

BILL OF SALE, OLIVER HASTINGS PURCHASED
ANTHONY FROM JOTHAM WHITE (1790)

80

Overview: This bill of sale is an example of child slavery that the Vermont Constitution allowed. However, after the enactment of the 1786 Transportation and Sale law, Jotham White should not have sold this young child. Significantly, we know nothing about Anthony's parents or how Jotham White obtained the boy in the first place. Although White appears to try to protect himself from any legal trouble by insisting that Anthony be freed at age 21, there would have been no way to enforce such a provision in New Hampshire, where Dr. Hastings lived. As it turns out, Oliver Hastings and Jotham White had married sisters from the same family (Reed). According to notarial records gathered by historian Marcel Trudel, Hastings sold Anthony (Antoine) to Boucherville resident Charles Boucher de Labruere for 90 bushels of wheat. (Marcel Trudel, *Dictionnaire des esclaves et de leurs proprietaries au Canada français* [Ville LaSalle: Hurtubise Cahiers du Quebec, 1990], 14.)

Source: Charles H. Hubbard and Justus Dartt, *History of the Town of Springfield, Vermont* (Boston: George H. Walker & Co., 1895), 489. I have attempted to track down the original bill of sale to no avail. I searched in various collections in Vermont, the New Hampshire Historical Society, the Charlestown (N.H.) Historical Society, and The Fort at #4, but no one seems to know what happened to the bill of sale.



[MARCH 2, 1790]

Know all men by these presents, that I, Jotham White of Springfield, in the county of Windsor and State of Vermont, gentleman, for and in consideration of the sum of thirty-five pounds in silver money to me in hand before the delivery hereof paid by Oliver Hastings of Charlestown, in the county of Cheshire and State of New Hampshire, physician, do hereby sell and deliver to the said Oliver Hastings, my negro boy slave named Anthony, about eight years and a half of age. To have and to hold the said negro boy slave to the said Oliver Hastings, his heirs and assigns, until the said negro boy shall

arrive to the age of twenty-one years. I, the said Jotham White, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, do by these presents covenant and engage with the said Oliver Hastings, his heirs and assigns, against the lawful claim and demands of all persons whatsoever.

JOTHAM WHITE

“Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of
AMANDA STONE.
JOEL REED.”

The following is taken from the History of Charlestown, N. H. :

“ Know all men by these presents, that I, Jotham White of Springfield, in the county of Windsor and State of Vermont, gentleman, for and in consideration of the sum of thirty-five pounds in silver money to me in hand before the delivery hereof paid by Oliver Hastings of Charlestown, in the county of Cheshire and State of New Hampshire, physician, do hereby sell and deliver to the said Oliver Hastings, my negro boy slave named Anthony, about eight years and a half of age. To have and to hold the said negro boy slave to the said Oliver Hastings, his heirs and assigns, until the said negro boy shall arrive to the age of twenty-one years. I, the said Jotham White, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, do by these presents covenant and engage with the said Oliver Hastings, his heirs and assigns, against the lawful claim and demands of all persons whatsoever.

“ In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this second day of March, in the year of our Lord seventeen hundred and ninety.

JOTHAM WHITE.

“ Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of
AMANDA STONE,
JOEL REED.”

NATHAN WHITE was b. in Uxbridge, Mass., March 17, 1776, and came to Springfield in the winter of 1805-6. He first located on Connecticut River, near the north line of the town, on the Townshend place. Six years later he sold this farm to Samuel Steele, and bought of Taylor Spencer the farm now owned by his son, Levi R. White, and in 1826 he moved to the meadow farm at the mouth of Black River, where he d. March 28, 1858.

In 1800 he m. Rachel Rist of Grafton, Mass., who d. May 22, 1817, aged 37.

By this marriage there were ten children :

- I. Sally, b. in Grafton, Mass., May 15, 1801; m. Nov. 27, 1821, Isaiah Ellis. Six children. (See Ellis family.)
- II. Calvin C., b. in Grafton, Mass., Feb. 10, 1803; m. March 1, 1837, Patience A. Batchelor. They lived at Gunplain, Mich., and had five children. He d. Nov. 8, 1880.
- III. Luther, b. in Grafton, Mass., Oct. 24, 1804; m. Jan. 23, 1826, Fanny Glazier.
- IV. Eliza Ann, b. in Springfield, Aug. 31 1806; m. Nov. 2, 1823, Jonas B. Spencer, d. May 10, 1834. (See Spencer family.)
- V. Caroline, b. in Springfield, March 29, 1808; m. Dec. 25, 1831, Daniel Tower, d. in Michigan, October, 1846.
- VI. Elias, b. in Springfield, Nov. 27, 1810; d. unm.
- VII. Sophia, b. in Springfield, July 8, 1812; m. Jan. 23, 1834, Lewis Weston; he d. Dec. 2, 1869.