This black Person was born at Jaqueen, and being from a Boy conversant with the English trading there, learned so well our Language, that he was employed by them, when grown up, as an Interpreter.

He happen’d to be at Adra on some business, at the time that Country was conquered, and so became Prisoner to the King of Dahome. But ’tis time to have done with this Story, and go on where I left off. . . .

2. Description of a Slave Rebellion in Stono, South Carolina, 1739

Sometime since there was a Proclamation published at Augustine, in which the King of Spain (then at Peace with Great Britain) promised Protection and Freedom to all Negroes Slaves that would resort thereto. Certain Negroes belonging to Captain Davis escaped to Augustine, and were received there. They were demanded by General Oglethorpe who sent Lieutenant Demere to Augustine, and the Governor assured the General of his sincere Friendship, but at the same time showed his Orders from the Court of Spain, by which he was to receive all Run away Negroes. Of this other Negroes having notice, as it is believed, from the Spanish Emissaries, four or five who were Cattle-Hunters, and knew the Woods, some of whom belonged to Captain Macpherson, ran away with His Horses, wounded his Son and killed another Man. These marched f [sic] Georgis, and were pursued, but the Rangers being then newly reduced [sic] the Country people could not overtake them, though they were discovered by the Salzburgers, as they passed by Ebenezer. They reached Augustine, one only being killed and another wounded by the Indians in their flight. They were received there with great honour, one of them had a Commission given to him, and a Coat faced with Velvet. Amongst the Negro Slaves there are a people brought from the Kingdom of Angola in Africa, many of these speak Portugal (which Language is as near Spanish as Scotch is to English,) by reason that the Portuguese have considerable Settlement, and the Jesuits have a Mission and School in that Kingdom and many Thousands of the Negroes there profess the Roman Catholic Religion. Several Spaniards upon diverse Pretences have for some time past been strolling about Carolina, two of them, who will give no account of themselves have been taken up and committed to Jayl in Georgia. The good reception of the Negroes at Augustine was spread about, Several attempted to escape to the Spaniards, & were taken, one of them was hanged at Charleston Town. In the latter end of July last Don Pedro, Colonel of the Spanish Horse, went in a Launch to Charles Town under pretence of a message to General Oglethorpe and Lieutenant Governor.

On the 9th day of September last being Sunday which is the day the Planters allow them to work for themselves, Some Angola Negroes assembled, to the number of Twenty; and one who was called Jemmy was their Captain, they surprized a Warehouse belonging to Mr. Hutchenison at a place called Stonehew [sic - - - ]; they there killed Mr. Robert Bathurst, and Mr. Gibbs, plundered the House and took a pretty many small Arms and Powder, which were there for Sale. Next they plundered and burnt Mr. Godfrey’s house, and killed him, his Daughter and Son. They then turned back and marched Southward along Pons Pons, which is the Road through Georgia to Augustine, they passed Mr. Wallace’s Tavern towards day break, and said they would not hurt him, for he was a good Man and kind to his Slaves, but they broke open and plundered Mr. Lemly’s House, and killed him, his wife and Child. They marched on towards Mr. Rose’s resolving to kill him; but he was saved by a Negro, who having hid him went out and pacified the others. Several Negroes joined them, they calling out Liberty, marched on with Colours displayed, and two Drums beating, pursuing all the white people they met with, and killing Man Woman and Child when they could come up to them. Colonel Bull Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina, who was then riding along the Road, discovered them, was pursued, and with much difficulty escaped & raised the Country. They burnt Colonel Hext’s house and killed his Overseer and his Wife. They then burnt Mr. Spore’s house, then Mr. Sacheverell’s, and then Mr. Nash’s house, all lying upon the Pons Pons Road, and killed all the white People they found in them. Mr. Bullock got off, but they burnt his House, by this time many of them were drunk with the Rum they had taken in the Houses. They increased every minute by new Negroes coming to them, so that they were above Sixty, some say a hundred, on which they halted in a field, and set to dancing, Singing and beating Drums, to draw more Negroes to them, thinking they were now victorious over the whole Province, having marched ten miles & burnt all before them without Opposition, but the Militia being raised, the Planters with great briskness pursued them and when they came up, dismounting; charged them on foot. The Negroes were soon routed, though they behaved boldly several being killed on the Spot, many ran back to their Plantations thinking they had not been missed, but they were there taken and [sic] Shot, Such as were taken in the field also, were after being examined, shot on the Spot. And this is to be said to the honour of the Carolina Planters, that notwithstanding the Provocation they had received from so many Murders, they did not torture one Negro, but only put them to an easy death. All that proved to be forced & were not concerned in the Murders & Burnings were pardoned, And this sudden Courage in the field, & the Humanity afterwards hath had so good an Effect that there hath been no further Attempt, and the very Spirit of Revolt seems over. About 30 escaped from the flight, of which ten marched about 30 miles Southward, and being overtaken by the Planters on horseback, fought stoutly for some time and were all killed on the Spot. The rest are yet untaken. In the whole action about 40 Negroes and 20 whites were killed. The Lieutenant Governor sent an account of this to General Oglethorpe, who met the advises on his return from the Indian Nation He immediately ordered a Troop of Rangers to be ranged, to patrol through Georgia, placed some Men in the Garrison at Palichoculas, which was before abandoned, and near which the Negroes formerly passed, being the only place where Horses can come to swim over the River Savannah for near 100 miles, ordered out the Indians in pursuit, and a Detachment of the Garrison at Port Royal to assist the

Plaints on any Occasion, and published a Proclamation ordering all the Constables &c. of Georgia to pursue and seize all Negroes, with a Reward for any that should be taken. It is hoped these measures will prevent any Negroes from getting down to the Spaniards.

3. Lord Dunmore, a British General, Entices Slaves of Colonial Rebels to Flee, 1775

Tuesday, 7 November 1775
Royal Chief Magistracy
A Most Disagreeable but Absolutely Necessary Step

By His Excellency the Right Honorable JOHN Earl of DUNMORE, His MAJESTY’s Lieutenant and Governor General of the Colony and Dominion of VIRGINIA, and Vice Admiral of the same.

A PROCLAMATION.

As I have ever entertained Hopes, that an Accommodation might have taken Place between GREAT-BRITAIN and this Colony, without being compelled by my Duty to this most disagreeable but now absolutely necessary Step, rendered so by a Body of armed Men unlawfully assembled, firing on His MAJESTY’s Tenders, and the formation of an Army, and that Army now on their March to attack His MAJESTY’s Troops and destroy the well disposed Subjects of his Colony. To defeat such treasonable Purposes, and that all such Traitors, and their Abettors, may be brought to Justice, and that the Peace, and good Order of this Colony may be again restored, which the ordinary Course of the Civil Law is unable to effect; I have thought fit to issue this my Proclamation, hereby declaring, that until the aforesaid good Purposes can be obtained, I do in Virtue of the Power and Authority to ME given, by His MAJESTY, determine to execute Martial Law, and cause the same to be executed throughout this Colony and to the end that Peace and good Order may the sooner be restored, I do require every Person capable of bearing Arms, to resort to His MAJESTY’s STANDARD, or be looked upon as Traitors to His MAJESTY’s Crown and Government, and thereby become liable to the Penalty the Law inflicts upon such Offences; such as forfeiture of Life, confiscation of Lands, &c. &c. And I do hereby further declare all indented Servants, Negroes, or others, (appertaining to Rebels,) free that are able and willing to bear Arms, they joining His MAJESTY’s Troops as soon as may be, for the more speedy reducing this Colony to a proper Sense of their Duty, to His MAJESTY’s Crown and Dignity. I do further order, and require, all his MAJESTY’s Leige Subjects, to retain their Quiet and comfort of mind, until such time as Peace may be again restored to this present most unhappy State of our Affairs.

Country, or demanded of them for their former salutary Purposes, by Officers properly authorized to receive the same.

4. Saul, a Slave Revolutionary Veteran, Petitions for Freedom, 1792

To the Honorable, the Speaker, and Members of the general Assembly.

The petition of Saul, a black slave, the property of Geo. Kelly, Esq. Humbly sheweth.—In the beginning of the late War, that gave America Independence, Your Petitioner Shouldered his Musket and repaired to the American Standard. Regardless of the Invitation, trumped forth by British Proclamations, for slaves to Emancipate themselves, by becoming the Assassins of their owners, Your Petitioner avoided the rock, that too many of his colour were Shipwrecked on.—He was taught to know that War was levied upon America, not for the Emancipation of Blacks, but for the Subjugation of Whites, and he thought the number of Bond-men ought not to be augmented; Under these impressions, your Petitioner did actually Campaign it in both Armies,—in the American Army, as a Soldier,—in the British Army as a Spy, which will more fully appear, reference being had to certificates of Officers of respectability. In this double Profession, Your Petitioner flatters himself that he rendered essential service to his Country, and should have rendered much more had he not, in the Campaign of 1781, been betrayed by a Negro whom the British had employed upon the same business in Gen. Muhlenburg’s Camp. Your Petitioner was at the time, in Portsmouth, a British Garrison, collecting Information for Colonel Josiah Parker, and his heels saved his neck.—He flew to the advance Post, commanded by Col Parker, and that very night led down the party, as a guide, who took off the British Fiquett.——

Your Petitioner will trouble Your Honorable Body no further, with enumeration his different species of services, but begs a reference may be had to his certificates, and to the Honorable Thomas Matthews Esquire.—Hoping the Legislatures of a Republick will take his case in consideration and not suffer him any longer to remain a transferable property. And as in duty bound Your Petitioner will ever Pray.

Saul X (his mark)

5. Free Blacks in South Carolina Petition for Equal Rights, 1791

To the Honorable David Ramsay Esquire President and to the rest of the Honorable New Members of the Senate of the State of South Carolina.

The Memorial of Thomas Cole Bricklayer, P. B. Mathews and Mathew Webb Butchers on behalf of themselves & others Free-Men of Colour.
