

Women's Petitions

PETITION

To the House of Representatives of the United States:

The undersigned, women of **Wayland Massachusetts** deeply convinced of the sinfulness of Slavery, and keenly aggrieved by its existence in a part of our country over which Congress possesses exclusive jurisdiction in all cases whatsoever, do most earnestly petition your honorable body immediately to abolish Slavery in the District of Columbia, and also to put an end to the slave-trade in the United States.

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Susannah Grout
Elizabeth Brigham
Lucy Russell
Lucy Ames
A. B. Hyde
Polly Gleason
Catherine Cotting
Elisebeth M. Dudley

M.A.H. Bigelow Martha Dudley
Theoda Cutting Martha J. Dudley
Lydia Livermore
Martha Parmenter
Eliza Newell
Elizabeth H. Estes
Charlotte A. Bigelow
Julia A. Dudley
Lucy A. Lee
Abigail C. Rice
Sarah A. Oliver
Lucy A. Draper
Sarah B. Ward
Rosalia Heard
Harriet Kent
Mary L. Ames
Ellen P. Reeves
Julia Hyde
Adeline Hyde
Nancy M. Draper

Dolley Gleason
Abby Russell
Sarah Russell Betsey Jones
Caroline Gleason Almira Jones
Susan Roby
Susan Grout
Eunice R. Draper
Sarah Griffin
Betsey Griffin
Milisent Reeves
Sophia Rice
Abba A. Francis
Mary P. Francis
Lucy Francis
Mary Kent
Elisabeth Kent
Mary Kent

Copied from the Adams Papers, Letters Received, reel #507.

Endorsed by John Quincy Adams "Hyde A.B. 1. Sepr 1837. Wayland 5. Sepr 1837 recd with Pet. of Ladies". John Quincy Adams, Ex-President, was then serving as a Member of the House of Representatives from Massachusetts.

[Printed form with town and state written in the blank spaces with signatures following.]

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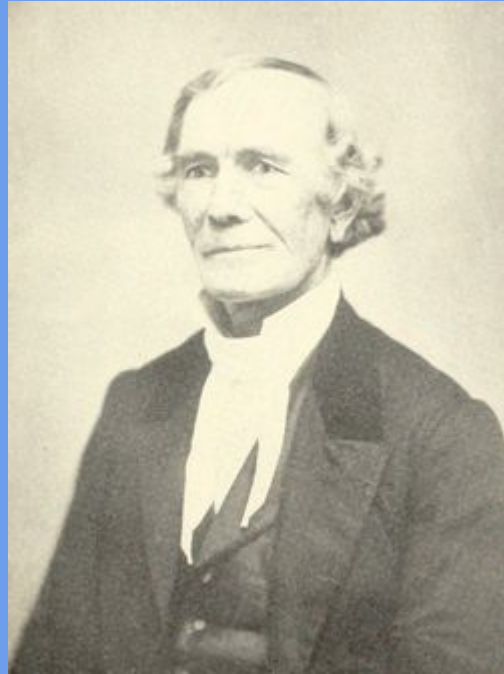
Mary P. Francis
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A. D.

Dan Carpenter and Colin Moore: "When Canvassers Became Activists: Antislavery Petitioning and the Political Mobilization of American Women"

"We define a petition as an organized request for political redress or policy of some sort, which contains two essential elements: a 'prayer' (or request or expression of grievances) and a signatory list presenting those persons who have affixed their names in approval of the prayer."

Rev. Lavius Hyde



1789-1865

Abby Bradley Hyde
Ca 1849



Sir William Blackstone (1765):

"By marriage, the husband and wife are one person in law, that is, the very being or existence of the woman is suspended during the marriage, or at least incorporated and consolidated into that of the husband, under whose wing, protection, and cover, she performs every thing; and is therefore called- a feme covert....."

Article [I] (Amendment 1 - Freedom of expression and religion)

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and **to petition** the Government for a redress of grievances.

1833

American Anti-Slavery Society

Boston Female Anti-Slavery Society



Angelina and Sarah Grimke

1837 Pastoral Letter

The power of woman is in her dependence, flowing from the consciousness of that weakness which God has given her for her protection and which keeps her in those departments of life that form the character of individuals and of the nation.

We especially deplore the intimate acquaintance and promiscuous conversation of females with regard to things "which ought not to be named;" by which that modesty and delicacy which is the charm of domestic life, and which constitute the true influence of women in society are consumed, and the way opened, as we apprehend, for degeneracy and ruin.

We cannot, therefore, but regret the mistaken conduct of those who encourage females to bear an obtrusive and ostentatious part in measures of reform, and countenance any of that sex who so far forget themselves as to itinerate in the character of public lecturers and teachers.

*"Resolved,*that the existence of American slavery is opposed to the natural rights of man, to the law of God, and to the spirit of the Gospel; and therefore is a sin which ought to unite the efforts of all Christians for its speedy extermination."

PETITION.

174A

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Lucy Ames	Northon Parmenter	
A. B. Hyde	Eliza Newell	
Willy Gleason	Elizabeth H. Estes	
Caroline Cutting	Charlotte A. Bigelow	
Elisabeth M. Dudley	Juliana M. Dudley	
	Lucy A. Lee	
Dolly Gleason	Abigail C. Rice	
Abby Russell	Sarah A. Oliver	
Sarah Russell	Lucy A. Draper	
Betsy Jones	Sarah B. Ward	
Caroline Gleason	Almira Jones	
Susan Roby	Susan Kent	
Susan Grout	Mary L. Ames	
Eunice R. Draper	Ellen P. Reeves	
Sarah Griffin	Julia Hyde	
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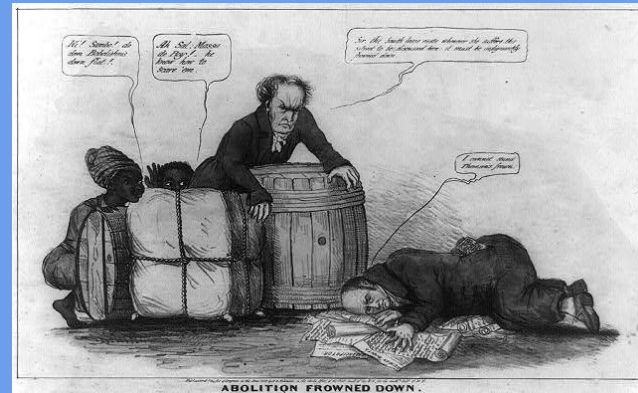
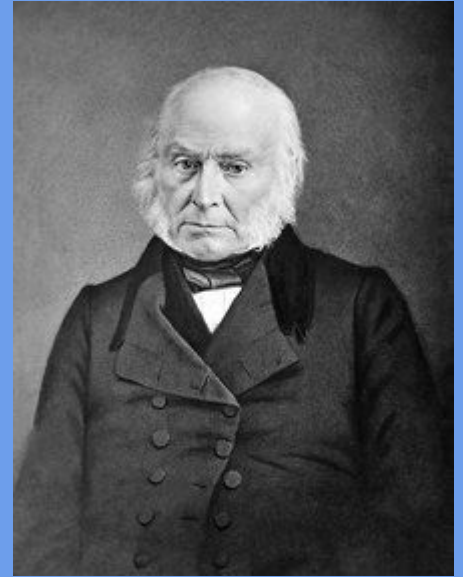
[Printed form with town and state written in the blank spaces with signatures following.]

John Quincy Adams

Gag Rule

Hoffer: *John Quincy Adams and the Gag Rule*

"The gag rule was a House procedural measure, a resolution to reject out of hand all antislavery petitions, passed at the beginning of each session from 1836 through 1840, when it was made a standing rule of the House, and finally rescinded at the end of 1844. In the Senate, a similar rule lasted until 1850."



Wayland petitions

I've listed them below, along with the likely file codes they would be found under if the petitions were transferred to the National Archives in our holdings: (info from *Congressional Globe*)

- June 6, 1836 -- "Remonstrance of Joseph Swain, and seventy-two inhabitants, male and female, of Weston and Wayland, Massachusetts, against the article in the constitution of Arkansas respecting slavery."
- Sept. 18, 1837 -- "Remonstrances against the annexation of Texas to the Union of these States, of Lavius Hyde and 36 other inhabitants of Wayland, in Massachusetts."
- Sept. 18, 1837 -- "Remonstrances against the annexation of Texas to the Union of these States, of Susannah Grant and 57 other women of Wayland, in Massachusetts."
- Sept. 23, 1837 -- "Memorial praying for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, of Lavius Hyde and 32 other inhabitants of Wayland, in Middlesex county, in the State of Massachusetts"
- Sept. 28, 1837 -- "Sundry petitions praying for the abolition of slavery and the slave trade in the Territories of the United States, of Lavius Hyde and 33 inhabitants of Wayland, in the State of Massachusetts"
- Sept. 28, 1837 -- "Sundry memorials remonstrating against the admission of any new slave-holding State into the Union of these States, of Lavius Hyde and 33 inhabitants of Wayland, in the State of Massachusetts"
- Sept. 28, 1837 -- "Sundry memorials praying for the immediate prohibition of the slave trade among the several States, of Lavius Hyde and 33 inhabitants of Wayland, in the State of Massachusetts"

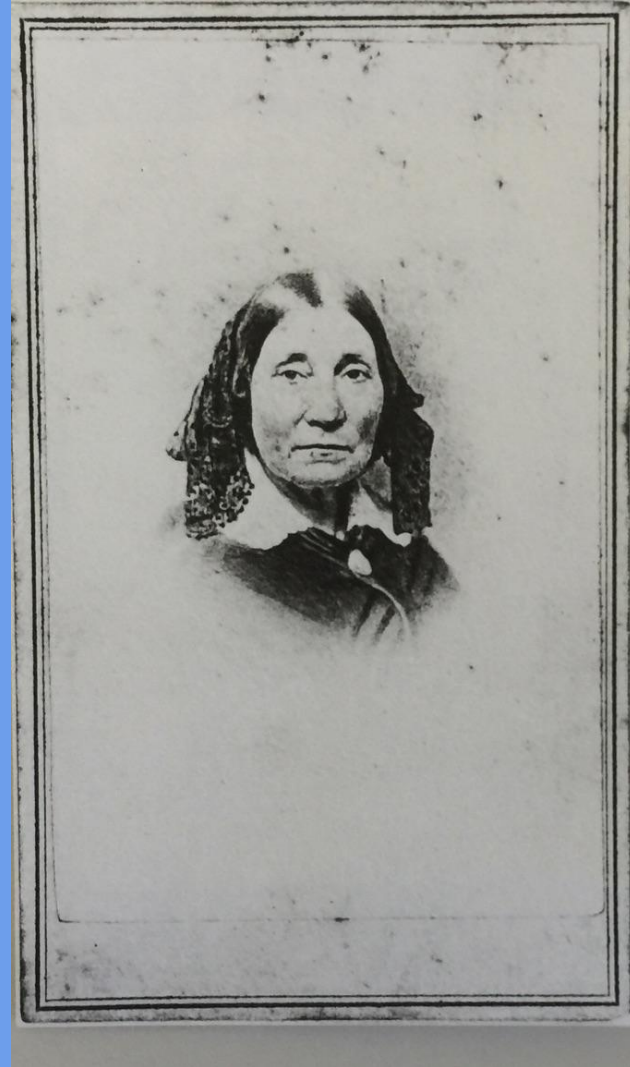
MIDDLESEX SOUTH ASSOCIATION.

Town or Parish.	Ministers.	Settled.	No. of mem. Jan. 1, 1837.			Admissions in 1836.			Removals in 1836.			Baptisms, 1836.		No. Sub. Sc.	No. B. Class.
			Males.	Females	Total.	By Prof.	By Rec.	To.	By Death.	Dis.	Ex.	Adults.	Infants.		
Concord, Trin. Chh.	John Wilder,	Aug. 7, 1833	16	56	72	3		3	1	5		1	6	100	25
Framingham,	David Brigham,	Dec. 29, 1836	59	215	274				2				9	150	50
Holliston,	John Storrs,	Dec. 20, 1836	53	123	176	6	3	9						230	
Hopkinton,	Jeffries Hall,	June 5, 1833	41	101	142	2	2	4	6	11	1	1	3	250	30
Lincoln,	Ebenezer Newhall,	Jan. 16, 1833	25	81	106	3		3	2				3	120	25
Natick,	E. D. Moore,	Nov. 6, 1833	59	111	170	4	7	11	4			3	11	180	
Needham, West,	J. W. Sessions,	Oct. 2, 1833	26	63	89	5		5	1	4		1	3	179	
Marlborough,	John N. Goodhue,	May 4, 1836	34	75	109	5	3	8	2	2		0	7	295	
Saxonville,	C. Kidder,	July 30, 1834	9	39	48	6	5	11	1	7		2	5	180	
Sherburne,	D. T. Smith,	Dec. 7, 1836	53	106	159		2	2	1	4			1	146	
Southboro',	Walter Follett,	Oct. 24, 1832	33	73	106	3	10	13	1	2		4	7	260	
Sudbury,	Rufus Hurlbut,	Feb. 26, 1817	37	103	140	20	1	21	3	2		2	4	200	
Waltham, Trin. Chh.	Sewall Harding,	Jan. 17, 1821	16	115	131	6	2	8	2	12		1	4	120	
Wayland,	Lavius Hyde,	July 22, 1835	13	61	74	4	1	5	1	2			5	125	35
Total,			474	1322	1796	67	36	103	27	51	1	15	68	2535	165



SUSAN GROUT

1797-1877





15 Old Sudbury Road

Silas Grout

in Joshua Kendall's Account Book

- p.28 1798 Silas Grout, Mrs. Grout
daughter(s), boy, self, "made" [maid?]
son, children, Nancy
- 1799 mostly mending, some "making"
- 1800
- p.31 1802 Silas Grout
mending slippers for Mrs. Grout's sister
- 1803 mending a pair of slippers for Goodenow
- 1803 Silas Grout, Charles, Sally
- 1804 [mostly mending]
- 1805
- p.59 1801 (Nov.13) Mr. Grout ("Grouet"), for Mrs.
Grout, your children

DECLARATION.

In order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress, of the 7th July, 1838, entitled "An Act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows,"

State of Massachusetts,
County of Middlesex,

On this thirtieth day of October in the year 1841 being hundred and thirty eight,

personally appeared before the Honorable P. P. Fay Judge of the Court of Probate in the County of Middlesex a resident of Weymouth in the county of Middlesex, aged seventy seven years, who, being first duly sworn, according to law, doth, on her oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress, passed July 7, 1838, entitled "An Act granting half pay and pensions to certain widows;" That she is the widow of Silas Grosvenor who was a private soldier in the Army of the Revolution, that he enlisted at Shrewsbury in the County of Middlesex, sometime in the year seventeen hundred and twenty seven for the term of three years; as he was a blacksmith by trade & served as an artificer; she does not know the name of the Colonel, but she believes it was on a Regiment commanded by Col. Rufus Putnam; he was at New York & Albany & was stationed at several places, he was at New York & Albany; she always understood & nearly believes that he served under his enlistment "with the army & upwards;" — She always understood from him in his life time that he was in the service of this Revolutionary war in the whole term of year & two months.

She further declares that she said Silas Grosvenor enlisted as a private soldier in the year seventeen hundred & twenty seven in what month she cannot tell; that on Commission commanded by Col. King in a Regiment raised by Col. Putnam; she then resided in Shrewsbury in the County of Middlesex & went to Livingston where she resided in the Command of Continental Affairs, & from thence went to West Point & joined the Army under General Washington, & from thence to West Point & joined the Army; he served under this enlistment two months.

She further declares that she was married to the said Silas Grosvenor on the twenty sixth day of December in the year seventeen hundred and Eighty eight; that her husband, the aforesaid Silas Grosvenor died on the twenty sixth day of April in the year eighteen hundred & twenty six; that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the first of January, seventeen hundred and ninety-four, viz.; at the time above stated. That she is still the widow of said Silas Grosvenor never having been married since.

Sworn to, and subscribed, on the day and year above written, before me,
Suzanna Grosvenor
Subscribed & sworn to on open Court by said Suzanna Grosvenor, this day & year first above written.
P. P. Fay Judge

* Here insert the rank the husband held in the army, navy, or militia, in the case may be, and specify the service performed, as directed in rule numbered one of these regulations.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
County of Middlesex
I, Suzanna Grosvenor hereby certify that Silas Grosvenor is the husband of said Suzanna Grosvenor & that his signature above written is genuine.
Witness my hand & the Seal of said County of Middlesex on this thirtieth day of October in the year 1841 being hundred and thirty eight Anno Domini 1841.

Susanna Grout in the 1840 United States Federal Census

Name: Susanna Grout

Home in 1840 (City, County, State): Wayland, Middlesex, Massachusetts

Birth Year: abt 1761

Age: 79

Military Service: Veteran

Source Citation

Year: 1840; Census Place: Wayland, Middlesex, Massachusetts; Page: 316; Family History Library Film: 0014678

Source Information

Ancestry.com. 1840 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010.

Images reproduced by FamilySearch.

Original data: Sixth Census of the United States, 1840. (NARA microfilm publication M704, 580 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C.

Description

This database details those persons enumerated in the 1840 United States Federal Census, the Sixth Census of the United States. In addition, the names of those listed on the population schedule are linked to the actual images of the 1840 Federal Census. Enumerators of the 1840 census were asked to include the following categories in the census: name of head of household, number of free white males and females, number of other free persons, names of slave owners and number of slaves, number of foreigners, and town or district and county of residence. [Learn more...](#)

To the Hon James Prescott Esquire Judge of the
court of Probate within and for the county of Middlesex

It being inconvenient for me to Administer
upon the Estate of Silas Groat of Easthulbury my
late husband I hereby signify to your Honour that
I decline the acceptance of that trust, and that
it is my request that my son, Charles Groat be
appointed to that trust and office.

Easthulbury
May 10. 1820

Lisanna Groat



1868

NEW-ENGLAND STEREOTYPE EDITION.

THE
ENGLISH READER;

OR,
PIECES IN PROSE AND POETRY,

SELECTED FROM THE BEST WRITERS.

DESIGNED TO ASSIST YOUNG PERSONS TO READ WITH PROPRIETY AND
EFFECT; TO IMPROVE THEIR LANGUAGE AND SENTIMENTS; AND
TO INCULCATE SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT
PRINCIPLES OF PIETY AND VIRTUE.

WITH A FEW PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

On the Principles of Good Reading.

BY LINDLEY MURRAY.
AUTHOR OF AN ENGLISH GRAMMAR, &c.

STEREOTYPED BY B. AND J. COLLINS, NEW-YORK.

HAVERHILL, (MS.)
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY N. BURRILL,
AND SOLD AT HIS BOOKSTORE.

1818.

acc in. 20.55

Susan Grouse

Bradford Academy, May 5, 1818

Wayland Valuation List

May 1, 1861

Charles Fairbanks—house and shed 460, barn 300, 20 a. mowing and tillage 1000, 7 a. do. (Coggin lot) 245, 24 a. pasturing 360,	2365
Personal estate	185
Ephraim Farwell—house and shed 200, barn 75, 4 1-2 a. mowing and tillage 157, 4 a. woodland and pasturing 80,	512
Personal estate	35
Ziba French—house, barn and 1-2 a. land	450
James Francis—house 700, barn 550, 3 other buildings 150, 25 a. mowing and tillage 1500, 33 a. pasturing 825, 8 a. home meadow 240, 8 a. woodland 320,	4285
Personal estate	602
William C. Grout—1-4 house 350, 3-8 barn 50, 2 a. mowing and tillage 100, 14 1-2 a. meadow 145, 10 1-2 a. pasturing and wood 315, 2 a. land, mill and shop 1100,	2060
Personal estate	2383
Susan Grout—1-4 house 350, 3-8 barn 50, 2 a. mowing and tillage 100, 2 a. pasturing and wood 60,	560
Personal estate	350
To unknown persons or heirs—1-2 a. woodland	30
Phineas Gleason—house and shed 400, barn 250, 10 a. mowing and tillage 400, 15 a. pasturing 240, 3 a. woodland 100, 3 a. home meadow 60, 7 1-2 a. river meadow 75, 10 a. unimproved 120,	1645
Personal estate	130
Elbridge W. Giles—house and shed 700, barn and shed 450, do. 125, carriage and hog house 125, 30 a. mowing and tillage 1350, 10 a. pasturing 200, 13 a. home meadow 260, 6 a. woodland 100,	3310
Personal estate	550
Abel Gleason—house 900, barn and shed 400, 23 a. mowing and tillage 920, 50 a. pasturing 883, 15 a. woodland 255, 2 a. do. 37, 7 a. river meadow 84, 4 a. home meadow 100, 11 a. unimproved 110, 1-2 cider mill 30,	3719
Personal estate	190
Widow Dolly Gleason—house and shed 400, barn and shed 125, 20 a. mowing and tillage 700, 30 a. pasturing 450, 16 a. woodland 400, 37 a. river meadow 370,	2445
Marshall Garfield—house 300, 3 a. land 120,	420
Personal estate	8
Charles G. Groenevelt—house 600, barn and shop 25, 1 1-4 a. land 225,	850
Personal estate	34

cestry

Susan Grout in the 1870 United States Federal Census

Name: Susan Grout
Age in 1870: 72
Birth Year: abt 1798
Birthplace: Massachusetts
Dwelling Number: 88
Home in 1870: Wayland, Middlesex, Massachusetts
Race: White
Gender: Female
Occupation: Keeping House
Inferred Spouse: William C Grout

Household Members:

Name	Age
William C Grout	66
Susan Grout	72

Source Citation

Year: 1870; Census Place: Wayland, Middlesex, Massachusetts; Roll: M593_633; Page: 396B; Family History Library Film: 552132

Source Information

Ancestry.com. 1870 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. Images reproduced by FamilySearch.

Original data:

1870 U.S. census, population schedules. NARA microfilm publication M593, 1,761 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.
Minnesota census schedules for 1870. NARA microfilm publication T132, 13 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.

Description

This database is an index to individuals enumerated in the 1870 United States Federal Census, the Ninth Census of the United States. Census takers recorded details including each person's name, age at last birthday, sex, color, birthplace, occupation, and more. No relationships were shown between members of a household. Additionally, the names of those listed on the population schedule are linked to actual images of the 1870 Federal Census. [Learn more...](#)

Be it remembered that J. Susan Scott
of Wagland in the County
in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, being of sound mind and memory,
but knowing the uncertainty of this life, do make this my last will and
testament.

After the payment of my just debts and funeral charges, I bequeath
and devise as follows:

- 1.st To the Unitarian Congregational Church in said
Wagland the sum of fifty dollars
2. I give and bequeath to the American Board of
Commissioners for Foreign Missions the sum of fifty
dollars.
3. I give and bequeath to the Women's Mission the
sum of fifty dollars
4. I give and bequeath to the American Tract
Society the sum of fifty dollars.
5. I give and bequeath to the American Bible
Society the sum of fifty dollars.
6. I give and bequeath to my niece Martha
B. Night my best rocking chair and the
bedstead now used by me
7. I give and bequeath to my Nephew
Henry Night my old family clock and the
coal stove in my sitting room.
8. I give and bequeath to my niece Sarah
M. Bond, my easy chair, my round table,
and all my silver and plated ware.
9. I give and bequeath to the said Martha
B. Night, and Sarah M. Bond, and to Isabella
Night, wife of the said Henry Night all my
wearing apparel which after selecting such
parts or parcels as they may desire to retain



Lydia Maria Child

1802-1880

The Undersigned, Inhabitants of the Town of
for the Abolition of the Punishment of Death.

Weyland

respectfully ask

LEGAL VOTERS.

WOMEN AND OTHERS.

John W. Wright
Henry Wright
Jas. S. Draper
Emanuel Pearce
Wm. G. Groat
Jacob Marshall
D. A. Seedy
Wm. Heard & Co.
Convers Francis -
S. H. M. Heard.
James Furber.

M. B. Wright
Nabby A. Draper
Debby Allen
Polly Allen
E. A. Draper
C. H. Pearce
Elizabeth
Mary McCarty
Mary C. Newman
Josephine Heard
Susan Heard
Susan E. Heard
Lucy Furber

P. H. Campbell

S. H. Campbell
Sarah Wright

The Undersigned, Inhabitants of the Town of
for the Abolition of the Punishment of Death.

Weymouth

respectfully

LEGAL VOTERS.

John B. Wright
Henry Wright
Saml. S. Draper
Edmund Pearce
Wm. C. Grant
Jacob Marshall
D. A. Seedy
Wm. Heard & Co.
as Francis -
W. M. Heard.
as Francis.

WOMEN AND OTHERS.

M. B. Wright
Nabby A. Draper
Debby Allen
Polly Allen
E. A. Draper
C. A. Harris
Elen Pearce
Mary McCarty
Mary C. Newman
Josephine Heard
Susan Heard
Susan E. Heard
Lucy Jewett

Campbell

S. H. Camp
Sarah Wright

Know all Men by these Presents,

That ~~we~~ ^{the} Newell Heard of Wayland in the County of Middlesex
and Commonwealth of Massachusetts Merchant
and Gerusha the wife of the said Newell Heard

IN CONSIDERATION OF ^{being} paid by Susan Grant of said Wayland single woman

the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, DO BY THESE PRESENTS, grant, remise, release, and for
ever QUIT CLAIM, unto the said Susan Grant

her heirs and assigns, ~~all~~ ^{our} right, title, interest, and estate, in and to
in said Wayland
the following described Premises, being a part of the estate of Sidas Grant
deceased, and set off to the widow of said deceased ^{as her share} by Commissioners ~~appointed~~
appointed to settle said estate, bounded as follows: beginning at the S.W. corner
of the premises at land of E. Mellen Esq. and running on the County road to
the center of the front door of the dwelling house standing thereon, thence ^{eastwardly} through
~~under~~ house Eastwardly to a stake and stones three rods from the backside of
the house, thence southwardly on land of said Mellen to a stake and stone
thence westwardly four rods and twenty one links to ^{land of} said Mellen, to the bounds
first mentioned, including ^{all our right in the} ~~one~~ half of the said dwelling house standing thereon
lying the southwardly half. Also ^{all our} ~~my~~ right in the ~~reversion~~ ^{reversion} of the northwardly half
of the barn, set off on said ~~lands~~ ^{land}, and standing on land set off to Gerusha
Grant by said Commissioners, with the privilege of using the barnyard and a pas
sage way to the barn for a team, ^{from the other side} Also ^{all our right in} ~~one~~ half of the road house set off in the
said ~~lands~~ ^{land}

new
to
nd