

Appendix to "Justise Must Take Plase": Three African Americans Speak of Religion in Eighteenth-Century New England

*The next document helps contextualize the previous one. Another Canterbury slaveowner wished to free his slave Javan in 1781 but could not do so unilaterally. He needed to have the town's selectmen attest to the slave's good character.*

Canterbury, Connecticut, Deeds, vol. 9, 1773-1778, Land Records, reel 147. Reprinted with permission of the Connecticut State Library, Hartford, 1999.

[238] Whereas Mr Eliphaz Perkins of Canterbury in the County of Windham hath made application to us the subscribers Selectmen of the Town of Canterbury for Liberty to emancipate or make free his negro man Slave named Javan now in the 18th year of his Age. These may therefore certify whom it may concern that we have enquired into the Age, Abilities, Circumstances and Character of the said Javan, and are of opinion, that he is of good and peaceable Life and Conversation and thereupon do by these presents give Liberty to the said Perkins to emancipate & sett at Liberty his Negro man slave aforesaid. Dated in Canterbury [239] This 30th day of January A.D. 1781.