

Territory of Missouri
County of Saint Louis
The petition of Anne
a free black woman

To the honorable the Circuit Court for the County
of Saint Charles The petition of your petitioners
~~your petitioners~~ above named humbly sheweth

That sometime in the month of July in the year 1809
your petitioner was ^{by James Rayner} ~~transported~~ from the State of Maryland as
to the then Territory of Indiana New Illinois ^{Territory}
St Clair County and according to a Statute of that Territory
was taken before Mr Hay clerk of the County Court
for said County and in his presence was indentured
to serve the said James Rayner for fifteen years
from that date to wit the 28th day of July 1809
a copy of which entry and indenture is now here
shewn to the Court And Whereas your petitioner
is informed there is a provision in the Law of the
Indiana New Illinois Territory authorizing persons
to indent negroes that ~~person~~ if the Master or
Owner of such indentured servant shall before the
expiration of the time of service agreed on in
pursuance of said Law shall remove such indentured
person from said Territory without the consent
of such indentured person which consent shall be
obtained before one or more of the Judges of the Coun-
ty Court of that Territory a Certificate writing
shall be given by said Judge or Judges then such
Master or Owner shall forfeit for such removal
of such person the sum of One thousand dollars
two thirds thereof shall go to the person injured
or removed and the other third to the County to
be received by action of Debt or action on the Case by
the person injured Now your petitioners thus

That in the year one thousand eight hundred
and eleven your petitioner thinks on the month of May of
that year the said James Noyon did remove your
petitioner from the then Territory of Illinois before
that a part of the Indianan to the then Territory
of Louisiana now Missouri to a place called Little
River in ^{the} present County of Saint Charles without
having obtained her consent before a judge or judges
of the County Court or in any manner whatever
obtaining her consent by which removal of the
your petitioner she is advised and believes
that she has a right to demand of the said Noyon
the two thirds of the aforesaid forfeitures one
thousand dollars But as the said James is now
dead your petitioner is advised that if she has any
right to demand the aforesaid two thirds of the said
forfeiture she must pursue her remedy against
the administrator of the said Noyon there being
no executor and your petitioner is informed
that Henry Hight of Saint Charles County is
that administrator And your petitioner prays
that if the Court shall be of Opinion that your
petitioner has any claim to an action because of
the premises that she may be permitted according
to the laws of this Territory ~~that she may~~
to sue and prosecute her action against the said
Henry Hight as a poor person your petitioner being
very poor and unable to pay costs or give security for costs
and that she may have counsel retained in the law

appointed to aid her in prosecuting said action
your petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray

Test

Andrew S. McElwain
Senator of Missouri
County of Saint Louis
~~Assembly of Missouri~~

(Signed) Anne L. McElwain

This day Anne the above
petitioner swore to the
above as containing the
truth to the best of her
knowledge and belief
March 1816

Joseph Charles
Justice of the Peace

Anne after black
 woman
 1837 petition to have
 leave to live as
 a free woman
 to circuit court
 at Grants
 H. Hight's administration
 for delinquent to of the
 Estate of James Hight
 Deceased
 H. Hight's fine
 for the delinquent
 fine. dollars and no

An action of Assault & battery and false
 imprisonment ^{against H. Hight's administration} from the time of assault & battery and let
 the imprisonment be to the present time
 In the Petition state all the facts of residence
 contained in the old petition state her removal
 and Hight's administration and Hight's death
 and her claim to freedom by virtue of said
 Residence and the Ordinance of Congress for
 the government of the North Western Territory
 of which the Indiana & Illinois were a part
 state the fact of Hight's claiming her as the property
 of Hight's estate and exercising dominion over her
 & lay damages in addition to \$500

Illinois Territory June 10th 1816
St. Clair County

Polin Whiteside being duly sworn
says that in the year one thousand eight hundred
and nine or thereabouts he the deponent became
acquainted with one James Ray who then lived
in the then County of St. Clair ^{Indiana Territory} now Madison
County and that the Rayen left said Territory of
~~the~~ Illinois in the year 1811. That when
he came to the present County of St. Clair and
then, Indiana Territory now Illinois Territory
he had in his possession and kept in his possession
all the time he lived in said Territory a yellow
woman or Mulatto woman whose name Anne
and that he exercised authority over said Anne
as a slave or pretended servant which is not
distinctly known to this deponent. That when
Ray left said Territory he moved to live there
in the then Louisiana Territory District
of Charles that this deponent has been
informed that said Rayen has since died
and that Henry Hight has administered
on his estate that said Anne when
known to this deponent was about the
age of twenty years

William B. Whiteside

Sworn to & Subscribed

in open Court
Belleville 10 June 1816

John Ray Clerk

W. John Whitcomb
President of the
Board of Trustees

County of St. Louis } In the Circuit Court for the Eastern
Saint Charles County } Term of the year
Eighteen hundred and sixteen

Ann a free black woman who is permitted to sue
as a poor person by Matthias McKirk and George Tompkins
her attorneys specially appointed for this purpose
by the said Court complains of Henry Hight
of a plea of trespass with force and arms, for that
the said Henry Hight on the first day of March
in the year Eighteen hundred and fourteen at
the county of Saint Charles aforesaid and within
the jurisdiction of this court with force and
arms did make an assault upon her the said
Ann and her the said Ann did then and there
beat, wound, imprison, and detain, and her the
said Ann there in prison without any reason-
able cause for a long time, to wit, from the
time aforesaid till the present time did keep
and detain, and her does still keep and detain
and other outrages to her the said Ann then and
there did to the great damage of her the said Ann
and against the peace and dignity of the Uni-
ted States of America, to the damage of the said
Ann of five hundred dollars and therefore she
sues &c
McKirk & Tompkins atts
for Plaintiff

Henry Knight

Ans. a black Woman

In the Circuit Court of the County
of Saint Charles, October Term 1876.

action for freedom:-

And the said Defendant by Edmunds
Kempstead, his attorney, comes and defends the force & injury when
where he - and saith he is not guilty in manner and form as
the said Ann, in her Complaint and Declaration hath alleged
and of this he puts himself on the Country for trial

And the Plaintiff also

Attest & Thompson at
for Plaintiff,

5. Empstead, N. D.

And the said Defendant for further plea in this behalf, the said Defendant further defends the said injury when where to, and saith that the plaintiff of having and maintaining the said action thereof against him ought to be barred and precluded: because he says that he to wit at the County of Saint Charles aforesaid on the first day of January, one thousand, eight hundred and Ninety. The said then man then then in the possession of and lawfully owned as a Slave for life by one James Rein; and being so then owned and possessed the said James Rein afterwards to wit then then died, ~~and left~~ and after his death to wit then & then letters of administration on his estate were in due form of law granted to the said Henry Hight, under the hand and seal of the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas for the said County of Saint Charles (which said letters of administration are herewith shown) and which said letters of administration are still in full force unrevoked, and unrescinded: and by virtue of said letters of administration, and the laws of this Territory in such cases made and provided, the

Said Henry Wright as administrator as aforesaid did, then
and then take the said Ann into his possession as the
Slave of the said James Rice Decendant, and he the said
Ann, did detain as such as by law he had a right to
do at the time & place of the trespass, assault and battery
and false imprisonment complained of, and which is the
same trespass, assault & battery, and false imprisonment
complained of and to other, without that that the said
Henry did then with force and arms and against the
peace of said. Court, ground and illly treat and imprison
and detain the said Ann as the said Declaration
supposes, without any just cause or lawful authority,
all which he is ready to verify & prove. Wherefore
he prays Judgment that the said Ann may be barred
and precluded of having and maintaining the said
action against him, and the allowing his costs.

E. Thompson Esq.

And for further plea in this behalf, the said Defendant
further defends the fact & injury when when he, and
saves that the said Ann of having and maintaining
his said action then & against them ought to be
barred & precluded, because he says that he therefore
testifies at the County aforesaid, on the first day of
January, in the Year the thousand eight hundred and
Nineteen, the said Ann a Black Woman aforesaid was
the servant of one other James Rice, who was assigned
for the term and space of Twenty Years then next

knowing, and unexpected, and the said James Rice after-
wards do not. But then said intestate:— and then after
to wit the letters of administration to the
John of Law was granted under the hand and seal
of the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas in said
County of Saint Charles on the estate of said
James Rice deceased to said Henry Bight, as by
said letters of administration now then in the Court
appear, and which said letters of administration are
true in full force, unrevoked, and unrescinded, and by
virtue thereof the said Henry Bight as administrator
as aforesaid did then and there take into his possession as
the servant of said James Rice and his assigns, the said
Ann, a black woman, as by law he had a right
to do, at the time and place of the trespass com-
plained of, and which is the same trespass, assault
battery, wounding imprisonment, and detention by
the said Ann complained of and the other. Without
that, that the said Henry did then and there with force
and arms and against the peace assault, beat, wound
imprison and detain the said Ann without any
just right or lawful authority, as the said Ann
have above complaining, all which the said Henry
is ready to verify — Therefore he prays judgment
if the said Ann, her action against him
shall have maintenance, and that he be allowed
his costs —

E. M. B. B.

Henry High 3 pleas
add
Ann. a black woman

50
51

Gilead 29th Octob. 1815.
Wm. Channing Clerk
3
3
3

turn a black woman

1853
Henry Hight

And the said Plaintiff, as to the second plea of the said defendant above pleaded, says that she the said Plaintiff ought not for any thing in the said second plea alleged to be barred or precluded from having and maintaining her aforesaid action thereof against him the said defendant, because she says that, though it is true that the said defendant was in due form of law appointed administrator of the estate of one James Rein in manner and form as the said defendant has in his said second plea stated, yet nevertheless for replication to the said plea the said Plaintiff says that she the said Plaintiff was not on the first day of January in the year one thousand eight hundred and twelve or at any other time either before or after the said first day of January possessed and lawfully owned as a slave for life by the said James Rein, and that the said defendant committed the trespasses in the plaintiff's said declaration complained of without the causes in his second plea stated: and this she the said Plaintiff prays may be enquired of by the court.

And the said Plaintiff, as to the third plea of the said defendant above pleaded, says that she the said Plaintiff ought not for any thing in the said third plea alleged to be barred or precluded from having and maintaining her aforesaid action thereof against him the said defendant because she says that, though true it is that the said defendant was in due form of law appointed administrator of the estate of one James Rein in manner and form as the said said defendant has in his said third plea stated, yet nevertheless for replication to the said third plea the said Plaintiff says that she the said Plaintiff was not on the first day of January one thousand eight hundred and twelve or at any time either before the said first day of January or after the same day the servant of the said James Rein in manner and form as the said defendant has in his said third plea stated, and that the said defendant committed the trespasses in the plaintiff's said declaration ~~complained~~ complained of without the causes in his said third plea stated: and this she prays may be enquired of by the court.

Attest
for Plaintiff

Filed April 1817.

Mr a free black woman
vs Replication
Henry, High

Filed 31 October 1816.
Wm. C. C. C. C.

Freedom case

TERRITORY OF MISSOURI

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

County of St. Charles, ss.

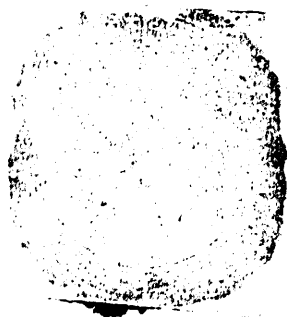
TO THE SHERIFF OF THE COUNTY OF ST. CHARLES.—GREETING.

WHEREAS *Ann, a free black woman* at our *Circuit Court*
before our judges hath recovered against *Henry Hight* the sum of *Five Dollars*
for her damages and also the sum of *thirteen dollars and fifty cents*
fifty five cents which to the said *Ann a free black woman* were adjudg-
ed for *her* damages as well by reason of *detaining her in slavery, trespass & assault,* as
for costs in that suit expended as appears to us of record.

These are therefore to command you, that of the goods and chattles, lands and tenements of the said *Henry Hight*
you cause to be made the aforesaid *damages* and costs; and that you have the
same before the Judge of our said court on the *fourth Mon* day of *November* next, to render to the said *Ann a free*
black woman the *damages & costs* aforesaid; had for want of sufficient goods and chattles, lands
and tenements whereon to levy and make the same, we command you take *Henry Hight* if he be found
in your county and him safely keep so that you have his body before the same Judge on the *fourth Mon* day of *November* next to sat-
isfy the said *Ann a free black woman* of the aforesaid *damages* and costs: and that you
certify to our said judge how you executed this writ: and have you then there this writ:

WITNESS

William Christy clerk of the St. Charles *Circuit Court* this
twelfth day of *June* in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and *fourteen* and of the indepen-
dence of the United States the forty-first,



Wm Christy Jr.

Rec'd Sheriff's fee 187

[Signature]
James D. [unclear]

N. 9
Circuit Court
November Term 1877

All due on the within Executions & [unclear] & [unclear]
besides my fees of Collection

[Signature]
Wm. S. Moore

Annafree McPherson
15 execution
Henry Hight
Winnipeg - \$5.00
clerk fee - 5.88
Sheriff - 2.00
Sheriff St. Louis - 1.67
Attorney - 4.00
Jury - 2.00
\$20.55

Collected - \$0. Gets [unclear]
by Clerk - Sheriff

McGinnis -

Rec'd the within into 17th. [unclear] & [unclear]

[Signature]
Wm. S. Moore