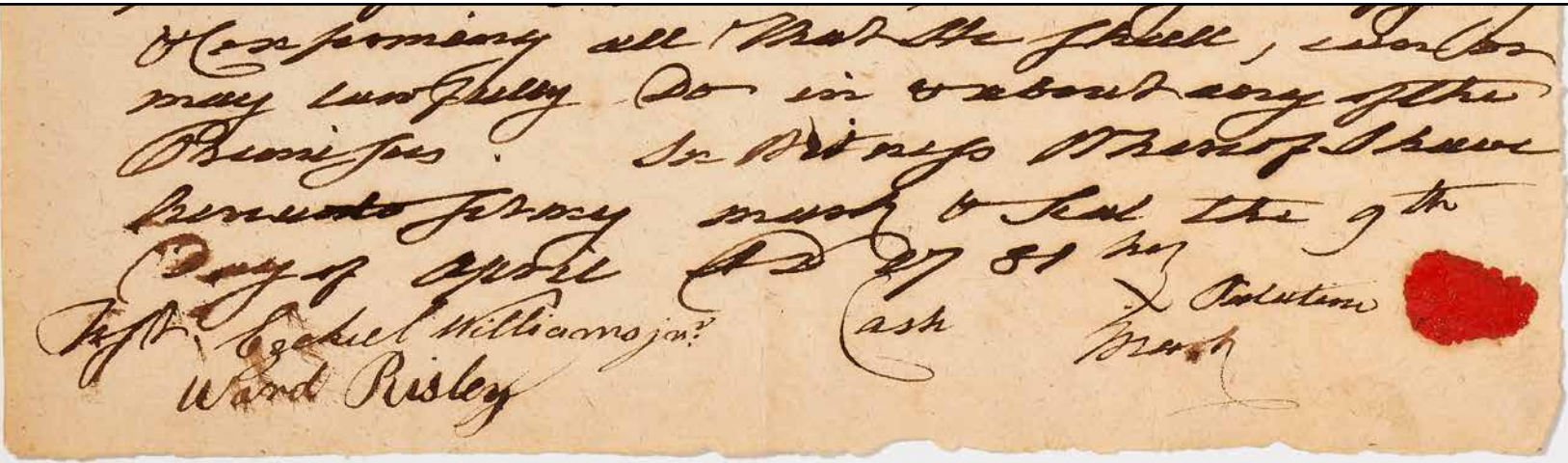


Cash Palentine (William Williams)

Holograph Document Signed by a Black Revolutionary Soldier giving Power of Attorney while he serves in the Continental Army to William Williams, a Signer of the Declaration of Independence

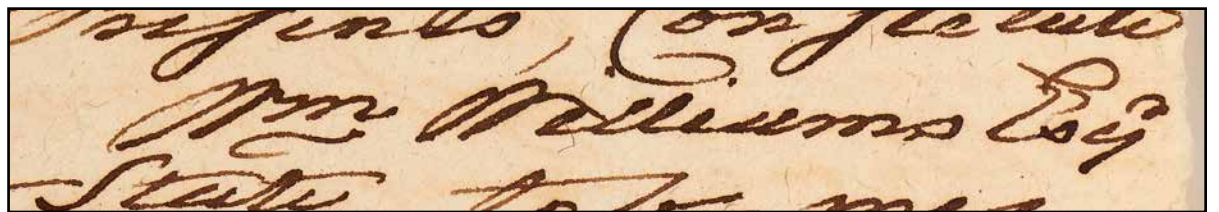
Lebanon, Connecticut: 1781

\$3500



A single leaf. 8" x 13". Old folds, remnants of an old wax seal, near fine. A document dated April 9, 1781, giving William Williams (who has not signed the document) Palentine's Power of Attorney while he served in the Continental Army. Signed by Palentine with his "x" mark and witnessed by Ezekiel Williams, Jr. and Ward Risley. Apparently Palentine was making provisions for his wages should he be killed or captured. Palentine served in the 8th Connecticut Regiment for most of the War. He was one of approximately 300 freeman or slaves from Connecticut who fought for the Continental Army. While he was not listed by William Cooper Nell in his book *Coloured Patriots of the American Revolution* (1855) or Moeb's *Black Soldiers, Black Sailors, Black Ink*, his 1791 death, recorded in Lebanon, clearly marks him as "Colored". He appears on many Connecticut payrolls throughout the War.

William Williams, also from Lebanon, was a member of the Continental Congress and a



Signer of the Declaration of Independence, and later served as the Second Speaker of the House of Representatives. His nephew, Ezekiel Williams, Jr., was a 1785 graduate of Yale, who later monopolized the marine insurance business in Connecticut, and served as the Postmaster of Hartford.

Rare Power of Attorney document signed by a black Revolutionary War soldier. Detailed image on following page. [\[BTC#423372\]](#)

Know all Men by these Presents
That I Gustavus Peckham of Lebanon in
the County of Windham & State of Con-
necticut, was a Soldier in the
Continental Army for Term of the War
have & Do by these Presents, (complete
impower & appoint) John Williams Esq
of said Town, County & State to be my
true sufficient & lawful Attorney in all
Causes Suits & Actions move or to be moved
for or against me in my Name, Right &
Title to act & transact all & every thing respect-
ing my Interest as I have or had have
right to in my own Person, particularly
with full power to take care off, receive
& transact in & about any Allowance ~~due~~
made or to be made to me by this State for
Wages or Depreciation of Wages, or any
other Allowance due to me on any Day
as a Soldier in said Army & whereas I
have been induced, flattered & deceived to
to sell or endeavor to sell & dispose of
the Depreciation Allowance due & had
to me by this State for & on all Wages
due to me for Service in said Army, I do
hereby authorize empower & request
him the said Williams in Capacity of my
Attorney or in any other Character &
Capacity to use all lawful Ways & means
by Suit, Action or Petition to endeavor
to recover the same & to receive hold &
take for the same, in the same manner
I had or might do in my own Person or
any other proper & lawful manner, with
power of Substitution, hereby authorizing
& empowering all that he shall, or he
may lawfully do in & about any of the
Premises. In Witness Whereof I have
hereunto set my hand & seal the 9th
Day of April A.D. 1781
Gustavus Peckham
John Williams
Windham

