Planters 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 Quitrents, or any other Taxes due or that may become due, in their own Custody, till such Time as Peace may be again restored to this at present most unhappy 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, Esqr. 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, trumpeted 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 those impressions, your Petitioner did actually Campaign 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. Mulinburg'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 Picquet.—

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 Republik 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.
