

To the Honorable the Circuit Court in & for
the County of St. Louis in the Territory of Missouri

The petition of Milly a black woman who petition
as well for herself as for her two infant children, Eliza
aged about 4 years and Bob aged about 2 years -
humbly sheweth

That your petitioners and her said children are
held in slavery by one Nathias Rose at St
Fernand in the County of St. Louis and within
the jurisdiction of this Court. That your peti-
tioners was removed into this Territory about
2 years ago by the said Rose from the new
state then Territory of Illinois - and has been
held by him as a slave ever since - That your
petitioners resided immediately preceding her remo-
val into this Territory, in the said Territory of
Illinois and had continued to reside there for
about the space of sixteen years. That the
said Rose was also an inhabitant of that
and held your petitioners as a slave ~~residing~~
Territory, during all that time. That your
petitioners ~~was removed from Kentucky to Illinois~~
~~about eighteen years ago and continued to re-~~
~~side permanently in Illinois till her removal~~
~~into this Territory.~~ She therefore conceives that
under the laws of Illinois & the ordinance of Congress
she is entitled to be free. Wherefore she prays
that she ^{& her children also named} may be entitled to sue ^{for their freedom} as per-
sons in this honorable Court, according to the
statute in such case made & provided - and your
petitioners pr - test Wm. Patterson
Milly by
mark

Kill a Black bear
by
Mathias Rose

Letter of freedom

Yica Lipni 2nd 1839
A. L. L. L.

In the Circuit Court

August Term 1819

Mathias Rose

vs

Milly a black woman
claiming freedom

And the said Mathias Rose by I Barton his attorney comes and defends the force and injury when ^{he} and says the said Milly ought not to have or maintain her aforesaid action thereof against him because he says the said Milly at the said time when ^{he} was and still is the slave of him the said Mathias Rose. to wit at the County aforesaid: Without this that the said Milly is free in manner and form as the above in her declaration supposes. and this the said Mathias Rose is ready to verify. Wherefore he prays judgment &c

I Barton att^o
And for a further plea in this behalf as ^{he} the said assaulting imprisoning and detaining in prison of the said Milly the said Mathias Rose saith the said Milly ought not to have and maintain her aforesaid action thereof against him because he saith that by a law of the former Territory of Indiana in force at the time of the removal of the

said Mathias Rose with the said Milly
as herein after mentioned. it is enacted that
it shall and may be lawful for any person
being the owner or possessor of any negroes or
mulattoes of and above the age of fifteen
years and owing service and labor as slaves
in any of the United States or Territories of
the United States or for any citizen of the
said States or Territories purchasing the same
to bring the said negroes or mulattoes into that
territory, and that the owner or possessor
of any negroes or mulattoes as aforesaid, and
bringing the same into that territory, should
within thirty days after such removal go with
the same before the clerk of the Court of
Common Pleas of the proper county and in
the presence of the ~~said~~ clerk the said
owner or possessor should determine and agree
to and with his or her negro or mulatto upon
the term of years which the said negro or
mulatto would and should serve his or
her said owner or possessor, and the said
clerk was thereby authorized and required
to make a record thereof in a book which
he should keep for that purpose, and the said
Mathias Rose further saith that before and

at the time of the removal of the said Milly as
herein after mentioned he was the owner and possessor
of the said Milly who was above the age of
fifteen years to wit: of the age of sixteen years and
who owed service and labor to him as a slave in
the State of Kentucky, to wit at the County of
Harris aforesaid and being such owner and
possessor of the said Milly as a slave he the
said Matthias Rose hereofore to wit: on the
twenty eighth day of November in the year of
our Lord one thousand eight hundred and
five brought the said Milly into the County
of Knox in the said Territory of Indiana;
and that afterwards and within thirty days
after his removal with the said Milly as
aforesaid he went with the said Milly
before Robert Beuten clerk of the Court of
Common Pleas for the said County of Knox
and in the presence of the said clerk determin-
ed and agreed to and with the said
Milly that she the said Milly should and
would serve him the said Matthias Rose
and his assigns for the term of seventy years
from that date and that he the said
Matthias Rose and his assigns should pro-
vide the said Milly with necessary and

sufficient provisions, clothing, washing, and
lodging according to her degree and station.
and that from and after the expiration of
the said term the said Milly should be
free to all intents and purposes to wit at the
County of St. Louis aforesaid. By virtue whereof the
said Mathias Rose afterwards to wit on the day
and year last aforesaid took the said Milly
into his custody and service as his servant for
the term aforesaid and hath ever since kept
and detained and still doth keep and de-
tain the said Milly in his custody and
service as such servant as it was lawful
for him to do for the cause aforesaid using
no more force and violence than was abso-
lutely necessary to ensure the obedience and
service of his said servant to wit at the Coun-
ty of St. Louis aforesaid, which is the same ap-
prauelling, imprisoning, and detaining in prison
of the said Milly by her above complained
of and no other and thus he the said
Mathias Rose is ready to certify. Wherefore he
he prays judgment It

I Barton Atty for
Defr

Territory of Missouri }
County of St Louis } United States of America
By virtue of the act of the legislature of 1807.

To Mathias Rose, You are hereby
commanded That the body of Abby a
black woman, in your custody detained
(as it is said) you have under safe & secure
conduict together with the day & cause of her
detainment, by what name the said Abby
may be called, before the Circuit Court
in & for the County of St Louis in ~~said~~ County
the Town of St Louis in said County, im-
mediately after the receipt of this writ, then
& there to do, submit to, and receive what
saves the said Court shall consider in that
behalf - Witness Nathaniel B. Tucker Judge
of said Court at St Louis the fourth
day of August one thousand eight hundred
& nineteen.

N. B. Tucker

Philips allans
10 East 4th mile
M. B. Jackson

In obedience to the commands of the within writ, and
on the return thereof the within named Matthias Rose
says that fully the within named black woman
is not in his custody or possession; and that on the
twentieth day of July last, she said fully ab-
sconded from the house and possession of the said
Matthias Rose, without his consent and against
his will, since which time he has neither
seen nor heard of her. — Jt. Louis August
the fifteenth 1819. — ^{his} Matthias Rose
marks

And the said Milly by Rufus Pettibone
her guardian ad litem, answering to the form
of the statute in such case made & provided
by way of suggestion, saith that the first part
of the return of the said Mathias Rose to
the above writ of Habeas Corpus, whom
he says the said Milly is not in his custody
of possession, is, ~~standing down~~, evasive
and insufficient - And as to the residue of
the said return, she says that she did not
at the time when or, or at any time since
abscond from the power of possession of the
said Mathias Rose in manner & form as
he hath in his said return alleged -
And this she prays may be enjoined of -

Pettibone for Plff -

Milly .

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Mathias Rose

Habitus corporis.

Missouri Territory. St Louis County Circuit Court
Of the term of August in the year of our
Lord one thousand eight hundred & nineteen

County of St Louis, to wit, Melly, a free woman of color
held in slavery and who is permitted by the Court
to sue as a free person by A. Pettibone her
attorney signed as counsel by the said Court
complains of Matthias Rose of a plea of tres-
pass - soe that the said Matthias heretofore
to wit, on the first day ^{of January} in the year of our
Lord one thousand eight hundred & nineteen
at St Louis, in the County of St Louis &
within the jurisdiction of this Court, with
force & arms unlawfully an assault did
make in person her the said Melly and then
& there imprisoned her the said Melly and
kept & detained her in prison without any
lawful cause whatsoever - and hath ever since
kept and detained and still doth keep and
detain her in prison against the will of the
said Melly and contrary to the laws of
this Territory and other wrongs to her then &
there did against the peace of the United States
of America and to the damage of the said Melly
five hundred dollars and therefore she sues &
A. Pettibone