Next is an excerpt from Francis Choate's 1777 will, which freed three slaves: Ned, Cesar, and Titus. At that time, Cesar was Phillis's first husband; the two were married in 1765. Titus was Flora's only husband; they married in 1767. This document again reveals the conditional nature of the freedom many African Americans received upon manumission.


[527] . . . Item. My Will and Pleasure is that my three Negro-men Ned, Cesar and Titus shall, at my Decease, have their Freedom or Time, provided they can, for so many of them as shall be able to obtain any Person or Persons to become bound to secure the Town of Ipswich and my Heirs from any Charge for their Support or Maintenance, But if they or either of them should fail of getting such Security, then I order that they or such of them as shall thus fail, be under the Care of my Executors, hereinafter named, as their Guardians to see they don't mispend their Time and Earnings, and if their Earnings shall fall Short of supporting them in Sickness or old Age, what is wanting shall be made up by Executors equally.