
The following documents supplement “Justise Must Take Plase’: Three African Americans Speak of Religion in Eighteenth-Century New England,” which appears in the April 1999 William and Mary Quarterly. My hope is that these additional sources—drawn from church records, land records, wills, newspapers, and conversion narratives—will help flesh out the article in a way not possible in print owing to space constraints. More specifically, I hope these sources will convince scholars (perhaps graduate students in search of dissertation topics) that the raw materials for work on African Americans in colonial New England are relatively abundant. Early New Englanders are well known for their penchant to leave voluminous records; issues of race and slavery are no exception.

Several other types of sources not included in this supplement are valuable for examining African Americans in colonial New England. Because most slaves were owned by prominent families, genealogies written in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries often contain transcripts of relevant documents. The Vital Records of Massachusetts series, completed in the early twentieth century, contains a wealth of information about blacks. With one or more volumes for each town in Massachusetts, these books include birth, marriage, and death records to 1850. The end of each section contains a separate listing of “Negroes,” a boon for the researcher.

In the transcriptions that follow, I have copied printed sources exactly as they were published. Manuscript sources I have rendered as literally as possible with the following changes: the thorn y has been changed to th (ye to the, and so on) and I have spelled out common abbreviations such as wch for which and chh for church. Other editorial insertions, including page numbers, appear in square brackets. A question mark in brackets indicates a word of which I am not sure; words that I could not decipher are rendered [illeg.].

*William and Mary Quarterly*, 3d Series, Volume LVI, Number 2, April 1999
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