
Benjamin Huntington, Certifies Cuffee Wells's Purchase of Freedom, April 30, 1781

30th April 1781

This Certifies, that we Subscribers, in May 1777. Belonged to A Class in the Town of Norwich To Procure a Soldier for the Continental Army, of Which Mr. Elihu Hyde was Head, and that Said Class Hir'd Cuffee Wells, a Free Negro to Enlist Into the Continental Service During the War, and Gave him Besides the Publick Bounty Thirty Pounds for Inlisting and that Part of the Whole of Said £30.0.0 as we then understood was Paid to Cuffee's old Master for his the John Nutter Surgn. Time

Jno Nutter

Richard Lamb

Norwich April 30th 1781. Personally approved Messer. John Nutter and Richard Lamb Signers to the Above Certificate and made Solemn Oath to the Truth of the Same and Capt Jedediah Hyde of Said Norwich adds being himself on Oath that he was the Captain of the Same Company which the said Cuffee was Inlisted into, and that he always understood that the Money that was Given to Cuffee at his Inlistment Purchased his Freedom

Sworn Before me Benj. Huntington Justice of Peace

Document Source: The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History