 2d. Representative – Sheriff.....	
Mr. Cuffee Mumford, 3d. Representative.....	
Mr. Prince Amy, 4th Representative & Justice of Peace .....	1.6
Mr. Cuffee Drew, 5th Representative Died Jan. 9, 1797 .....	1.2½
Mr. Jack Sayer, 6th Representative .....	1.6
Mr. Cubber Rodman.....	1.6
Mr. Primus Thurston.....	1.6
Mr. John Greene .....	1.6
Mr. Tho's. Ferguson paid all afterward .....	1.10
Mr. Quam Bowers .....	1.6
Mr. Abraham Easton .....	1.6
Mr. Lymas Kieth Died April 21, 1796.....	1.6
Mr. Zingon Stevens .....	1.6
Mr. Charles Chaloner .....	1.6
Mr. Richard Vickery .....	0.0
Mr. Pompey Gardner, Died May 14, 1794.....	1.6
Mr. Prince Baley .....	1.4½
Mr. Pompey Scott .....	1.6
Mr. Samuel Easton is Dead .....	0.0
Mr. Newport Wanton X is dead, Nov'r (?), 1793.....	1.6
Mr. Abraham Casey .....	1.6
Mr. Scipio Tanner .....	1.6
Mr. George Hampshear .....	1.6
Mr. Congo Jenkins .....	1.6
Mr. Bristol Yamma of Providence Dead.....	0.0
Mr. Cato Thurston .....	1.6
Mr. Cudgo Chaloner dead.....	1.6
Mr. Neptune Sisson Dead Sep't. 7, 1794.....	1.6
Mr. Pompey Levy .....	0.0

Mr. Newport Carr is Dead .....	1.6
Mr. Cato Slocum .....	1.6
Mr. Pompey Burroughs is dead .....	0.1.6
Mr. Quaco Rivera .....	is Dead .....
Mr. Quash Mowet .....	0.1.6
Mr. Quash Mowet .....	0.1.2½
Caesar Lyndon .....	is Dead .....
Mr. Cudgo Gibbs .....	0.1.6
Mr. Cubit brown .....	entered Jan'y 6, 1791 .....
Newport Gardner entered August 9th, 1792 .....	0.0.0
Mr. Cuffee Benson entered Jan'ry 29th, 1797 .....	0.1.7½
Mr. Prince Lilibrege .....	Jan'ry 29th, 1797 .....
Mr. Newport Easton .....	Feb'y 23, 1797 .....
Mr. Ceaser Gardner .....	June 8th, 1797 .....
Mr. Ceaser Wanton .....	Dec. 12, 1799 .....
Mr. John Davice Jan. 2d, 1801 .....	0.1.6
Mr. Charle Chaloner June 11 (?) .....	0.1.6
Mr. Prince Gardner .....	Feb'y th, 1800 .....
Mr. Henry Clark .....	Nov. 14th, 1805 .....
Mr. Cudgo Hicks .....	0.6.0
Mr. Newport Eldred .....	0.1.6
Mr. Jacob Gardner .....	0.6.0
Mr. Thomas Cahoone .....	0.6.0
Mr. John Brammer .....	0.6.0
Mr. Ahema Gardner .....	0.6.0
Mr. Samuel Collins .....	\$1.00
Mr. Thomas Hammond .....	\$1.00
Mr. John Gardner .....	0.1.00
Mr. Robert Frazer .....	0.1.00
Mr. Thomas Clark .....	0.1.00
Mr. Henry Parker .....	0.1.00
Mr. Frank Ollmond .....	0.1.00
Mr. William Pain .....	0.1.00
Mr. Ceasar Bounou .....	0.1.00
Mr. Ceasar Hannemond .....	0.1.00
Mr. Peter Armstrong .....	0.1.00
Mr. James Rogers .....	0.1.00
Mr. Samuel Hicks .....	0.1.00
Mr. Peter Marshall .....	0.1.00
Mr. Henry Green .....	0.1.00

At a Meeting of the Pall & Union African Company or Society held in Newport in the County of Newport and State of Rhode Island &., on the last Tuesday of April, being the twenty-eighth Day of said Month, Anno Dom. 1789 (B).

The Committee Present

Mr. Anthony Taylor, President  
Mr. Pompey Scott  
Mr. Charles Chaloner  
Mr. Lymas Kieth  
Mr. Prince Amy  
Mr. Burry Vernon voted out  
Mr. Zingon Stevens

Mr. Arthur Tikey  
Mr. Scipio Tanner  
Mr. Abraham Easton  
Mr. Abraham Casey  
Mr. Rich'd Vickery  
Mr. Salmar Nubia  
Mr. John Greene as Speaker

(2)

Order'd & Enter'd That any Member not appearing at  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an hour after 7 o'clock to be fined one quarter of a dollar.

(3)

Whereas it is mutually agreed upon at this Meeting there shall be a Contribution made, which was heretofore at the last Meeting ordered by the said Company, the Union Society, & now accordingly executed, and the Sum of One Pound, seventeen shillings & five pence, half-penny being the amount of the said Contribution Money paid by the Major part of the said Union Society, and the said Sum of Money was order'd to be lodg'd to the care and possession of Arthur Tikey, Esq'r, Treasurer, and by him to be kept for the Use of said Company or the African Union Society, and that all the Sums of Money remaining unpaid in the hands of a Number of Persons, who are Members of said Union Society, might at any time be deliver'd to (illegible) said Pall Company, and by him delivered to the said Treasurer or his successor in said office of Treasurer or (illegible) within a short time after (illegible) this Meeting or as soon as Conveniently [possible?]

(4)

August 6th, 1789, The following being officers & Members of the said African Union Society and the Money paid down by each Member the 13th of August, 1789:

(5)

**(27 members, including all of the officers except Mr. Jack Sayer "6th Representative," are noted paying 9 pence; 1 member, Mr. Cubbeer Rodman," pays 7½; 10 other members' names show no payment.)**

August 6, 1789. At a Meeting of the Pall & Union African Society held at Newport in the County of New &. on the first Thursday of August, being the sixth Day of said Month, Anno Domini, 1789.

The Committee Present

(1)

Mr. Anthony Taylor, President  
 Mr. Pompey Scott  
 Mr. Charles Chaloner  
 Mr. Lymas Kieth  
 Mr. Prince Amy  
 Mr. Burry Vernon

Mr. Arthur Tikey  
 Mr. Scipio Tanner  
 Mr. Abraham Easton  
 Mr. Abraham Casey  
 Mr. Richard Vickery

Caesar Lyndon, Clerk of the Pall Company

(2)

The Members of the Pall Company & Union Society made choice of the Hon'ble Anthony Taylor, Esqu'r, President for the year ensuing, and it was proposed that Mr. Bristol Yamma of Providence should be chosen as Vice President, which being objected against by a large Majority [which argued?] that the Members of the Union Society at Newport had no right to choose a Person out of another County to serve in the County of Newport & Providence without a Consent of the People at Providence, and therefore nothing of consequence being done. This meeting was adjourned, And it was [voted?] that the present officers should remain in their Places untill a future day, And that Thursday, the thirteenth of this instant August [shall be the time when?] the said Members of said Union Society are to meet, and do such Business as shall then and there appear to them Necessary.

August 13th, 1789. At a Meeting of the Blacks or African Union Society held in Newport in the County of Newport in the State of Rhode Island & Providence Plantations &., on the second Thursday of August, being the thirteenth Day of Said Month, Anno Domini, 1789.

The Committee Present

(1)

Mr. Anthony Taylor, President  
 Mr. Pompey Scott  
 Mr. Charles Chaloner  
 Mr. Lymas Kieth  
 Mr. Prince Amy  
 Mr. Zingo Stevens

Mr. Arthur Tikey  
 Mr. Cipio Tanner  
 Mr. Abraham Easton  
 Mr. Abraham Casey  
 Mr. Rich'd Vickery  
 Mr. Salmar Nubia

(2)

Voted That each Person being one of the Committee not giving his attendance at a Meeting, being legally warned in Season and not rendering a reasonable excuse for such Neglect, he shall pay One Shilling & six pence into the Treasury of said Union Society.

The following Persons being chosen & elected to the place & office affixed to their respective Names for the Year Ensuing:

**(See first 9 names of slate of officers elected at January 27 meeting, add the name of "Mr. John Greene, Speak'r." for slate of officers elected for 1790.)**

**(4)**

August 13th, 1789. Order'd by the Members present That the Secretary's fees be under Consideration of the Committee - how much per Annum untill the next Meeting.

At a Special Meeting of the Committee of the African Union Society held in Newport in the County of Newport in the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, on the fourth Monday of August, being the twenty-fourth Day of said Month, Anno Domini, 1789.

The Committee Present

**(1)**

**(See officers of the Committee for August 13th meeting, add the names of "Mr. John Green (sic), Speaker," and "Caesar Lyndon, Secr'y.")**

**(2)**

Order'd that each officer keep their Places untill they are remov'd by a Vote or Order of the Company of said African Union Society.

**(3)**

Voted, That Mr. Ocrmar (sic) Mirycoo, or Newport Gardner be, and he is hereby admitted with the Privileges of having a Voice in the said Union Society, agreeable with the character given him, the said Ocrmar Mirycoo, or Newport Gardner, and that whenever he shall be free, he shall be admitted and received into the said Union Society, and be entitled to all the Privileges & advantages as any other of the Members of said Society, agreeable to the said Transactions mentioned and expressed, particularly respecting him, the said Ocrama Mirycoo-or Newport Gardner.<sup>1</sup>

August 24th, 1789

**(4)**

Order'd by the Committee, That the Secretary's fee be started at 12 [shillings] Lawful Money per Annum, & also that he be supply'd with five shillings for purchasing Paper, Ink, Quills & Materials for drawing, writing, copies & necessary for the said Union Society, also for writing Letters to be sent on any Occasion which may be beneficial to said Society.

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<sup>1</sup> Ocramar Mirycoo or Newport Gardner (1746?-1826) African born, was placed, at aged 14, by his trusting mother in the care of a slave ship captain expecting a promised American education. Sold shortly as a slave to Caleb Gardner of Newport, Gardner ex-

hibited uncommon intelligence and piety. He taught himself to read and write English and French (maintaining a fluency in his native tongue all of his long life, however) and, taught by an admiring music teacher from Boston, he soon gained a favored reputation as a singing master to Newport's equally admiring whites; he composed several church anthems (one of which is still extant). A hard worker he was equally demanding on his black fellows. Even as a slave, his leadership was sought by Newport blacks, as indicated above. Gaining his freedom in 1792, he became a full fledged member of the African Union Society and quickly rose up the organizational ranks, becoming a committee man and then Society clerk in 1793, all the while revising the constitution to adjust to irregular attendance of members. It was in his home on Pope street that interested blacks met in 1807 to organize the African Benevolent Society which would administer the African Charity school, for which he served as one of the first instructors, financial solicitors, janitor and handyman (see Stephen Gould's memorandum book for itemized account of his many activities in behalf of the school. The book is in the Newport Historical Society.) He served the Benevolent Society as member of Board of Directors, and president from 1810-1820. Now about 74 years old he became impatient with the frustrations of his life of attempts at local black uplift, also his wife, Limas, was ill and would die in 1821, aged 60. Gardner gathered a handfull of similarly frustrated blacks and went to Boston's Park Street Church where an Ecclesiastical council made him and fellow Newporter Salma Nubia deacons in a Church of Christ that was to flourish in Liberia. The tiny group of settlers left Boston aboard the brig, *Vine*, in January, 1826 and arrived in Liberia on February 26, but he and his followers did not last very long thereafter, all of them succumbing to African fevers within two years.

At a Meeting specially held in said Newport &., the eighth of October, 1789

(1)

By the Committee present that 9 pence be a fine laid on a Committeeman for not appearing at one Quarter of an Hour after 7 o'clock in the Evening for finding of candles necessary for the use of the Members of said Union Society. That is to say, the above Vote being propos'd the 24 August last & compleated the 8th Octo above See the Committee, August 24, 1789.

At a Meeting of the Committee of the African Union Society, held at Newport in the County of Newport and State of Rhode Island & on Thursday Evening, being the fifteenth Day of October, Anno Domi (sic), 1789

(1)

Be it Remember'd, That whereas by Order of the present Committee a certain Letter was Order'd to be drawn in Order to be sent to the Union Society now established in the Town of Providence (the Black People), That after the said Letter was in readings and being read & considered by the said Committee, the said Letter was Ordered to be stayed, and

that said Union Society or Committee be adjourned to the second Thursday of November next ensuing from his date.

(2)

Order'd, That Mr. Richard Vickery be fined nine pence for not giving his attendance in Season to the present Meeting, and that said fine be laid out for Candles for the use of said African Union Society, and afterwards, the said Richard Vickery made his Appearance & brought one pound of candles, agreeable to the Order made up against him

The Committee Present

(3)

**(All Committee members excepting Richard Vickery were present.)**

1789, November 12th. At a Quarterly Meeting held this Evening at Arthur Tikey, Esq'r, being the African Union Society, the Sums of Money paid by each, and also those where the Letter U is against their Names for unity with the Society at Providence, & the Letter N are those who would not [vote?] for unity with them.

(1)

Novem. 12th, 1789. The Members' Names who paid the Proportion due, and also for untiy or not with the Members at Providence:

**(38 members' names listed, 26 noted having paid their 9 pence quarterly "proportion,"; 4 U's are noted, and 1 N.)**

At a Meeting of the African Union Society specially held in Newport in the County of Newport & on the 16th of November, Anno Domini, 1789.

(1)

Whereas Bristol Yamma, Esq'r of Providence, in the State of Rhode Island, being present in the present Meeting, and deliver'd before the Members belonging to the African Union Society a very handsome speech respecting Africans in General, but more particularly the rising generations, after concluding the same, it being proposed whether a part of Officers should remain at Providence and part at Newport, it was objected against by a large Majority of the said Members present, and a certain Letter being read and considered by said Members, the same was ordered to be delivered to Bristol Yamma, Esq'r by him to be laid before the Society in said Providence, and the said meeting be adjourned to the Quarterly Meeting to be holden on the second Thursday in February next. Anno Dom., 1790 unless called sooner upon some urgent or Necessary Occasion.

At a special Meeting of the African Union Society, held in Newport &., on the sixteenth of November, Anno Dom., 1789.

(1)

**(12 members are present.)**

(2)

Noted that five of the Committee sign the recommendation for Kingston Pease, Esq'r, as Member of the said African Union Society, and that the Secretary send the said recommendation to New York for the said Kingston Pease Esq'r as soon as possible. (see letter no. 22)

1790

At a special Meeting of the African Union Society held in Newport in the County of Newport & State of Rhode Island &., on the second Thursday of January, being the fourteenth Day of said Month in the year of our Lord, One Thousand, seven hundred and Ninety.

(1)

To the Members of the African Union Society in Newport in said County-Greeting:

Be it Remembered That whereas "We the Committee of the said African Union Society, taking into Consideration the unalterable Decree of God pronounced upon Man, That it is appointed for all men once to Die, That after that the general Judgment of Quick and Dead, We have therefore thought it our indispensible duty that whenever it shall please God to take anyone of our brethren by Death, being a Member of the said African Union Society, Notice of such deceased brothers shall be given to each Member by the Sexton, or some other Person appointed for that Purpose, of such Death, and time for burying of such deceased Person; That each Member being well in Body & of perfect mind and Memory, shall, by all means, use their Endeavours to attend such Funeral Solemnities of such a deceased Member; That we will at all times attend on said Funerals, and if any one of said Members shall be requested to bear the burthen as a bearer, shall not to refuse such requests, unless some other Persons present are more suitable on the Occasion.

We do also recommend to all the said Members of said African Union Society residing in said Newport, or else where, being Members, if agreeable to each Member of said Society, to follow such, their departed Friends to the House appointed for all living, that as soon as the Nearest of Kin to such deceased person shall follow said deceased

Member, That the President & next officers shall immediately follow, & the other Members as shall from time to time, be found requisite & necessary by the said Members; That two Members shall be chosen to order and regulate the said Members at all such burings as shall from time to time happen in said Town of Newport, or Elsewhere, as shall be agreed upon by said Committee, or the Major part of said Union Society.

That whenever by reason of Storms, cold, Slippery in the Winter, or exceeding hot in the summer, and uncomfortable weather happening, in such a case, a Horse in a suitable carriage, shall be found and provided to carry the remains of the deceased Member and the Expenses shall be paid out of the Treasury belonging & now gathering by said Members of said African Union Society.

We also particularly recommend to all and every Member that shall find freedom, That they dress themselves and appear decent on all occasions, that so they may be useful to all and every such burying, as above, and within described, that all the Spectators may not have it in their Power to cast such Game contempt, as in times past.

And above all things, Dearly Beloved, That ye be sober, be vigilant because your adversary, the Devil, is a roaring lion walking about seeking whom he may devour.

And now, brethren, we exhort you to warn them that are unruly, comfort the feeble-minded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. May God Almighty bless the works of our hands, and prosper us untill time shall be no longer.

#### The Committee Present

Mr. Anthony Taylor, President  
Mr. Charles Chaloner  
Mr. Pompey Scott  
Mr. Lymas Kieth  
Mr. Prince Amy  
Mr. Zingo Stevens  
Mr. Arthur Tikey

Mr. Scipio Tanner  
Mr. Abraham Easton  
Mr. Abraham Casey  
Mr. Rich'd Vickery  
Mr. Salmar Nubia  
Mr. John Greene

Caesar Lyndon, Secr'y

At a Quarterly Meeting of the African Union Society held at Newport in the County of Newport & State of Rhode Island &. on the second Thursday of February, being the eleventh Day of said Month, Anno Domini, 1790, at the House of Arthur Tikey, Esq'r& the sums of Money paid by each:

(1)

(37 members are listed, noting 19 paid 9 pence, 1 pays "1/8," another pays "1/6," and another pays "1/6 & 7¼.")

(2)

1790, February 11th. Voted, That Mr. Robert Kieth be, and he is hereby chosen Sheriff over the Freeman Africans now at Newport under the Name of the African Union Society in the Room & Stead of Prince Wanton, Esq'r, late Sheriff, now deceased.

(3)

February 11th, 1790-

Be it Remembered, That whereas there is a Committee consisting of twelve Members; That by consent of the Major part of the African Union Society, that the six following, Namely, Mr. Charles Chaloner, Mr. Pompey Scott, Mr. Lymas Kieth, Mr. Zingo Stevens, Mr. Abraham Casey, Mr. Rich'd Vickery, be the present Committee, & to meet the first Thursday in every Month next ensuing from this Date, at any one of the houses of each Committeeman, as may be agreed upon, and that they are to meet at the House of Charles Chaloner Esq'r the first from this date, in order to transact such business as may be laid before them for the benefit of said African Union Society, in the Evening of each time of Meeting; and that whatever they shall transact and is beneficial to said African Union Society shall be binding to all the Members thereof, unless the same shall be consider'd and otherwise determined by a Majority of Votes in the preference of the whole Community.

(4)

Whereas the said Robert Kieth Esq'r aforementioned hath requested the said Members of said African Union Society for Admittance into said Company, and the said request being granted by the Major part of said Members, upon Condition that the said Robert Kieth, Esq'r complying with the Rules & Regulations thereof, also paying the Entrance Money, being one shilling and six pence, silver lawful Money, and nine pence like money, from the first payment and onwards to the time of his Entrance into said African Union Society, that he may have an enjoy the same Privileges & advantages as are allowed to the other Members of said Community or African Union Society.

At a meeting of the Six Committeemen of the African Union Society, held at Newport in the County of Newport &., on the first Thursday of March, being the fourth Day of said Month, at Charles Chaloner Esq'r, Anno Dom., 1790

The Committee Present

(1)

(Along with Robert Kieth, Sheriff, and Caesar Lyndon, Secretary, the six man committee, elected at February 11 meeting, above, are present.)

(2)

Whereas Prince Amy Esq'r, in his own proper Person, came & laid before the above-mentioned Committee a Petition in behalf of himself & others, as Members of the said African Union Society, praying that whereas there has heretofore laid before this Society

Letters (sic) sent to Providence in order to break off the union between the present Society and that which is established in Providence - On Consideration whereof, it is agreed unanimously That it was not in the Power of the said committee to grant the said Petition, That the said Petitioners be informed of the Amendment & Alterations made by the Members at Providence, whether they fully understood the said Amendment, if so, that the said Petitioners lay the said Petition before the whole Community, and have their Approbation thereon, and Vote thereupon, which is agreeable to the Regulations of the said African Union Society; That the said Petition be continued untill the Quarterly Meeting, to be held in said Newport on the second Thursday of May next ensuing from this date, and that this Committee to meet on the first Thursday in April next<sup>1</sup> at Mr. Zingo Stevens' in said Newport.

<sup>1</sup> Proceedings of this meeting were not copied.

Copy of the foregoing was left with Mr. Amy the 20th March, 1790.

(3)

Order'd That an Order be made out & given Mr. Prince Amy to receive two shillings lawful money on the Treasury in the possession of Arthur Tikey Esq'r to pay for a Horse & carriage made use of for carrying the Body or remains of Mr. Newport Carr, late deceased; said order was drawn accordingly to be presented to Arthur Tikey Esq'r.

(4)

Ordered, That the Secretary make out a List of all the members of said African Union Society has has (sic) not paid their proportionable part into the Treasury, and deliver the said List to the Sheriff, Robert Kieth Esq'r, and by him to be collected; that he wait on each Person and receive their proportionable Parts past due and make return thereof to the Committee to meet at Mr. Zingo Stevens on the first Thursday in April, 1790, being the first Day of said Month.

The Members of the African Union Society who has not paid their proportionable parts [as of?] 10th March, 1790, ordered by the last Committeemen, that the Sheriff wait on these persons and receive their Parts:

Mr. Cuffee Mumford.....	7	Mr. Kingston Pease.....	0.1.6
Mr. Abraham Easton .....	2.3	Mr. Cato Slocum.....	0.1.6
Mr. Rich'd Vickery .....	4.6	Mr. Cuffee Drew .....	0.0.3½
Mr. Prince Baley .....	10½	Mr. John Greene.....	0.0.9
Mr. Cudgo Hicks.....	3.9	Mr. Congo Jenkins.....	0.0.9
Mr. Samuel Easton.....	4.9	Mr. Cudgo Chaloner.....	0.0.9
Mr. Salmar Nubia.....	1.6	Mr. Pompey Burroughs.....	9
Mr. Geo. Hampshear.....	3.9	Mr. Zingo Stevens.....	9
Mr. Pompey Levy .....	3.9	Mr. Newport Wanton .....	9
Mr. Jack Sayer .....	2.3		
Mr. Abraham Casey .....	9		
Mr. Cato Thurston.....	9		
Mr. Neptune Sisson.....	0.1.6		

March 10, 1790, copy delivered to Sheriff Robert Kieth Esq'r to be collected.

At a Quarterly Meeting of the African Union Society held in Newport in the County of Newport and State of Rhode Island &., on the second Thursday of May, being the thirteenth Day of said Month, Anno Dom., 1790, at the house of Arthur Tikey Esq'r, but by reason of sickness, said Meeting held at Charles Chaloner Esq'r.

### The Members' Names

L1)

(38 members names are listed, with 20 noted as having paid 9 pence dues, and 1 member as having paid 6 pence.)

At a Meeting of the Committee of the African Union Society held at Newport in the County of Newport & State of Rhode Island &., on Thursday the fourth Thursday of July Evening & the twenty-second Day of said Month, Anno Domini, 1790, at the House of Lymas Kieth Esq'r.

### The Committee Present

(1)

Mr. Charles Chaloner	Mr. Zingo Stevens
Mr. Pompey Scott	Mr. Abram Casey, not (?)
Mr. Lymas Kieth	Mr. Rich'd Vickery
Rob't Kieth Esq'r, sheriff	Caesar Lyndon, Secretary

(2)

Be it Remembered, That is is proposed by the Committee present that Mr. Robert Kieth be and he is requested to collect what Monies are deficient in the hands of some of the Members of said African Union Society, and make Report of his doings herein to the next Meeting, to be holden at Mr. Rich'd Vickery's, the first Thursday in August next, at 6 o'clock, Evening; That the said Committee may lay the same before the Members at the next meeting at Mr. Arthur Tikey's, on Thursday, the 12th of August next, Anno Domini, 1790.

At a Meeting of the Six Committeemen of the African Uion Society, held in Newport in the County of Newport &., on the first Thursday of said Month of August, being the fifth Day thereof, at 6 o'clock, Evening, in the House of Rich'd Vickery Esq'r, Anno Dom., 1790.

### The Committee Present

(1)

(See Committee members and 2 officers in attendance at July 22 meeting, above.)

(2)

Whereas the present Committee at their meeting, held on the 22'd day of July last past, Did propose that Robert Kieth Esq'r, sheriff, be requested to wait on all the Members of said African Union Society that were deficient in not paying their proportionable parts due to the Treasury, And the said sheriff having waited on the said Members who were deficient in not paying their proportionable parts, who promised to attend at the Quarterly Meeting then next coming, being the second Thursday of August, Anno Dimini, and that all proceedings respecting said Fines not being paid might be continued to said Quarterly Meeting, and that said Committee & other Members of said African Union Society are all requested to give their attendance, in order to choose officers for the year ensuing & contribute their proportionable parts due and unpaid.

At an Annual Meeting by the African Union Society in Newport in the County of Newport & State of Rhode Island &., on the second Thursday of said Month, Anno Dom., 1790, six o'clock, Evening, at the house of Arthur Tikey Esq'r.

The Members Names:

(1)

**(38 members' names recorded, 12 of whom are noted as having paid 9 pence, 1 member as having paid 1/6, another as having paid 5 pence, and another as having paid 3 pence.)**

(2)

Caesar Lyndon received one dollar in Cash this Evening, by order of the Committee out of the Treasury.

At a Meeting of the Members of the African Union Society, held at Newport in the County of Newport in the State of Rhode Island &., on the second Thursday in August, being the twelfth Day of said Month, Anno Domini, 1790; And the following Officers was then chosen to serve the year ensuing, Namely:

(1)

Mr. Anthony Taylor, President

Mr. Charles Chaloner, Vice President & one of the Committee

Mr. Arthur Tikey, Judge & Treasurer

Mr. Pompey Scott

Mr. Lymas Kieth

Mr. Zingo Stevens

Mr. Abraham Casey

Mr. Rich'd Vickery

} Six Committeemen

Robert Kieth Esqu'r, sheriff

Caesar Lyndon, Secr'y

(2)

Be it Known to all whom it may concern, that whereas the above mentioned Persons were legally chosen by the Members of the African Union Society now present in said Meeting for the Year Ensuing, and among other things, it is the Opinion of the Major part, that the Secretary make out each Member's proportionable part of twelve shillings, the half part thereof as so much due for his Services the Year past, besides 6 shillings he had received as past satisfaction already. The Present also requested a List to be made out of every Member's Name who has neglected to pay their proportionable Parts of the Contributions due and unpaid; And also that the said six Committeemen aforementioned are to meet on the first Thursday of September next, 6 o'clock, Evening, at the House partly occupied by Mr. Pompey Scott, being the second Day of said Month.

At a special Meeting of the Committee Members of the African Union Society, held at Newport in the County of Newport in the State of Rhode Island &., on the first Thursday in September, being the second Day of said Month, Anno Domini, 1790, at Mr. Pompey Scott's:-

(1)

#### The Committee Present

Mr. Charles Chaloner  
Mr. Pompey Scott  
Mr. Lymas Kieth, not present  
Mr. Zingo Stevens

Mr. Abraham Casey, not present &  
afterwards excused  
Mr. Rich'd Vickery

(2)

Upon a Motion made and unanimously agreed upon, That Mr. Abraham Casey be fined 9 pence for his neglect in not giving his attendance in said Meeting, unless he shall make a suitable excuse hereafter. Mr. Lymas Kieth being sick and is excusable.

(3)

Ordered, that the Secretary, as soon as may be, make out a Letter, directing the same to the Members of the African Union Society now established at Providence, State of Rhode Island - That said Letter be read before the said Committee and if approv'd of, to be laid before the Members, That if, agreeable to their sentiments, or the Major part, to be sent to Providence, as soon as Convienent.

(4)

Ordered, that if any one of said six Committeemen to do not make their Appearance at one quarter of an hour after 7 o'clock, Evening, at any Meeting held by said Committeemen, he or they so offending shall be fined nine pence for such neglect, unless he or

they shall make a sufficient Excuse, and that said fine be laid out for Candles for the use of said Company.

(5)

It is agreed upon by the present Committee that if any one of the Members of the said African Union Society shall not make his appearance at any one of the Meetings held Quarterly, and utterly refuses to attend, and has heretofore Contributed into the Treasury, that he shall forfeit his Rights to the Treasury, only his Wife, or other Heirs, his Children may inherit all his Rights after his Death, unless it shall otherwise be decided by a Majority of Votes of the Members of said African Union Society.

(6)

Order'd, that the sheriff search & find the Book respecting the Settlement of White & Blacks at Sirelona (sic., i.e, Sierra Leone) at the Coast of Africa, & lodge the same in the Secretaries office as soon as may be, and that the said Meeting be adjourned to the first Thursday in October next, 3 o'clock, Evening, a the House of Mr. Abraham Casey, being the seventh Day of said Month, Anno Domini, 1790.

(7)

Newport, 5th Oct'r, 1790

Sir, You are requested to warn the underwritten Members of the African Union Society to meet at the House of Abraham Casey Esq'r on Thursday Evening, the 7th of October instant at 6 o'clock; hereof fail not, & bring with you the Book respecting the settlement of Whites & Blacks at Africa.

(8)

The Members Names:

Mr. Anthony Taylor  
Mr. Charles Chaloner  
Mr. Arthur Tikey  
Mr. Pompey Scott

Mr. Lymas Kieth  
Mr. Zingo Stevens  
Mr. Abraham Casey

Mr. Rich'd Vickery  
Mr. Salmar Nubia  
Mr. Prince Amy

Caesar Lyndon, Sec'ry

To Robert Kieth Esq'r, sheriff - Mr. Kieth not being present, Mr. Zingon Stevens warned the said Committee and others.

N.B. Each Member to be fined 9 pence if they don't attend ¼ after 7 o'clock, Evening.

1790, Oct. 7th. At a Meeting of the Committeemen and other Members of the African Union Society, held at Newport in the County of Newport in the State of Rhode Island &., the first Thursday of October, being the seventh Day of said Month, at 6 o'clock, Evening, at the House of Abraham Casey, Esq'r.

## (1) The Committee and others Present

Mr. Anthony Taylor  
 Mr. Charles Chaloner  
 Mr. Arthur Tikey  
 Mr. Pompey Scott  
 Mr. Lymas Kieth

Mr. Zingo Stevens  
 Mr. Abraham Casey  
 Mr. Rich'd Vickery  
 Mr. Prince Amy

## (2)

Whereas Arthur Tikey, Esq'r, Treasurer, made his appearance before the present committee and brought with him Six Pounds and Eleven pence, halfpenny in hard cash, and an order for two shillings, which he paid for a Horse & Carriage to carry the remains of Mr. Newport Carr, now deceased; said order was given by the Committee. The said sum of Six Pounds & Eleven pence being the whole Monies now in his hands belonging to the Members of said African Union Society.

## (3)

Mr. Richard Vickery borrowed the Book<sup>1</sup> respecting the Settlement of whites & Blacks at Africa; the said Book was brought before the above Committee by Mr. Arthur Tikey; the said Mr. Vickery promised to return the said Book in a few days to the secretaries office.

<sup>1</sup> By 1970 several books on African colonization and/or resettlement had been published, but most likely referred to here is **Substance of Black Settlement to be made near Sierra Leone** . . (London, 1786) by Henry Smeathman, a friend of William Thornton.

## (4)

It is recommended by the Committee that Zingo Stevens Esq're be requested to take a list; as soon as the same be made out & delivered to him to demand of the Members of the said African Union Society a four penny, half penny piece silver for defraying some necessary charges in said Society; that the Secretary make said List as soon as may be - The said List was delivered Mr. Stevens at 10th Octo., 1790.

## (5)

Be it Remembered, that whereas Anthony Taylor Esq're, President of the said African Union society, moved before the present committee & others, That for the Future the Secretary shall not contribute at every Quarterly Meeting, only at the Time whenever he receives his Compensation for his servicee, his proportionable part of said Contribution Money shall be deducted out, proportionaely, of his Yearly Salary, or Wages, of twelve shillings, Lawful Money, per year - which the said Committee and other Members then approv'd off, being the first Thursday of October, the seventh Day of Said Month, in the year of our Lord One Thousand, seven hundred and Ninety. -

## (6)

The following is an account rendered of those Persons, as Members of he African Union Society, and have not paid any part of the Contribution Money due from each:

Mr. Samuel Easton  
Mr. Geo. Hampshear

Mr. Rich'd Vickery  
Mr. Robert Kieth

} paid 1lb candles due for a fine  
laid on said Vickery

(7)

Ordered, that the Secretary draw a recommendation to lay before the Members, respecting of purchasing two tickets in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Semi-Annual State Lottery.

At a Quarterly Meeting of the African Union Society, held in Newport in the County of Newport & State of Rhode Island &., on the second Thursday of November, being the Eleventh Day of said Month, Anno Dom., 1790, at the House of Arthur Tikey Esq're.

The Members' Names

(1)

(36 members' names listed, noting 20 who pay 9 pence, 1 who pay 1/6, and 1 who pays 3/, which total is recorded: "Nov.r 11th, 1790. This Night the Contribution Money amounted to L 1.1, left in Possession of Arthur Tikey, Esq're as Treasurer.")

(2)

Caesar Lyndon RECEIVED 5/7½ of Mr. Zingo Stevens, 11th Nov'r, 1790 at the present Meeting in part payment for 1 year's service, due the 12th August last past.

(3) To the Members of the African Union Society in Newport, Octo. 7, 1790

Gentlemen,

Whereas we, the present Committee and others, principal Members of the African Union Society, having deliberately taken into Consideration that it will be beneficial to the said Union Society to purchase One or more Tickets in a Lottery, now made known to the Public in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Semi-Annual State Lottery, as well this State, as the other twelve states in the present Union, and elsewhere - We, the said committee and others, therefore do make known to all whom it may concerned and do recommend, if agreeable, to the sentiments of all, or the Major part, That there be two tickets immediately purchased in the above-mentioned Lottery for the benefit and advantage of the said Members of said African Union Society. Should it please Almighty God to give them success, if agreeable to his most wise Purpose, that there should be drawn a Prize, or Prizes, or Monies, agreeable to God's will, that agreeable to that holy writ, in the word of God made known to us, "That in all things whatsoever ye do - do all to the Glory of God," that the one third part of said Prize, Prizes or Monies ariseing thereby besides the purchase Monies of said Tickets shall be put under the care and directions of Arthur Tikey, Esq're, Treasurer, or his Successor in said office, and the other two third parts of said Prize, Prizes, or Monies so drawn more or less be immediately, as soon as con-

venient, divided between all the Members of the said African Union Society in equal proportions, to each and every Member thereof, who having heretofore contributed, if agreeable to the Sentiments of the Community or the Major part of said Members; That the said Two Tickets, after their being purchased, remain in the possession of Arthur Tikey, Esq're, Treasurer, or his successor in said office, untill the time of drawing & determination of said tickets in the present class, in said Commonwealth of Massachusetts Semi-Annual State Lottery aforesaid.

The following being a List of the Committee and others present:

(4)

**(All members as listed under "the Committee and Other Present" for the October 7 meeting, above, are listed.)**

(5)

Nov. 11th, 1790. At a Quarterly Meeting held this Evening, where among other things, the above and foregoing Recommendation, and the scheme of said Lottery, being read and laid before the Members then present, On Consideration whereof it is agreed that there shall be five silver dollars delivered to Charles Chaloner Esq're and five silver dollars delivered to Arthur Tikey, Esq., taken out of said Treasury, the said two Gentlemen were empowered to purchase two Tickets in said Commonwealth of Massachusetts Semi-Annual State Lottery for the benefit and advantage of the said Members of said African Union Society, that after they had purchased said tickets, to lodge them in the hands of said Arthur Tikey, Esq're or his successor untill the drawing of said Lottery, which, according to the scheme of said Lottery, to commence on or about the seventeenth of March next, Anno Domini, 1791; that if so happen it should please God to favour said Society with success that they should draw a Prize or Prizes, that one third part of said Prize or Prizes, Monies arising thereby with the amount of the purchase money of said two tickets shall be lodged in the Treasury, and the other two third parts of said Prize, Prizes or Monies should be divided among the said Members of said African Union Society, who having contributed in said Treasury in equal parts and proportions, according to Justice & Equity, agreeable to the Voice, or Vote of the Community or Members of said African Union Society. -

(6)

12th. Nov., 1790. Abraham Casey, Esq're bought 1 lb. Candles for the use of this Society & also 2 Candles the last evening.

(7)

Order'd that the committee meet at Mr. Zingo Stevens's on the first Thursday of December next, at Evening, being the second Day of said Month, Anno Domini, 1790, also that each Member pay what is due to the Treasury as their proportionable parts on or before the next Quarterly Meeting, and that Charles Chaloner & Zingo Stevens, Esq're wait on Mr. Salmar Nubia, to know whether the said Mr. Nubia intends to be one of the Members of said Society or not, and make their report.

(8)

Mr. Richard Vickery resigned being a Committeeman this Evening, and Mr. John Green was nominated in the Room & stead of Mr. Vickery.

(9)

Monday, 45 Minutes after 12 o'clock p.m. Nov. 15, 1790, Charles Chaloner, Esq're bought a Ticket, on perusing the same, said Ticket was printed one side thereof, as follows:

Massachusetts Semi-Annual State Lottery  
Class; First 17219      &      No. 17249  
purchased by Mr. Tikey      Mr. Chaloner purchased

This ticket shall entitle the Bearer to receive the Prize that may be drawn against its Number, agreeably to an Act of the General Court passed March 2, 1790 subject to a Deduction of 12½.

Signed by Mr. David Cobb

At a Meeting of the Committee hald at Newport in the County of Newport in the State of Rhode Island &., on the first Thursday of December, being the second Day of said Month, Anno Domini, 1790, at the House of Zingo Stevens, Esq're.

Present

(1)

(With the substitution of the name of Mr. John Greene for that of resigned Mr. Richard Vickery, and with the presence of the President, Mr. Anthony Taylor, the committee members are present as with the September 2 listing, above.)

(2)

Order'd, that the Secretary write a Letter or Billet and deliver the same to Mr. Pompey Scott, who is to deliver said Letter to Mr. Salmar Nubia, requesting the said Nubia to pay & discharge all the moneys due from the said Nubia into the Treasury on or before the next Quarterly Meeting, that the said Nubia have his answer to be laid before the Committee at their Meeting to be held on the first Thursday of January next, Anno Domini, being the sixth Day of said Month, at the house of Mr. Lymas Kieth.

(3)

There were laid before the said Committee three Letters, Namely, one directed to the African Union Society, the Black People at Providence; One directed to Kingston Pease,

Esq're, at New York; and the other to Mr. Cato Slocum at Providence, which said Letters, after being read before the said Committee, proved satisfactory to each Member present, and signed by Mr. Lymas Kieth.

(4)

A List or Memorandum of the Moneys unpaid and due from each Member was also read before the said Committee, and ordered to be made known to each, & insist a payment to be made on or before the second Thursday of February next Anno Dom., 1791, to entitle each member their proportionable part of a Prize or Prizes that may be drawn by virtue of the two Tickets purchased with some Momey taken out of the Treasury belonging to the Members of the African Union Society, the Black People now established in Newport.

(5)

Agreeable to the aforewritten Order, a Letter had been sent to Mr. Nubia, delivered him by Mr. Pompey Scott, and on consideration thereof the said Mr. Nubia made answer that he would make his appearance at a Quarterly Meeting at Feb'y next Anno Domini 1791, and discharge what Monies are due as his proportion into the Treasury.

#### 1791

At a Meeting of the Committee of the African Union Society, held in Newport &., on Thursday, being the sixth Day of January, in the Evening thereof, and the first Thursday in said Month Anno Domini 1791(A) at the house Occupied by Lymas Kieth -

#### Present

(1)

(10 members are present.)

(2)

It is hereby recommended by the present Committee that there be set apart a Day of Humiliation, fasting and prayer by the Members of the said African Union Society and others of every Denomination that shall find freedom to attend on said Day, of the African Race and others, to return our most humble and hearty Thanks to Almighty God for his kind interposition on our Behalf for Mercie, Temporal & Spiritual bestowed on us, Particularly for putting into the Hearts of his dear Children to set up a free School for the Instruction of the poor, distressed Africans, to believe that God is able to do great Things for those who put their trust in him; and that the said Committee do recommend the last Thursday of April next, being the twenty eighth Day of said Month Anno Dom 1791 be the said Day set apart for said fasting, humiliation and prayers before described.

(3) To all the Members of the African Union Society in Newport

Gentlemen,

Whereas we the Committee of the African Union Society, takeing into Consideration the Extraordinary and Miraculous deliverances wrought by the strong and outstrethed Arm of Almighty GOD, who alone is able to overthrow, subdue and Controul Kingdoms and Empires, agreeable to his Wise Purposes, and for putting into the Hearts of his Dear Children, in this State, to set up a free School for the Advancement of Instruction of the poor, distressed, despised and outcast Africans in this Town and other parts of the Globe - And Almighty God has of late been pleased to raise up many to compassionate and befriend the poor Africans."

We, taking all this into view, think there is a Special and loud call to us and others of the said African Race to seek GOD by meeting together for that purpose, more privately or in public, as shall be most convenient, on the last Thursday of April next, the twenty eighth Day of said Month Anno Dom. 1791 That as many of the Blacks, Africans and others that can conveniently to attend on said Day, humbly to confess the sins of our forefathers and our own sins, and to Acknowledge the righteousness of GOD in bringing all the evils on us, our Children, and brethren, and earnestly to cry to GOD for the Pardon of our sins, and that he would of his great Mercy deliver us and all the Nations of the Africans and others of his Dear children from Sin and Temptation, throughout the World - That this Proposal be laid before all the Members and receive their consent and approbation thereon at our Quarterly Meeting to be held on the second Thursday of February Anno Dom. 1791 If agreeable to all the Members or the Major part to vote thereon.

Newport, 6th January, 1791. The within & above Proposal was acted & passed by consent of the within mentioned Committee.

(4)

Whereas Mr. Charles Chaloner bro't and presented at this Quarterly Meeting 7 silver dollars, part of a Prize in the Massachusetts Semi-Annual State Lotter, Class the First, 12½ per cent & other charges being first taken and deducted out, It is the agreement of the Major part of the Members present that the said seven dollars & one other taken out of the Treasury should be delivered into the hands of the said Charles Chaloner Esq'r two dollars; Mr. Pompey Scott, two dollars; Mr. Zingo Stevens, two dollars & Mr. Lymas Kieth, two dollars, to purchase 4 tickets in the Newport Trinity Church Lottery, for the benefit of all the Members belonging to said Society; each Person were empowered to purchase said Tickets at such Place and Direction as to them shall appear Necessary for the Profit & Advantage of all the Members; That each Person purchase a Ticket as soon as Possible.

(5)

Ordered that a List be made out of all the absent Members' Names, to warn them to make their Appearance on Monday Evening next, being the 16th of this instant May, at 7 o'clock, at Mr. Arthur Tikey's, in Order to pay their proportionable parts of Contribution Money to entitle them to receive a part of the Prize or Prizes that may be drawn in the said Trinity Church Lottery aforesaid and that Mr. Abraham Casey [is?] to warn all the said Members who were absent at the present Meeting.

At a Meeting of the Committee of the African Union Society, held at Newport in the County of Newport &., on Thursday, being the sixth Day, Evening, of January, being the first Thursday in said Month, Anno Domini, 1791(B).

The Committee and Others Present

(1)

**(10 members are present.)**

(2)

Whereas Mr. Cupid Brown, a free Black man (so called) of said Newport, made his appearance before the said Committee & others and prayed an admittance into the said African Union Society, which was granted, upon his paying the whole Monies due from the first Entrance Money to this time, being six shillings and four pence, half-penny Lawful Money Silver, which the said Cupid Brown complied (sic) therewith, by paying down six shillings, Silver, lawful money, and the remaining four pence half-penny as soon as might be, whereupon the said Cupid Brown is hereby Considered as a Member of the said African Union Society, and thereby entitled to all the Profits, Privileges & Advantages that is, or shall arise to each member thereof, by conforming agreeable to the Rules and Regulations of said Society.

(3)

Whereas Lymas Kieth, Esq're, brought & laid before the committee a certain Letter directed to the said Lymas Kieth, bearing date the 21st of December, 1790, to be communicated to the Members of the African Society in Newport, with three shillings & nine pence, Silver Lawful money - the said letter was read before the committee, and ordered to be lodged with the other Papers belonging to said Society. The abovementioned sum of Six Shillings and three shillings & nine pence, ordered to be lodged in the Treasury, as also a few lines wrote and signed with the name of Mr. Salmar Nubia, after being read, was ordered to be put on file.

(4)

To all the Members of the African Union Society in Newport:

Gentlemen,

Whereas we, the Committee of the African Union Society, taking into Consideration the Extraordinary and miraculous deliverances wrought by the strong and outstretched Arm of Almighty God, who alone is able to overthrow, subdue and control Kingdoms & Empires, agreeable to his wise purpose - and for putting into the hearts of his Dear Children, in this State, to set up a free school for the Advancement and Instruction of the poor, despised and distressed Africans in this Town and other parts of the Globe - And Almighty GOD has of late been pleased to raise up many to compassionate and befriend the poor Africans;

We, taking all this into view, think there is a special and loud call to us and other Africans to seek GOD by extraordinary fasting and prayer to Almighty GOD, by meeting together for that purpose, more privately or in public, as shall be most convenient, on the last Thursday of April next, the twenty-eighth Day of said month, Anno Domini, 1791: that as many of the Blacks, Africans & others that can conveniently to attend on said fasting and prayer on said Day, humbly to confess the sins of our fathers, and our own sins, and to acknowledge the righteousness of GOD, in bringing all these evils on us, our Children and brethren, and earnestly to cry to GOD for the Pardon of our Sins, and that he would of his great Mercy deliver us, and all the nations of the Africans, & others of his Dear Children from Sin of Temptations throughout the World -, That this proposal be laid before all the Members and received their consent & Approbation thereon at our Quarterly Meeting, to be held on the second Thursday of February, Anno Domini, 1791 - if agreeable to all the Members, or the Major part to Vote thereon.

Newport, 6th January, 1791

(5)

It is hereby recommended by the present Committee that there be set apart a Day of Humiliation, fasting and prayer by the Members of the said African Union Society and other of every Denomination, that shall find freedom to attend on said Day of the African Race and others to return our most humble and hearty thanks to Almighty GOD for his kind interposition on our behalf, for Mercies Temporal & Spiritual bestowed on us, particularly for putting into the Hearts of his dear Children to set up a free school for the Instruction of the poor, distressed Africans, to believe that God is able to do great things for those that put their trust in him, And that the said Committee do recommend the last Thursday of April next, being the twenty eighth Day of said Month, Anno Domini, 1791, be the said Day set apart for said fasting, humiliation and prayer before described.

(6)

The within and above Proposal was acted & passed by Consent of the above mentioned Committee.

(7)

Whereas Mr. Charles Chaloner brought and presented at this Quarterly Meeting 7 silver dollars, part of a Prize in the Massachusetts Semi Annual State Lottery, Class the First, 12½ percent & other charges being first taken and deducted out. It is the agreement of the Major part of the Members present that the said seven dollars & one other taken out of the Treasury should be delivered into the hands of the said Charles Chaloner, esq'r two dollars; Mr. Pompey Scott, two dollars; Mr. Zingo Stevens, two dollars & Mr. Lyman Kieth two dollars to purchase 4 tickets in the Newport Trinity Church Lottery for the benefit of all the Members belonging to said Society; each person were empowered to purchase said Tickets at such Place and Direction as to them shall appear Necessary for the Profit, Advantage of all the Members, that each person purchase a Ticket as soon as possible.

(8)

Ordered, that a List be made out of all the absent Members' Names, to warn them to

make their Appearance on Monday Evening next, being the 16th of this instant May, at 7 o'clock, Mr. Arthur Tikey's, in order to pay their proportionable parts of Contribution Money, to entitle them to receive a part of the Prize or Prizes that may be drawn in the said Trinity Church Lottery aforesaid, and that Mr. Abraham Casey to warn all the said Members who were absent at present Meeting.

At a Quarterly Meeting, held in Newport, the 10th February,  
Anno Domini, 1791

Present

(1)

**(The 6-man Committee is present and accounted for, resolving to make "said last Thursday of April next ... the said Day" of humiliation, fasting and prayer.)**

At a Meeting of the Committee of the African Union Society, the Africans, held in Newport in the County of Newport in the State of Rhode Island &., on the first Thursday of March, Anno Domini, 1791, at the House of Abraham Casey, Esq're, the Evening of said Day.

The Committee Present

(1)

**(The six man Committee is present and accounted for.)**

(2)

Thereas the present Committee, by request of some of the inhabitants in said Newport, to write a Letter and directed same to Kingston Pease, Esq'r, now a resident in New York, informing him respecting the affliction which his son, Arthur, is now labouring under, which Letter contains the following words, Namely:

**(See Letter No. 27)**

(3)

Upon the request made by Mr. Tony Overing to make a certain Bier to carry the Remains of the Dead belonging to the Union Society, the same being laid before the Committee, the same was objected by a Majority, therefore said request was made void - since which a Bier has been made by Mr. Deacon Peabody at the charge & expense of the said African Union Society. The said Tony Overing requested that if he should find some carpenter to make said Bier at his expense, that thereby he might be admitted as one of the Pall Company, if agreeable to all Parties concern'd, which request was not granted and therefore the proceedings in that behalf being laid aside.

(4)

Ordered that separate accounts be made out against the following Persons for the Contribution & other Monies due from each

3d March, 1791	Mr. George Hampshear for .....	0.3.9
	Mr. Salmar Nubia.....	4.6
	Mr. Cuffee Drew .....	2.11
	Mr. Samuel Easton.....	3.9
	For a Hole or tare in said Pall under Mr. Easton's care .....	1.0
		<hr/> 0.15.11

(5)

It is also to be understood by all whom it may concern that at the Death, or utter removal of any one of the Members of the said African Union Society that the Wife and children & other Heirs of those so dying, or utter removal of such Person or Persons aforesaid; the the Wife and children shall be benefited by the Treasury of said African Union Society in said Newport, that in case the said widow of any deceased Member shall marry, and the Person (meaning her husband) not being a member or Proprietor of said Society and refuses to become such by Contributions, they shall loose all their Rights to the said Treasury belonging to said Society, that the Children shall be benefited thereby upon the male heirs becoming Members & conforming to the Rules & Regulations thereof, that notwithstanding of the removal of any Member, that are punctual and pay their proportionable parts, they shall always be benefited by said Treasury.

(6)

Order'd that there be a Meeting of the Committee and others, the 10th, or second Thursday of March, Anno Dom., 1791, to examine the Accounts respecting the Pall Company at Mr. Abraham Casey's - and to do what else shall appear to be necessary, and that the following Persons be warned to attend:

Mr. Anthony Taylor	Mr. John Greene
Mr. Charles Chaloner	Mr. Arthur Tikey
Mr. Pompey Scott	Mr. Prince Amy
Mr. Lymas Kieth	Mr. Burry Vernon
Mr. Zingo Stevens	Mr. Rich'd Vickery
Mr. Abraham Casey	Mr. Cudgo Gibbs

At a Special Meeting of the Committee of the African Union Society & others of the Pall Company, held in Newport in the County of Newport &., on the second Thursday of March, being the tenth Day of said Month, Evening, Anno Domini, 1791, at Mr. Abraham Casey's.

## Present

(1)

**(A total of sixteen (16) members are present and accounted for.)**

(2)

Whereas the abovesaid Members have thought fit to Appoint Charles Chaloner, Esq'r to be the Keeper of Treasury of Monies gathered by letting out the Pall, and that Mr. Cubbeer Rodman be the Keeper of said Pall, and to let the same, and be accomptable to the Treasurer therefor, the time being, and that the Treasurer receive all the Monies belonging to said Pall Company, by examination amounting to sixteen shillings and one penny, half penny, silver lawful money, now put under the care & charge of the said Charles Chaloner, Esq'r for the use of said Pall Company.

(3)

Order'd that the accounts against Mr. George Hampshear for 3/9; Mr. Salmar Nubia for 4/6; Mr. Cuffee Drew for 2/11; Mr. Samuel Easton for 4/9, amounting in the whole to fifteen shillings and eleven pence, be paid on or before the fourteenth of this instant March, by accounts against each of them separately to be lodged in the Treasury of said Union Society, excepting one shilling - thereof belonging to the Pall Company, which is to be lodged with the Treasurer of said Pall Company.

(4)

Sir, Please to deliver the bearer, Lymas Kieth, Esq'r, nine shillings silver lawful Money, by order of Anthony Taylor, & Charles Chaloner, Esq'res. Your compliance will much oblige

Your h'ble Serv't  
Caesar Lyndon, Secr'y

To be taken out of the African Union  
Society Treasury, Arthur Tikey, Esq'r

(5)

I Promise to pay Arthur Tikey, Esq'r, Treasurer or his successor nine shillings silver lawful money, Value rec'd, with interest till paid in Six months from this date, Witness my Hand, Newport, March 17, 1791.

Lymas Kieth

Copy

At a Meeting of the Members of the African Union Society, held in Newport, in the County of Newport &., on Tuesday Evening, the twenty-second of March, Anno Dom., 1791, at the House of Arthur Tikey, Esq'r.

Present

(1)

**(10 members are present and accounted for.)**

(2)

Whereas Lymas Kieth, Esq'r brought & presented before the Members of the present Meeting, for their perusal and consideration thereupon, a Book, inclosed under cover from Philadelphia, directed to the Union Society in Newport and to the care of L. Kieth. The said Book was wrote respecting Africans in general, appeared to be a Present to said Society, made by one Mr. Henry P. Stewart of said Philadelphia, and African gentleman, formerly a resident in said Newport. The said Book was order'd to be read before the said Members, but some unhappy disputes having taken place by some of the Members, which laid said Book aside, and the same Book contained nearly 125 pages, therefore it was Concluded that said Book should be lodged in the Secretaries office, to be perused there, and likewise by each Member, as soon as might be. On Thursday morning, the 24th of March instant, the said Book was delivered to Lymas Kieth, Esq'r to be perused and by him to be communicated to the following Members: Anthony Taylor, Esq'r, President; Charles Chaloner, Esq'r, Vice President & one of the Committee; Mr. Arthur Tikey, Treasurer; Mr. Prince Amy, Mr. Pompey Scott, Mr. Zingo Stevens, Mr. Abraham Casey, Mr. John Greene, and the remaining Members belonging to the said African Union Society in said Newport, who might desire to peruse the same.

At a Meeting of the Committee of the African Union Society, held in Newport &., on the first Thursday of April, being the seventh Day, Evening, of said Month, Anno Dom., 1791(A), at Mr. John Greene.

Present

(1)

**(Six (6) members are present)**

(2)

Whereas the present Committee have thought fit to appoint Messrs. Abraham Casey and Lymas Kieth to wait on Mr. Richard Vickery and request the said Mr. Vickery immediately to carry or cause the Pall now under his charge to be delivered into the care and charge of Mr. Cubbeer Rodman, one of the Sextons belonging to the Black Company; and also that the said Mr. Vickery be fined nine pence for his neglect in not attending at this Meeting, after being properly warned to attend the same - that the said Mr. Vickery return the Book into the Secretaries office as soon as may be, respecting the settlement of the Africans & others at some part of Africa, which he borrowed the evening of the 7th October last past at Mr. Abraham Casey's before the present Committee.

(3)

Ordered & agreed upon that Zingo Stevens, Esq'r immediately wait on Mr. Deacon Peabody, and request him to make a suitable Bier, to carry the Dead, being the Remains or Bodies of every Member of the Union Society, their wives, children and Relations & others that may apply for said Bier, having consent had and obtained; that all the Members are to be benefited by said Bier, as the members of the Pall Company are entitled to the use of the Pall; that the said Bier be paid for out of the Treasury belonging to said Societies.

(4)

Agreed upon and ordered, that a Letter be wrote and presented to the Reverend Mr. Samuel Hopkins, requesting the said Mr. Hopkins to attend and preach a suitable sermon to the proposed Fast, to be held by the Members of the said African Union Society, to be held on the last Thursday, the 28th of this instant April.

(5)

Ordered that the next Meeting of said Committee be held at Charles Chaloner, Esq'r on the first Thursday Evening of May next, and that the present committee take notice & govern themselves accordingly.

(6)

Order'd that Caesar Lyndon wait on the Reverend Mr. Samuel Hopkins, Pastor of the first Congregational Church and society in said Newport, requesting him, the said Parson Hopkins, to Preach the Gospel at his Meeting House for the poor, despised Africans, the said Members of the said African Union Society & others of every denomination who may have some inclination to attend on said day of fasting, humiliation and prayer to Almighty GOD for his numberless Mercies and blessings continued to us ever since we have had existence, on the last Thursday of April instant, the 28th Day, Anno Dom., 1791, and to bring the said Mr. Hopkins's answer to the above request. Newport, 17th April, 1791

(7)

Be it remeber'd that before the Reverend Mr. Hopkins was requested to Preach on the said Fast Day abovementioned, it was proposed that notwithstanding what has been proposed by the Major part of said Members, that the Reverend Mr. Bliss be requested to obtain consent of the Congregation under his charge, that the said Africans may meet in said house on the said fast day, and the said Mr. Bliss to attend and preach a suitable sermon on said Day of Fasting, which was accordingly performed on said Day, the last Thursday in April, Anno Dom., 1791.

At a Meeting of the Committee of the African Union Society, held a Newport &., on the first Thursday Evening of April, being the seventh Day of said Month Anno Dom 1791(B).

Present

(1)

**(7 members are present.)**

(2)

**Order'd that Ceasar Lyndon wait on the Reverend Mr. Samuel Hopkins, Pastor of the first Congregational Church and Society in said Newport, requesting him, the said Reverend Parson, to Preach the Gospel at his Meeting House for the poor, despised Africans, the said Members of the said African Union Society & others of every denomination who may have some inclination to attend on said day of fasting, humiliation and prayer to Almighty GOD for his number less Mercies and blessings continued to us ever since we have had existence, on the last Thursday of April instant, the 28th Day Anno Dom., 1791 And to bring the said Mr. Hopkins' Answer to the above request. Newport 17th April, 1791**

(3)

**Be it Remembered that before the Reverend Mr. Hopkins was requested to Preach on the said Fast day abovementioned, it was proposed That Notwithstanding what has been proposed by the Major part of said Members That the Reverend Mr. Bliss be requested to obtain consent of the Congregation under his charge that the said Africans may meet in said house on the said fast day, And the said Mr. Bliss to attend and preach a suitable Sermon on said Day of Fasting, which was accordingly performed on said Day, the last Thursday in April Anno Dom, 1791.**

At a Meeting of the Committee, held in Newport &., on the first Thursday Evening of May, 1791, the fifth Day of said Month, at Charles Chaloners Esq'r.

**Present**

(1)

**(Six members present, but 1 of them, Mr. John Greene "was excused on account of some Business of Importance.")**

(2)

**Whereas the said Committee, having thought fit to order that there be a Letter wrote, in order to give thanks to the Reverend Mr. Parson Bliss for his extraordinary goodness in attending & preaching a suitable discourse on the fast Day, held the 28th of April last past - and that if Agreeable, to the Company of the Members, or the Major part, to take out some money, out of the Treasury sufficient to purchase one pair Men's gloves and present the same, with the said Letter of Thanks, to the said Parson Bliss.**

(3)

**Agreed upon, that the Appointment of the present six Committeemen be read before the Members of the Meeting, to be held the 2'd Thursday Evening, or Quarterly, of May**

instant, and also that the said Bier, for carrying the remains of each Male or Female that may die, belonging to the African Union Society, and others that may apply for the same when made & finished, be paid for out of the Monies gathered in letting out the said Pall.

(4)

1791, May 5th. Mr. Zingo Stevens paid One Shilling & sixpence, silver lawful Money, to intitle him, as one of the Members belonging to the Pall Company, delivered to Mr. Charles Chaloner as Treasurer, and likewise the said Mr. Chaloner rec'd 1/6 more of Mrs. Dutchess Quammany for Pall hire some short time ago.

(5)

That the present Committee meet at the House of Zingo Stevens, Esq'r on the first Thursday Evening of June next at 7 o'clock, being the second Day of said Month, Anno Domini, 1791, at that time and place before described said Committee are to meet & govern themselves accordingly.

The following being a Copy of Thanks inserted in a Letter to the Reverend Mr. William Bliss, Namely

**(See Letter No. 28)**

1791. May 20th - Early in the Morning, the gloves & Tea were put under the care & charge of Mr. Scipio Tanner, who promised to carry, & deliver them safe, with a copy of the aforegoing Letter to the Reverend Mr. Bliss before the next approaching Day, being the Seventh Day of the week - The Gloves cost 3/ & the Tea 6/, Money taken out of the Treasury.

At a Quarterly Meeting of Members of the African Union Society, held at Newport 7., on the second Thursday of May, being the twelfth Day of said Month, Anno Dom., 1791, at the House of Arthur Tikey, Esq'r.

#### The Members' Names

(1)

**(38 members listed as present, 26 noted paying 9 pence each, 1 member pays 6 pence, and another pays 1/6.)**

(2)

The Contribution money amounted to 0.14.0 - one dollar afterwards taken out with which part of 4 Tickets order'd to be immediately purchased in the Church lottery, also to warn the absent Members to attend next Monday Evening at Mr. Tikey's. 9 pence paid by Mr. Quam Bowers; the Meeting to be held the 16th of May instant, 1791; Money gathered this night, the 16th May, was 0.9.7½; on the same night, took out one dollar to make a present to Mr. Bliss, a pair of Men's Gloves & some Tea - Mr. Vickery bought said Tea for 6/, Men's Gloves for 3/.

At a Meeting of the Committee of the African Union Society, held in Newport &., on the first Thursday in August, being the fourth Day of said Month, Anno Domini, 1791, at Evening, 7 o'clock, at Mr. Pompey Scott's.

(1) The Committeemen's Names

Mr. Charles Chaloner		Mr. Abraham Casey	
Mr. Pompey Scott		Mr. ohn Greene	both absent
Mr. Lymas Kieth	Present		
Mr. Zingo Stevens			

(2)

Order'd that Mr. Abraham Casey be requested to warn the Members belonging to the African Union Society's Company, as soon as Convenient, at a Quarterly Meeting to be held in said Newport on the second Thursday of August instant, at the House of Arthur Tikey, Esq'r, and that a List of Members' Names be forthwith immediately made out & given to Mr. Casey, in order to warn the said Members to attend at said Quarterly Meeting before described, and that the said Mr. Casey be requested not to fail herein.

At a Quarterly Meeting of Members of the African Union Society, held at Newport &., on the second Thursday of August, being the Eleventh Day of said Month, Anno Domini, 1791, at the House of Arthur Tikey, Esq'r.

The Members' Names

(1)

**(38 members listed as present, 21 paying 9 pence, 2 paying 1/6. "The whole Contribution Money amounted to £0.17.3 this Evening.")**

(2)

Whereas there has heretofore a Controversy subsisted between Arthur Tikey, Esq'r & Congo Jenkins, Gent., both of said Newport - All matters in dispute respecting the purchasing of one certain Lot of Land with a Dwelling House & other Buildings thereon, standing situate, lying & being in said Newport & owned by the said Parties in equal Parts, and not agreeing to the said Premises was submitted to the Judgment & Determination of the following Persons as Referees, viz. Mr. Charles Chaloner, Mr. Lymas Kieth, Mr. Zingo Stevens, & Caesar Lyndon. Having met & heard both Parties, the said Referees made their Report & sign'd the same this Evening & delivered one copy of said Report to Arthur Tikey, Esq'r, One other Copy was delivered Abraham Casey, Esq'r to be delivered to Mr. Congo Jenkins - The said Report in this Book of Records of the African Union Society may more fully appear and at large appear.

(3)

Order'd that as about one half of all the Members belonging to the African Union Society

present, they conclude it will be best to delay the choice of officers at this Annual Meeting, and to warn all the Members in the meantime to meet on Thursday Evening, of the 18th of this instant August, if fair weather, if not, then the next Monday Evening afterwards, being the 22'd of said August, in order to choose officers for the year ensuing, and to transact such business as shall then & there appear Necessary.

(4)

Upon a Motion made by Mr. Congo Jenkins, that he had received a four pistareen piece of silver in the Room of one dollar, in part payment of the sum of Thirty six pounds, three shillings, received of Arthur Tikey, Esq'r, the said Motion being made known to said Arthur Tikey, Esq'r, who said he would recitify the said mistake and make full Satisfaction therefor, as soon as might be.

At a Meeting by Adjournment, held at Newport &., by the Members of the African Union Society, on the third Thursday of August, being the Eighteenth Day of said Month, Anno Domini, 1791, at the House of Arthur Tikey, Esq'r.

#### The Present Members

(1)

**(26 members are present)**

(2)

Be it Remember'd that whereas on the second Thursday of August instant, being the Annual Meeting of this Society, the Officers thereof not being chosen by reason only about one half of the Members present at that time, therefore the said Members then present adjourned after Contribution to the present Term, when the above mentioned Members attended and chose or Nominated all the Officers that served the last Year in the following order, viz:

Mr. Anthony Taylor, President  
Mr. Charles Chaloner, Vice Pres.  
& one of the committee  
Mr. Pompey Scott  
Mr. Lymas Kieth

Mr. Zingo Stevens  
Mr. Abraham Casey  
Mr. John Greene  
& Six Committeemen

(3)

After Contribution of the absent Members from the last Meeting amounted to 0.4.6 besides more, which Mr. Zingo Stevens brought at the same time. One Shilling & six pence paid Caesar Lyndon this night, this contribution amounted to 3/ unpaid before & now paid, besides 7/6 he rec'd of Mr. Vickery & Mr. Easton some time back - the whole settlement made this Night for his services the year 1790 to the second Thursday, this instant August, 1791.

At a Meeting of the Committee of the African Union Society, held at Newport &., on the second Thursday of

September, being the Eighth Day Evening of said Month.  
Anno Domini, 1791, at Abraham Casey, Esq'r.

Present

(1)

**(7 members are present.)**

(2)

Whereas it is thought necessary and convenient by the present Committee that Mr. Lymas Kieth be requested to have made four small Pillows, suitable to lay on the shoulders of the bearers, who may hereafter be requested to bear the burthen of carrying some of the Members, or others that may die & [be] carried on the Bier that has been purchased by the present Members, and that the Charge of said Pillows be paid out of the African Union Society's Treasury, as soon as may be, and that the parts of said Bier not convenient on the shoulders be altered and made easy to the shoulders of each bearer thereof.

(3)

Ordered that Mr. Cupid Brown be requested to give his attendance at the next Meeting of said Committee, on the first Thursday of October next, at Mr. John Greene's, on the sixth Day Evening of said Month, Anno Domini, 1791, to answer the Complaint of Anthony Taylor, Esq'r, respecting a certain Bed given to the comfort of said Anthony Taylor, Namely his Wife, Peggy, in and by the last Will and Testament of Mrs. Jubah Greenhill, deceased sometime past. The said Cupid Brown having delivered one certain Bed & Bedding, which has not been received satisfactory by the said Anthony Taylor, Esq'r, nor his said wife, Peggy.

(4)

Whereas it is propos'd by the present Committee that each Member of the African Union Society pay their proportions into the Treasury thereof as soon as may be, and that the Secretary immediately make out two Lists, and deliver one to Abraham Casey, Esq'r and by him to be presented to those from whom the Monies are due, & collect the same, and whereas Mr. Primus Thurston sometime ago received a List for the same purpose, above related, be empower'd to collect the Monies unpaid, agreeable to the Order of the above said Committee, And that Charles Chaloner & Zingon Stevens, Esq're wait on the Treasurer & take out 3/ for Mr. Samuel Easton, who is now sick & feeble.

(5)

Be it Remembered, and it is hereby made known to all whom it may concern, That the Africans, the Natives of Africa, residing in Newport, we the committee of the African Union Society, taking into Consideration, thought it our indispensable duty not to associate ourselves to those who are of the African Race that do, or hereafter be the Means of bringing, from their Native Country, the Males, Females, Boys & Girls from Africa into

Bondage, to the hurt of themselves and the Inhabitants of the Country or Place where they may be brought and sold, and that we the said Committee, for Ourselves and the Members of the said Union Society, whom we represent, will not, directly or indirectly, receive any of our acquaintances, Fathers, brothers or other Relations into this Society, who is or shall be the Means of bringing into Slavery or Bondage, any of their Nation, or others being Africans or Natives thereof, the Natives that are commonly called, by Inhabitants in Newport, Negroes, & the Inhabitants of the United States of America in general - and also, those Members of the Union Society, who refuse utterly to pay their Proportionable Parts to the Treasury, be discharged and considered as not being Members of the said Union Society, unless a Vote or Voice - of the whole Community shall deem otherwise.

At a Meeting of the Committee of the African Union Society, held in Newport &., on the first Thursday Evening of October, being the sixth Day of said Month, Anno Domini, 1791, at Mr. John Green's

#### Present

(1)

**(6 members are present)**

(2)

Whereas at the last Meeting of the Present Committee, it was proposed that it was not right & just to encourage those blacks who were the means of bringing or Transporting from Africa into this Country the Natives of Africa or elsewhere to make Slaves, to the great hurt of the Inhabitants of any part residing there in said places, that those who were guilty of such acts, being blacks, should not enter into this Society as Members thereof, that so long as they were guilty, or did persist in said Trade, should not enter into said Society, nor be entitled to the Privileges & advantages that any other Member might be benefited thereby, this being a Rule of the present Committee.

(3)

Ordered that there be one pistarene taken out of the Union Society's Treasury to make out some Prize Money in order to purchase two Tickets in the Second Congregational Lottery, now sat up by Order of the General Assembly in the present State of Rhode Island.

(4)

Whereas Mr. Congo Jenkins made his personal appearance before the present Committee, requesting that all the Contribution Moneys he had Contributed might be delivered out of said Treasury to John Greene, Esq'r, the Committee, as one Man, objected against such a proposal, excepting the said Mr. Greene, and it was proposed that the Agreement, or Order, by the whole Community should be read, and the same being read, and thereby no one Member could withdraw from said Society and take out all his or their Contribution

Money, whereupon the said Congo Jenkins withdrew himself from said Company or Union Society. for the future, but not to take out his Contribution Money, nor to give any orders respecting the same that might prove effectual to the said Congo Jenkins's Order.

(5)

Order'd that Mr. John Greene and Mr. Zingo Stevens wait on those Persons who having given Notes into the Treasury payable to the Times being fixed for payment, they having neglected the same and to urge those Persons to pay as soon as conveniently may be; also that Mr. Greene & Mr. Kieth be requested to purchase two Tickets for the benefit of the said society.

(6)

Some short time after Messrs. Greene & Kieth's appointment for purchasing the Tickets in the said Second Congregational Society's Lottery, Mr. Lymas Kieth purchased the Ticket Numbered 577, Mr. Greene purchased the Ticket Numbered 233 - for the benefit of the African Union Society, to wit, the Members belonging to the same.

At a Meeting of the Committee of the African Union Society, held in Newport &., on the first Thursday Evening in November, being the third Day of said Month, Anno Dom., 1791, at Mr. Charles Chaloners

Present

(1)

**(6 members are present.)**

(2)

Whereas the present Committee nominated Mr. Arthur Tikey a Committeeman in the room of Mr. John Greene, who was absent in said Meeting, but the said Arthur Tikey declined and refused the services as a Committeeman, alledging that he could not attend at Every Meeting, that he was busy at Times in his lawful calling, however the same was adjourned to another hearing.

At a Quarterly Meeting held in Newport, & by the Blacks, the second Thursday Evening of November, being the tenth Day (Evening) of said Month, Anno Dom., 1791, at Mr. Tikey's.

Present

(1)

**(36 members are present, 23 paying 9 pence.)**

(2)

1791, Nov, r 10th. The Contribution Money this Evening amounted to £ 0.15.9, for Pall & Bier used for Mr. Henry Prince was 2/ paid by Mr. Cubbeer Rodman to Mr. Charles Chaloner.

(3)

Whereas the Committee of the above-named Members, at their Meeting, held the third of November instant, at Mr. Charles Chaloner's, proposed that Mr. Arthur Tikey be nominated and appointed a Committeeman in the Room of Mr. John Greene, who was absent at said Meeting and at other times, the said Arthur Tikey refused the said request, after some reasoning offered, the same was adjourned untill the present Meeting. The said Arthur Tikey being now appointed in said Trust, and after some deliberation, the said Arthur Tikey accepted personal attendance at each time of Meeting, that he was sometimes accepted the said Trust, and is considered as a Committeeman in the Room of the said Mr. John Greene.

(4)

Be it Remembered that wheras Anthony Taylor, Esq'r, President, moved before the said Committee that sometime back, he received one certain Bed & Bedding of Mr. Cupid Brown, as a legacy in and by the Last Will & Testament of Mr. Jubah Grinnell, deceased, given to his wife, Peggy, that the said Bed & Bedding were so much worn out that they were of very little value, and that they were most dissatisfied thereby, whereupon some of the Committee asked the said Anthony Taylor how much more would make up to his Satisfaction, after some pause the said Anthony Taylor replied five dollars, the said Cupid Brown replied, he was left as a Trustee, and the same not being his own proper Debt, he would allow no more than two dollars and a half, and the same was accepted by the said Anthony Taylor, and approved off by the Committee, one objected against the same. It is therefore considered by said Committee that the said Cupit (sic) Brown pay said two dollars & an half, as soon as Conveniently may be.

(5)

Whereas Mr. Cato Townsend appeared and proposed that he would become one of the Members of said African Union Society, and desired to be informed of the Rules and Regulations thereof - the said Rules & Regulations thereof being read to him, and the said Members present, the said Cato Townsend said he would consider and give his answer to some future Meeting.

At a Meeting of the Committee of the African Union Society, held in Newport &., on the first Thursday Evening and the first Day of December, Anno Dom., 1791, at Mr. Zingo Stevens'.

Present

(1)

(6 members are present)

(2)

Whereas Charles Chaloner, Esq'r, Vice President of said Society, neglected to make his appearance at the present Meeting, it is therefore the Opinion of the said Committee present that the said Charles Chaloner be fined 9 pence, silver lawful money for said neglect, for the use of said Committee, unless he shall make a suitable excuse for said neglect -

(3)

In the Evening, January 5th, 1792, at Mr. Lymas Kieth's, the said Charles Chaloner paid the said nine pence fine abovementioned.

(4)

Ordered that Mr. Primus Thurston, as soon as may be, wait upon Mr. Cudgo Chaloner, Mr. Pompey Levy and Mr. Quam Bowers & request of them to pay the Money due from each into the Treasury, Principal & interest, for the use of said Members thereof by writing from the Secretary's office.

(5)

Whereas Mr. Salmar Nubia and others have heretofore neglected to attend at the Quarterly Meeting of said Society, and have not Contributed in full of the sum of Money due from each individual, it is ordered that there be a List made out & Persons appointed to wait on all those who has neglected their proportionable parts due to the said Treasury - that the present Meeting be adjourned to the first Thursday of January, Anno Dom., 1792, at Mr. Lymas Kieth's - and also that whereas Mr. John Greene, having declined serving as a Committeeman and requested that some other Person be appointed in his Room & stead.

1792

At a Meeting of the Committee of the African Union Society, held at Newport &., on the first Thursday Evening of January, the fifth Day of said Month, Anno Dom., 1792, at Mr. Lymas Kieth's.

Present

(1)

(6 members are present.)

(2)

Whereas a part of the abovementioned Committee, at their Meeting, held the first Thursday of December last past, Anno Dom., 1791, Agreeable to a Rule or Regulation heretofore which was proposed by the Major part, that if any one of the Committee not

appearing at one Quarter of an hour after 7 o'clock at their Monthly Meeting, such Committeeman or men should be always liable to pay nine pence for the use of the said Committee, or one pound of Candles, and whereas Charles Chaloner, Esq'r, having neglected to appear in Season on the first Thursday of December, the first thereof, Anno Dom., 1791, made himself liable to pay said nine pence, agreeable to the Rule afore described. The said Charles Chaloner paid the said nine pence for the use of the said Committee.

(3)

Whereas Mr. Lymas Kieth laid before the present Committee that Mr. Pompey Levy having paid & discharged one certain Note of hand, given as a security to the Treasurer of the present Society by the said Pompey Levy, and thereby the said Debt is fully paid and satisfied.

(4)

It is proposed that Mr. Primus Thurston be requested to wait on Messrs Cudgo Chaloner, Quam Bowers & Pompey Levy & entreat of them to discharge their Notes to the Treasurer, by paying Principal & interest - and that the said Primus Thurston be empowered by writing from the Secretary.

(5)

That the present Committee are to meet the first Thursday Evening of February, the second day of the Month, 1792, at Mr. Pompey Scott's, 6 o'clock - It is also agreed upon that Mr. John Greene be discharged from serving as a committeeman, agreeable to his Inclination and that Mr. Arthur Tikey be appointed in his Room and Stead.

At a Meeting of the Committee of the African Union Society, held at Newport &., on the first Thursday Evening of February, the second day of said Month, Anno Dom., 1792, at Mr. Pompey Scott's.

(1)

**(7 members are present.)**

(2)

Be it Remembered that whereas Almighty GOD, at sundry Times and in diverse Manners, spoke in Times past by his Holy Prophets, has in these last days spoke unto us by his Son, our blessed Redeemer, as Upholder and Heir of all Things in Heaven and Earth - wherefore as we, the African race, having been transported from our Native Habitations, by reason of sins & transgressions, and in the present Day, God has in many singular instances shewn himself as our Friend, Benefactor and great supporter, by prospering & supporting us in all and every good work that our Hand has undertaken, and if we should still pursue and follow such instruction as God may be pleased to enlighten us, we may become a part of his Chosen Children, and whereas it appears by the Holy Word of God

that the Nations who put not their trust in God, who supports and upholds them, will surely bring them to nought, and undertaking these considerations in view, we the said Committee have thought fit, if agreeable to the Society whereof we now represent, that there be set apart a Day of Humiliation, fasting and Prayer unto Almighty God, on the last Thursday of April next, the 26th day thereof, that as many of the Members of this Society and such others as shall find freedom to assemble themselves on said day of Humiliation, fasting & prayer, and with one Heart and Voice to beseech Almighty God to guide us into all Truth and Righteousness, to prepare us for his Holy Habitations in the Heavenly World, with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and the Saints & holy Prophets thither before us - that the aforegoing Proposal considered and entered into practice, if agreeable to the Members or Major part and Vote there on accordingly.

(3)

Whereas there is proposed that there be a small Pall purchased by the said Society, the said Africans, for the use of their Children and such others as shall or may hire the same, after such purchase being compleated, if agreeable to the whole or the Major part of the Community.

(4)

**The Committee by adournment are to meet on the first Thursday and the first day of February (sic., March) next, 6 o'clock, Evening, at Mr. Abraham Casey's, Anno Dom., 1792.**

At a Meeting held by Quarterly by the Africans at Newport &., on the second Thursday of February being the Nineth Day of said Month, Anno Dom., 1792 at Mr. Arthur Tikey's, but by reason of sickness and other unforeseen accidents, said Meeting is held the 16th of said February.

Present

(1)

**(36 members are present, 10 paying 9 pence, 3 paying 1/6. "The Contribution Money amounted this Night to 10/6 paid into the Treasury; also Mr. Quam Bowers paid 6/ & took up his Note February 16th, 1792.")**

(2)

Upon the Proposal or recommendation by the Committee, at their Meeting held the first Thursday Evening, the second day of this instant February, 1792, that there be a solemn fast held the last Thursday of April next - The Members present Approve of the same, and that the said fast be held on said day, That all the Members present and others, if they shall judge necessary and convenient, to give their attendance on the said day and retire from their Wordly Employments, to beseech Almighty God to forgive and pardon their sins & transgressions committed against his Divine Majesty in many and repeated instances for his Numberless Mercies and Blessings confer'd upon us, and the whole human race

for his kind **protection** over us, particularly the present Day - for if we should serve him, he will bless us, and continue his blessings on us and the rising Generation - therefore we the Members, agreeable to the Proposal or recommendation before mentioned, be, and the same is hereby made, a Rule entered into by us, that the said fast be held accordingly, and that each Member be requested to attend on said Day, and the same being a Vote or agreement accordingly enter'd into the Present Meeting. -

(3)

The 1st Thursday in May, 1792, the Committee Meeting was adjourned by reason of a heavy storm, cold rain, by the President, Anthony Taylor, Esq'r, Mr. Charles Chaloner, Mr. Pompey Scott all being present at Mr. Char's Chaloner's.

(4)

It is proposed that there be a small Pall immediately purchased by the present Members, for the use of their Children & others, who may hire the same; that Caesar Lyndon inquire respecting the charges that may accrue in purchasing the same; that the Monies for said Pall be paid out of the Treasury belonging to the Pall, that as soon as said Pall be completed, be at the use abovementioned and that the Proprietors thereof be intitled to all the advantages & profits that each Member are entitled to the other Pall belonging now to the present Members or Proprietors thereof - February the 16th, 1792, Mr. Primus Thurston was nominated and chosen Sheriff this Evening by the Major part present.

At a Meeting of the Committee of the African Union Society, held in Newport &., on the first Thursday Evening of March, the first day, Anno Domini, 1792, at Mr. Abraham Casey's.

(1)

**(15 members are present, 2 paying 9 pence, 1 paying 1/6.)**

(2)

The Contribution Money this Evening amounted to 3/ delivered Mr. Arthur Tikey - Receiv'd of Charles Chaloner, Esq'r as he said 15/ 7½ & 9 pence of Mr. Primus Thurston to purchase the small Pall - also 1/6 rec'd of Mr. Chaloner for Pall hire for Major Breece's Black woman, March 3'd, 1792, originally from Mr. Cubbeer Rodman.

(3)

Upon the Proposal sometimes past, respecting the purchasing of a small Pall for Children, it is agreed that those Members who has never contributed towards the other Pall to entitle them the use thereof without present pay, that if they think fit to pay 1/6 lawful money, silver, as their **proportionable** parts to entitle them as part owners of the said Pall; that there be a List made out and delivered Mr. Primus Thurston, to wait on such Members as are entered on said List to get the Fines or Contributions aforesaid for purchasing the said Small Pall, as soon as may be, and leave the Sums of Money in the

hands of Caesar Lyndon, who is appointed by the Committee or Major part to purchase the said Pall therewith.

(4)

Order'd that a List be forthwith made, agreeable to the aforesaid Proposal, that the Members if they think think fit to become Proprietors of the said Pall, they being the following Persons, Namely:

(12 names are entered, one paying 9 pence, another paying 1/6.)

(5)

1792, March 6, Rec'd 9 pence of Mr. Primus Thurston, 9 pence more of said Thurston the 1st of March, whole 1/6, and the 7th of March, rec'd 1/6 of Mrs. Dutchess Quammany or (Chammy?) by Mr. Jack Sayer, to entitle her as a Proprietor to the Palls & Bier.

(6)

29th April, 1792, the wife of Mr. Newport Wanton when the said Newport was sick & weak apply'd for an order on the Treasurer for 1/6, which was granted by order of Charles Chaloner.

At a Meeting of the Committee of the African Union Society, held at Newport &., on the first Thursday of April, being the fifth Day of said Month, Anno Dom., 1792, at Mr. Arthur Tikey's, at Evening, 6 o'clock.

Present

(1)

(7 members are present.)

(2)

Upon a recommendation heretofore made & laid before the Members of said Society, and obtaining a consent of all or Major part that there be set apart the last Thursday of April instant, the 26th Day thereof, as a day of Humiliation, Fasting & Prayer to Almighty God for Mercies Temporal & Spiritual; that the Reverend Mr. Bliss to Preach on said Day in the Meeting House whereof the said Mr. Bliss being the present Pastor; that the Secretary be empowered to write a Letter on the Behalf of the Members, sign'd by Mr. Lymas Kieth, entreating Mr. Bliss to obtain a consent of the Church & Congregation for the use of their Meeting House to hold said fast therein, and agreeable thereunto, the fast being held on said day and the services thereof performed, agreeable to custom.

At a Meeting held Quarterly by the Members of the Africans in Newport &., on the second Thursday of May, being the tenth Day of said Month, Anno Dom., 1792, in the Evening

of said Day at Mr. Arthur Tikey's.

Present

(1)

**(36 members are present, 12 paying 9 pence, 1 paying 2/3, and another paying 1/6.)**

(2)

May 10, 1792. The Contribution Money this Night amounted to 12/ silver lawful money put in the hands of Arthur Tikey, Esq'r. The Committee to meet at Mr. Zingo Stevens's, the first Thursday in June next, in the Meantime to make out a List of those who have not paid their proportionable parts & to be warned by Mr. Primus Thurston.

At a Meeting held by the Committee in Newport &., on the first Thursday Evening in June, Anno Dom., 1792, at Mr. Zingo Stevens's, by the Blacks, the 7th of June.

Present

(1)

**(6 members are present.)**

(2)

Order'd that 6/ silver lawful Money be taken out of the Treasury, and a Letter of Thanks be presented, enclosing the 6/ to the Rev'd. Mr. Bliss for attending & carrying on the Services of the fast, held the 26th of April last, and that Mr. Arthur Tikey be requested to deliver the said Letter & Money; also that the 1/6 put in by Baccus Coggeshall, 9 pence by Mr. Cato Thurston, 9 pence by Mr. Abraham Easton be made use of for purchasing the small Pall, 3/ in the wole & applied accordingly.

(3)

Order'd that Mr. Arthur Tikey, at the Expençe of the Treasury belonging to the Union Society, purchase one Quarter of a Cord of Wood, being Oak, for the use of the Members that may attend at Mr. Tikey's - that Mr. Abraham Casey be fined 9 pence for his neglect, not attending the Meeting this Evening, the 7th of June, 1792, unless some reasonable Excuse be made to appear.

(4)

Agreeable to the Order of the Committee, the 8th of June, 1792, a Letter was wrote, inclosing the 6/ and contained the following, being a true copy:

**(see Letter No. 30)**

At a Meeting of the Committee of the African Union

Society, held at Newport &., on the first Thursday Evening of July, being the fifth Day of said Month, Anno Domini, 1792, at Mr. Lymas Kieth's, but by reason of sickness, said Meeting was adjourned to the 12th of the same July.

Present

(1)

**(7 members are present.)**

(2)

Whereas a certain Writing was laid before this Committee requesting them to take into custody, Rents due and the Real Estate belonging to Mr. Kingston Pease of New York, that Caesar Lyndon had before received in Nov. & Decem'r last past two letters from the said Kingston Pease, Esq'r, empowering him to take into Possession the said Real Estate, consisting of a certain Lot with a Dwelling House and Buildings thereon, standing situate in said Newport to put in Possession thereof Mr. Cupit Brown (illegible) to Mr. Kingston Pease's direction by said Letters and by the charges or Messages he received from (Captain?) Pearce, respecting said Real Estate, and the said Caesar Lyndon having wrote nothing respecting said (illegible) That all the Letter, being three, directed to him (illegible) Name, there appears to be some mistake, and therefore, agreeable to directions from the present Committee, the said Caesar Lyndon having before the present date put the said Cupit (sic) Brown in Possession the first day of April last past. The said Committee order'd that there be a Letter wrote to said Mr. Kingston Pease, to know whether they are to take the said Real Estate in possession or the Rents heretofore due and unpaid.

(3)

Order'd that there be an Account taken of the Money & Securities in the Possession of Mr. Arthur Tikey, who is Treasurer of the African Union Society for the time being.

(4)

The Committee adjourn'd to Meet the first Thursday in August next, 6 o'clock Evening, the 2'd day of said Month, at Mr. Pompey Scott's

(5)

1792, July 30th. The following being an account taken and rendered of the Notes, Vouchers, and Money in the hands of Mr. Arthur Tikey as Treasurer of the African Union Society. Viz:

Mr. Cudgo Chaloner's Note for £0.6.0 dated  
May 2'd, 1791 with interest

Mr. Tho's Ferguson for Mr. Pompey Bur-  
roughs Do (i.e. ditto).

0.9.0 ..... Jan'y 18, 1792

Caesar Lyndon's Note	0.6.0 .....	April 2'd, 1792
Paid, Mr. Quash Mowet his Contributions by order the Society	0.3.33/4 .....	
Paid Mr. Prince Amy to pay for Horse & Carriage to carry Mr. Newport Carr	0.2.0 .....	March 4th, 1790
Paid Mr. Lymas Kieth for Mr. Pompey Burroughs to purchase some wood	0.6.0 .....	Feb'y 21, 1791
Paid Mr. Charles Chaloner & Mr. Zingo Stevens for the use of Mr. Samuel Easton, while he was sick	0.3.0 .....	Sep. 12th, 1791
Paid the Wife of Mr. Newport Wanton, while he was sick	0.6.0 .....	April 29th, 1792
Paid the Rev'd Mr. Bliss by Order of the Committee	0.6.0 .....	June 7, 1792
Paid the Rev'd Mr. Bliss sometime ago for a pair of gloves & Tea	0.9.0 .....	
Lost in Lotterys by the Tickets drawing Blanks	3.7.2½ .....	
Paid towards a Small Pall	<u>0.3.0</u> 6.6.6¼	
The Sums of Money paid away by Notes and otherwise delivered outby Orders to some of the Members whole amount being .....	6.6.6¼	

At a Meeting of the African Union Society, Namely, the Committee, held in Newport &., on the first Thursday Evening of August, being the second day of said Month, Anno Dom., 1792, at Mr. Pompey Scott's.

Present

(1)

(9 members are present.)

(2)

Order'd that a List be made out & delivered the Sheriff, Mr. Primus Thurston, of the

Members' names, that each may be warned to attend at the annual or yearly Meeting, to be held the Evening at seven o'clock, of the Nineth Day of August instant, to choose officers for the year ensuing, to Contribute, and also to lay before the said Members whether such Persons as do not contribute shall remain as a member or not.

(3)

Whereas a certain Letter heretofore being ordered by the Committee to be wrote and directed to Mr. Kingston Pease of New York, respecting his Real Estate in Newport, whether the said Real Estate was to remain in Mr. Cupit Brown's possession, or to be in the hands of the said Committee, the said Letter, or an authentic copy thereof, was read before the said Committee, and approv'd off to be Satisfactory, the said Letter, or Copy, being as follows:

(4)

**(See Letter No. 31)**

(4)

The Members Names residing in Newport  
**(36 members' names are listed.)**

(5)

The Members of the African Union Society to meet once in 3 months, viz., on the second Thursday Evenings of February, May, Aug. & November, yearly.

The Committee to meet the first Thursday Evening in each Month, if fair weather, if not, otherwise.

The Yearly or Annual Meetings are held the 2'd Thursday Evening in August, to choose officers for the year ensuing, & each Member to contribute.

The Sheriff is requested to give his attendance at every Meeting by the Committee, and at other Times.

At an Annual or Yearly Meeting, held by the Blacks, or Members of the African Union Society, held at Newport &., on the second Thursday of August, being the Nineth Day of said Month, Anno Dom. 1792, at the House of Mr. Arthur Tikey.

The Members' Names

(1)

**(36 members are present, 19 paying 9 pence, 3 paying 1/6; also "Mr. Primus Thurston paid 1/6 for May & August, 1792 to Caesar Lyndon & afterwards settled with Treasurer.")**

(2)

1792, August 9th. This Night eighteen shillings being the amount of the Contribution Money. Mr. Tikey presented this Night the monies in his hands, being seven pounds and eighteen shillings, silver lawful money, reckoning dollars at six shillings each, and likewise Mr. Newport Gardner was admitted as a Member of the said African Union Society.

(3)

Whereas at the present Annual or yearly Meeting, the Members thought proper to Nominate and appoint the following Persons, as officers for the year ensuing, viz.: Anthony Taylor, Esq'r, President; Arthur Tikey, Esq'r, Judge & Treasurer; Caesar Lyndon, Secretary - the said Members present adjourned the said Meeting to Thursday, the 16th of August instant, in the Evening, at Mr. Arthur Tikey's, to choose a Committee & other officers necessary & beneficial to said Society, and in the meantime, the said Members are to govern themselves accordingly, and give their attendance at said Meeting & transact, do, and perform such necessary work as may then and there appear to be necessary.

(4)

Be it Remember'd that whereas a certain Petition was brought forward and laid before this Annual or Yearly Meeting, Praying that a repeal might be made to some of the Letters, which has been sent to the Members of the African Union Society residing at Providence, the said Petition being read before the Members present, the Petitioners were Mr. Prince Amy, Mr. Thomas Ferguson, Mr. Newport Gardner, and Mr. Salmar Nubia, Clerk Pro Tempore; on Consideration whereof, it was finally order'd that the said Petition remain for further Consideration, the same not appearing satisfactory to all the Members present.

(5)

The last Evening being the Eighth of August instant, Mr. Cudgo Chaloner paid the 6 shillings he borrowed out of the Treasury and took up his Note.

At a Meeting of the Committee, with others, Members of the African Union Society, held at Newport, &., by virtue of the Orders delivered verbally by the President, Anthony Taylor, Esq'r, that said Meeting be held this 16th August, 1792, at Mr. Arthur Tikey's.

Present, the Committee & Other Members

(1)

(17 members are present.)

(2)

Whereas at the Annual or Yearly Meeting, held in said Newport by the present Members of said Union Society, who made choice of the following officers, viz. Mr. Anthony Taylor, President; Mr. Charles Chaloner, Vice President; Mr. Arthur Tikey, Judge & Treasurer, and likewise one of the Committee; Caesar Lyndon, Secr'y; the said Annual or Yearly Meeting was held the ninth of this instant August, and adjourned to the sixteenth of said Month by virtue of the order verbally requested by the President that said Meeting to be held the present Term, to wit, the 16th of August aforesaid, when & where the Members present Appointed Mr. Newport Gardner a Committeeman in the Room of Mr. Abr'am Casey, who Resign'd, and likewise chose Mr. Primus Thurston, Sheriff of this Union Society.

(3)

Be it Remembered that upon the Petition laid before the present Members of the Ninth of August instant, the Petitioners were Mr. Prince Amy, Mr. Thomas Ferguson, Mr. Newport Gardner, and Mr. Salmar Nubia, who sign'd as Clerk P[ro] T[emp.] The said Petition was laid aside for consideration, and continued to this Term, where the same being considered but was not granted, agreeable to the Prayers of the said Petitioners; whereupon it was unanimously agreed upon that for future whoever became Members hereof in this African Union Society should comply with the Rules & Regulations enter'd into already, unless there are Votes of the Community directly contrary hereof - the Committee are to meet next in course on the first Thursday in September next, at Evening, 6 o'clock being the sixth September, 1792 - which the present Committee are to take notice, and govern themselves accordingly.

(4)

It is agreed hereunto that the abovementioned Committee are to meet at Arthur Tikey's, Esq'r's in course, the Evening of the 4th October next Anno Dom., 1792.

At a Meeting of the Committee of the African Union Society, held at Newport &., on the first Thursday Evening of September, the 6th Day of said Month, Anno Dom., 1792

Present

(1)

**(6 members are present.)**

(2)

Rules & Regulations, to be observed by all and every Member belonging to the African Union Society, now established at Newport, made & pass'd by the said Committee, the Sixth of September, Anno Dom., 1792, & also read before the Members of said Society, the 2'd Thursday of November following & approv'd of by the Major part, and order'd to be recorded.

(3)

Be it remembered & hereby enacted, that it is requisite and necessary that whenever the abovementioned Committee, or the Members belonging thereto, in General or Quarterly Meetings to transact Business, that each Member, or others present in said Meetings, remain silence in Time of Business, Excepting the President or Vice President, and those transacting needful Business, that when & so often as any one be requested to be silent, that he or they be silent, and obey, and that, on the contrary, if he or they shall still persist in making noise or disturbance in time of Business, he or they shall be fined One Shilling & six pence, lawful Money, for each Person, for each & every offence committed by such Members and others who may be present in said Meeting, that said fine shall be lodged with the Treasurer for the use of said company, that the President or Vice President are hereby empowered to Order and Command all & every Member who shall offend herein, that whenever the offenders being warned three times & transgressing herein, he or they shall pay the said 1/6 in Manner & Form aforesaid, that the said Rules & Regulations be, and the same shall be binding on the Members belonging to this Society & others who may be present, & transgressing the said Rules & regulations aforesaid, that all the Members and others are to take notice and govern themselves accordingly. Charles Chaloner, Vice President. Approved of by the said Members and the Committee of said African Union Society.

At a Meeting of the Committee of the African Union Society, held at Newport &., on the first Thursday Evening of October the 4th, Anno Dom., 1792

Present

(1)

(6 members are present.)

(2)

Whereas Mr. Newport Gardner presented before the Committee a Motion or Bill, requesting them to allow & permit him, the said Newport Gardner, to prepare & lay before the said Committee a certain Bill or Motion of some affair on Importance to the present Society or the rising generation of the African Race, and on Consideration of said Bill or Motion, the said Committee agreed that the said Newport Gardner might have time & Opportunity hereafter to prepare & present his said Bill or Motion on Bill aforesaid; whereupon the said Newport Gardner is hereby allowed & permitted to and lay the said Bill or Motion aforesaid before the said Committee or their successors hereafter, or such Members of this Society who may be empowered to hear and take the same into Consideration.

At a Meeting of the Committee of the African Union Society, held in Newport &., on the first Thursday Evening & first Day of said Month of November, Anno Dom., 1792. 6 o'clock, at Mr. Charles Chaloner's.

Present

(1)

**(6 members are present.)**

(2)

Whereas the abovementioned Committee, at the present Meeting, after hearing the Rules & Regulations heretofore made & agreed by them, they unanimously as one man consulted, that the said Rules & Regulations be and they are hereby continued to their Meeting to be held Quarterly, on the second Thursday of this instant November, the eighth Day, at Evening, at the House of Arthur Tikey, Esq'r, Anno Dom., 1792, when & where the said Rules and Regulations are to be read before the Members of the said African Union Society to receive the approbation of the whole, or the Major part, of said Community, if agreeable, then to pass as a Rule of the said Members and others who may be present at their future Meetings that shall or may be held by them; that the said Rules and Regulations, after their being received as Satisfactory to all, or Major part, be recorded accordingly. This Meeting is adjourned to the first Thursday Evening in December next at Mr. Zingo Stevens.

(3)

1792, Nov'r 1st. This Evening Mr. Arthur Tikey paid Caesar Lyndon 1/6 - 1/6 Caesar Lyndon rec'd of Mr. Primus Thurston sometime back; also 6/ he rec'd of the said Mr. Tikey in April last, being in full satisfaction of all demands against the said African Union Society to the second Thursday of August last past - for the above sums, the said Mr. Tikey had a receipt, also the same time & date the said Caesar Lyndon paid the said Mr. Tikey, as Treasurer, 3/ for & on account of Mr. Kingston Pease's Contribution Money due to said Society, receipts may appear on both sides, the said Caesar Lyndon being indebted to Mr. Peas for so much, viz, 3/ lawful Money.

At a Quarterly Meeting, held by the Members of the African Union Society, held in Newport &., on the second Thursday Evening in November, being the Eighth Day of said Month, Anno Dom., 1792, at Mr. Arthur Tikey's.

Present

(1)

**(38 members are present, 24 paying 9 pence.)**

1792, Nov'r 8 paid Mr. Tikey 0.17.3  
£0.2.3. to C. Lyndon.....15.  
paid by Messrs. Stevens and Pease.....4.3  
December 3, 1792... 0.19.3

(3)

1792. Nov'r This night 17/3 being the amount of Contribution Money, Mr. (?) paid 2/3 to C. Lyndon for one Quarter's service, from the 2'd Thursday of (August?) last past out of the above 17/3 & 9 pence out of 3/ for a Quarter's service was deducted for Caesar Lyndon's Contribution Money into the Treasury, 12/ being for one year's services, or Salary -

(4)

13th Dec'r, 1792. Mr. Z. Stevens paid 1/3  
C. Lyndon paid 3/ for Mr. K. Pease brought in a letter from New York

(5)

13th Dec'r, 1792. Mr. Tikey rec'd 4/3 on (account?) Messrs. Stevens & Pease

(6)

Whereas the Rules & Regulations heretofore having been read before the Members of the present Society, the Major part approving of them, it is hereby **considered** that the said Rules & Regulations be immediately recorded & become the standing Rule of said Society forever hereafter, unless Voted out.

(7)

Be it Rememberd that whereas the said Charles Chaloner, Esq'r, Vice President of this Society, at a Quarterly Meeting, held the 8th of November, 1792, moved before the Members then present that Mr. Arthur Tikey pay Caesar Lyndon, the present Secretary, by Quarterly Payments 3/ Lawful Money, for each Quarter, and to deduct 9 pence like money, for contributions, out of said 3/ abovementioned at each time of payment.

(8)

Whereas Mr. Zingo Stevens, on this present eighth Day Evening of November, Anno Dom., 1792, brought & presented before this Quarterly Meeting the Small Pall for Children, of those Members who may apply for the same & such others of other Denominations, who may or shall incline to hire the same - it is considered by the said present Members that said small Pall shall, as soon as conveniently may be, put under the care of Mr. Cubbeer Rodman, as Sexton, and let out at one shilling for each time of letting out, the same to and for the benefit of all the Proprietors, that the sums of Money for said Palls & Biers be put under the care & charge of Charles Chaloner, Esq'r, as Treasurer of the said Pall & Bier Company.

At a Meeting of the Committee of the African Union Society, held at Newport &., by adjournment on Thursday, the thirteenth of December, Anno Dom., 1792, in the Evening, said Meeting was to have been held the fifth of December instant, at Mr. Zingo Stevens's.

Present

(1)

**(6 members are present.)**

(2)

Whereas Mr. Newport Gardner, in his proper person, moved before the present Members, or Committee, that it be forthwith be the Rule of this Society that whenever a Law, or Vote of said Society, be enacted, that the President or Vice President, or any other Member who may be appointed to sign such act, or Vote of said Society, that the aforegoing Motion be Considered by the said Committee, and if approved of by them, then the said Motion be made a Rule of said Society & recorded accordingly, that the present Committee are to meet on the first Thursday Evening in January, Anno Dom., 1793, at Mr. Lymas Kieth's.

(3)

Be it Remembered that whereas Mr. Zingo Stevens, at the request of some of the Members of this Society, alter'd the Small Pall by making the same Convenient for carrying the remains of any one of the Infant Children, who may be cover'd with the same to the burying ground, it is considered that the amount of the Account of the said Zingo Stevens's be immediately paid out of the Treasury belonging to the Company, or Proprietors, Owners of said Palls & Bier, the amount thereof being one shilling & nine pence, silver lawful money; the said acc't is fully satisfied and paid.

**1793**

At a Meeting of the Committee of the African Union Society, held at Newport &., on the first Thursday Evening of January, being the third day of said Month, Anno Dom., 1793, at Mr. Lymas Kieth's.

Present

(1)

**(6 members are present.)**

(2)

Whereas Mr. Newport Gardner, at some Meeting held heretofore, to wit, the 13th of December last past at Mr. Zingo Stevens's before the Committee, that it was just and right whenever a Law, Rule or Regulation proposed by the Committee or Society, the Major part consenting to such Law, Rule or Regulation, that the same Law, Rule or Regulation being receiv'd and approv'd of, and signed by the President, Vice President, or such person or Persons as may be Nominated & Appointed by the Major part of this Society to sign the same; this proposal having been considered by this committee, they approve thereof, and requested that Charles Chaloner, Esq'r sign the Rules & Regulations already enter'd into, that they are receiv'd as a Rule of the present Society and are to be recorded accordingly.

At a Meeting of the Committee of the African Union Society, held at Newport & on the first Thursday Evening of February, being the seventh Day of said Month, Anno Dom. 1793 at Mr. Pompey Scott's

Present

(1)

(6 members are present.)

(2)

Whereas at the request of the Committee Mr. Newport Gardner is hereby empowered to take the charge of the Accounts against all those Members who are deficient respecting their Contributions into the Treasury, that the said Newport Gardner, as soon as conveniently may be, collect the Monies due from each Member and lodge the said Monies so collected into said Treasury, the said account abovementioned being approved of by said Committee, and signed by Charles Chaloner, Esq'r, Vice President, in behalf of the Members hereof - 7th Feby. 1793.

(3)

Whereas it has been heretofore practised that when any of the Members or others of this Society been under the necessity of some Monies out of the Treasury, the Vice President gave his consent, and an order wrote by the Secretary on the Treasury, and a note given in lieu of the Money so borrowed or lett, it is not the Opinion of the said Committee or Major part that all such sums of Money for future shall be paid out by the consent of all the Members belonging to this Society & a meeting held by them at such places as may be approved of by them - or whether the President or Vice President may give their consent, as heretofore been practised

At a Quarterly Meeting held by the Members of the African Union Society at Newport & on the second Thursday, the fourteenth of February, Anno Dom. 1793 (A) AT THE House of Arthur Tikey, Esq'r, in the Evening of said Month

The Members Names

(37 Members are present, 17 of whom are noted paying 9 pence each.)

The whole Contribution Money this night amounted to 14/8. Afterwards paid Caesar Lyndon 2/3 out of the whole, the same time of the night, 14th Feb., 1793, 9 pence deducted from 3/.

At a Quarterly Meeting, held by the Members of the African Union Society in Newport & on the second Thursday of February, being the fourteenth Day of said Month, Anno Dom. 1793(B) at the House of Arthur Tikey, Esq'r, in the Evening

The Members' Names That were Present

(1)

**(24 members are present.)**

(2)

Whereas it is Considered by the Committee, and other Members aforesaid, that it has been custom the President or Vice President, having powers to give orders to the Secretary, to write orders to the Secretary, to write orders on the Treasurer to Let out Monies to the Members or others under immediate necessities, and leaving such securities as were satisfactory to the Concerned, and some having objected against such customs, and the same being laid before the aforegoing Members, to know if needful to summon all the Members and have their consent, they were divided in Opinions, and proposed to Vote thereupon; the major part voted that the powers of giving orders for persons applying for hireing Monies shall for the future be conducted by consent from the Committee or the Major part of them, of Letting out Money from the Treasury belonging to said Society, that the orders are to be given from the said Committee or the Major part, that whatever the said Committee shall transact respecting the trust reposed in their hands, or their successors, and appearing beneficial to the Union Society, shall be binding to the Members of the same, unless the same shall be Considered, voted thereon and determined otherwise.

(3)

Be it Remembered' that whereas Mr. John Robinson, in his proper person, appeared before the present Members above named, praying that he is under a necessity of hireing 30/, and also upon what terms, it being the opinion of the Committee, at a Committee Meeting held some time back, that the said John Robinson make his appearance to the present Term, and whereas it has been heretofore practised to let no Money go out of the Treasury to any persons not being a Member unless upon Land Security; on Consideration whereof, the said John Robinson offered to give a Mortgage Deed of some of the Real Estate belonging to him, the said John Robinson, as Security, the Vice President gave orders that there should be a Minute made out under the hand of the Clerk of Records, of the Point, or Easton's Tract of Land, in said Newport, a part whereof belonging to said John Robinson, with a certain Dwelling House with other buildings thereon, which Real Estate the said John Robinson offer'd to give a Mortgage Deed thereof as Security for such sums of Money as should be Lett to him; it appearing by Minutes from the said Records that said Estate was involved to the near amount of 90 dollars silver; upon notice given to the Vice President & other Members, it was determined that the request made by said John Robinson was not satisfactory, and therefore could not be granted.

The Committee agreed that the next Meeting should be held at Mr. Newport Gardner's, but are to meet at Mr. Tikey's, the first Thursday in March, 1793 - the 7th of the Month.

**At the abovemention'd Committee Meeting, held the 7th of March, they agreed that it was voted by the Major part that the Committee, or Major part of these, should give orders**

for Money let out to every Person who may appear under Necessity to hire the same that it was voted by the foregoing Members for future as an act of the Major part of the Members belonging to the Society, this being an act of the Major part of all the Members

Present at the Meeting held the 7th March 1793 at Mr. Tikey's

(1)

(7 members are present.)

At a Meeting of the Committee of the African Union Society held at Newport & on the first Thursday Evening in April, the fourth Day of said Month Anno Dom. 1793

Present

(1)

(4 members are present.)

(2)

Upon the Request made by Mr. Primus Thurston that he had an account of charges for Nursing the late Mr. Quaco Rivera in his last sickness, that Mr. Abraham Rivera, the son & Heir of Mr. Jacob Rodrigues Rivera had refused paying the whole of said accompts (i.e., accounts) so made up, and upon the application made before the Committee, they order'd the Treasury to pay 5/3, being found due as a ballance to the said Quaco Rivera, whilst in full life; after deducting all charges heretofore accrued to the Surviving Members of the said African Union Society, the said Mr. Arthur Tikey, by order of said Committee, paid the said 5/3 in the presence of the said Committee, the Evening of the 4th April, 1793.

The Committee are to meet the first Thursday in May next, 6 o'clock, Evening, at Mr. Charles Chaloner's, the 2d day of said Month, Anno Dom. 1793

(1)

1793, May 2d. The Committee's Meeting held at Mr. Chaloner's, but by reason Caesar Lyndon being detained by the Sheriff of the said County of Newport, no Business of Consequence was done this Evening.

At a Quarterly Meeting, held by the Members of the African Union Society at Newport & on the second Thursday in May, Anno Dom. 1793, in the Evening, 6 o'clock, at Mr. Arthur Tikey's, the Ninth Day of said Month.

The Present Members of said Society, Names

(1)

(36 members are present, 14 of whom pay 9 pence, and "Newport Gardner paid 1 Pistareene or  $1/2\frac{1}{2}$ .")

(2)

The Contribution Money this Night amounted to £ 0.12.5½. The Treasurer's Book set down 11/ 8½ because there are 9 pence taken from C. Lyndon's Salary as a fine for not appearing at Mr. Chaloner's, 2'd of May, 1793.

(3)

1793, May 9th. This Night the Contribution Money amounted to 11/8½, and 2/3 paid to Caesar Lyndon excepting 9 pence deducted as a fine for not appearing at the Committee's Meeting, held at Mr. Chaloner's the 2'd of May instant.

(4)

Whereas by the advice and consent of Anthony Taylor, Esq'r, President of the present Society, and others, Members thereof, that those Persons who do not punctually pay the Contribution Money due at every Quarter, that each be summoned by the Sheriff, Mr. Primus Thurston, to appear at our next Quarterly Meeting, to be held in said Newport the second Thursday Evening in August next ensuing, to inquire of each Member whether they intend to be Members or not, for future, if to continue as Members to make immediate payment of the Monies due from each individual, thereby they may be considered as worthy Members, or to quite the Society for future, unless by consent of the Majority by Votes thereupon and determined otherwise.

At a Meeting of the Committee of the African Union Society, held at Newport &., on the first Thursday Evening in June, Anno Dom., 1793, at Mr. Zingo Stevens's.

(1)

(5 members are present.)

(2)

Be it Remembered that whereas a Motion was made before the present Committee by Mr. Charles Chaloner, Vice President, that if it was agreeable to the Committee that the Monthly Meetings, for the future, might be laid aside or cease, that whenever there was any business of any Consequence or Urgent that the said Committee might be warned to attend & transact the same, and upon Consideration thereon, the said Committee concluded to proceed as heretofore untill the second Thursday, or Annual Meeting, to be held in August next ensuing, and to lay the said Motion before the Members of the present Society, whether to proceed or not as heretofore, that the present adjournment be held at Mr. Lymas Kieth's the first Thursday Evening of July next to transact such Business as might be laid before them, or meet at some other Place that might be more suitable for transacting such Business might be necessary.

At a Meeting held by the Committee, specially, at Newport &., on Thursday Evening, the twentieth Day of June, Anno Dom.. 1793. at Mr. Primus Thurston's, by the desire of Mr. Cyrus Porter, Principally of Philadelphia, a Deacon of the African Church there, to take into Consideration (certain?) Papers the said Mr. Porter had to lay before the Committee and others, Members of the Union Society.

(1)

Voted by the Major part present That 6 dollars be immediately taken out of the Treasury belonging to this Society, and presented to Mr. Cyrus Porter, a Deacon instituted to that (office?) by the Church and Congregation of Members belonging to (illegible) the new African Church at Philadelphia, and in conformity to the Recommendation and Certificates, the said Cyrus Porter laid before this Date, that the said Members belonging to said Church in Philadelphia are desirous of Correspondence & future friendship to subsist between the said Members, Africans & others in Philadelphia (and members?) in present Society, that it is agreed upon that each Member & others present should restore and pay one Shilling on or before the last Thursday in July next, at Evening, at their Meeting to be held the 25th day of said July, at the House of Charles Chaloner, Esq'r, Vice President, that in the meantime whoever finding it convenient, to leave the said one shilling with Caesar Lyndon, to be lodged in the Treasury, in the Room and Stead of the abovementioned 6 dollars, taken out and presented for the use of said Church now in Philadelphia.

#### The Committee & Other Members' Names

(2)

**(36 members are present; also 3 "persons present but are not yet Members of the African Union Society.")**

(3)

The said 6 dollars was delivered Mr. Porter who gave a receipt as follows - "Received 6 dollars of Arthur Tikey, Esq'r, Treasurer of the African Union Society. (illegible) By order, and for Account of the Members & other (illegible) said Sum as Donation for the Use of the African Church now at Philadelphia, Witness my hand, June (20?) 1793. Cyrus Porter

**(There follows a letter dated "Newport, Rhode Island, June 22, 1793," from Newport to Philadelphia, reporting on the Newport donation of \$6.00 to Deacon Cyrus Porter of the African Church in Philadelphia; entire letter is incomplete as part of it continues on missing manuscript pages.)**

At the Special meeting of the African Union Society, held in the Town and county of Newport &., on the last Thursday of July, the 25th day of said month, A.D., 1793, at the house of Charles Chaloner, Esq'r, in order to contribuit to make up the sum of 36/, which was drawn out from this Treasury and sent to Philadelphia.

(1)

The following members are to pay one shilling each into the Treasury. Those who have already paid their part are affixed to their names as follows:

(2)

**(39 members' names are listed, including 3 new members, 23 noted paying 1/.)**

At the meeting of the Committee of the African Union Society, held in Newport &., on the first Thursday of August, the first day of said month, Anno Dom., 1793, at the House of Pompey Scott.

Present

(1)

**(5 members are present.)**

(2)

Whereas Caesar Lyndon, Esq'r, clerk of this Committee, is detained from his business in this Committee, by reason of body weakness, and whereas it is the opinion of this committee that one ought to be chosen in his name, **pro tempore**, until other be chosen by the Society, Resolved that Newport Gardner be, and he is hereby chosen to the said office.

Charles Chaloner, Chairman

(3)

Mr. Caesar Lyndon requested for liberty to draw from the Treasury for his relief. It is voted that the prayer of Mr. Lyndon be & hereby is granted, Charles Chaloner, chairman.

(4)

The Committee having taken into consideration the low state of the Treasury of this Union Society, and that there are but a small part of the Members who pay their part of the money into the Treasury, and that from the 29th day of April, 1789, to the second Thursday of November, 1792, a considerable sum of money is due to the Treasury from a number of its members, amounting in the whole to L 3.17.0, or , twelve dollars and five shillings lawful money, besides February and May quarter, 1793, and clerk's wages, together with other small expenses of the Society,

The Committee having duly considered all these circumstances, it is their opinion that if these circumstances should continue, there will be no money left in the Treasury.

Therefore, to prevent the evils for the future, resolved (unanimously) that every member of this Union Society that do not or will not pay his part the money into the Treasury shall be looked upon as unfriendly to the said Society and shall be set aside, and his privileges in the said society and shall be taken away from him until he shall have paid all that is due from him to the Treasury of the said Society.

(5)

Resolved that the agreement of this Society made with Mr. Caesar Lyndon, the clerk and Secretary of this Society, to pay him twelve Shillings per year for his service, be and the same hereby is repealed.

(6)

And, Resolved, that every member of this Society ought to have the public interest at heart, and willing to do all the good in his power, and serve the society without any compensation whatsoever.

(7)

Resolved that Mr. Charles Chaloner and Mr. Zingon Stevens are requested to wait on Mr. Caesar Lyndon and to lay these resolutions before him for his serious consideration. Charles Chaloner, chairman

The above is the true copy,

Newport Gardner

Clerk of the Committee, pro Tempore

At an annual meeting of the African Union Society, held in the Town and county of Newport &., on the second Thursday of August, being the eighth of the said month, Anno Domi., 1793, at the house of Mr. Arthur Tikey.

(1)

The following Gentlemen were chosen officers, with their offices annexed to their respective names, viz.:

Mr. Charles Chaloner, President  
Mr. Lymas Kieth, Vice President  
Mr. Anthony Taylor, Judge  
Mr. Arthur Tikey, Treasurer  
Mr. Newport Gardner, Secretary

Mr. Zingo Stevens  
Mr. Prince Amy  
Mr. Thomas Ferguson  
Mr. Scipio Tanner  
Mr. Cudgo Gibbs  
Mr. Cubbeer Rodman  
Mr. Primus Thurston

Representatives or Committee

(2)

Resolved unanimously that the thanks of this Society be given to Mr. Anthony Taylor for his long and faithfull service done as President of this Union Society.

(3)

Resolved unanimously that the thanks of this Society be given to Mr. Pompey Scott for his services as committee(man?) of the said Society.

The true copy from the minit, Newport Gardner, Secretary

The Contribution, August 8th, 1793

(4)

**(36 members are present, 21 noted as paying 9 pence, 2 noted paying 1/6. "Contribution money: 18/5.")**

(5)

A certain letter was presented to this Society from the secretary Lyndon, containing resignation of his office and as a member of this Society. The same was read and lay on the table. The following is the copy of the letter or note from one Lyndon, viz.:

**(see letter no. 33)**

(6)

On motion, Mr. Lyndon's note was taken up again & committed to the Committee to prepare an answer, and lay the same before the society. The Secretary was then appointed to prepare the answer and bring before the committee at their next meeting.

At a meeting of the committee of the Union Society, held in the town and county of Newport &., on the fifth of Sep't., 1793, at Mr. Prince Amy, to chuse chairman for the year ensuing.

Present

(1)

**(5 members are present.)**

(2)

There being only four members present (i.e., four members and the secretary), Mr. Amy was chosen chairman pro Tempore. The committee being ready for the business, the clerk lay before them an answer to Mr. Lyndon, which was read by the clerk; they there examined the answer and approved of it, and agreed that the chairman sign it in their behalf.

(3)

Nothing more particular brought before the committee, they adjourned without day to meet, at Mr. Stevens's.

Attest: Newport Gardner, Clerk of the Committee

(4)

The following is a copy of the answer to Mr. Lyndon note or letter to the committee & others members of the African Union Society:

**(See Letter No. 34)**

At a meeting of the committee of the African Union Society, held in the Town and county of Newport &., on the twelve of September, A.D., 1793, at the house of Mr. Steven, by adjournment, to chuse chairman for the year ensuing.

(1)

**(8 members are present.)**

(2)

On motion, Mr. Prince Amy was chosen chairman for the year ensuing. Mr. Amy then took his seat, and the committee proceeded to the business; the letter to Mr. Lyndon was then brought out and it was dated and signed by the chairman, in the behalf of the committee.

(3)

On motion, the clerk read the Resolution of the committee, passed the first August, 1793, which was read once at annual meeting of the Union Society, held at 8th August last. In considering the same, they agreed that the President be requested to call a special meeting of the Union Society to decide upon the same. Also to know how many of the committee present shall be deemed sufficient to transact their business, in case of sickness, or absence of some of its members.

(4)

Adjourned till the first Thursday of October, then to meet at Mr. Amy.

Attest: Newport Gardner, Clerk.

At a meeting especially held by the members of the African Union Society in the Town and county of Newport &., on the nineteenth of September, A.D., 1793(A) at the house of Mr. Primus Thurston.

Present

(1)

**(22 members are present.)**

The above members assembled together when the President was pleased to deliver the following Speech to the Society, and was read by the Secretary, viz.:

(2)

Gentlemen of the Union Society:

I thought fit, with the advice and consent of the committee, to call you together to decide on the resolution of the committee passed the first of August last at their meeting. Also to pass an act respecting those men who may assist me in my office, and how many of them shall be sufficient, and how many committee present shall be deemed sufficient to transact the business of this Union Society in case of sickness or otherwise. Having thought these things to be very important to this Society, I submitted to your serious consideration hope you will pursue such a measure that shall be conducted by wisdom, and that at the end may tend to the honour and prosperity of the Union Society, and the happiness of the Africans in general.

Charles Chaloner

Sept'r., 19, 1793

(3)

The Society then took into consideration the President's Speech and the contents of it, and agreed that the resolution of the committee be read by the secretary, and it was read, and after serious deliberation, it was passed unanimously. Agreed that the President may nominate four men (besides the Vice President) to assist him in his office, and they shall be called counsellors.

(4)

Agreed that in case of sickness or absence of any of the committee in time of their meeting, and if three of their members shall be present, that three shall be sufficient to transact any business in this Society.

(5)

Agreeable to the above agreement, the President has appointed the following gentlemen his counsellors, viz.

Mr. Lymas Kieth, President

Mr. Anthony Taylor

Mr. Arthur Tikey

Mr. Pompey Scott

Mr. Abraham Casey

Counsellors

(6)

Agreed that twelve Shillings be allowed per year to each and every member of this Society who by any misfortune may lose the use of their limbs.

(7)

Adjourn to meet at the second Thursday of November next, unless called especial.

Attest: Newport Gardner, Secretary

(8)

Laws of the Union Society agreed upon at the especial meeting, held in the Town and county of Newport &., on the nineteenth of September, 1793, at the house of Mr. Primus Thurston: An act to except the resolutions of the committee passed the first of August, 1798:

Be it enacted by the Union Society and the authority of the same, it is enacted that the resolutions of the committee passed the first day of August, 1793, be and the same hereby is excepted, and that the said resolution shall be the law and regulation of this Union Society, to be observed by every member of the same, and that every officers to whom it belong are requested to put the said resolutions to execution, as soon as may be convenience for them. Prime Amy made chairman of the committee.

Lymas Kieth, the vice president of the Union Society and  
President of the counsellors.

Approved of, November 19th, 1793.

Charles Chaloner, President of the Union Society

Attest: Newport Gardner, Secretary

(9)

An act to establish the Counsellors of the Union Society, agreed by the Society at the especial meeting, on the nineteenth of September, A.D., 1793.

Be it enacted by this Union Society and the authority of the same it is enacted that there shall be counsellors in this Union Society, and shall assist the President in prosecuting his office in this Society; and the President shall nominate four men beside the vice president, who, with our other four, amount to five members, and that four of them to be chosen by him every year.

(10)

And be it further enacted by the authority of the same that the vice President of the Union Society shall be the President of the counsellors until other may be thought fit by this Society.

Prince Amy, chairman of the Committee  
Lymas Kieth, vice president of the Union Society and  
President of the counsellors

Approved of, November 14th, 1793

Charles Chaloner, President of the Union Society

Attest: Newport Gardner, Secretary

(11)

An act to grant relief to those members of this society who by sickness or other misfortune lose the use of their limbs &., agreed upon at the especial meeting of the Union Society, held in Town and county of Newport &., on the nineteenth of September, 1793. at Mr. Primus Thurston's.

(12)

Whereas it may be some of us who may by sickness or other misfortune lose the use of their limbs so as not to be able to get his or their subscriptions, and by that mean he or they may greatly suffer for want of necessary of life, therefore being willing to relief such person or persons. as far as in our power, resolved and

Be it enacted by this Union Society and the authority of the same it is enacted that two dollars be allowed to each and every member his Union Society who may be brought to such unhappy misforturn. And that such needy person or persons shall be paid by the Treasurer of this Society out of the Treasury of the said Union Society one shilling a month, or three shillings at every three months, or six shillings at every six months; And that this act shall continue in force as long as any such misfortune or member or members in this Society and any money in the Treasury; Provided all ways and be it further anacted by authority aforesaid that this act shall not extend to those who may be sick for a while and then recovered his or their health; in such case he or they shall be under obligation to repay, agreeable to the fifth article of this society.

Prince Amy, Chairman of the Committee  
Lymas Kieth, Vice President of the Union Society and  
President of the counsellors

Approved of, November 14th, 1793

Charles Chaloner, President of the Union Society

The above was truely approved of and sign by the partis.

Newport Gardner, Secretary

At a special meeting of the Union Society, held Sep't 19th,  
1793(B),

(1)

Be enacted by this Union Society and the authority of the same, it is enacted that the resolution of the committee passed the first day of August, 1793 be and the same hereby is excepted, and that the said resolution shall be the rule and regulation of this Union Society, to be observed and maintain by every member of the same.

Prince Amy, chair[man?] of the commitee

Lymas Kieth, vice President of the Union Society and President  
of the Counsellors

Approved of November 14th, 1793

Charles Chaloner, President of the Union Society

The above is truely signed by the parties

Newport Gardner, Secretary

(2)

The persons who have received their account and have not [paid?] all their due and are set aside according to Laws, the following namely:

(15 members are listed.)

(3)

The evening being far spent, the report of the committee must remain still on the table till future opportunity. The Secretary brought nine shillings from Mrs. Lyndon, who redeemed her note.

At a meeting of the committee of the African Union Society, held at the house of Mr. Prince Amy in Newport, Rhode Island, on the first Thursday of October, being the third of said month, A.D., 1793.

Present

(1)

(8 members are present.)

(2)

The committee being ready for the business ordered that Mr. Cudgo Gibbs be fined nine pence for his neglect of given his attendance in the present committee, unless he can make a reasonable excuse for the same.

(3)

Agreed that clerk of the committee be requested to search the record see who are deficient and how much is due from each member to the Treasury of this Society, and make account of every one, and bring the same before the Committee, to be holden at Mr. Thomas Ferguson's, the first Thursday of November next ensuing, being the seventh of the said Month.

Attest: Newport Gardner, Clerk

At the meeting of the committee of the African Union Society, held in the Town and county of Newport &., on the first Thursday, November 7th of the said month, A.D., 1793, at Mr. Ferguson.

Present

(1)

(8 members are present.)

(2)

The Committee being ready for business, the clerk of the committee brought in his report, agreeable to their requests, which was read as follows:

The clerk of the committee report that in obedience to your request, I have searched the record and found the following members appear to be deficiant, Viz:

(3)

(22 members' names appear with specific amounts due affixed to each name. The total deficit amounts to 5.12.5. A note says "Mr. Cato Slocum, Mr. Pompey Burroughs and Mr. Newport Wanton is excepted," but does not explain why the exceptions are recorded.)

"I have made out 22 bills against these 22 members, which I now sumited to your consideration.

I have the honour to be, with respect,

your most obdeience and humble ser't.  
Newport Gardner

To the Committee of the African Union Society in Newport, R. I.  
Newport, November 6th, 1793

(4)

Resolved that this report of the clerk of the committee be and the same hereby is excepted, and that the same be lay before the Society at their quarterly meeting, to be holden on the second Thursday of November, being the fourteenth of said month, A.D., 1793.

(5)

Agreed that the clerk of the committee take account of all the monies that ever was payed into the Treasury of this Union Society Mr. Newport Wanton, now deceased, together with all the monies due from him to the Treasury of this Society.

(6)

Agreed that Mr. Zingo Stevens and Mr. Scipio Tanner are requested to wait on Mr. Arthur Tikey, the Treasurer of this Society, and examed all the notes in his care, belonging to Society, and report the same to them at their meeting, to be holden on the fourteenth instant.

(7)

Adjourn'd to meet on the first Thursday of December, the fifth of said month, A.D. 1793, at Mr. Scipio Tanner.

Attest: Newport Gardner, clerk

At quarterly meeting of the African Union Society held in the Town and counts of Newport &. on the second thursday of November, being the fourteenth of said month, A.D., 1793, at Mr. Arthur Tikey's.

Present

(1)

**(34 members are present, 18 paying 9 pence, 1 paying 1/6.)**

(2)

This night the contribution amount to 14/3, afterward 5/11 was taken out to pay to Mrs. Newport Wanton to purchase Tea, sugar and rum for the use at a funeral of her husband.

(3)

Agreed that from and after this present quarter, all those who do not pay their due at any one quarter shall pay at the very next quarter following or shall be dealt with according to law, that is, be set aside or expelled, as they shall see fit.

(4)

Agreed that the Secretary of this Society write an order for Pompey Burroughs upon the Treasurer for three shillings, it being his quarterly allowing ending this present date, the fourteenth instant.

(5)

Agreed that the Secretary write an order for the Treasurer to take out the money from the Treasury in his care, sufficient to purchase one quarter of a cord of wood for himself.

(6)

Resolved that the Secretary of this Society be and he is hereby requested to send the copy of our proceedings, respecting Newport Wanton, a member of this Union Society, now deceased, to his widow, Susannah Wanton, for his information. (See letter no. 35).

(7)

Agreed that those mebers who in debtor to the Treasury and having received their accounts from the Society shall pay the same on or before the second Thursday of February ensuing, or be set aside, according to Law.

At the meeting of the committee of the Africans' Union Society, held in Newport &., on the first Thursday of December, the fifth of said month, A.D., 1793, at the house of Mr. Scipio Tanner.

Present

(1)

(7 members are present, 1 member is absent.)

(2)

The committee being ready for the business agreed that Mr. Zingo Stevens and Mr. Thomas Ferguson be appointed to examine the notes in the Treasury in the care of Mr. Tikey, and see which of the notes are due, and go to those who owe, and demand the payment.

(3)

It is voted that Mr. Prince Amy be appointed to wait on Mr. Charles Chaloner, the President and requested him to collect what monies he can get from those who have not yet pay their parts to make good of the sum of money that was sent to the city of Philadelphia, and to bring the same before the committee at their next meeting, to be held on the first Thursday of January, the second of said month, A.D., 1794, at Mr. Cudgo Gibbs.

(4)

Also that Mr. Primus Thurston be fined nine pence for not attending to the present meeting.

(5)

Adjourn'd to meet at Mr. Cudgo Gibbs' on the second of January, 1794.

Attest: Newport Gardner, Clerk

1794

At the meeting of the committee of the African Union Society, held in the Town of Newport &., on the first Thursday of January, the second of said month, A.D., 1794, at Mr. Cudgo Gibbs's.

(1)

(8 members are present.)

(2)

The Committee being ready for business, Mr. Zingo Stevens brought in the report concerning the notes due in Treasury, reported as follows:

December the 29th, 1793, Lymas Kieth to the Company: 0.12.0; January the 2d, 1792,

Quarm Bowers to the Company: 0.12.0; Mr. Charles Chaloner to the Company: 1.16.0;  
Thomas Ferguson for 6 spoon 0.9.0; Mr. Charles Chaloner, for 1 bucket 1/6.

The whole amounts to £3.10.6.

A true copy  
Zingo Stevens  
Committee

(3)

Mr. Thomas Ferguson brought nine Shillings to redeemed the 6 spoons from the Treasury, the committee having the received the money, order was given to him to take out from the Treasury the aforesaid spoons; and money was deliver to Mr. Amy to be put into the Treasury.

(4)

Mr. Chaloner brought 22/ in part the money toward 36/ sent to Philadelphia, and the same was deliver to the Treasurer to be put into the Treasury.

(5)

Agreed that Mr. Prince Amy be appointed to go to Mr. Bowers for the payment, Mr. Zingo Stevens to Mr. Chaloner and Mr. Thomas Ferguson to Mr. Kieth.

(6)

Agreed that Mr. Cubbeer Rodman be appointed to wait on Arthur Tikey, Esq'r, the Treasurer of the African Union Society, and requested him to bring all the money belonging to the said Society in his care, and lay the same before committee at their next meeting, to be held on the first Thursday of February, the sixth of said month, at Mr. Cubbeer Rodman.

(7)

Mr. Scipio Tanner, being sick, the committee excused him from paying the nine pence that was laid on him according to law.

Attest: Newport Gardner, Clerk

(8)

January 2'd, 1794. This day all the money in the care of Charles Chaloner, Esq'r, the Treasurer of the Africans' Pall Company in Newport, is 0.12.0.

(9)

The Committee are to meet at Cubbeer Rodman on the first February next.

At the esepcial meeting of all the officers of the African's Union Society in the Town of Newport, held at house of Arthur Tikey, Esq'r, on the 23'd January, A.D., 1794.

Present

(1)

(14 officers are present.)

(2)

The President than take his seat, and the following letter from Providence was twice read by the Secretary, as follows, viz.:

(See letter No. 38)

At the meeting of the commitee of the African Union Society, held at Mr. Cubbeer Rodman, the first Thursday of February, being the sixth of said month, Anno Dom., 1794.

Present

(1)

(8 members are present.)

(2)

Mr. Amy take his seat and the clerk read the answer to the letter received from the African Society in Providence, and ordered the same to be laid before the Society at their quarterly meeting on the 13th instant.

(3)

Agreeable to the order of the commitee, Mr. Tikey brought all the monies in the Treasury in his care before the amount to 7.4.6 3/4. Mr. Tikey also inform the committee that the Vice President Kieth has redeemed his note from the Treasury.

(4)

Newport, February 6th, 1794. This day all the monies in the Treasury of this Society is 7.4.6 3/4.

At the quarterly meeting of the African Union Society, held in the Town of Newport &., on the second THURSDAY OF February, the theiirteenth of said month, 1794, at Mr. Arthur Tikey.

Present

(1)

(31 members are listed, 22 of whom pay 9 pence, 1 of whom pay 1/6.)

(2)

This night the contribution amount to £ 0.19.6. beside three shillings given to Mr. Pompey Burroughs. Messrs. Richard Vickery, Pompey Levy, George Hampshear and Baccus Coggeshall set aside, according to law.

(3)

When the President had taken his seat, the Secretary read the letters sent to the Society from the African Society in Providence, and an answer to the said letter, and after serious consideration on the said answer, agreed unanimously that the same be the answer to Providence letter, dated Jan'y 15th, 1794; and that the President and secretary sign in behalf of this Society.

(See letters no. 36, 37)

(4)

Whereas this Society, at their quarterly meeting, held on the second Thursday of November, the 14th of said month, AD, 1793, agreed that those debtors to the Treasury shall pay the same on or before the second Thursday of Feb'ry ensuing or be set aside; and whereas a number of its members made known to us at this meeting that it is not in their powers to pay at this time, and pray that a longer time may be allow them to pay the same.

Resolved therefore that the prayers of those members hereby is granted, and that all those members shall pay to the Secretary of this Society on or before the second Thursday of May ensuing, and the Secretary is hereby authorized to receive all such pay from all or any of them who bring the same, and shall give them his receipt for the same.

Mr. Richard Vickery return the Book lent to him by the commitee, the seventh of October, 1790; the same is in the Secretary's office. The Secretary of this Society brought in a motion to repeal or discontinued the agreement of this Society at a especial meeting held on the fourteenth January, 1790, by recommendation of their commitee and recorded in page 35 to wit, "that as soon as the nearest kin follow & the President and next officers shall follow," &. And that the for the future all shall proceed in the following order and form:

(The regulation of the African Union Society at the Funeral of any of their departed brethren.)

- I. The notice shall be given to all the members by the sexton or by some other member who shall be chosen for that purpose to warn all the brethren of such Death and the time such an one to be berried.

- II. One shall be chosen to regulate and order the movement of the procession.

**The Procession to the Grave**

- III. The Sherriff (or one chose for that purpose) shall proceed alone before all, then follow two, and all the members of the brethren.
- IV. The Clerk of the Commitee shall follow alone, who shall proceed the commitee, if they have no clerk, the last man in commitee shall proceed the commitee, and the chairman and the first commitee man follow the last of them.
- V. The Secretary of the Society shall proceed the counsellors alone and the two presidents follow the last of all the members.

**(Return from the Grave)**

- VI. The Presidents shall proceed, and all the members follow, and the sherriff follow the last of all.

After serious consideration on the subject came the following resolution, to wit:

(5)

Resolved the agreement of this Society on the fourteenth of January, 1790, and recorded in page 35 as respect the procession of any of our deceased members be repealed or discontinued, and that the Regulation presented by the Secretary of this Society be observed by this Society as the rules and Regulation of this Society from and after the present date.

At a meeting especially held by the members of the African Union Society in Newport on the 25th February, 1794, at the house of Mr. Prince Amy to receive Mr. Wm. Olney, the Deligate from the African Society in Providence accompany by Mr. London Spear with the letters to this Society, also with a copy of the Petition which is to be lay before the general Assambly, also emigration bill.

(1)

The President take his seat, and the Secretary read the letter and was received un-animously:

(See letter no. 41)

(2)

The first thing presented itself in this letter was to make choice of a person to represent this Society and Town to join with Mr. Mckenzei and Mr. Olney to Sierra Leone; and Newport Gardner was chosen by unanimous vote.

(3)

Resolved that the Secretary of this Society write a letter in answer agreeable to a letter received by this Society from African Society in Providence, and bring the same tomorrow evening before us for our consideration. Adjourn

February 26th, 1794

(1)

The Society met agreeable to adjournment at Mr. Amy's, when the Secretary lay before the Society a letter intended for the answer to that of Providence, dated February 15th, 1794, for their consideration.

The answer being read, it was approved of unanimous vote, and the President and Secretary signed the same in the behalf of the Society, and delivered to Mr. Only, their Deligate.

The following is the copy of the answer to Providence letter, to wit

(See letter no. 39)

(2)

The Secretary then ask the Society wither it was proper to proceed at present with respect to Petition and other things contain in the letter from Providence, and also to whom the Petition may be presented. Various were the oppcion (i.e., options) of the members: when Mr, Spear, a member from Providence, rose and request the Society to postpone this matter until Mr. Brown and Arnont return, that they may ask their advice and send us a word; to this they agree.

(3)

Mr. Stevens appointed to go to Mrs. Margaret Holling, where these two gentlemen board, and get their account against them, and carried the same to the Treasurer and get money form him belonging to this Society, and settled with said Mrs. Margaret Holling.

(4)

Adjourn without day.

Attent: N[ewport] G[ardner], S[ecretary]

At a meeting of the commitee of the African Union Society in the Town and county of Newport &., on the first Thursday of March, the six of said month, Anno Dommi., 1794, at the house of Mr. Primus Thurston.

Present

(1)

**(9 members are present.)**

(2)

The committee being ready for the business ordered that Mr. Stevens & Mr. Gibbs be find nine pence each for their neglect, according to law.

(3)

Mr. Amy moved that from and after this present date, any Deligat, or Deligats that may be sent on purpose to transact business with this Society & the Society or the major part of them think it proper to board him or them, it shall be boarded by one of own own members; and every member shall bear the burden by paying their proportionable part. Agreed to by all.

(4)

Agreed also that Mr. Stevens and Mr. Robert Kieth be appointed a commitee to take the name of all the members belonging to this Society who has a desire to emigrate to the [new?] Settlement.

(5)

Agreed that the Secretary write an order upon the Treasury to take out money sufficient to perchess two queir papers, one for himself, and other to use in his office.

(6)

Adjourn'd to meet at Mr. Stevens on the first Thursday of April, being the third of said month.

A[ttest] N[ewport] G[ardner], S[ecretary]

At a especialy meeting of the President Counsellors and committee of the African Union Society in Newport, held on Thursday, the 20th March, 1794, at Mr. Tikey's.

(1)

The President take his seat and the secretary read the letter from Philadelphia, substance of which was that they have received the six dollars sent to them by this Society, and that they have got their meeting house compleatly covered, and now hope to finished this summer &. The President order that the secretary write an answer agreeable to the said letter. Also a recommendation for Mr. Robert Kieth, Mr. Arthur Tikey, or Flagg, J'n'r, is voted into this society to assist the secretary in his office.

A[ttest] N[ewport] G[ardner], S[ecretary]

At a meeting of the committee of the African Union Society, held in the Town and county of Newport &., on the first Thursday of April, being the theird of said month, 1794, at Mr. Steven.

Present

(1)

(8 members are present.)

(2)

The committee being ready for the business, Mr. Stevens moved that ought to be some men appointed as a committee to wait on those members that are set aside, and tell them of it; also two other persons to waite on widow Lyndon, and to settle with her and bring the berance [sic. balance?] due to the society.

(3)

And agreed to it, and Mr. Amy appointed to waite on Mr. Baccus Coggeshall, Mr. Gibbs to Mr. Richard Vickery, Mr. Stevens to Messrs. George Hampshear and Pompy Levy. The President to warn Mr. Cudjo Chaloner to appear before the committee at their next meeting, to be held at Mr. Amy, on the first Thursday next and answer for himself.

(4)

Mr. Gibbs and Gardner to waite on Mrs. Lyndon.

(5)

The clerke of the committee moved that when ever any one desire to borrow any small sum of money not acced (i.e. exceed) the sum of six dollars, it shall be something left in the hand of the treasurer, good or ware that worth double the value of the sum of money lent, together with the note of hand; and in case the time expire, and he or they do not redeemed the same good or ware with the said note, the goods or ware shall be sold for principle and interest of twelve percent per annum, and the money shall be return'd to the Treasury; agreed to it; and ordered hat same be lay before the Society at May quarter for their approbation.

(6)

Also agreed that the fast ought to be observed on the usual day; and Mr. Amy moved that the letter be sed to Providence to request them to join with us in the fast, and the meaning and intension of this fast, seconded by Mr. Steven and agreed to it.

(7)

Mr. Amy moved that ought to be a Law made to prohibited the meeting of the committee

on rainy or bad wether, but he was opposed by all, so the motion lost.

(8)

The clerke inform the commitee that Mr. Arthur Flagg Jun. excepte the office they appointed him. Adjourn'd to meet at Mr. Amy, on the first Thursday of May, the first of said Month.

At a meeting of the commitee of the African Union society, held in Newport &., on the first Thursday of May, the first of said month, A.D., 1794, at Mr. Amy.

Present

(1)

(9 members are present.)

(2)

The commitee being ready for the business, Mr. Stevens informed the commitee that he had waited on Mr. Hamsheir (i.e. Hampshear) and Mr. Levy and told them that they are set aside.

(3)

Mr. Amy inform that he had waited on Mr. Coggeshall and he said he will consider upon it.

(4)

Mr. Gibbs and Gardner inform'd that they had waited on Mrs. Lyndon and she has settled with them and take her note. Order that Mr. Tanner, Mr. Gibbs and Mr. Rodman be fine according to Law.

Adjourned to meet at Mr. Ferguson, the first Thursday in June.

Attest N. Gardner, clerke

At a quarterly meeting of the African Union Society, held in the Town and county of Newport &., on the second Thursday of May, the 8 of said month AD., 1794, at Mr. Tikey.

Present

(1)

(32 members are present, 18 of whom are noted as paying 9 pence, and 1 paying 1/6.)

(2)

This night the contribution money amount to £ 1.6.7½. Three shillings was paid to Mr. Burroughs and two shillings and five pence for papers; and four pence happenny for candles (i.e., candles).

(3)

After the contribution ended, the secretary read the proceeding of the committee since the last Feb'y once and lay on the table.

(4)

Mr. Steven call to mind the law passed the 14th November, 1793, and suspended from February to this present time, wither to be in face (i.e., in force as of) now or to be suspended again; after some debate, it was agreed that the Law shall take its full force from this present time. The Laws are as follow:

Resolved (unanimously) that every member of the Society that will not pay his the money into the Treasury shall be looked upon as unfriendly to the said Society, and shall be set aside, and his privileges in the said society shall be take away from him until he have paid all that is due from him to the Treasury of said Society.

At a especial meeting of the Union Society held Sep't 19th, 1793

(1)

Be anacted by this Union Society and the authority of the same, it is anacted that the resolution of the committee, passed the first day August, 1793, be and the same hereby is accepted, and that the said resolution shall be the rule and regulation of this Union Society, to be observed and maintained by every member of the same.

Princy Amy, chair of the committee  
Lymas Kieth, vice President of the Union Society, and  
President of the Counsellors

Approved of November 14th, 1793

Charles Chaloner, President of the Union Society

The above is truly signed by the parties

Newport Gardner, Secretary

(2)

The persons who have received their account and have not (paid?) all their due, and are set aside, according to Laws, the following, Namely:

**(16 members are listed.)**

(3)

The evening being far spent, the report of the committee must remain still on the table till

future opportunity. The secretary brought nine shillings from Mrs. Lyndon, who redeemed her note.

At a meeting of the committee of the African Union Society, held in the Town and county of Newport &., on the first Thursday of June, the 5th of said month, AD., 1794, at Mr. Ferguson.

Present

(1)

**(9 members are present.)**

(2)

Mr. Stevens moved that ought to be committee chosen to wait on the widow Gardner to know her circumstances, and agree to it; and Mr. Tanner and Mr. Amy chosen to wait on her, and make report to the committee. Mr. Gardner presented the bag to the committee to know if it answer their end; and they agree to give a shilling; Messrs Stevens and Tanner brought their money that was due to the company.

(3)

Agree that those in debt to this society appear before the committee on the first Thursday in July, at Mr. Sipio Tanner.

(4)

The money paid this evening is five shillings and three pence happenny; the same was delivered to Arthur Tikey, Junior, to be put into the Treasury.

(5)

Mr. Rodman is requested to bring the Pall before the Committee at their next meeting, at Mr. Tanner.

(6)

Adjourn'd to meet on the first Thursday in July.

At a meeting of the committee of the African Union Society, held in the Town and county of Newport &., on the first Thursday of July, the theird of said month, A.D., 1794, at Mr. Tanner.

Present

(1)

**(9 members are present.)**

(2)

Mr. Tanner made report that they have waited on the widow Gardner to know her circumstances and she having made known to the committee, they thought proper to allow her six shillings, to help her; and the secretary write an order upon the Treasury for a shilling to pay for the bag.

(3)

Agreed that Mr. Stevens wait on the widow Gardner with six shillings for her, and explain to her the circumstances of the society.

(4)

Ordered that Mr. Amy be fine according Law.

(5)

Adjourn'd to meet at Mr. Gibbs on the first Thursday in August.

Attest: Newport Gardner, clerke of the committee.

(6)

Arthur Tikey, Esq'r,

Sir, please to let Robert Kieth, Esq'r have one shilling lawful money out of the Treasury of the African Union Society in your care, being the price of certain bag bought for use of the secretary's office. By order of the committee

Newport Gardner, clerke

Newport, June 10th, 1794

(7)

Arthur Tikey, Esq'r

Sir, please to deliver to the bearer Zingo Stevens, Esq'r, the sum of one dollar out of the Treasury of the African Union Society in your care, it being the sum granted by the committee to Genney Gardner, widow of the late Poppy (i.e., Pompey) Gardner, for her present relief.

By the committee

Newport Gardner, clerke

Newport, July 26th, 1794

At a meeting of the committee of the African Union Society, held in the Town and county of Newport &., on the first Thursday of August, the six of said month AD, 1794, at Mr. Cudjo Gibbs.

Present

(1)

**(9 members are present.)**

(2)

The committee being ready for the business, Mr. Amy took his seat, and Mr. Gardner inform them that Mr. Cubit Brown being unwell and talk of removing from this place would be much oblige to them for what money may be due to him, after expensis deduced from it; agreed to it by them and to be laid before the society.

At an annual meeting of the African Union Society held in the Town and county of Newport &., on the second Thursday of August, the fourteenth of said month Anno Dommi, 1794, at the house of Arthur Tikey, Esq'r.

Present

(1)

**(28 members are present, 18 of whom are noted as paying 9 pence, 2 as paying 1/6.)**

(2)

The contribution money amount to 16/6 this night; afterwards 3/ was taken out to pay Mr. Pompey Borroughs, and 6/ for Neptune Sission (i.e, Sisson)

(3)

This evening being the time to [nominate and elect?] the officers for the year ensuing, the following members were chosen, viz.: Mr. Charles Chaloner, chief President; Mr. Lymas Kieth, vice President; Mr. Anthony Taylor, Judge; Mr. Arthur Tikey, Treasurer; Newport Gardner, Sec'ry; Mr. Kieth Taylor, Mr. Tikey, Mr. Scott, and Mr. Casey, counsellors; Mr. Amy, Mr. Casey, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Gibbs, Mr. Roman (i.e., Rodman), and Mr. Thurston, committee men; Newport Gardner, clerke, and Mr. Arthur Tikey Jun'r, assistant clerke, Mr. Cato Thurston, sheriff of this society.

(4)

Agreed that every [member?] of this Society that wish to draw money from it should first pay all their past expences since they belong to it, and take the remaining part with them, and shall never have a right to any of the privileges of this Society ever.

(5)

Mr. Quoit (i.e., Cupid) Brown request is lay befor the society and is granted.

(6)

Pall's money amounted to 6/ as follows from Daniel Gibbs 1/6, Vilet Hector 1/6, Phillis

Ayrault 1/6, Ceasar Mason 1/6.

At a especial meeting of the African Union Society held by request of the committee, at Mr. Prince Amy, on the 29 of August, 1794.

Presence

(1)

(20 members are present, all of whom pay 4½.)

(2)

Those members being present, the President take his seat, the committee inform the Society of there being called together was for them to take some matter to relief our sick brethren; they immediately voted that four pence happenny shall be procured from each member present, and was done, and those that have paid the money is set to their names. The contribution this evening amount to six shillings and nine pence; half a dollar was put into the Treasury in the room of that which was taken out; the other was lodge in the hands of the chairman.

(3)

Mr. Tikey the Treasurer moved that the motion brought into the committee by the clerke on the first Thursday of April, that they should be something left when ever any money borrowed out of the Treasury worth double the value of the sum of money lent; and agreed and passed unanimously; and to be laid before the Society.

(4)

The committee adjourn'd to meet on the first of November next, at Mr. Casey, at six o'clock.

A[ttest]: N[ewport] G[ardner], S[ecretary]

At the meeting of the committee of the African Union Society, held in Town and county of Newport&., on the first Thursday of Sep't., the fourth of said month AD, 1794, at Mr. Amy.

Present

(1)

(9 members are present.)

(2)

This being the time to chose chairman for the committee; Mr. Amy was unanimously rechosen for the year ensuing.

(3)

Resolved that the thanks of this committee be given to Mr. Zingon Stevens for his faithful services done as committee[man] of this society.

(4)

Resolved that if any member desire to be dismiss from this Society shall pay unto the secretary for searching the record.

(5)

Agreed that Mr. Rodman and Mr. Ferguson be appointed to wait on Mr. Neptune Sisson to know if he needs watches; if he do, the Society will take turns. Also the committee agreed to put two pence apiece to find him lights, amount to 16 pence.

(6)

Mr. Casey and Mr. Gardner appointed to wait on Mr. Prince Bailey to know if he need any assistance.

(7)

Adjourn'd to meet at Mr. Casey on the second of October next.

At a meeting of the committee of the African Union Society,  
to be held on the second of October, 1794, at Mr. Casey.  
But especially held on the 26 of Sep't. at Mr. Amy.

Presence

(1)

(9 members are present.)

(2)

After the chairman seated and the members called, the clerke inform them that Mr. Neptune Sisson had send for him, declaring to him that he is in need of some help. It is vote unanimously that three shillings be drawn out from the Treasury for Mr. Sisson relief, and that Mr. Rodman be appointed to take an order from the clerk of this committee upon the Treasurer for three shillings, and by him to be presented to Mr. Sisson.

(3)

It is voted and resolved that a especial meeting of the Union Society be called on Monday, with 29 instant, to consider and adopt a plan to persur (i.e., pursue), with respect to our sick brethren.

At a meeting of the committee of the African Union Society,  
held in the Town and county of Newport &., on the first

Thursday of November, the six of said month AD, 1794, at  
Mr. Casey.

Present

(1)

**(9 members are present.)**

(2)

Mr. Amy inform the committee that the widow Sisson desire to have her account made up and if any thing is due to her husband, she should be glad to have it, to which they agreed that the account may be made by the clerke and presented to the widow.

(3)

Agreed that the Law made in Feburary 14th, 1793, be read to the Society at their next meeting.

(4)

Ordered that nine pence be given to the clerke to find him some ink for his office.

(5)

Ordered that the case of Mr. Prince Bailey be laid before the Society at Quarterly meeting.

(6)

Adjourn'd to meet at the first Thursday in December at Mr. Ferguson.

At a Quarterly meeting of the African Union Society, held in  
Newport &., on the second Thursday, November the  
theirteenth of said Month AD, 1794, at the house of Mr.  
Arthur Tikey, in the evening.

Presence

(1)

**(26 members are present, 17 of whom pay 9 pence, 1 pays 1/6.)**

(2)

The contribution money this evening amount to 14/3, and afterward nine pence was taken out to paid for candles.

(3)

After the President seated, the members called, and the contribution made, the secretary asked the society whether the laws granting relief to misfortune members of this Society are to continue in force, or to be amended. Various are the opinion of the members; some said the sum granted to misfortune (i.e. unfortunate) members ought to be reduced as fast as the members decrease; some said we ought to contribute more at every three months, and not to reduce the sum any lower; some said the money shall not be taken out from the box, but contribution for that purpose once a month; others said 4¼ every two months, but the evening being far spent could not come to any agreement on the subject.

(4)

Adjourn'd to meet at Mr. Ferguson, and all the members are to meet to decide on it.

(5)

Resolved that the secretary of this society be and he is hereby requested to send the copy of our proceeding with the respect to Neptune Sisson, a member of this society, to his widow, Dinah Sisson, for her information.

At a meeting of the African Union Society, held by adjournment at the house of Mr. Thomas Ferguson in the Town and county of Newport &., on the first Thursday of December, the fourth of said month AD, 1794.

Present

(1)

**(25 members are present.)**

(2)

After the above members called, the President take his seat. The Secretary laid the following paper before them, agreeable to their resolution passed November 13th, 1794 and their request at the same time.

(3)

Resolved that the secretary of this society be and he is hereby requested to send the copy of this our proceeding with respect to Mr. Nupturin Sisson, a member of this Society, now deceased, to his widow, Dinah Sission, for her information, containing all the monies he pay into the Treasury, the money paid to him while sick, and his past expenses be reduced (i.e., reduced) out from it, and give her the remainder, if any left.

(See letter no. 42)

(4)

In African Union Society met this 4th Decem., AD, 1794, it is voted that the paper laid before the society this evening by the secretary with respect to Mr. Nepturn Sission be

and the same hereby is excepted, and that the copy of it be send by him to his widow for her information.

(5)

Mr. Amy moved for breaking up of the Society and began it anew; the reason he give was that because the members gets a bad name by the widow; he was second by Mr. Kieth and Mr. Stevens; Mr. Gardner oppose the breaking up the Society, but how be it, the question was put-Shall this Society be broke up? It was passed almost unanimously. Mr. Kieth moved that all the account of whatsoever monies the members paid into the Treasury together with each past expenses be drawn up by the secretary, and reduct each expenses from their money and give everone remainder of the their money.

(6)

And it passed by unanimous vote. The secretary then pray that he may be allow a time enough to draw the above account; agreed that three months be allow from the date hereof to the Secretary to prepare and bring in the above account before the Society.

(7)

Mr. Casey and Gardner appointed by the commitee to wait on Mr. Prince Bailey to know if need any assistance, on the fourth of September, 1794; and their order on the 6th Nov. to [be?] laid before the Society at the meeting, to be holden on December consider themselves unnecessary to make any about, as the Society is broke up; they therefore beg to be excused.

# 1795

At a meeting of the African Union Society, held in the Town and county of Newport &., on March fourth, 1795, at the house of Mr. Arthur Tikey.

## Present

(1)

**(25 members are present.)**

(2)

After the President take his seat, and the members called, the secretary brought in before the Society the following account, agreeable to their vote on the fourth December, 1794. To wit:

Gentlemen, agreeable to your vote on the fourth December, 1794, I have seach (i.e. searched) the record and found that the following members have paid into the Treasury the sum of money set against their respective names, viz:

Mr. Anthony Taylor.....	\$3.00
Mr. Charles Chaloner .....	3.00
Mr. James Kieth .....	2.87½

Mr. Arthur Tikey.....	2.87½
Mr. Arthur Tikey.....	2.87½
Mr. Pompey Scott.....	2.62½
Mr. Abraham Casey.....	2.37½
Newport Gardner.....	0.87½
Mr. Prince Amey.....	3.12½
Mr. Thomas Ferguson.....	2.25
Mr. Scipio Tanner.....	2.37½
Mr. Cudjo Gibbs.....	2.62½
Mr. Cubbeer Rodman.....	2.50
Mr. Primus Thurston.....	2.62½
Mr. Zingo Stevens.....	2.67½
Mr. Cuffee Drew.....	1.83
Mr. Cuffee Mumford.....	1.71½
Mr. Jack Sayer.....	1.62½
Mr. John Green.....	1.50
Mr. Quarm Bowers.....	2.50
Mr. Abraham Easton.....	2.75
Mr. Prince Bailey.....	2.12½
Cato Thurston.....	2.87½
Mr. Robert Kieth.....	1.12½
Mr. Pompey Burroughs.....	0.87½
Mr. Salmar Nubia.....	0.50
Mr. Richard Vickery.....	1.12½
Mr. Samuel Easton.....	0.75
Mr. Pompy Levy.....	1.08
Total.....	58.17½

Lost by lottery and all other expenses ..... 25.09

. Divide among 28 members and each part expenses is one dollar and nine cents, reduct that from each money, I found remain and due to them, as follows, to wit:

Mr. Anthony Taylor.....	\$1.91
Mr. Charles Chaloner.....	1.99
Mr. Limas Keith.....	1.78¼
Mr. Arthur Tikey.....	1.78¼
Mr. Pompy Scott.....	1.53½
Mr. Abraham Casey.....	1.28
Mr. Prince Amey.....	2.03½
Mr. Thomas Ferguson.....	1.16
Mr. Scipio Tanner.....	1.28½
Mr. Cudjo Gibbs.....	1.53½
Mr. Cubbeer Rodman.....	1.41
Mr. Primus Thurston.....	1.53½
Mr. Zingo Stevens.....	1.58½
Mr. Cuffee Drew.....	0.74
Mr. Cuffee Mumford.....	0.63½
Mr. Jack Sawyer.....	0.53½

Mr. John Greene .....	0.41
Mr. Quarm Bowers .....	0.41
Mr. Abraham Easton .....	1.66
Mr. Prince Bailey .....	1.03½
Mr. Cato Thurston .....	1.78½
Mr. Robert Keith .....	0.03½
Mr. Richard Vickery .....	0.03½

---

Lost and dead with the Society, which they will never get, Viz:

By Mr. Pomppy Levy .....	0.19
By Mr. Samuel Easton .....	0.29
By Mr. Salmar Nubia .....	0.54
By Mr. Pompey Bourroughs .....	0.13
By Mr. Newport Gardner .....	0.13½
	<hr/> 1.28½

Thus I have gone through the duty required of me by the Society.

(3)

It is voted unanimously that thanks of this society be presented to Mr. Newport Gardner for his faithful services done as the secretary of this society, and clerke of its committee.

It is finished. Charles Chaloner  
President

(4)

Finish

At a meeting to try to form the second time the African Union Society in this town on Thursday, September, 1795, at the house of Mr. Zingo Stevens.

Present

(1)

(7 persons are present.)

(2)

And after serious deliberation on the subject, agree unanimously to follow the same rules,

A meeting to reform the African Union Society, the second time, on Thursday, the tenth of September AD, 1795, at the house of Mr. Zingo Steven, in Newport, Rhode Island &.

(1)

Mr. Charles Chaloner, Mr. Pompy Scott, Mr. Zingo Stevens, Mr. Abraham Casey, Mr. Quarm Bowers, Mr. Cudgo Gibbs and Mr. Newport Gardner.

(2)

After serious deliberation on the subject, it was unanimously agree to follow the same rules, Acticals (i.e., Articles) and by Laws as heretofore observed by said Society, and that this Society shall be called by the same name.

(3)

Having gone through the business so far, came to the choice of the officers to serve in this Society for the year ensuing, whereupon the following person were chosen, and their office affixed to their respective names and also the monies pay by all the members, viz.:

Mr. Charles Chaloner, President	1/6
Mr. Zingo Steven, Treasurer	1/6
Newport Gardner, Secretary	1/6
Mr. Pompy Scott	1/6
Mr. Abrabam Casey	1/6
Mr. Quarm Bowers	
Mr. Cudgo Gibbs	1/6
	1/6

This night contribution money amount to	10/6
---	------

(4)

After the contribution ended, adjourn'd to meet on the second Thursday of November next, at Mr. Charles Chaloner

At a meeting of the African Union Society held in the Town and county of Newport &., on the second Thursday of November AD, 1795, at the house of Mr. Chaloner, but the major part being absent, there was nothing done this evening excepting three shillings paid by the following persons, viz:

Newport Gardner.....	0.1.6
Mr. Pompy Scott.....	0.1.6
	0.3.0

1796

At a meeting of the African Union Society, held in the Town and county of Newport &., on the second Thursday of February, being the eleventh of said month, 1796, at the [house] of Mr. Chaloner.

Present

(1)

(7 members are present, 5 of whom are noted paying 0.3.0., and 1 is noted as having paid 0.3.6, and another pay 0.1.6; another 3/ added to this total to reach grandtotal of £ 0.31.0.)

(2)

Nothing peticully came before the Society this time; adjourn'd to meet at Mr. Gibbs on the second of May next.

At a special meeting of the African Union Society, held in the town and county of Newport &., on the second Thursday, the 24th March AD, 1796, at the house of Mr. Cudjo Gibbs, to know if any money can be drawn from the treasury of this society to perchess a part in the Newport Long Hotel and publick school Lottery.

Present

(1)

(5 members are present.)

(2)

On mutual deliberation on the subject, agreed that three dollars be drawn out from the treasury of this society to purchess a part ticket in said lottery by the Treasurer.

At a quarterly meeting of the Union Society, held in Newport &., on the second Thursday of May, the twelve of said month AD, 1796, at Mr. Cudjo Gibbs.

Present

(1)

(7 members are present, 6 of whom are noted paying 1/6.)

Mr. Gibbs in the chair, and being ready for the business, Mr. Gibbs moved the absent members ought to be fine for their neglect; also this Society ought to meet every month; and that all the members be warn to meet at Mr. Abraham Casey on the nineth of June next to take into consideration.

At a meeting of the Union Society held in Newport on the second Thursday of June, the nineth of said month, 1796, at Mr. Casey

Present

(1)

**(7 members are present.)**

Mr. Steven in the chair

(2)

The proceeding at the last meeting read, and Mr. Gibbs' motion deliberate on; agreed that each member shall pay one shilling for neglect of meeting with this Society when duly (i.e., duly) warn at any of its meeting.

(3)

Also agreed that this Society shall meet every month, and shall pay nine pence at monthly meeting, and shall commence the second Thursday, July next.

At a meeting of the African Union Society held in the Town of Newport &., on the last Thursday of June, the 30th of said month, AD, 1796, at Abraham Casey.

Present

(1)

**(5 members are present.)**

Mr. Stevens in the chair.

(2)

Resolved unanimously that from and after the present meeting, whosoever desire to join this Society shall pay into the Treasury of this Society the sum of money equal to any member in the Society.

(3)

Resolved that the above shall continue in force until other may be thought by the Society and no longer.

At annual of the African Union Society held in the Town and county of Newport &., on the second Thursday of August, the eleventh of said month, AD, 1796, at Mr. Chaloner.

Present

(1)

**(8 members are present.)**

(2)

The society proceed to the choice of the officers, whereupon Mr. Chaloner was chosen President; Mr. Zingo Stevens, Treasurer, and Newport Gardner, Secretary. The President seated, and the society came to the following resolution, to wit.: Resolved that from and after the present meeting, this society shall meet once in two months, and shall pay into the Treasury one shilling and six pence lawfull money each at every two months meeting,; and all absent members shall pay one shilling each for every neglect, unless he or they can give reason satisfactory to the society.

(3)

This evening appear in this Society Robert Kieth, Esq'r pray to be admitted a member of the African Union Society. On motion resolved that the said Robert Keith be and he is hereby admitted a member of said society, provided he pay into Treasury the sum of money according as the laws direct. And that the resolution passed, the 30th June, 1796, be repealed.

At a meeting of the African Union Society, held on the second Thursday of October, the thirteenth of said month, AD, 1796, at Mr. Steven.

#### Present

(1)

**(8 members are present.)**

(2)

After the President seated, the members called, and contribution ended, Mr. Steven moved that there was a certain book given to this Society som time ago by African church or company in Philadelphia, and lent to one who has never returned [it], thinks ought to be one appointed to make inquire for the said book, and report at next meeting.

(3)

Mr. Bowers is fine[d] according to laws, and that Mr. Casey is appointed to inform Mr. Bowers of his deficient in contribution, and unless he make up and bring before or on the second Thursday of December, must expect to be delt according to law.

(4)

Newport, November 6th, 1796

These are to certify that the bearer hereof, Cudjo Gibbs, is a member of the African Union Society here in Newport, and held the office of one of our commitee men in said society, and that he had beheaved himself as a good and faithful member of said society; and as such we recommend to all friends abroad.

Charles Chaloner  
Zingo Stevens  
Abraham Casey  
Quam Bowers  
Newport Gardner

At a meeting of the African Union Society, held in Newport &., on the second Thursday of December, the seventh of said month, AD, 1796, at Newport Gardner. Mr. Gibbs absent.

Present

(1)

**(8 members are present, 6 of whom-including Cudjo Gibbs, listed as absent above - are noted has paying 1/6.)**

(2)

The President take his seat, the members called, and the contribution ended. Mr. Stevens report that he had made inquiring for the book referred to at the last meeting, but have not been able as yet to find it.

(3)

Mr. Casey report that he had inform Mr. Bowers of his deficient in contribution, and [Bowers] said that he will make up and bring it, and that his absent the last meeting was his wife being sick, therefore the fine against him the last meeting is revoked, but the said Bowers be fine for absent **this** meeting.

(4)

Voted that the three blank books which is to be bought by the blacks in this Town for record may be bought by the African Union Society, and that a sufficient sum of money be taken from its Treasury to purchase those books, and the part of the feeds [fees?] for recording be for the pay to the Society, and the money be return to its treasury again; and that the secretary is requested to draw out the sum of money sufficient to purchase the said books. Adjourn'd.

At a especial meeting of the African Union Society in Newport on the 22'd December, 1796, at Mr. Charles Chaloner.

Present

(1)

**(5 members are present.)**

(2)

After the President seated, Mr. Gibbs presented the letter from African Humane Society at Philadelphia to the Society, and the Secretary as follow, to wit:

(See letter no. 43)

(3)

Voted that the Secretary of this Society write an answer to above letter, expressing our thanks for there kindness shown to one of our members, while there, and that request of the Humane Society be granted by forwarding the copy of the rules and regulation of this society to them when opportunity present.

(4)

Messrs. Gibb and Gardner inform the society that Mr. Prince Lilibridge and Mr. Cuffee Benson wished to join this Society and would be glad to hear the rule of it; voted that those be informed to meet with this Society at Mr. Cudjo Gibbs' on the 29th instant and there they may hear the rules.

**(The Society did not attend to the address (dated January 6, 1796) until many months later (November, 1796?) hence both the address and the Society's reaction to it are printed here.)**

To the free Africans and other free people of colour in the United States

(1)

The convention of Deputies from the Abolition Societies in the United States, assembled at Philadelphia, have undertaken to address you upon subjects highly interesting to your posterity.

They wish to see you act worthily of the rank you have acquired as free men, and thereby to do credit to yourselves, and to justify the friends and advocates of your color in the eyes of the world.

As the result of our united reflections, we have concluded to call your attention to the following articles of Advice. We trust they are dictated by the purest regard for your welfare, for we view you as friends and brethren.

In the first place, We earnestly recommend to you a regular attention to the important duty of public worship; by which means you will evince gratitude to your creator, and at the same time, promote knowledge, union, friendship, and proper conduct among yourselves.

Secondly, We advise such as you as have not been taught reading, writing, and the first principles of arithmetic, to acquire them as early as possible. Carefully attend to the instruction of your children in the same simple and useful branches of education. Cause them likewise early and frequently to read the holy scriptures; they contain among other discoveries the precious record of the "Original Equality" of mankind, and of the [need] for universal justice and benevolence, which are derived from the relation of the human race to each other in a common father.

Thirdly, Teach your children useful trades, or to labor with their hands in cultivating the earth. These employments are favorable to health and virtue. In the choice of masters, who are to instruct them in the above branches of business, prefer those who will work with them; by this means they will acquire habits of industry, and be better preserved from vice than if they worked alone, or under the eye of persons less interested in their welfare. In forming contracts, for yourselves or children, with masters, it may be useful to consult such persons as are capable of giving the best advice, who are known to be your friends; in order to prevent advantages being taken of your ignorance of the laws and customs of our country.

Fourthly, Be diligent in your respective callings, and faithful in all the relations you bear in Society, whether as husbands, wives, fathers, children or hired servants. Be just in all your dealings. Be simple in your dress and furniture, and frugal in your family expenses. Thus you will act like Christians as well as freemen, and by these means you will provide for the distresses and wants of sickness and old age.

Fifthly, Refrain from the use of Spirits, Spiritous Liquors; the experience of many (illegible) of the citizens of the United States has found that the liquores are not necessary to lessen the fatigue of labour, nor to obviate the extremes of heat or cold; much less are they necessary to add to the innocent pleasures of society.

Sixthly, Avoid frolicking and amusements that lead to expense and idleness; they beget habits of dissipation and vice, and thus expose you to deserved reproach amongst your white neighbors.

Seventhly, We wish to impress upon your minds the moral and religious necessity of having your marriages legally performed; also to have exact registers preserved of all the births and deaths which occur in your respective families.

Eightly, Endeavour to lay up as much as possible of your earning for the benefit of your children, in case you should die before they are able to maintain themselves - your money will be safest and most beneficial when laid out in lots, houses or small farms.

Ninethly, We recommed to you, at all times, & upon all occasions to behave yourselves to all persons in a civil and respectful manner, by which you may prevent contention and remove every just occassion of complaint. We beseech you to reflect it is by your good conduct alone that you can refute the objection which have been made against you as rational and moral creatures, and removed many of the difficulties, which have occurred in the general emancipation of such brethren as are yet in bondage.

With harts anxious for your welfare, we commend you to the guidance and protection of that Being who is able to keep you from all evil, and who is the Common Father and Friend of the whole family of mankind.

By Order, and on behalf of the Convention

Theodore Foster, President

Philadelphia January sixth, 1796

...in testimony for said Address, the following motion was introduced by Newport Gardner, to wit.

Whereas an Address to the free Africans and other free people of colour in the United States by the convention of Deputies from the Abolition Societies in the United States, assembled at Philadelphia, dated January 6th, 1796, and signed by order and on behalf of the convention, Theodore Foster, as their President, [has?] been read to us the second time this evening. And we having taken the said address into serious consideration are of opinion that the members of said convention are sincere friends to us, the free Africans and other free people of colour.

And that if their advice were attended to, it would promote not only our happiness and our children at present, but that of generations yet to come. There it is voted and resolved that a committee be appointed to take into consideration the seventh article of said address, and report thereon the way and means that the said article may be carried into execution.

(3)

On motion by the chairman the above was unanimously adopted; And Newport Gardner, Mr. Prince Amy and Mr. Zingo Stevens were appointed a committee to prepare and report as (illegible) this meeting, to be holden on the first day of December next at Mr. Abraham Casey's for that purpose. Adjourn'd.

Attest Newport Gardner Clerk

December 1, 1796. At a meeting of free Africans and other free people of colour in the town and county of Newport &., on the day and year afore written by adjournment to hear the report of the committee at Mr. Abraham Casey's.

(1)

Mr. Charles Chaloner was voted moderator and Newport Gardner, clerk. The moderator having taken his seat, the clerk read the report of the committee as follows:

The committee to whom it was referred to consider the seventh article of an address to free Africans and other free people of colour in the United States by the convention of Deputies from the Abolition Society in the United States, dated at Philadelphia, January 6th, 1796, and to report the way and means that the said article may be carried into execution: the said committee report that they have taken the said article into serious consideration and are of opinion that if the said article were executed, it would be a great benefit and blessing even to generations to come; and that it appears to be within the competency of those persons in this town to whom the said address is directed, and that they only are the proper persons to carry out the seventh article into execution, so far as it concerns themselves.

- I. By raising a sum of money in such way as may be thought by them most convenient sufficient to purchase three books suitable and proper for record: one for births, one for marriages, and one for deaths.
- II. By chosing one whom they may judge fit to be clerk to record all marriages, births

and deaths of every free family in this town.

- III. That it be recommended to this meeting to cause proper notice to be given to all free blacks and other people of colour to get a copy of their marriages, births and deaths in their respective family and deliver them to said clerk to be recorded in the said books.
- IV. And that it be recommended to this meeting to express their gratitude to said convention for their good and friendly advice in some suitable way and manner as they shall think fit.

Zingo Stevens  
Prince Amy                      Committee  
Newport Gardner

(2)

On motion, the above was unanimously adopted and Mr. Abraham Casey was chosen to make inquire to know the price of those books and report it to the meeting, to be holden on the thirteenth instant, at Mr. Charles Chaloner's.

(3)

Newport Gardner was chosen clerk to keep the office of recordings as aforesaid.

**(A shortcovering letter, dated Newport, December 15, 1796" to "honourable Theodore Foster, Esq'r, Senator in Congress of the United States at Philadelphia" follows, expressing thanks for the convention's address and enclosing the Union Society's proceedings with regard to the address.)**

1797

At a meeting of the African Union Society, held in Newport &., on 29th January, 1797, at Mr. Cudjo Gibbs.

Present

(1)

**(5 members are present.)**

(2)

The President seated, and Mr. Lilibridge and Mr. Benson appear in this society, wishing to hear the rules &., it was read to them, and pray that their names may be enter on their book; and having paid as the article direct, they were received to all advantages and disadvantages of this society.

(3)

Agreed that if any person or persons should come to this Town well recommended from any society of the Africans shall be received as our own member.

(4)

A copy

Newport Gardner bought of Jacob Richardson

1 blank book .....	L0.7.0
1 do dito .....	0.10.6
1 dito dito .....	0.14.0
	<hr/>
	1.11.6

Jacob Richardson

At a meeting of the African Union Society in Newport &., which was to be held on the second Thursday of February, but by the reason of the absent of the Secretary, the same met on the 23'd of said month, AD, 1797, at Mr. Gibbs.

Present

(1)

(10 members are present.)

(2)

Mr. Steven, Moderator for this evening, and having seated, the members called and contribution ended, the proceeding [of] the last meeting read. Mr. Bowers called upon to settle with the society; he pray for a longer time to pay the same, which prayer was granted, and that the said time be on or before the second Thursday April next.

(3)

Mr. Bowers is chosen sharriff. Mr. Steven moved that this society ought to obligate its members to wach (i.e., watch) each other in time of sickness; agreed to it.

(4)

Mr. Newport Easton appear in this meeting, pray to be admited a member of this Union Society, and Mr. Easton prayer being granted, he was received a member after he has paid agreeable to the rules of said society.

At a meeting of the African Union Society in Newport &., on the second Thursday of April, the thirteenth of said month, AD, 1797, at Mr. Cudjo Gibbs.

Presence

(1)

**(11 members are present, every one noted as paying 1/6 apiece.)**

(2)

Mr. Gibbs, moderator, and having seated, the members called and contribution ended, proceeding read. Voted that if it happened to be a bad storm at the time the Society are to meet, it shall be adjourn'd to the next fair day (Saturday and Sunday excepted) and all the members shall meet at the time and place appointed on the next fair day.

(3)

Mr. Caesar Gardiner and Mr. George Fariwether (i.e., Fayerweather) appear at this meeting, desire to hear the Article, and were read to them, and they wished to consider on it.

(4)

The money contributed at this meeting was delivered to Mr. Steven, to be put into the Treasury. Adjourn'd.

(5)

A copy of the letter to the African Humane Society at Philadelphia

(See letter no. 44)

At a meeting of the African Union Society, met in town and county of Newport &., on the second Thursday of June, the eight of said month, AD, 1797, at Mr. Cudjo Gibbs.

(1)

**(11 members are present, 8 of whom are noted paying 1/6 each.)**

(2)

The President take his seat, the members called, and contribution ended; agreed that Mr. Casey be fined for his neglect, according to law.

(3)

Mr. Caesar Gardner appear in this meeting, pray to be admitted a member of this society, to which prayer the society granted, and he paying one shilling and six pence as the article direct, he were received in full right to all the privileges of the African Union Society.

(4)

Agreed that if it happened to be a storm of the day or time this [Society?] was to meet (that is to say, Thursday) shall adjourned to meet next Thursday following, unless the same be agreed other way upon it.

(5)

And the agreement respecting the meeting of this society on the thirteenth Apil last be repealed.

End of ledger 1.

**The Proceedings of  
The African Benevolent Society  
Newport, Rhode Island  
December 21, 1807 - August 10, 1824**

## Proceedings of the African Benevolent Society

### 1807

At a general Meeting of the Africans of Newport, Rhode Island, holden at Newport, December 21st, 1807, enquiry was made and conversation was holden upon the expediency of attempting to establish, for the benefit of the Africans, A Charity School - after suitable deliberation, all present expressed a desire for the attempt by vote and proposed a further consideration of the subject at the next meeting, January 7, 1808.

### 1808

The Africans convened according to agreement when the following constitution was read, considered and approved of by all present.

## Constitution of the African Benevolent Society

### Introduction

Whereas the Sovreign Lord of the universe who hath of one blood made all nations to dwell on all the face of the earth has been pleased in various ways to frown upon the African nations and hath placed us in circumstances of trial and depression, we would humbly bow before him and adore his mysterious justice, at the same time sensible of the great defects of school instruction among us, and the numerous benefits which would result from securing the education of our children and friends after us, therefore

1st Resolved that we form ourselves into a society to be called the African Benevolent Society; and that our Object shall be the establishment and continuance of a free school for any person of colour of this Town -

### Of Members

2'd. Any person of colour, whether male or female, may become a member of this society by subscribing to the consitution and by paying fifty cents yearly -

3'd. Any member residing in this place and neglecting payment one year after it is due shall be considered no longer a member of this society; any member may be dismissed by expressing his desire to any three of the directors who shall see the word "dismissed" written against his name.

### Of Officers

4th. There shall be a President, Vice President, a Secretary, Treasurer and eleven directors.

5th. The President shall act as moderator in the meetings of the society and in his absence the Vice President shall act in his place.

6th. The Secretary shall record in a book kept for that purpose all the acts and doings of the society, and shall write letters of correspondence & according to the direction and orders of the society and have the care of the writings of the Society.

7th. The Treasurer shall keep the money which shall belong to the Society, and shall keep a regular account of what he receives, and shall not pay any out unless by order or by application of the directors, and shall exhibit a full statement to them quarterly or yearly, as the society shall direct.

8th. The Directors shall consist of seven coloured persons, and four whites, who shall have no power but in the capacity of directors. The directors shall have the complete management of the monies of this society. They shall also provide the place for and the instructors of the school, and shall determine what part of the year the school shall be opened; in short they shall have the complete direction of the school, and shall render a full statement of their proceedings to the society at every annual meeting, and they shall consult, as far as they feel it a duty to promote the welfare of the Africans from the Rhode Island Missionary Society.

#### Votes of the Society and Directors

9th. Two thirds of the male members residing in this place shall be necessary to transact any business. In any question before the society, a majority shall carry a vote. The officers shall be elected by orally or by ballot.

10th. Seven of the Directors shall be the least number to transact business, and of the seven two shall be white. Also no vote shall be carried by the directors without the concurrence of a majority of the coloured, and at least two of the white Directors.

#### OF The School

11th. The Instructor of the school shall be a professor of the Christian religion, and a member in regular standing with some church.

The Instructor shall also be one who believes in the duty of prayer and conscientiously (sic) conforms to it, and shall cause the scriptures to be read in school daily.

He shall also pay special attention to the morals of the scholars and shall have power to inquire into their conduct out of school, and the school shall be visited quarterly by the Directors who shall examine into the conduct and progress of the scholars.

#### Of Meetings

12th. The Society shall open and close their Meetings with prayer. They shall meet annually on the first Wednesday in January, for the purpose of paying their tax, of choosing officers, and of making arrangement for a public meeting annually on the second Thursday of April. At this meeting the Society shall elect, orally or by ballot, some minister of this place to deliver a discourse, or may agree to meet with the friends if they appoint a meeting for them on the said second Thursday of April, at which time the friends of their society shall be publicly invited through the medium of the newspaper to attend and to aid their object by a collection. Also at this meeting, a general statement of their circumstances shall be publicly made.

#### Of Amending the Constitution

Any laws may be added by the society, but the articles concerning the manner of elections concerning the number of persons, and power of the Directors and concerning the

duty of the Instructor shall never be varied.

It shall be another object of this Society to receive and faithfully to appropriate all monies given for the benefit of the coloured poor in this town.

The Officers for the year 1808

- Arthur Flagg, President
- Cato Barker, Vice President
- Arthur Flagg, Jun'r., Secretary
- Rev. Caleb Green, Treasurer

Directors

- Rev. William Paten
- Rev. Caleb J. Tenney
- Benjamin Hadwin
- Stephen Gould
- Primus Thurston
- George Fairweather
- Cato Barker
- Pompey Brindley
- Nathaniel Rodman
- Charles Sherman

Account of the Treasury

March 8 1808	By cash received of Newport Gardner, as by receipt from the Treasurer is .....	\$11
April 14	By cash received of Cato Barker as by receipt from the Treasurer is	\$32
April 14, 1809	By cash Received as by Receipt .....	\$29
	Treasury Account, January, 1810 Cash Received in the course of the last year, ending December 30, 1809 .....	\$89
April 12, 1810	By Cash Received at the Meeting in first Congregational Church, as by Receipt .....	\$29

10

March 16 1810.

Members of the Society -

Arthur ~~Thompson~~ <sup>Thompson</sup> 1899 deceased Humphrey, Nevada

Primas Thurston Chas. Jacob Gardner Left-

George Fairweather & William W. Lawton.

Newport Gardner. Job Collins

Samuel Collins <sup>Amey</sup> Henry Robinson <sup>Mrs</sup>

James Clarke. Henry Clarke

*John Gardner Sr. Paul Auering*

December 17<sup>th</sup> 1899  
 Northam ~~1899~~ Fogg deceased Pompey = Brindley 1813

Nathaniel Rodman. Charles Sherman.

Ceaser      Bounes      Thomas      Hammond

John Mearns Alexander Allen

H. H. Lull. John B. Barmann.

Carnival Collins John Strammien  
 P. t. P. l. a. Luth. Luth. 15

Calo Barker ~~Dum~~ Cypa Landon Jun  
11 P. 11 P. 11 P. 11 P.

Athena Gardner. M'saloin Dear/ontage

Tompsey : Thurston Newport Easton Bur

Coffee Benson Dec. 20. 1854 Collins

Arthur Flagg Junr. Marlborough Brenton

~~Sept 1898~~  
~~Sept 1898~~ ~~Roebuck~~ deceased George Taylor

Besar : Winton ~~George~~ George Johnston Does?

P. 11/11/0

Adgo Yelw ~~at~~ James Danzell Indd

1808	By four feet of oak wood bought of William Oman as by receipt is	\$3.16
Mar 9	By Cash for Newport Gardner .....	\$10.00
	By Cash for Patience D. Lima.....	\$8.00
	By four feet of wood bought of William Oman, as by receipt is	\$2.50
January 9, 1809	By four feet of wood bought of William Oman, as by his receipt is	\$2.50
		<hr/>
		91.84½
Car'd December 30, 1809		89.08
		<hr/>
Ballance due to Society		2.76½

### Members of the Society

March 16, 1810

Arthur Flagg, deceased  
 Primus Thurston deceas'd  
 George Fairweather  
 Newport Gardner  
 Samuel Collins dismissed  
 James Clarke  
     By the british Taken  
 John Gardner  
 Abraham Flagg deceased December 17, 1809  
 Nathaniel Rodman  
 Ceaser Bonner  
 John Marvatt  
 Hannibal Collins  
 Cato Barker dismissed  
 Ahema Gardner  
 Pompey Thurston  
 Cuffee Benson Deceased June 29, 1812  
 Arthur Flagg, Jun'r.  
 Cuffee Rodman deceased September, 1809  
 Cesar Wanton  
 Cudgo Gibbs left  
 Charles Chaloner  
 Prince Bailey  
 John Green dismissed  
 Prince Amyrose(?) Deceased 1811  
 Newport Phillips Deceased 1811  
 Richard Henson  
 Pallidore Freebody dismissed

Humphrey Weeden dismissed  
 Jacob Gardner left  
 William W. Lawton  
 Job Collins dismissed  
 Henry Robinson deceased  
 Henry Clarke  
 Paul Overing dismissed  
 Pompey Brindly  
     February 7, 1813 deceased  
 Charles Sherman dismissed  
 Thomas Hammond  
     By the British taken  
 Alexander Allen  
 John Brammer Taken  
 Cuffee Lawton Jun'r  
 Absalom Pearson left  
 Newport Easton died  
 Barier Collins deceased  
 Marlborough Brenton  
 George Taylor dismissed  
 George Johnston Deceased  
 James Damzell Dismissed  
 Cudgo Hickes  
 William Church deceased  
 Robert Winwood Dismissed  
 Cuffee Simmons  
 John Port  
 Mr. Isaac Rice

Time of opening the School March 10, 1808

Newport Gardner, Instructor of the school of the African Benevolent Society began said school the 10 day of March, 1808 - left of 24 of September

Patience D. Lima assistant to the school began the 14 of March ' left of 27 June

Arthur Flagg, Jun'r, Instructor of the evening school, began 10 of October, 1808, left of 23 of March, 1809.

B At a meeting of the African Benevolent Society, convened at the school room, on Thursday evening, April 14, 1808, it was voted unanimously that the thanks of this society be presented to the Rev. William Patten for his discourse delivered before them on the 14 Inst., and that a committee of three be appointed to present the same, and that they in behalf of the society request a copy for the press committee, Cato Barker, Pompey Brindley, Ahema Gardner.

At a meeting of the Africans conven'd at the school house on the 22 of Sep't., it was voted by the society that instead of continuing the school by day, that it be kept by night, and the Directors choose a man of colour, if one can be found suitable, if not, a white man, and the school to be opened at the discretion of the directors.

## 1809

A At a meeting of the Africans Benevolent Society, convened at Arthur Flagg, January 4, 1809, agreeable to the 12 article of the constitution, for the purpose of paying their tax, of choosing officers, and to hear the report from the directors. The utmost harmony and good order prevailed amongst the Society throughout the evening. The President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer were re-chosen by an unanimous voice. It is the unanimous voice of the society that a committee of three be chosen to wait upon the directors and return them in behalf of the society our sincere thanks for their labours of love with us the last year, and inform them that it is unanimously Resolved that they be earnestly requested to be pleased to remain in their office of Director for the present year; their report gave general satisfaction. The committee chosen were Arthur Flagg, George Fairweather, and Newport Gardner, to inform the directors the society request, and that they are unanimously rechosen.

It was also the unanimous voice of the society that the committee wait upon the Rev'd Mr. Eddy, and inform him that it is the unanimous voice of the society that he would be pleased to deliver a discourse before this Society on the second Thursday of April next.

It is also resolved that two subscription papers be prepared to go among the coloured females,<sup>1</sup> and that George Johnston and Abraham Flagg see that they are presented to the coloured people, whether males or females.

The Committee that was appointed to wait upon the Rev'd Dr. Bliss to return the thanks of the society to him for his discourse delivered the 14 Inst., and to request of him a copy for the press.

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<sup>1</sup> These papers were not copied.

## Reports

That they have waited on Dr. Patten and that he informed that he would try to find the same and would carry it to the printer himself, and then he would inform the committee.

It is also the unanimous voice of the Society that an addition be made to each society member's tax, and that there be two stated meetings of the society in a year, and that each member pay one dollar this year and that the next stated meeting be the first Wednesday in July.

The only alteration that hath taken place amongst the coloured directors is Cesar Wanton chosen in the room of Paul Overing, who resigned.

The Society then adjourn'd to meet again on the 19th Inst..

[January 19, 1809]

B At a meeting of the African Benevolent Society conven'd by adjournment to hear the report of the committee chosen the last meeting to wait upon the directors and upon the Rev'd Mr. Eddy.

The Committee Reports that they had waited upon the Reverend Mr. Eddy, and he informed them that he would endeavour if nothing happened to preach a sermon, agreeable to the request of the society.

The directors also accepted of their appointment for this year.

It is also resolved that Cuffee Lawton Jun'r be Clerke of said society.

It is also Resolved that an answer to the Report from the directors be prepared and sent to them to inform them what great satisfaction the Society hath taken in their Report.

[January 13, 1809]

C At a meeting of the African Benevolent Society convened on the 13 Inst..

It was unanimously resolved that the thanks of this Society be presented to the Rev. Mr. Eddy for his Discourse delivered before them on the 13 inst., which gave the society great satisfaction, and that for your Labour of Love with us we hope that the Blessing of many ready to perish may come upon you.

It is also resolved that a Committee of one wait upon the Rev. Mr. Patten and inform him that it is the unanimous voice of the Society that he would be pleased to accept of the office of Treasurer this year.

Charles Sherman was chosen committee; he reports that he waited on Dr. Patten and he accepted of the Society request.

Newport Phillips was also chosen to wait on the Reverend Mr. Eddy to return him our sincere thanks for his discourse delivered before them on the 13 Inst..

It is also resolved that an address be sent by the Secretary to the African females Benevolent Society by way of encouragement, and to inform them we feel rejoice that such a goodly number of them are combined together to help so good an Institution.

The Society then Adjourn to meet again on the first Wednesday in July.

To the African Benevolent Society, their Directors submit the following Annual Report to Wit

President,

This society must be sensible that when we came into office as we had no experience of the particular duties of our offices and knew not what monies could be raised for the support of your school, we were therefore incapable of determining what would be the best manner of conducting the school. The manner in which it was at first supposed best to conduct it was soon found too expensive for the ability and profit of the society. We of course, dismissed the female instructor and as soon as was suitable opened an Evening school only. One special object in doing this was not only to diminish the expense, but also to give our older class of coloured people the benefit they needed. The School has been kept already about three quarters. What satisfaction the society has taken in their school they are to determine, but certainly the Directors have on the whole been more highly gratified with it than they expected. Your school has been an honour to the instructors, to the schollars and to yourselves. The whole number of persons instructed in your school, you can learn from the catalogue of their names, which we think it suitable your secretary should record that it may hereafter be known who and how many have had the Benefit of the school. The expenses of the school, which will doubtless be stated by your treasurer, have hitherto been nearly defrayed. What yet remains of the last year will be defrayed by subscription, and from friends of the Missionary and African society of Rhode Island so that the society commence this year without any debt - so small are the present resources of the society that during the coming year, the school must, in our opinion, be conducted with much prudence. It will doubtless be expedient to continue it under its present arrangement this quarter, after which, as the schollars will be principally females and young children, we conclude it will be best to have only a female instructor, and as there is probably no Coloured female equal to the employment, it will probably be necessary that some white woman should be procured. But perhaps the present master or some other man can be obtained on terms consistent with the ability of the society. These things, however, are matters on which must be determined by future Directors in view of the desires of the society. Probably it would have been agreeable to the Society and well for the schollars if once a month the ministers of the churches and some of the speakers of the Friends had in regular order and in succession holden a religious meeting with the school. This, if it appears best, can be adopted in future. And perhaps ought to be, as the morals of the schollars are to be particularly attended to.

The society and Directors have great reason to acknowledge the Blessings of divine Providence in their attempts to establish their school and in the agreeable prospect that the school is so established that it will probably stand and improve for years. To its continuance and prosperity, however, the unison, harmony and activity of the society are of the utmost importance. To see you, who are brethren by nation, by colour and by affliction, **united**, of one heart and mind in the object before you must gratify every friend of man, every friend of your cause and every heart touched by a sight of your and your Father's woes. Keep yourselves then from all part feelings and never forget that your in-

terest is one nay. never forget that if "united, you stand, but if Divided, you fall" Keep in mind too the importance of a constant and faithful attendance upon the duties before your respectively. Use your eadeavours as you have opportunity to animate the schollars to improve their time and privileges well. Indeed so treat the present object in all respects, so encourage each other and your children that when you are gone, they may rise up and call you **Blessed**.

Wishing you Union and prosperity, we subscribe ourselves

yours in the office of Directors

Newport, January 4, 1809

Caleb J. Tenney, Clerk

The above report from the Directors was accepted and unanimously approved,

By order of the said Society

Arthur Flagg, Jun'r, Secretary

To the Directors of the African Benevolent Society,  
The Society submit the following Answer to Their Report.

Chairman, Sir,

The society hath had great reason to acknowledge the blessings of divine providence in our attempts to form ourselves into a Society, and to Establish this school and while we hope for its continuance, it behoveth us to be united, to be of one mind let our united partitions of thankfulness ascend up to that God from whence all belssings flow, and from whence we experience so large a share the year past, that while God hath been pleased to remove many of our colour by the stroke of death, on the right hand and on the left all the society hath been spared, not one of its members hath been removed by Death, but all have been blest with health, this certainly is a great blessing.

The society hath taken great Satisfaction in the report from the directors and are all sensible that every possible mean that would be a benefit to the society hath done or used; they are also sensible that your anxiety are very great to see the society united more and more; to see union, harmony and activity prevail is certainly of importance and it is the prayer of the society that the directors may have the happiness to see the society more and more united and as the society unanimously have taken great satisfaction in seeing the school so established, and the probability of its continuance, they have unanimously resolved to raise their tax, and that each member pay one dollar this year and that the first Wednesday in July be a stated meeting, and that fifty cents then becomes due from each member, after paying fifty cents on the first Wednesday in January.

The Society hath taken great satisfaction in seeing what number of persons have had the benefit of the school since its establishment, and find by their names from the Record that seventy eight have been instructed. And we hope that by a steady attendance, greater improvement will be made to what hath been made already. The Society approves and thinks it necessary to have a meeting once a month with the school and society. And they wish for the present instructor to give an invitation to any minister of the churches, or some of the speakers of the friends if they feel a freedom to have a religious

meeting; and we thank that as many of the society ought to attend as conveniently can.

The society are of the same opinion with the Directors as to conducting the school the ensuing summer, but we shall refer that to the director. The members belonging to the society from its establishment and during the first quarter that the school was opened were thirty; since that period the present number belonging to the society now is forty two, making an addition of twelve. The Society hath nothing further to add, but for your labour of Love with us, may you receive your reward in the kingdom of Eternal Glory, which may it be your happy case, is the prayer of the Society

By order of the Society  
Arthur Flagg Jun'r, Secretary

Newport, Jan'y  
20th, 1809

#### Females Society Address

To the officers and members of the African Femal Benevolent Society. The Society hath taken great satisfaction in seeing and hearing that a number of you have formed yourself into a society for so good a cause as to benefit the African race - The Society looks upon it to be the best good that we are capable of doing while here on earth. The Society would, therefore, address you by way of encouragement to be united, to lay no bar in the way so as to hinder any person from becoming a member of the society. Remember that God is no respecter of persons, and whosoever will let him come, saith the scriptures; and may your number daily increase, and may they be such as shall be good members to the Society. The Society would also recommend to you that in all your meetings, first remember to ask direction from Heaven of that God from whence all blessings flow. The Society hath nothing further to add at present, but wish that every blessing may attend you and may the Lord bless you all and make you an instrument in his hands of doing much good.

By order of the said Society  
Arthur Flagg Jun, Secretary  
Newport April 14, 1809

List of the African free school kept by Newport Gardner from March 10, 1808 to September 28, 1808:

James Sampson  
Harriot Rodman  
Nancy Green  
Amy Collins  
Robert Kieth Sinitire(?)  
Lydia Seixas  
Ann Seixas  
Peter Seixas  
John Brammer  
Hannah Kieth  
Frank Taber  
Wait Ross

Anthony Handy  
John S. Phillips  
Abigail Lewis  
Elijah Johnson  
Susanna Hicks  
Rosanna Hicks  
Sarah Hicks  
Phebe Treedy (?)  
Jacob Handy  
Francis Handy  
Jane Easton  
Susanna Easton

Catharine Martin  
 Lucy Martin  
 Sally Bass  
 John Allen  
 Harriot Rodman  
 Mary ann Phillips  
 Frederick Baily  
 Catherine Baily  
 Susanna Eldred  
 Nancy Collins  
 Carolina Collins  
 Eliza Lewis  
 Edward Carr

Nancy Carr  
 Peter Lewis  
 George Fairweather  
 Moses Bennet  
 Mary Perkins  
 Lydia Hazzard  
 Frelove Slocum  
 Sarah Lewis  
 Marcy Fry  
 Henry Clarke  
 John Thomas  
 Eliza Howland

List of those that attended the African free evening school kept by Arthur Flagg Jun'r, from October 10, 1808 to March 23, 1809:

Phillis Bowers  
 Phebe Benson  
 Peggy Patten  
 Dianna Flagg  
 Mahala Grays  
 Susanna Flagg  
 Gideo Green  
 Abraham Flagg  
 Phebe Jackson  
 Eliza Champlin  
 Susan Browning  
 Dinah Engs  
 Waity Hazzard  
 George Taylor  
 James Bailey  
 Eliza Hunter  
 John Gardner

Daniel Babcock  
 Mercy Gardner  
 Mercy Fry  
 John Brammer  
 Elexander Alles (?)  
 Margaret Patten  
 Cuffee Lawton  
 William Lawton  
 Thankful Rodman  
 Sarah Bass  
 Ester Howland  
 Henry Clerke  
 Maria Gardner  
 Trillona Dyer  
 Mary Carrol  
 Absalom Person

The African Female Benevolent Society's school was ever older than that of the African Benevolent Society, as it was described in 1817 as having been established for twelve years and that the Society had habitually taught and partially clothed twenty-five or thirty children. See Thomas B. Stockwell, **A History of Public Education in Rhode Island 1636-1876** (Providence Press, Providence, 1876). p.30

List of those that attended the African free school kept by Mary Davis from April 12, 1809 to October 12, 1809

Francis Easton  
Jane Easton  
Susan Easton  
Phebe Easton  
Catharine Martin  
Lucy Martin  
Dianna Cone  
Ann Carr  
Anthony Handy  
John Thomas  
George Chaloner

Rosanna Martin  
Susan Collins  
Sarah Bass  
Ann Seixas  
Jane Potter  
Mary Phillips  
Harriot Rodman  
John Allen  
John Phillips  
Edward Carr  
Joseph Rodman

Sarah Hicks  
Phebe Brown  
Lydia Seixas  
Peter Seixas  
Harriot Rodman  
Caty Bailey  
Hannah Chaloner  
James Sampson  
Frederick Bailey  
Isaac Gardner  
John Johnston

Schollars that attended evening school under Arthur Flagg from November 6, 1809 to March 16, 1810

Trillany Dyer  
Olive Sessetts (?  
Thankful Rodman  
Elizabeth M. Vaton(?  
Eliza Hunter  
Eliza Champlin  
Eliza Hazard  
Anna F. Benson  
Mary Carrol  
Hannah Johnston  
Sarah Bass  
Susan Eldred  
Mercy Fry  
Hannah Cheets

Hannah Chaloner  
Anna Hazzard  
Nancy Greene  
Nabby Stoddard  
Dinah Engs  
Caty Cook  
Silvia Gray  
Sarah Lewis  
Pero Martin  
Sally Cook  
John Brammer  
Peter Perry  
Lucy Brown  
Margaret Potter

- D At a meeting of the African Benevolent Society convened at Arthur Flagg, July 5, 1809, agreeable to and act that was passed January 4, 1809, that an addition be made to each member tax, there being but five members present, and the shortness of the evening prevented much business being done. The collection that was made was \$6.89cts. The Society then adjourn'd.

[July 5, 1809]

[September 20, 1809]

- E At an extra meeting of the African Benevolent Society on the 20 of September, in order to examine the subscription papers, which respect the printing of a Sermon, delivered before this Society by the Rev. Dr. Patten, April 14, 1808. It is voted unanimously that the discourse delivered by the Rev. Dr. Patten before this Society, with the Constitution, be printed, and that the directors have full power to cause the same to be done as soon as they think proper.

It is also voted unanimously that the committee be chosen and sent from the African Benevolent Society to the African female Benevolent Society, in order to enquire of them what prospect they have of affording the school assistance as it respects towards defraying the expences. The committee chosen were Newport Gardner, John Marvatt, Thomas Hammond to wait upon them and then to report to the Society. The other business that was done was a collection due from the members, which will appear by a receipt from the Treasurer bearing the same date.

[October 25, 1809]

- F At a meeting of the African Benevolent Society, convened together on the 25 of October at Arthur Flagg Jun'r, to hear the report of the committee chosen the last meeting to wait upon the females Benevolent Society.

#### They Report

That they have accomplish the business of their appointment in the following manner - The first of all, we communicated to their President of our being chosen a committee to wait on their Society, and wish to know how we may be received. Upon which she calls for a meeting of the directors and officers of the Society to agree on the manner and to inform the committee. On the third of October, we received a permit in writing to meet with them on friday, the six of said month, at Cesar Bonner. At the appointed time and place we were received by one of their directors who conducted us into the room where they were assembled with that politeness which doth donour to their Society. Being received by them, we lay your Resolution before them, which was read twice, and they informed us they would take the same in consideration and send us an answer. Your committee could not do themselves justice or the Society they had the honour of waiting upon should they be silent and not express the pleasure and satisfaction they had in meeting with the Females Benevolent Society, and also in beholding their good order. On the 18 Instant, we received their answer, which we now lay before you, and in the meantime we remain, Gentlemen, your most obedient and Humble Servants. -

Newport Gardner  
John Marvatt  
Tunbridge Hammon

Recorded agreeable to the unanimous voice of the Society, Arthur Flagg, Jun'r, Sec'ry.

It is voted unanimously by the Society that the committee of arrangement, of five in number, be chosen to know the minds of the officers and coloured directors, whether they be willing to serve another year, if our lives are spared; if not, the committee of arrangement are to appoint or nominate such persons as in their opinion will answer to fill their places, and to make a report there at the Annual Meeting. The committee chosen were:

Arthur Flagg, Sen'r  
Cesar Wanton  
Arthur Flagg Jun'r  
Pompey Brindley  
Cuffee Lawton, Jun'r

It is also voted that a quire of paper be purchased, with some candles for the use of the Society. The Society than adjourned.

#### Officers for Year 1809

(With the addition of the name of Cesar Wanton, as one of "the coloured directors", the officers are the same as those of 1808.)

The Answer to the Address, from the Females Society

[October ? 1809]

Gentlemen-

We received your address dated April 14 by our President, which address was very gratifying indeed. We thank you for the approbation you seem to express of our Society and we hope that by our forming this Society like that of yours in substance will give you not only our approbation of yours, but encouragement to persevere. surely nothing could induce us to form this Society but the good of our posterity, which we trust you have in view, and we receive into our Society all good and moral characters. -

We cannot forbear to inform you the encouragement we have in seeing so many of our sex coming forward and joining us, to the support of this institution beyond all our expectation. We also received your three committee [men?] namely Newport Gardner, John Marvatt, Tunbridge Hammond, whom you sent to enquire of us what prospect we have of affording the school assistance, with regard to the expenses. We have voted that ten dollars be taken out of our treasury at this time and to be carried by three of our Directors, Viz - Patience Marvatt, Catherine Sheffield & Sarah Malbone. to your treasury, and we hope it may be accepted as the Widow's mite.

Finally - may the Lord enable both Societys to persevere in supporting this Institution is the Sincere wish of your Humble Servants.-

By order and in the behalf of the Society

Orbour Collins President  
Sarah D Lyma Secretary pro term

1810

[January 3, 1810]

A At a meeting of the African Benevolent Society convened at Arthur Flagg, Jun'r., January 3, 1810 for the purpose of paying their tax, of choosing officers and to hear the report of the committee or Arrangements, and to make arrangements for the Public Meeting annually on the second Thursday of April. The utmost harmony and good order prevailed amongst us during this meeting of the Society. The President was chosen by an unanimous voice; George Fairweather was chosen Vice President unanimously. The Secretary was rechosen unanimously, [as was the] Treasurer, and the white Directors all rechosen unanimously. For the coloured Directors all rechosen unanimously. For the coloured Directors, we shall refer you to the report of the committee of Arrangements.

#### Votes of the Society

Voted unanimously that the Committee of three, namely, Arthur Flagg, George Fairweather, and Newport Gardner, wait upon the Directors and return them our sincere thanks for their service the year past, and request of them that they would be pleased to remain in the office of Directors the present year.

Voted unanimously by the Society that the Rev. Mr. Tenney be requested by the Secretary that he would be pleased to prepare a subsscription paper, signed by him, in behalf of the directors, and that the committee chosen by the Society, Namely, Newport Gardner, Cesar Wanton and Pompey Brinley are to see that the same be presented to the able and liberal.

It is voted unanimously by the Society that the committee, namely, Newport Gardner, Arthur Flagg, and George Fairweather, wait upon the Rev. Dr. Patten and return him our sincere thanks for his labour with us in the office of a Treasurer the year past, and to inform him that it is the unanimous voice of the society that he would be pleased to remain in the office of a Treasurer the present year.

#### On Motion of Newport Gardner

Whereas the President and Vice President of this Society may be absent at the time of the meeting by reason of sickness or other misfortune, so that the Society may meet at many times without being able to do any business, and thereby the important business of the Society be delayed, to the injury of said Society, for the want of one of these officers to preside in said meeting; and whereas the constitution of this Society have made no provision in such cases; and whereas in the opinion of this society that there ought to be provision made by law to supply that office if it should happen to be vacant at the time of their Meeting; therefore it is voted by the Society that if the society should meet at any time to do business and the President or Vice President should both be absent at this meeting of this Society; the Society shall choose one of its members to preside at the meeting, who shall be called Moderator for that Meeting, and the Votes of the Major part shall be deemed the acts of the Society and shall be recorded accordingly and shall be binding on all members to all intents and purposes as any Articles of the Constitution.

It is also voted that the Society shall likewise chuse Clerk pro tem pro to supply the place

of the Secretary, if he should happen to be absent at any meeting of this Society, and the Clerk so chosen by the meeting shall write all the proceedings of the meeting, and the same shall be attested by him, and that it be carried to the secretary to be recorded in this Book.

On hearing the above, it is voted by the Society that the same be received. Recorded and binding.

A True Copy  
Attest Arthur Flagg Jun'r, Sec'ry

On Motion of James Damzell <sup>1</sup>

Whereas there hath been a number of children in the African School during the Summer 1808 and 1809, the opinion of the Society is that their parents, if able, ought to contribute something towards the support of same.

It is therefore voted by the Society that one of its members be chosen to wait upon those parents whose children have had the benefit of the school, as well as those members that are delinquent. State to them the situation of the Society, and endeavour to persuade them to contribute something toward the support of the same for the good of the children. And those that are delinquent members, state to them the necessity of their being faithful toward the cause, that they are and ought to be engaged in.

Voted that James Damzell wait upon them after getting their names from the Secretary, and then to make his report of the same to the Society.

On hearing the above, it is voted by the Society that the same be received. Recorded and binding.

Attest Arthur Flagg Jun'r, Sec'ry

<sup>1</sup> (Nothing of Damzell's efforts has been copied.)

Voted that Newport Gardner prepare the answer to the report from the directors, and that it be laid before the Society for their approbation.

The Society then adjourn'd to meet again on the 17 Inst.<sup>2</sup>

Officers for Year 1810

Arthur Flagg, President  
George Fairweather, Vice President  
Arthur Flagg, Jun., Secretary  
Rev. William Patten, Treasurer

<sup>2</sup> Proceedings of this meeting were not copied.



[January 17, 1810]

B At a meeting of the African Benevolent Society, held by adjournment at Newport Gardner, January 17, 1810, to hear the report of the committee chosen the last meeting. Newport Gardner, one of the committee, presented the report which was read by the clerk, and approved of by the Society. Newport Gardner also presented an answer to the report from the directors, which was read and unanimously voted that a copy be presented to them by the Secretary, and signed by him in behalf of the Society.

Also voted and resolved that John Marvatt and Charles Sherman fill the vacant places directors for the present year.

It is also voted and resolved that a committee of Arrangements be chosen for the following purposes - They are to arrange all the business of the Society from January 17, 1810 to the first Wednesday in July, 1810; especially on the first Thursday in April next. They are to provide in the house of public worship seats for the children, and form their procession regularly to the place of worship, and to [see?] them seated on their seats. They are to provide seats for the officers of both Society\*, and at the meeting of the Society, they are to make a report of their proceedings to the Society. They shall also call a special meeting of the Society if Mr. Dehon returns one month or even three weeks before the second Thursday of April next, and if in their opinion it will be for the good of the Society they have power to call a special meeting at any time during the time of their appointment.

It is also voted unanimously that the following persons be the committee of Arrangements:

\* it is not known whether "both Societys" includes the Female Benevolent Society or the African Humane Society.

Charles Sherman  
Jacob Gardner  
John Brammer  
Cuffee Lawton  
Thomas Hammond

A true copy  
Witness Arthur Flagg, Jun'r, SEcr'y

Attest John Morvatt, Cler pro tem pro

The committee, chosen by the Society on the third Inst. to wait upon the Treasurer and Directors and also to wait upon the Rev. Mr. Tenney requesting him that he would be pleased to deliver a Discourse before this Society on the second Thursday of April, make the following report:

That they have accomplish the business of their appointment, as follows

On the 9th Inst. at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, we met and proceeded with the votes of the Society to the respective persons, and presented to each their respective vote, who

after reading the same presented their thanks to the Society, and requested us to inform them that they are ready and willing to do anything in their power to promote the interest and welfare of the Society; and with respect to a discourse, Mr. Tenney advised the Society that if Mr. Debon should return back a month or even three weeks before the time, he wished the Society to invite him to deliver the same.

We remain your obedient Servant

Arthur Flagg  
George Fairweather  
Newport Gardner

#### On Motion of Newport Gardner

Whereas the 9th Articles of the Constitution of this Society mention that two thirds of male members residing in this place shall be sufficient to transact business in this Society, and whereas this Society have met several times to transact its important business, and two thirds of its members could not be procured, which was to the injury and disadvantage of the Society, therefore to remedy the evil for the future, it is voted by the Society that after due notice of the meeting of the Society shall have been given and eleven of its members be present, they shall be sufficient to transact any business in the Society, and the business so transacted by them or the major part of them shall be binding on all the members to all intents and purposes as any Article in the Consitution of this Society.

On hearing the above, it is voted by the Society that the same be received and recorded.

A True Copy      Arthur Flagg, Sec'ry

The report of the directors of the African Benevolent Society to the African Benevolent Society for the year ending December 31, 1809

The directors, to whom you have confided the intrest of your school the past year, have found a pleasure even in the care and superintendence as well as in the prosperity of it. To detail to you at full length our proceedings would be needless; equally needless would it be to state to you particulars concerning the school the last winter. Suffice it to say concerning that school that they were taught in all thirty two scholars, at the expiration of the last winter term. We were upon consulting unanimous in the opinion that the object of the Society would be best promoted during the Summer season by employing a female to instruct your younger children. According, Mary Davis serving about six months taught to the very great satisfaction. The number of scholars taught by her is thirty-three. Concluding the stipulated compensation of two dollars per week not equal to her service, we presented her a bible and ten dollars, in addition. The present state and prospect of the school under Arthur Flagg, is such as to encourage the hopes that many will this winter as many did last year reap great and lasting advantage. We have learned with no common pleasure that your school has received from yourselves and from the females of your colour growing attention and laudable exertions the past year. For this you are truly worthy of praise, but we would not and we trust you should not forget to be grateful to the Supreme Author of all good, that he has not only given rise to your Society and school, but has also expressed thus far over both his fostering and paternal care, and that he hath disposed you your coloured sisters and some others to contribute and exert themselves virtuously. Certainly he who heareth the ravens cry has heard and is now answering your

cry after knowledge and improvement for yourselves and your children. To reply to the request of your society for publishing the first discourse delivered to you, and also the Constitution, we observe that although there has been considerable delay, we expect they will be published in a short time. To give you a view of the manner in which your money hath been expended and what more is needful, the treasurer will exhibit his account from which it will appear what exertions are now necessary. In view of the pecuniary state of the Society, we recommend it as important that you provide some method soon to circulate among the able and liberal a subscription paper. We also suggest it as a matter of importance that the respective members of your society should, as they find opportunity, visit the school, that each one may know the state and progress of the school, and may encourage the master and the scholars. As your society hath been the past year harmonious and zealously attentive to your important object, we hope you will continue so, the coming year. Certainly in the present concern, your society has done well. You have proved that you desire (?) how to estimate the importance that your children should not enter upon the dangerous theatre of human actions without an ability to know and transact the concerns of life for themselves without an ability to read for themselves the Book of God. You have proved your desire to yourselves, and especially your children of the next generation [to rise?] out of that state of ignorance and depression, into which the injustice, Pride and avarice of others have attempted to sink your colour. You have proved your desire to make your sons and your daughters the possessors of knowledge, virtue and religion. Thanks to God, who hath disposed you thus far. Continuing to do as you have begun and adhering firmly to your Constitution, you as a Society and your school will live and gain strength, success and respect, and your children now receiving the benefit of your labour will rise up after you and bless your memory.

Voted unanimously that it be communicated to the African Benevolent Society.

Attest Caleb J. Tenney, Clerk of Directors  
Newport, Decem 13, 1809

On hearing the above, it is voted by the Society that it be received ad recorded.

A True Coppy

Attest Arthur, Flagg Sec'ry

Newport  
January 20, 1810

The Answer to the Directors' Report laid before the females abenevolent Society.

The Directresses of the African Female Benevolent Society beg leave to return thanks to the officers of the African Society for their attention in laying before them the proceedings of said Society the year past, and in return would inform them that an account of our number being about forty, we can hardly expect that much good can result from our very limited exertions. Still we feel unwilling to relinquish our hopes and endeavours in so good a cause. We would likewise mention that our stated meetings are generally attended; our payments have been likewise tolerable punctual, but we are sorry to observe that notwithstanding our exertions, our number does not greatly increase.

The Society have nothing further to add, but our united wishes for the success and

prosperity of your very Benevolent institution, We request your prayers that the great disposer of all events may smile upon our feeble endeavours and increase our ability to assist you, and remain with respect, your well wishers,

By order of the said Society  
Olive Sessetts  
Secretary

Newport, April 8, 1810

[April 17, 1819]

- C At a meeting of the African Benevolent Society on the 17 of April, 1810, it is voted that the thanks of this Society be presented to the Rev. Mr. Tenney for the discourse delivered before them on the 12 Inst.

Voted unanimously that Charles Sherman and Thomas Hammond be a committee to see to those sermons which are out and not paid for

[December 24, 1810]

- D At a meeting of the African Benevolent Society convened on the 24 of December at Arthur Flagg, consisting of officers and five members in order to take into consideration what method is best to propose for the benefit, peace and harmony of the Society the year ensuing, and also to choose a committee of Election, with full power for the committee to nominate a person to fill the office of a President, which by death is vacant, and such other officers, as may be vacant by resignation.

We then proceeded to chose a moderator when Mr. George Fairweather was chosen moderator unanimously.

We next proceeded to the choice of a committee of Elections, when the following persons were chosen unanimously: Nathaniel Rodman, Cuffee Benson, Arthur Flagg, Thomas Hammond.

We next proceeded to nominate a candidate to fill the office of President, when Mr. Newport Gardner was nominated unanimously.

We next proceeded to nominate a candidate as Director in the room of Newport Gardner, nominated President when Arthur Flagg was nominated.

We next proceeded to nominate officers for the year ensuing when the following persons was nominated to their respective offices:

Newport Gardner, President  
George Fairweather, Vice President

Arthur Flagg, Secretary  
Rev. William Patten, Treasurer

Directors

Rev. William Patten; Rev. Caleb J. Tenney; Benjamin Hadwen; Stephen Gould; George Fairweather; Arthur Flagg; Nathaniel Rodman; Pompey Brindley; Cesar Wanton; John Marvatt; Charles Sherman.

We next proceeded to take into consideration respecting our Annual Meeting, and we consider that it may be more for the benefit of the Society to have it later than last year, but expect to have some direction by the Directors' Report. The Committee have nominated Rev. Mr. Gibson to deliver the intended discourse in case of failure [by?] Rev. Mr. Webb. Voted by the Committee that the nomination be presented to the Secretary at their Annual Meeting for their approbation. A true copy of the doings and nominations of the Committee.

Attest Arthur Flagg

1811

[January 2, 1811]

A At an annual Meeting of the African Benevolent Society, convened at Arthur Flagg, on the 2 of January, 1811, for the purpose of paying their tax, of choosing officers, and to take into consideration respecting fixing the time of our annual Meeting, which hath formerly been in April, to June.

For the choice of officers for the year 1811, we shall refer you to the report of the committee of Elections, which passed unanimously by the Society.

The members then present paid their half year tax. The President address was read, and voted that it be received and recorded.

Voted that Arthur Flagg prepare and answer to the address.

The directors' Report being read, and that clause respecting a white man instructor caused some debate, but was referred to a Committee of three to take into Consideration, and endeavour to know the minds of all the members, if possible. The committee chosen were Charles Sherman, Pompey Brinley, and Cuffee Lawton, and to prepare their answer and lay it before the Society at their meeting on the 17 Inst.

Voted by the Society that a committee be chosen to return the thanks of this Society to the Directors and Treasury for their services for us the past year, and to request of them that they would be pleased to remain in their respective offices the present year, agreeable to the vote of the Society Committee, George Fairweather, Newport Phillips, Thomas Hammond, and make their report on the 17 Inst.

Voted by the Society that the Rev. Mr. Gibson be requested to deliver a discourse before this Society on the 12th June.

The Society than adjourn to meet on the 17 of January.

President address 1811

Gentlemen of the African Benevolent Society.

The signal honour which you have manifested to me on the present occasion by chosen me to the office of the President I acknowledge with gratitude, altho I cannot promise myself to you, my brethren, that I expect to serve you in this office with equal satisfaction to the member whose death we have all deeply and sensibly felt. When I consider his firm and unshaken resolution to leave nothing undone that ought to be done for the interest and welfare of the Society, both civil and religious, so that no weather could prevent his tottering legs from giving his attendance to both far and near, together with his meekness, sincerity & exemplary behaviour among us could not fail to leave a lasting impression in my mind, and I trust in the mind of every member of the Society; but also when I consider my unworthy [self?] to take the place of such an one, I shrink. Yet relying on the assistance of that Almighty power who hath of his great mercy form'd this Society and upheld it by his right hand thus to convince us that his unbounded mercy extends to us and our posterity as any other, if we would arise and accept it. And also [?] rely on you Gentlemen, by giving your attendance to every meeting of this Society for its support and for your council concerning the good of the Society and its welfare, believing that you would do more than I have stated [?] in this address.

I rest here and take my engagement to serve as far as I shall be enabled in the office you have honoured me with at this present time. And that the Lord may bless and smile on all our proceedings in this Society for the good of all our Brethren that are on the present stage, and also the generations yet to come is the sincere wish,

of your Humble Servant

Newport Gardner  
Newport, January 2, 1811

[January 17, 1811]

- B At a meeting of the African Benevolent Society, meet agreeable to adjournment on the 17 of January to hear the reports of the Committee. Thomas Hammond, from one of the committees, made a report that the directors were willing to serve another year, and the Treasurer likewise.

The Committee on the directors' report not being ready, it was voted that a longer time be allowed, to the first Thursday of February.

The Society chose a committee of Arrangements for this year, Namely,

Committee of	Thomas Hammond	
	Ceasar Banner	Arrangements
	Newport Phillips	

Cuffee Lawton was chosen to write a few lines to the female Society by way of encouragement.

The Society adjourn'd to meet again on the first Thursday in February.

The Directors Submit to the African Benevolent Society the following Annual Report.

Their past proceedings are already so fully known to you that they need not rehearse. On review, we can express increased satisfaction in the progress of your school the past year, for its progress has evidently been greater than during any year preceding, and we have indeed just reason to expect that when its operations become habitual they would (i.e. would) be more successful and satisfactory to us. Nothing has been more obvious than that the smiles of divine providence have attended your school - have attended it not only to preserve in it general order and regularity, but also to provide means for its support and continuance. For unexpectedly benefactors have furnished aid as it has been needed in these particulars, and also in the peace, union and exertions of your Society, we have seen and would gratefully acknowledge the divine favour.

It hath been ours and your desire that the interest of the school may be advanced by every suitable means, and to as great a degree as possible. We have all fully believed in the fidelity and very respectable qualifications of the present instructor, and that he has been successful beyond our expectation. We, however, are unanimous in the opinion that your school would be more generally attended by persons of colour and especially by those young men, if a white man should hereafter be the Instructor. Upon this subject we hope that in your address to the next directors you will be able to express the same opinion and with the same union.

We see no reason to vary the general plan of the summer school.

We recommend to your Society to fix the time for their annual discourse in future, sometime in June, near the time of the yearly meeting of Friends.

We have now gone through the business of the year. We have, from the success of your Society and school, derived much satisfaction, and feel compensated well for our exertions.

We recommend a continuance of union and of exertions to you, believing that many yet unborn will reap benefit from your Society and school.

By order of the Directors  
Caleb J. Tenney, Clerk  
Newport, January 2 - 1811

[February 7, 1811]

C At a meeting of the African Benevolent Society, met agreeable to adjournment on the 7th of February to hear and answer from the committee to the Director's Report. Mr. Charles Sherman, from one of the committees, made a report in writing, which was read, considered and approved of by all present. The sum of it was that we disapprove of a white instructor at present.

Mr. Cuffee Lawton, who was chosen to write a few lines to female Benevolent Society not being present, it is voted that a committee be and are hereby appointed to receive whatever Cuffee Lawton hath wrote, and if they the said committee, approve of the same it is to be presented to Females Society Committee: Arthur Flagg, George Johnston, Charles Sherman.

Voted that Newport Gardner sign the answer to the directors' report.

The Society than adjourn'd.

[April 16, 1811]

- D At an extra meeting of the African Benevolent Society, convened together on the 16 of April, at Arthur Flagg.

It is voted that a Subscription paper be immediately in circulation about this town, and that a committee of six members be appointed to carry the same, by turns. The committee chosen are, Namely, Arthur Flagg, Cesar Wanton, Nathaniel Rodman, Cuffee Simmons, John Marvatt, George Johnston, and they are to see the same attended to in the manner above described.

Voted that Arthur Flagg wait upon the Rev. Dr. Patten and request of him that he would be pleased to draw a subscription paper.

Voted to correspondence with with the African United Society in Providence, and voted that Arthur Flagg write the correspondence letter. The Society Adjourn'd.

[December 16,? 1811]

- E At a meeting of the African Benevolent Society, consisting of officers and few members, in order to take into consideration what method is best to persue for the peace, prosperity and harmony of the Society, and also to chuse a Committee of Election. The Committee of Election being chosen, consisting of the following persons: Newport Phillips, Nathaniel Rodman, Tunbridge Hamond, Cesar Banner, Arthur Flagg when Newport Phillips was chosen chairman, and Tunbridge Hammond clerk.

We the committee feel it our indispensible duty to return our most sincere thanks to the giver of every good gift that the Society still is upheld by the right hand of his power. It then behoveth us to be more and more gnaged and to fill our engagements by paying our tax, and then we may with prosperity expect a blessing to attend our endeavors. We therefore nominate the following persons to fill the following offices the present year: President: Newport Gardner; Vice President: George Fairweather; Secretary: Arthur Flagg; Treasurer: Rev. William Patten; Directors: Rev. William Patten; Rev. Caleb J. Tenney; Benjamin Hadwen; Stephen Gould. Coloured Directors: George Fairweather, Arthur Flagg, Nathaniel Rodman, Cesar Wanton, Pompey Brinley, Newport Phillips, Charles Sherman. The committee also nominate Tunbridge Hammond as Clerk of the Society. The committee nominate to the Society that the Rev. Mr. Wheaton be requested to deliver a discourse before this Society on the 10 of June, in case of failure of Rev. Mr. Webb. The committee have taken into consideration delinquent members, as by the records appear some are; therefore appointed Cesar Banner and Tunbridge Hammond to collect the same, if they are members; if not, we wish their names off[f] the records.

These things, gentlemen, we submit to you for your consideration.

By order of the committee  
attest: Tunbridge Hammond, Clerk

December 16, 1811

1812

[January 8, 1812]

- A At an annual meeting of the African Benevolent Society, convened together on the 8 of January, 1812, at Arthur Flagg, for the purpose of paying their tax, of choosing officers, and to hear the report of the committee of Elections, which was read, considered and approved of by all present. The Directors' report was postponed, the consideration of it till the 29 of January, at which time the Society will meet again. The Society than appointed a committee to wait upon the Rev. Mr. Wheaton to inform him of the Society request. By vote, which consisted of the following Gentlemen:

Newport Gardner, George Fairweather, Henry Robinson, also to return the thanks of the Society to the Dirs and inform them that they are rechosen. It is also voted that Newport Phillips, Cesar Bannner and Tunbidge Hammon be the committee of Arrangements invested with the same power as the committee formerly was. The Society than adjourn to meet again on the 29 of January.

[January 29, 1812]

- B At a meeting of the African Benevolent Society, legally held agreeable to adjournment to take into consideration the Directors' report respecting a white man Instructor of the Evening School, and that number of members being present as the Law requires, Mr. George Fairweather presided Moderator, agreeable to the constitution the President being absent.

It is voted by the Society that we disapprove of a white man Instructor of the Evening school. It is voted that we approve of a Coloured man Instructor.

It is voted that a committee be and are appointed to answer the Directors' Report, namely, John Marvatt, Cuffee Simmons, Arthur Flagg, and that the same be laid before the Society for their consideration. The members present that voted in favour of a Coloured man are Primus Thurston, Newport Phillips, Cuffee Simmons, Tunbridge Hammon, James Sampson, Absalom Pearson, William Church, John Marvatt, Arthur Flagg.

January 29, 1812, the Society than adjourn'd. There was nine out of eleven in favour.

[May 7, 1812]

- C At a meeting of the African Benevolent Society on the 7 of May, 1812, to hear the report of the committee chosen last January to wait upon the Rev. Mr. Wheaton, which report was presented in writing that the Rev. Mr. Wheaton refuseth to comply with the Society request. The committee than apply'd to the Rev. Mr. Webb, agreeable to the committee of Election report, and Mr. Webb accepted of the Society request, and is willing to deliver the intended discourse on the 10 of June.

The Society than took up the Report from the Directors again, and after a considerable debate, they did refer it to the Directors: for the motion, eight; in favour against the motion, five.

Ahema Gardner was appointed to fill the vacancy as a Director for this year occasioned by the resignation of Charles Sherman. The Society than adjourn'd.

[June 15, 1812]

- D At a meeting of the African Benevolent Society, held on the 15 of June, 1812. It was voted unanimously that the thanks of this Society be presented to the Rev. Mr. Webb for his feeling discourse, delivered before this Society on the 10 Instant, and that a committee of three be appointed to present the same, to wit: Henry Robinson, Thomas Hammond, James Sampson.

Motion by Mr. Newport Gardner and seconded by Mr. Fairweather is as follows:

Whereas the Constitution of this Society have made no provision for a special meeting of its members, and whereas the intrest of the Society may require such meetings, therefore it is voted that the following provisions be considered as part of the Constitution of this Society to all intents and purposes, to wit:

The President of this Society shall call a special meeting of the Society at the request of any three of its members, and if no such request is made, yet if at anytime the president should think the important intrest of the Society requires a special meeting of its members, he may call them together, and lay the nature of the case before them.

Attent Henry Robinson  
Cleark of said metting pro tem

1813

[January 25, 1813]

- A At a meeting of the African Benevolent Society, convened on the 25 of January, 1813, at Arthur Flagg, the following persons were chosen officers for the present year.

President, Newport Gardner  
Vice President, George Fairweather  
Secretary, Arthur Flagg  
Treasurer, Rev. Dr. Patten

Rev. Dr. Patten; Rev. Caleb J. Tenney; Benjamin Hadwen; Stephen Gould; Nathaniel Rodman; Arthur Flagg; Newport Phillips; Ahema Gardner; Cuffee Simmons; Thomas Hammond; Cuffee Lawton. The Society than proceeded to choose a committee of information, when the following persons were chosen, namely, Newport Phillips, Ahema Gardner, Cuffee Lawton, to wait upon the Directors and present the thanks of the Society to them, and to inform them of their being rechosen, and then to make their report to the Society. The Society then chose a Committee of Arrangements, when the following persons were chosen: Newport Phillips, Cesar Banner, Thomas Hammond be the Committee invested with the same power as the Committee formerly was during the present year.

The Society than appointed a Committee to answer the Directors' Report when the following persons were chosen, Namely.: Cuffee Lawton, Ahema Gardner, Jacob Gardner, and to lay the same before the Society for their approbation.

It is also voted by this Society that the Rev. Dr. Patten be requested to deliver a discourse before this society on the 16 of June.

The Society than adjourn'd.

[March 29, 1813]

- B At a meeting of the African Benevolent Society, convened on the 29 of March, to hear the report of the committees chosen the last meeting. The report was presented, read and approved of by all present. The Committee appointed to wait upon the directors to inform them of their being rechosen made the following report in writing, which is as follows, that they had accomplished the business of appointment by waiting on the Directors and informing them of their being rechosen. They accepted with pleasure their respective appointments. wsined [i.e., signed] in behalf of the Committee

Ahema Gardner, Clerk

An act hath passed this meeting and becomes a law, which is as follows:

It is voted an unanimously resolved that at any meeting of this Society, after due notice being given to its member, and if the number of five should attend, that number shall be sufficient to do the business of the Society, and the business so done shall be binding upon all the Society to all intents and purposes as any article in the Constitution, as witness to the above, attest Arthur Flagg, Sec'y.

1814

[January 5, 1814]

- A At an annual meeting of the African Benevolent Society on the 5 of January, at Newport Gardner, the following persons was chosen officers for the present year:

Newport Gardner, President  
George Fairweather, Vice President  
Arthur Flagg, Secretary  
Rev. William Patten, Treasurer

Directors

Rev. William Patten  
Rev Caleb J. Tenney  
Benjamin Hadwen  
Stephen Gould  
Nathaniel Trodman  
Arthur Flagg  
Newport Phillips  
Ahema Gardner  
Cuffee Simmons  
Thomas Hammond  
Cuffee Lawton

It is voted unanimous that a committee of three be and are chosen, namely, George Fairweather, Arthur Flagg and Ahema Garder, to wait upon the Rev. Mr. Eddy and request of him that he would be pleased to deliver a discourse before this society on Wednesday, the eighth dat of June. It is also voted unanimously that the same committee wait upon the directors with the thanks of the Society for their past service and to inform them of their being rechosen.

The Society than adjourn'd to meet again on the first wednesday in February

Attest Cuffee Lawton, clerk pro tem pore

[March 1, 1814]

- B At a meeting of the African Benevolent Society, convened together on the first of March to hear the report of the committee chosen on the 5 Jan'y, which report was read, considered and approved of by all present. It is voted unanimously that both reports be recorded. It is voted unanimously that a committee of three, namely, Cuffee Simmons, John Marvatt & Arthur Flagg prepare an answer to the Directors' Report, and lay the same before the Society at their next meeting for their approbation. It is voted that Thomas Hammond, Newport Phillips & Samuel Collins be the committee of Arrangements. It is voted that the report from the Directors and the answer to them be laid before the African females Benevolent Society and also that the President prepare a few lines to accompany the vote.

The Society took into consideration the necessity of appointing one of its members for the purpose of warning the Society together, and after some consideration, it is voted that Thomas Hammond be, and he is hereby chosen for that purpose, who is to be respected and obeyed, and all the members are to take notice and give their attendance accordingly. The Society than adjourn to meet again on the 7 of March, at John Marvatt.

The Committee report chosen January 5, 1814.

The committee that was chosen to wait upon the Directors with the vote of the Society and the Rev. Mr. Eddy presents the following report.

That they have accomplished the business of their appointment by waiting upon the Directors and Treasurer and presented to each one his vote, which accepted of the same and in return informed us that would do all in their power for the benefit of the Society. We also waited upon the Rev. Mr. Eddy with the vote of the Society, who informed us that he would deliver the intended discourse, if nothing occurs to prevent, but should anything occur, he would give timely notice to the Society. We remain, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant, George Fairweather, Arthur Flagg, Ahema Gardner

A True copy; attest Arthur Flagg, Secretary

[March 7, 1814]

- C At a meeting of the African B. Society, agreeable to adjournment at John Marvatt to hear the report of the committee chosen the last meeting to answer the report of the Directors, which report was read, unanimously approved. The few lines which was prepared by the President was unanimously approved to be sent to the female Society.<sup>1</sup> Thomas Hammond was unanimously chosen Collector of Taxes. The Society that was present paid the tax. The Society than adjourn in harmony and good order.

A True copy of the Doings of said society  
attest Arthur Flagg, Secretary

<sup>1</sup> This letter was not copied.

Newport, February 21, 1814

The Directors of the African Benevolent Society present in Report

That they have felt real regret that they have not been able to open and maintain a School the last summer and the present winter. The nature of this inability is well known to you, but we feel much gratification in stating to you the prospect of a school the approaching summer is favourable, especially if members of your society should punctually & fully perform the duty of their subscriptions. On the whole we feel disposed in no way to relax our exertions, and we hope that you [your becoming?] more deeply interested in the subject than we can be will instead of relaxing continue the exertions by which you have already done honour to yourselves, and we hope much lasting benefit to your posterity. Unanimously adopted by the Directors,

Caleb J. Tenney, Clerk

On hearing the above, it is voted that the same be received and recorded.

A True copy. Arthur Flagg, Secretary

The answer from the Society to the above report: the Society feel a regret that they have not been able to open and maintain a School the past summer and the present winter, but when we consider the nature of this inability, we feel a greater regret to find that it occurs on account of our own unfaithfulness and inattention, as it respects our subscriptions, but we have the gratification in stating to you gentlemen directors that we as a Society feel ourselves renewedly(?) engaged and that we will by divine assistance punctually and fully perform the duty of our subscriptions. We are well assured, gentlemen directors, that no exertion on your part will be relaxed in any degree and we hope that we as a Society, who feel ourselves deeply interested, may not only exert ourselves, but continue our exertions more than we have yet done, and may the blessing of heaven attend our endeavours.

Unanimously adopted by the Society

Arthur Flagg, Secretary

Newport, March 7, 1814

[June 21, 1814]

D At a meeting of the African Benevolent Society, on the 21 of June, at Arthur Flagg, it is voted that the thanks of this Society be presented to the Rev. Mr. Eddy for his feeling discourse delivered before this Society on the 16 Inst..

It is also voted that a Committee of three, namely, Newport Gardner, George Fairweather & Tunbridge Hammond, present the same to the Rev. Mr. Eddy.

By order of the said Society  
Arthur Flagg, Secretary

[August 15, 1814]

- E At a meeting of the African Benevolent Society, convened at Mr. John Marvatt, on the 15 of August, in order to take into consideration the situation of the Society, on account of the times, and to know the minds of the members. A goodly number being present, who unanimously expressed their minds that they would still pay their tax, and after a collection, the Society was dismissed in good order.

A True copy of the doings of the Society; attest Arthur Flagg, Secretary

1815

[January 16, 1815]

- A At an annual meeting of the African Benevolent Society, held in Newport, January 16, 1815. John Marvatt chosen Clerk for the Evening. The Society proceeded to the choice of officers for the present year, when the following persons were unanimously elected to the offices affixed against their names.

**(The list of officers and Directors is identical with that listing of 1814, except that the name Henry Robinson takes the place of Cuffee Simmons, and George Johnson now replaces Cuffee Lawton.)**

It is voted unanimously that the Rev. Mr. Tenney be requested to deliver a discourse before this Society on the 7 of June next, and that a committee of three be appointed to wait on the Rev. Mr. Tenney to request of him that he would be pleased to deliver a discourse before this Society on wednesday, the 7 day of June. The committee chosen for that purpose are George Fairweather, Newport Phillips & Ahema Gardner.

It is also voted that the same committee wait upon the Directors with the thanks of the Society for their past services, and request of them that they would be pleased to remain in the office of directors the present year; also the treasurer and request of him that he would be pleased to remain in the office of Treasurer the present year, and to make their report to the Society at their next meeting. It is voted the following persons be the committee of Arrangements the present year:

Newport Phillips  
Tunbridge Hammond  
Samuel Collins

The Society then adjourn'd to meet again by notice.

1816

[January 3, 1815]

- A At an annual meeting of the African Benevolent Society, convened together on the 3'd of January, 1816, at Arthur Flagg, for the purpose of choosing officers, paying their taxes, and such other business as may come before them, for the good of the Society. The following persons was chosen to the offices affixed against their names.

Newport Gardner, President  
George Fairweather, Vice President  
Arthur Flagg, Secretary  
Rev. Dr. Patten, Treasurer

Directors

Rev. Dr. Wm. Patten  
Rev. Calvin Hitchcock  
Benjamin Hadwen  
Stephen Gould  
Nathaniel Rodman  
Arthur Flagg  
Newport Phillips  
Henry Robinson  
George Johnson  
Tunbridge Hammond  
Cuffee Simmons

The report from the Directors being read, it was approved and Mr. Cuffee Simmons was appointed to prepare an answer. The Society also appointed a committee to receive the answer from Mr. Simmons with leave for them to make such alteration as they may think proper in behalf of the Society, and when approved of by them and signed by the Secretary, then to be presented to the Directors. The committee appointed for this purpose are Newport Gardner, George Fairwather, Arthur Flagg. The Society appointed a Committee of information, namely, George Fairwether, Arthur Flagg, Newport Phillips, to thank the Directors for their past services, and request of them that they would be pleased to remain in the same offices the present year.

Votes of the Society. It is voted unanimously that the Committee of information wait upon the Rev. Calvin Hitchcock and request of him that he would be pleased to accept of the office of Director in the room of the Rev. Caleb J. Tenney, removed, and in co. with the Rev. Dr. Patten, Benjamin Hadwen, Stephen Gould, together with seven coloured persons. He accepted the appointment.

It is voted unanimously that the committee of information wait upon the Rev. Mr. Wydown and request of him that he would be pleased to deliver a discourse before this Society on the 12 day of June next. Accepted.

It is also voted that in case of failure, the committee will appoint some person to deliver the intended discourse appointed the Rev. Mr. Webb.

It is also voted that Newport Phillips, Tunbridge Hammond & Samuel Collins be the committee of Arrangement.

- B At a meeting of the African Benevolent Society June 13, 1816, at Arthur Flagg, it is voted unanimously that the thanks of this Society be presented to the Rev. Mr. Webb, for his affectionate discourse delivered before the Society on the 12 Inst., and that a committee of three, namely, Newport Phillips, Samuel Collins & Ahema Gardner present the same.

1817

[January 8, 1817]

A At a meeting of the African Benevolent Society, convened together on the 8 of January, 1817, for the purpose of choosing officers, paying their tax, and to make arrangements for a publick meeting; a goodly number being present, it is voted that the following officers represent the Society the present year.

Newport Gardner, President  
 George Fairweather Vice President  
 Arthur Flagg, Secretary  
 Rev. William Patten, Treasurer

#### Directors

Rev. Wm. Patten  
 Stephen Gould  
 Benjamin Hadwen  
 Rev. Calvin Hitchcock  
 George Fairweather  
 Nathaniel Rodman  
 Arthur Flagg  
 Charles Chaloner  
 Tunbridge Hammond  
 Prince Bailey  
 Henry Robinson

It is voted that Newport Phillips, Tunbridge Hammond and Charles Chaloner be the committee of Arrangements.

It is voted that Newport Gardner, Arthur Flagg & Cuffee Simmons be the committee of information.

It is voted that Arthur Flagg & Cuffee Simmons be the committee to answer the directors Report.

It is voted that a letter be sent to the Rev. Bishop Griswold to request of him that he would be pleased to deliver a discourse before this Society the ensuing Spring or Summer, and that the same be sined by the president & scretary, and in case of failure, respecting the Bishop, the committee have power to call upon the Rev. Dr. Patten

It is voted that any one of its members that interrupts by speaking when one is a speaking, shall be fined twenty five cents. It is also voted that any one that has any observation to make on any motion brought forward and does not rise and address himself to the moderator shall be fined one shilling & six pence.

It is voted that those books as recorded by the Treasurer's report sent by Samuel Wood of New York be distributed among the children by a committee, reserving those that will answer for the school. The committee chosen for that purpose are Arthur Flagg, Henry Robinson & Cuffee Simmons.

The Directors' of the African Benevolent Society beg leave to submit to the Society the following

Report

Your Directors have no report to make concerning their proceedings, except what relates to the schooling of the African children - as the season was late before the Directors could commence their operation, Many of the children were located at different schools they concluded it best to expend the Society money in defraying the expenses of children in different schools in preference to appointing a school for their express purpose. The children who were thus assisted were located by a committee in accordance with the wishes of their parents. The number of children assisted is thirty-two. All of these have received the advantage of one quarter schooling & some of them more. The expenses have been defrayed from the funds of the Society, as will be seen by the Treasurer Report.

Your Directors recommend to the Society to make vigorous exertions to raise money for the support of the school the present year by subscription amongst yourselves, and by soliciting the aid of benevolent individuals in this place and others.

Sined by  
Wm. Patten, Moderator  
C. Hitchcock, Scribe

Newport, January 7th, 1819

Read twice and approved by the Society  
Voted to be recorded  
Attest A. Flagg, Secretary

1818

[January 7, 1818]

A At a meeting of the African Benevolent Society, convened January 7, 1818, at Arthur Flagg, for the purpose of choosing officers, paying their tax, and make arrangement for a publick meeting annually. It is voted that the following persons represent the Society the present year.

(The listing of officers and directors is identical with that of 1817, except that the name David Rodman now replaces the name of Stephen Gould.)

It is voted that the thanks of this Society be presented to the directors and to inform them of their being rechosen. The committee appointed for that purpose are Nathaniel Rodman, George Johnson & Henry Robinson, who on the 12 Instant made their report that they had waited upon the Directors with the vote of the Society, and they return for an answer that they were willing to serve. They also waited upon David Rodman, who was appointed in the room of Stephen Gould, resigned, but he wished a little more time for consideration. They also waited upon the Rev. Mr. Eddy, agreeable to the vote of the Society to deliver a discourse before this Society on the first wednesday in June. He informed them that in case he should be called away, he would give timely notice, if not he would preach the intended discourse. Committee of arrangement are Tunbridge Hammond,

Charles Chaloner and Prince Bailey. Mr. Rodman afterwards informed the committee that he would serve.

Mr. Eddy not being at home on the wednesday in June, and the Society not knowing when he would be at home, they appointed a committee to wait upon the Rev. Mr. Elton and request of him that he would be pleased to deliver a discourse before this Society on the June, which he accepted.

[First Wednesday in June, 1818]

- B At a meeting of the Society on the Evening after the sermon was delivered, it is voted that the thanks of this Society be presented to the Rev. Mr. Elton for his feeling discourse delivered before this Society this day, which was done, agreeable to vote.

Attest Arthur Flagg

1819

[January 13, 1819]

- A At an annual meeting of the African Benevolent Society on the 13 of January, 1819, for the purpose of paying tax, choosing officers and to make arrangement for a publick meeting and such other business as may come before the Society.

Officers for 1819

(The listing of officers and directors is identical with that of 1817, except that the name David Rodman now replaces the name Stephen Gould.)

It is voted that the annual meeting be held in April the 28 or 29. It is voted that Nathaniel Rodman, George Johnson & Henry Robinson be the committee of information to return the thanks of this Society to the Directors and to inform them of their being rechosen; also to wait upon the Rev. Mr. Wheaton with the vote of the Society. In case of failure, Mr. Eddy; in case again of failure, Mr. Hitchcock.

It is voted that the committee wait upon Mr. Marvatt with the vote of the Society, respecting answering the Directors' report, and to lay the same before the Society for their approbation & the Society than adjourn'd.

1820

[April 18, 1820]

- A At a meeting of the African Benevolent Society in Newport &., convened April 18th, 1820, at the shop of Newport Gardner, to chuse officers for the following year, and to pay their tax, and make arrangements for their publick meeting. Newport Gardner resign'd his office as President and chosen clerk Pro Tem. Mr. George Fairweather chosen President; Mr. John Marvatt, Vice President, Mr. Arthur Flagg, Secretary; Rev'd. D. William Patten, Treasurer.

Directors

Rev'd Dr. William Patten; Mr. Benj'n Hadwen; Rev'd Calvin Hitchcock & Mr. David Rodman. Mr. Nathaniel Rodman; Mr. Arthur Flagg; Mr. Newport Gardner; Mr. Tunbridge Hammond; Mr. Prince Bailey; Mr. Ceaser Bonner; Mr. Henry Clark.

Committee of information

Mr. George Fairweather; Mr. Nathaniel Rodman, and Mr. Cesar Banner.

Committee of Arrangements

Messrs. Prince Baily & Tunbridge Hammond

To Answer the Directors' Report

Mr. Newport Gardner<sup>1</sup>

Vote of Thanks & Copys

B At a meeting of this Society July 2'd, 1820, It is voted unanimously that the thanks of this Society be presented to the Rev'd Calvin Hitchcock for his affectionate and most feeling Sermon, delivered March, AD, 1821 for the purpose of reading the Report to the white directors, and the votes of thanks (?) And during the day appointed for the preaching of the Charity Sermon, the above mentioned papers being read before the Society, it was voted and resolved that the same be recorded and that the Last Sunday in June next be the day appointed for the preaching of the Sermon.

Copy of the Directors' Report

The Directors of the African Benevolent Society to the President & members of said Society

We learn with pleasure that the Society School was continued last year for a longer time than the preceding year, and yet that the balance in the Treasury is larger than it was at the commencement of the last year.

The Directors regret that no more of the Coloured people in town have not become subscribers to the Society, and that so many of them who have subscribed have failed of paying their annual subscription.

They would recommend that exertions should be made to increase the number of subscribers, to make weekly reserves of a cent, or a reserve at short intervals that the payments many ot be burthensome. They recommend that whatever failure they may be of the payment of the subscription, the Society should be continued, as if it were to be dissolved, it might be difficult to resume it, but if continued, it may increase and flourish, and will be an object to which assistance may be given and benefactions made.

The Directors sincerely wish the Society an harmonious meeting, and divine blessing on all their measures and interest.

Newport, March 6th, 1821

Signed in behalf of the Directors by the  
Rev'd Mr. William Patten

<sup>1</sup> Now about 74 years old, nearly worn out from a lifetime of devoted social uplift, weary of the lack of such progress, his wife, Limas, ill (she would die in a year, 1821, aged 60), Gardner resigned the presidency of this Society but continued to serve on committees (q.v.), and also he worked to bring into being the Colored Union Congregational Church (1824-1963) of which he would serve as one of the first deacons.

The Society's answer to the foregoing report:

To the Honorable Directors of the African Benevolent Society,

Gentlemen,

We received your report dated the 6th instant, at our Annual Meeting on the (illegible); and when we look back to the first formation of the Society and [see?] the unwearied exertions of its Directors for its good, we can sincerely bless that (ilible) who has from time to time directed the chooohice of is members & the men whho have convinced us to be sincere friends & the interest of the Society, not only their faithfulness to their trust and their grand (illegible) but also their encouraging us and their readiness to assist us to strengthen the thing, that by our united efforts we may be enabled to still keep the thing alive.

It is a conso'ation to us, gentlemen, to hear from you that the School was kept longer the last year than the preceding year; and yet the balance is larger in the Treasury. We regret with you, Gentlemen, that no more of our people of colour have become subscribers to the Society, and those who have subscribed have failed in their payments; but as we have stated that particularly to you in our last answer to you report, we will omit repeating here at present.

We approve of your recommending to the Society to increase the number of Subscribers and of making a weekly reserve of a cent that the payment may not be burthensome; and also that the Society should be continued notwithstanding all the embarrassments before us. We will endeavour as far in our power to enforce these recommendations and the necessity of complying with them in the Society.

From your report we received this time, it appears that a balance remains in the Treasury unexpended; and as many of the Parents send their children to the other schools before the Society Schoool is opened - by uthat means but few attend the school, will it not be best for the Directors to make use of the balance in the Treasury to open the school somewhat earlier than the last year, and let that go as far as it can untill further assistance be obtained?

And may the Lord reward you for your labours  
of love for this Society is our sincere wish.

per order of the Society, Newport, March 7, 1821

John Marvatt, Sec'y.

At a meeting of the Directors of the African Benevolent Eociety, holden in Newport on the 14th May, 1821.

A William Patten being chosen chairman and Eavid Rodman secretary, voted that a school be opened on the first of June next, and to be continued for three months, and if at the expiration of said term the state of the funds should prove sufficient, to extend it three months longer - and Benjamin Hadwen, Tunbridge Hammond, Isaac Rice and David Rodman are appointed a committee to contract with some suitable person for a teacher, on such terms as may appear to them reasonable and occasionally to visit the School, and to have the care and oversight thereof, and during its continuance, and report at the next annual meeting of the Society, and the said Committee, or other two of them, are authorized to draw on the Treasury for any contingent expenses of the School - They then adjourned.

[June 2, 1821]

B At a meeting of the African Benevolent Society, holden on the 2'd day of June, 1821, it was voted and resolved that the committee of information, Mr. Nathaniel Rodman, Newport Gardner and Isaac Rice, be required to wait on the Rev'd Doct. Samuel Austin, requesting him in behalf of said Society to be pleased to deliver a charity discourse before said Society, on the Evening of the second Sabbath in July next, at half past five o'clock at the Rev'd Doct. William Patten's Meeting house. The committee waited on the Rev'd Doctor Austin who complied with the above request to preach on the day appointed.

[July 30, 1821]

C At a meeting of the African Benevolent Society hold on the 30th day of July, 1821, George Fairweather, the Moderator, it was voted and resolved that the thanks of said society be presented to the Rev'd Doct. Austin for his appropriate and affectionate sermon delivered before said Society on the 29th (ult.) And that Messrs Isaac Rice and Tunbridge Hammond be the committee to present the same. By order of the Society.

Newport, July 30, 1821

John Marvatt, Sec'ry  
Newport, August 9th, 1821

Rev'd Doct. Austin  
Respected Sir,

[Undated]

I observe by a copy of the vote recorded in the book of proceedings of the African Benevolent Society, that I named the 29th Ult. instead of the 29th inst. My purpose for addressing you is merely to say the mistake has been rectified in said book by copying this communication.

Y're most respectfully  
John Marvatt

1822

[January 6, 1822]

- A At a meeting of the directors of the African benevolent Society, holden on the 6th day of January, AD, 1822, Samuel Vinson, Esq'r, moderator. We your committee take leave to report that a teacher was contracted with, and the school opened in June, 1821, and continued untill the November following. The amount received including the balance of last year is seventy one dollars and twenty-nine cents; and fifty two dollars and fifty cents have been expended in defraying the expenses of said school, it having been continued later in the season than has been common. And there remains in the hands of the Treasurer eighteen dollars and seventy nine cents. From the receipts, it appears that more money than usual has been [rec'd?] from the Friends, and also from your own Society. We think that the prospects is encouraging, and hope you will be induced to continue your exertions in behalf of those on whose account the Society was established.

Signed  
Samuel Vinson, Chairman

Newport, 1st mo/ June:/21st, 1822

[January 28, 1822]

- B At the Annual Meeting of the African benevolent Society, holden in Newport on the 28th day of January A.D., 1822, for the purpose of chosing their officers, paying their tax, hearing the directors report and appointing a minister to deliver the annual Lecture.

It is voted and resolved that Mr. George Fairweather be President; Mr. Cudgo Hicks, Vice President; John Marvatt, Secretary; the Rev'd. William Patten, Treasurer.

#### Directors

The Rev'd Doct. William Patten  
Messrs. Benj'n Hadwen, David Rodman, Samuel Vinson, Esq'r, Newport Gardner, John Marvatt, Nathaniel Rodman, Tunbridge Hammond, Caesar Wanton, Isaac Rice & Ahema Gardner:

#### Committee of information

Nathaniel Rodman, Newport Gardner & Isaac Rice

#### Committee of Arrangements

James Clark, Tunbridge Hammond & Cuffee Simmons

#### Collectors

Nathaniel Rodman, Caesar Banner & Ahema Gardner

The directors report read, the Society voted that Isaac Rice prepare an answer to lay before the Society at their next meeting. It is also voted & resolved to wait on the Rev'd

Doct. Romeo Elton, requesting him in behalf of said Society to be pleased to deliver a charity discourse before the Society on the evening of the third Sabbath in June next - and in case of being refused, the said committee have power to call on the Rev'd Dr. Webb. It was also voted that the thanks of the Society be presented to the treasurer and directors for their most affectionate service rendered the Society the year past, and to solicit a continuance of their services, and that the committee of information be required to present the foregoing vote.

The Society then adjourned to meet again on Tuesday Evening, the 5th of February, 1822.<sup>1</sup>

The copy of the report from the school Committee

To the Directors of the African benevolent Society,

We your committee appointed in May last to agree with a teacher & open a school & report that a school was opened on the 1st Monday in June, 1821 & continued till the 23'd of the November following under the care of Susan Mash(?), at two dollars per week for teaching, and providing a room exclusive of firewood. The said school was occasionally visited by the committee, and was conducted in a satisfactory manner.

Newport, 1st mo (Jan.) 21st, 1822

Signed

David Rodman, chairman of the committee

A Copy of the report sent the Hon'e directors of the African benevolent Society.

Gentlemen,

We received your report - dated 21st of January - at our annual meeting on the 28th, and it affords us much pleasure to hear that a school has been opened and kept so much longer the last year than for several preceeding years, and yet there remains a balance in the Treasury unexpended. And we feel very grateful for the donations we have received from our friends; and when we consider the benefit that has and may yet derive from this Institution, we feel sensible of the rewards of our labours, and trust, by the help of God, and the assistance of our fellow men... we trust for its longer and lasting continuance.

It is a grate consolation to us while we are sensible of the favours and benevolence we have realized through your exertions, we can only give that God the praise who has been pleased in his bountiful providence & direct us by your good council. It is by your aide and exertions that it has been kept alive, for when we were in condition ready to abandon the further continuance of the Society, we then experienced your regard, as you expressed a desire to open a school and happy has been the result, and we hope by your encouragement and our own endeavours that we shall be enabled to bare the heft of this burthen. And it is a consolation to learn by your report that you think the prospects are favourable and wish for its continuance, and we are always confident of your zeal and know that you are always aready to go forward whenever the situation of the finances will admit of it; and may the Lord preserve your usefull lives is the sincere wish of the Society. Per order John Marvatt, Sec'y

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<sup>1</sup> Proceedings of this meeting were not copied.

[May 13, 1822]

- C At a meeting of Directors of the African Benevolent Society, holden on the 13th of 5 mo (May), 1822. Samuel Vinson chosen chairman, and David Rodman, Secretary. Voted that William Patten, David Rodman, Isaac Rice & Ahema Gardner be a school committee for the present season, and they are requested to proceed respecting the school, agreeable to their instructions for the last year.

[June 10, 1822]

- D At a meeting of the African Benevolent Society, holden on the 10th day of June, 1822, George Fairweather chosen Moderator.

It was voted and resolved that the thanks of said Society be presented to the Rev'd. Mr. Webb for his very affectionate discourse delivered before said Society on the 9th inst.-and that Messrs. Cuggo Hicks, Caesar Wanton, Isaac Rice be the committee to present the same.

Per order and in behalf of the Society

John Marvatt, Sec'y

List of members who have paid their tax for 1822:

Isaac Rice     \$ 0.50

1823

[March 17, 1823]

- A At a meeting of the Directors of the African Benevolent Society, held at the house of John Marvatt, March 17th, 1823. (illegible) Samuel Vinson being chosen chairman & David Rodman Secretary.

It was voted that the following report be presented the African Society from the Directors.

We feel a Satisfaction in having it in our power to state that a school was opened at the usual time last year and continued longer than some former years. Generous subscriptions were made toward its support, and we hope that you will continue your exertions and if you are assiduous in your endeavours, we think there is reason to hope that they will be in a good (illegible).

Respectful,

Newport, March 7th, 1823

Sam Vinson, chairman  
David Rodman, Secretary

[April 4, 1823]

- B At a meeting of the african Benevolent Society, held at the house of Newport Gardner, April 4, 1823.

Messers Cudgo Hicks, moderator and Ahema Gardner, clerk, pro tem.

Messers George Fairweather chosen President, and Cudgo Hicks Vice President.  
Doctor William Patten, Treasurer.

Coulored Directors  
Messrs N. Gardner  
Messrs J. Marvatt  
N. Rodman  
J. Hammond  
C. Wanton  
I. Rice  
A. Gardner

wite Directors  
D.D. william patten  
messers, B. Hadwen  
David Rodman  
S. Vinson

Comitt. of  
Information:  
C. Hicks  
n'th Rodman  
I. Rice  
Cuff Simmons  
Tun'b. hammond

It was voted unanimously that the thanks of this Society be presented to the Rev. D.D. patten for his faithful services as treasurer & Director of said Society the year past and that he would be pleased to accept of the same offices the present year.

It was also voted that the Rev. D.D. Patten is earnestly requested by this Society that he would be pleased to Deliver a Charity Discourse Before this Society on the fourth Sabith in June next 22 ult., at six o'clock, p.m., and that Messrs Cudgo Hicks, nathaniel Rodman and Isaac Rice be the commete to present; and it was also voted that the thanks of the Society be presented to misters D. Rodman, Sam Vinson & Benj. hadwin for their faithful services as Director of said Society the past [year?] and that they would be pleased to accept the Same office the present year - and the comete of Information Re [be?] Requested to present the above vote.

per order      A Gardner, Clerke pro term

Colectors A. Gardner & Turnbr. hammond

[June 16, 1824]

1824

## Present

Dr. Samuel Vinson  
 Rev'd D. D. William Patten  
 Misters n. Gardner  
 J. Mowatt  
 J. Hammond  
 Cudgo Hicks  
 A. Gardner

Dr. Samuel Vinson chosen moderator & D.D. Patten, Scribe. Voted that it be recommended to the Af.B. Society to appoint a lecture on the Second Sabbath in August next, and that the Rev'd Mr. Gammel be Recommended as the preacher.

Voted that Ahamia Gardner be appointed to apply to the friends to receive that pecuniary assistance which they may be pleased to give to the Society in Support of their School.

Voted that A Gardner and Turnbridge Hammond be appointed to inquire how many colored children in town in want of schooling, and how many might be Expected to attend Regularly if a School should be opened this Season, and make a Report to the Directors at their next meeting.

Voted that this meeting be adjourned to Monday evening next 21st inst. to meet in this house.

John Mowatt  
 Samuel Vinson, moderator  
 Dr. William Patten, Scribe

[June 30, 1824]

B At the annual meeting of the African Benevolent Society, held at the house of Mr. John Mowatt, June 30th, 1824., Mr. Newport Gardner, moderator and Isaac Rice, Clerke.

Mr. George Fairweather, president; Mr. Cudgo Hicks, Vice President; and Isaac Rice, Secretary for the year ensuing. Dr. William Patten, treasurer.

Colored Directors	White Directors
Mesters John Mowatt	Dr. William Patten
N. Rodman	Misters B. Hadwin
Turnbridge Hammond	D. Rodman
I. Rice	Sam'l Vinson
Ahema Gardner	Dr. Sam'l Austin
Cudgo Hicks	
Cesar Bonner	

Committee of information  
 A. Gardner      Paul Overing

Committee of arrangements  
 Turnbridge Hammond, Cesar Bonner and Cuffee Simmons

Collectors      A Gardner & Turnbridge Hammond