

Territory of Missouri } Northern Circuit
County of St. Charles } in the Circuit Court
April Term 1815

The petition of Matilda a black free
girl about the age of twelve or thirteen
now in possession of Isaac Canfield

Humbly Sheweth by her attorney

To the Honorable the Judge
of the said Court now in Session

That your petitioner was brought from one of
the United States long since and before that
any act was passed by the Legislature of
the Indiana Territory respecting slavery
or of indenting slaves into the said Territory
by a person by name of Mitchell +
and your petitioner there remained in said

Territory whereby she became entitled to her
freedom by virtue of an Ordinance of
Congress made by Congress for the govern-
ment of the Northwestern Territory and
your petitioner being so free of right and
by law was afterwards forcibly and
against her will taken from said Terri-
tory by a person as well as your peti-
tioner remembers by the name of John
Rector and brought to the said Territory
of Louisiana and sold and slave to one
William Christy and by him detained and

afterwards by him detained forcibly and
against her will in servitude for a long
time and your petitioners ever afterwards
sate or disposed of by said Christy as a slave
to One Isaac Parvishler who has ever
since kept her forcibly and against her
will in servitude as a slave and still
detains her in servitude whereas the said
Matilda is free and of right ought to
be according to law and your petitioners
pray that process may be directed against
the said Isaac according to law and that
he be compelled to answer thereto and that
your petitioner be permitted to sue as a free person
and your petitioners as no duty
bound will ever pray &c

M M York attorney
for petitioners

The petition of
Matilda a free
black girl for
freedom

Given the 8 April 1845
W. Channing

Territory of Missouri In the Circuit Court
County of St Charles northern circuit July
Term 1843

Matilda a free black girl by her attorney compl-
ains of Isaac Vanbisher master of the ship with
four arms for that on the first day of April
in the year one thousand eight hundred and
fourteen at St Louis to wit at St Charles and
North in the jurisdiction of the court the said
Isaac with four arms made an assault
on the said Matilda and then and there beat
wounded and ill treated the said Matilda where
the said Matilda was in great danger of losing
her life and also for that afterwards to wit on
the same day and year appeared at the place
aforesaid North four arms the said Isaac
then and there made another assault on the
said Matilda and then and again beat wounded
and imprisoned and ill treated the said
Matilda and her the said Matilda puts
in prison without any reasonable
cause against the laws of the said Matilda
and against the laws of the land for a
long time to wit ever since that time to the
day of this present action and still detains
the said Matilda without reasonable
cause and against the laws and many other
injuries then and there due to the said Matilda
contrary to the peace and dignity of
the United States and to the damage of
the said Matilda five thousand dollars
thereon she sues

Wm H. Fish et al
for Plaintiff

Isaac Vanbibber - ^{ad.} Action of Trespas with
Force & arms damage
\$5000 - Jury term of the
circuit court for St Charles
county -

And the said Isaac the defendant by Carr his
attorney comes & defends the charge of the wrong
& injury when he says that he is not guilty
in manner & form as is complained of against
him in the plaintiffs declaration & that he
puts himself upon the country

And the plaintiff also ^{Carr atty p. do}
^{Wells Gettys}
^{for plaintiff}

And the said defendant further more
pleads that on the day & at the place mentioned
in the plaintiffs declaration and before that time
to wit on the nineteenth day of June eighteen hundred
- died & now she the said plaintiff was the
slave & property of him the defendant & that
his slave & property & that on the said last
mentioned day he purchased the said Matilda
of one William Christy whose property she then
was & took & received from said Christy a Bill of
sale in the words & figures following to wit
"For & in consideration of the sum of two hundred dollars
" To me in hand paid the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge
" I have granted bargained sold & delivered &
" by these presents do grant bargain sell & deliver unto
" Isaac Vanbibber a negro girl named Matilda
" between eight & nine years old which girl Matilda
" I do hereby warrant & defend unto the said Vanbibber
" his heirs & assigns against me & my heirs & assigns &
" all & every other person or persons lawfully claim-
" ing or to claim the same, in witness whereof I
" have hereunto set my hand this 19th day of June
" 1809 - signed - W. Christy - Test. Clement B.
" Penrose B. G. Farrar" by virtue of which said
" Bill of sale ^{which is here shown to court} he took into his custody & received the
" plaintiff as his slave & property from said
" Christy - all of which he is ready to verify &
" wherefore he prays judgment of the plaintiffs
" action ought not to be given - Carr atty p. do

Matilda a free black
 vs Replication
 Isaac Canbisher

The said Matilda says that she
 ought not to be barred from having & maintain-
 ing her action against the said Isaac
 for anything alleged by the said defendant
 in his second plea above pleaded because she
 says that on the day mentioned in her declaration
 or at any time before that day now she the same
 of the said Isaac: and that of this she prays may be
 enquired of by the country.

M. M. G. G. G.
 att. for p. p. p.

and the said Matilda protests against the
 truth of any such bill of sale existing as the
 said Defendant has set out in said second
 plea

M. M. G. G. G.
 for p. p. p.

and the said Matilda says altho such bill of sale
 as the Defendant has set out in his second plea
 please yet she protests against the conclusion
 therein contained to wit that she is a slave
 by virtue of said bill of sale

M. M. G. G. G.
 att. for p. p. p.