

## John Letnum. Philadelphia. 1786.

### PAS Papers Box 4A Manumissions Actions Involving Fugitive Slaves

Discharge. Supreme Court  
to  
Negro Jn<sup>o</sup> Letnum

Certificate of the  
Supreme Court for  
Negro John Letsom  
alias Letnum~  
the  
Recorded in Pennsyl  
vania Abolition Soci  
ety Books page 15  
John Todd<sup>1</sup>

I certify that at a Court of Oyer & Terminer<sup>2</sup> &c held at Philadelphia for the City and County of Philadelphia [obscured and missing text]1786 Negro John Letnum who had been committed [missing text]James Loughhead<sup>3</sup> Esq on a charge made by Daniel Glenn [missing text]Oxford Township of being a Runaway & belonging to Israel [missing text]nnison of Northampton County was discharged by [missing text]clamation from confinement witness my Hand  
[missing text]2d December 1786

Edward Burd<sup>4</sup>, Prot<sup>5</sup> Sup Cr

Recorded in Committee Book of Society Book . Page 85  
for the Relief of Free Negroes Unlawfully<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> As the Pennsylvania Abolition Society was re-organizing itself in the mid-1780s, John Todd, a Quaker schoolteacher, was an integral figure who was elected Secretary of the Society in 1784. Over the ensuing years, he would serve actively on several of its committees.

<sup>2</sup> A Court of Oyer and Terminer handled high criminal cases in some states of the United States including Pennsylvania and Virginia.

<sup>3</sup> In 1785, James Loughhead was a prominent County Magistrate who lived at 275 Front Street. *Macpherson's Directory for the City and Suburbs of Philadelphia* (1785), 82.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> "Prot" is an abbreviation for "prothonotary," a term for a chief clerk or official in certain courts of law.

<sup>6</sup> The Society for the Relief of Negroes Unlawfully Held in Bondage was the initial name of the emerging antislavery society created by Quakers Israel Pemberton, Thomas Harrison and several other men in Philadelphia in April 1775. As the Society re-organized itself in the mid-

[obscured

\* \* \*

I certify that at a Court of Oyer & Terminer &c. held at Philadelphia for the City and County of Philadelphia the twenty second day of April 1786, Negro John Letnum who had been committed by James Loughhead Esq. on a charge made by Daniel Glenn of Oxford Township of being a runaway & belonging to Israel Dennison of Northampton was discharged by Proclamation from confinement the 2<sup>d</sup> of December 1786. Witness my Hand

Edw. Burd, prot Sup. Court

A Copy

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1780s, its members renamed their association the Pennsylvania Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery, more commonly referred to as the Pennsylvania Abolition Society.