

Jethro & Dinah. Philadelphia. 1787

PAS Papers Box 4A Manumissions *Habeas Corpus Actions*

Pennsylvania Js.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania To John Stokes of the City of Philadelphia Greeting We Command you that the Bodies of Jethro and Dinah Negroes in your Custody as it is said detained by whatsoever Names the said Jethro and Dinah may be charged in the same under safe and secure conduct together with the Day and Cause of their being taken

And detained you have before the Honorable Jacob Rush Esquire Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Pennsylvania at his Chamber in fourth Street in the City of Philadelphia to morrow morning at eight oClock then and there to do and submit to whatsoever our same Justice shall consider in that behalf and have you then there this writ Witness the Honorable Thomas McKean¹ Esquire Doctor of Laws Chief Justice of our said Supreme Court at Philadelphia, the third Day, of April in the year of our Lord MDCCLXXXVII.

Allowed Js.
Jacob Rush

Edw. Burd² prot

To the Honorable Jacob Rush Esquire one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

I John Stokes humbly certify and return to the writ of Habeas Corpus to me directed commanding me to bring the Bodies of Negroes Jethro and Dinah before the said Jacob Rush Esquire at his Chambers in fourth Street on the fourth Day of April at eight oClock in the forenoon that the said Negroes are now in the State of New Jersey, where they are now employed by their own Consent on the farm there belonging

To me that I have purchased the said Jethro of one Samuel Morrill in the State of New Jersey about three years ago and the said Dinah of one Abraham Albertson in the same State about five years ago esteeming them then to be Slaves and supposing that by their residence since that time in Pennsylvania they had obtained a right of freedom I agreed with them as above mentioned and this is the Cause why I cannot have the same Negroes at the return of the said writ where it is commanded me

¹ In 1785, Thomas McKean, Chief Justice of the state Supreme Court, lived at 522 Third Street in Philadelphia. *Macpherson's Directory for the City and Suburbs of Philadelphia* (1785), 86.

² Edward Burd was the Prothonotary of the state Supreme Court. In 1785, he lived at 414 Third Street in Philadelphia. *Macpherson's Directory for the City and Suburbs of Philadelphia* (1785), 17.

John Stokes

April 4th 1787
Affirmed before
Jacob Rush

April 7th Negro Jethro appearing on a Habeas Corpus before me the subscriber, it is admitted by Captain John Stokes that he rented a House at Market Street Wharf in July 1785 bringing his Family with him from New Jersey and that Jethro did not come to live with his said Master 'till the Fall of 1785 that he then came and continued to work and live with his said Master during the Winter that in the Spring he left his Master and returned to him just after Harvest and continued with him the rest of the Summer and the winter following and ever since

As to Dinah it is admitted by Stokes she came with him when he took his Family into this State and has remained with him ever since

April 7th 1787 on hearing I do Discharge the above Negroes from the Custody and keeping of Captain John Stokes

Jacob Rush

Edw Burd

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Pennsylvania Js.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to John Stokes of the City of Philadelphia Greeting We Command you that the Bodies of Jethro and Dinah Negroes in your Custody as it is said detained by whatsoever Names the said Jethro and Dinah may be charged in the same under safe and secure conduct – together with the Day

And Cause of their being taken and detained you have before the Honorable Jacob Rush Esquire Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Pennsylvania at his Chamber in fourth Street in the City of Philadelphia to morrow morning at eight oClock then and there to do and to submit to whatsoever our same Justice shall consider in that behalf and have you then there this writ Witness the Honorable Thomas McKean Esquire Doctor of Laws Chief Justice of our said Supreme Court at Philadelphia the third Day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Eighty seven

Edw. Burd prot

Allowed Js

Jacob Rush

To the Honorable Jacob Rush Esquire one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

I John stokes humbly certify and return to the wriit of Habeas Corpus to me directed commanding

Edw Burd

Commanding me to bring the Bodies of Negroes Jethro and Dinah before the said Jacob Rush Esquire at his Chambers in fourth Street on the fourth Day of April at Eight oClock in the forenoon that the said Negroes are now in the state of New Jersey where they are now Employed by their own Consent on the farm there

belonging to me that I have purchased the said Jethro of ~~our~~ one Samuel Morrell in the State of New Jersey about three years ago and the said Dinah of one Abraham Albertson in the same State about five years ago esteeming them then to be Slaves and Supposing that by their Residence since that time in Pennsylvania they had obtained a right of freedom I agreed with them as above mentioned and this is the Cause why I cannot have the same Negroes at the return of the said writ where it is Commanded me

John stokes

* * *

April 4th 1787
Affirmed before
Jacob Rush

April 7th Negro Jethro appearing on a Habeas Corpus before me the Subscriber, it is admitted by Captain John Stokes that he rented a House at Market Street wharf in July 1785 bringing his Family with him from New Jersey and that Jethro did not come to live with his said Master `till the Fall of 1785 that he then came and continued to work and live with his said master during the winter that in the spring he left his Master and returned to him just after Harvest and Continued with him the rest of the summer and the winter following and ever since

As to Dinah it is admitted by Stokes she came with him when he took his Family into this State and has remained with him ever since

April 7th 1787 on hearing I do Discharge the above Negroes from the Custody and keeping of Captain John Stokes

Jacob Rush

I Edward Burd Prothonotary of the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania do certify that the foregoing writings are true copies of the of the original Record remaining in my Office at Philadelphia Witness my Hand and the Seal of the said Supreme Court the 21 day of April 1787

Edw Burd prot Sup Cur

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Release
Habus Corpus
Negroes Jethro & Dinah
from John Stokes

Recorded in the Pennsylva
nia abolition Society Book
B page 43 &c.
Benj Johnson

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Release S
Habus Corpus

Negro Jethro & Dinah
from John Stokes

Philad^a
Recorded in Pennsylvania
Abolition Society Book B
Page 43 &c.

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I Edward Burd prothonotary of the
Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of
Pennsylvania do certify that the annexed
sheet subscribed with my name is a true
Copy of the original Record remaining in
my office Witness my Hand and the seal
of the said Court the 21 April 1787
Edw Burd prot Sup Cur