

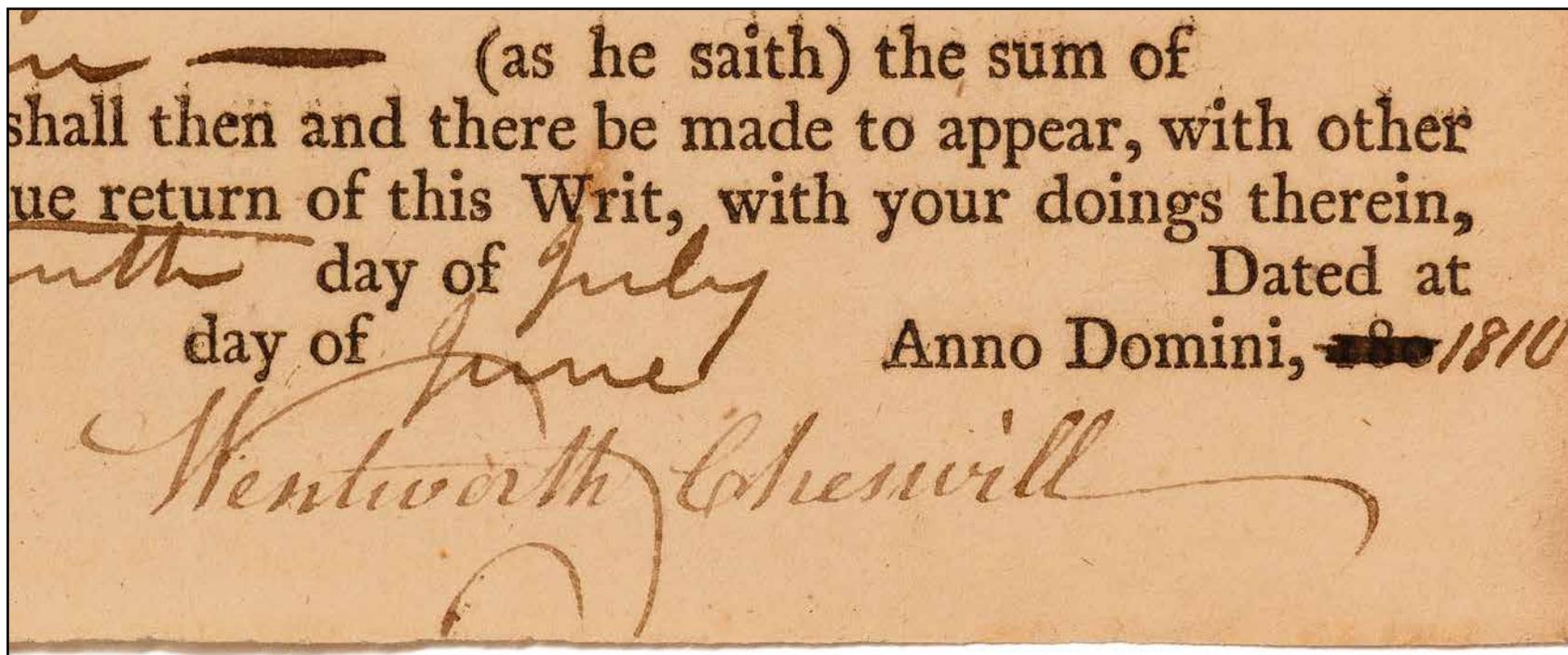


Wentworth Cheswill

(Partially printed document): Writ of Execution Signed by Wentworth Cheswill

Newmarket, New Hampshire: 1810

\$2500



8½" x 8¼". Printed form completed in manuscript with officers return and docketing notes with apper seal. Lower margin cut short affecting a tiny portion of signature, old folds with small tears, very good. A Writ of Execution to collect a judgment against Luther Barter for damages incurred in an armed oxen robbery. It's signed by the Justice of the Peace for Rockingham County, New Hampshire, Wentworth Cheswill. Cheswill is considered the first African-American ever to be elected to public office. In addition to his duties as Justice of the Peace he was a teacher, American Revolutionary War veteran, assessor, auditor, selectman and served in local government every year but one until his death. He was of mixed race, one-quarter African and three-quarters European, and listed in the census as white.

[Detailed images follow]

Cheswill was the child of Hopestill Cheswill, a free black of biracial descent (himself, the child of a slave and a white woman) who married a white woman. As a private in the American Revolution Wentworth served under Colonel John Langdon in a select company called "Langdon's Company of Light Horse Volunteers" which helped to bolster the Continental Army at the Saratoga campaign. Langdon's company of Light Horse Volunteers made the 250-mile march to Saratoga, New York, to join with the Continental Army under General Horatio Gates, defeating British General Burgoyne at the Battle of Saratoga, which was the first major American victory in the Revolution.

In addition to his civic duties and teaching, Cheswill became Newmarket's town historian, ran a store alongside his schoolhouse and has been called the first archaeologist in the State of New Hampshire.

[BTC#423746]

State of
New-Hampshire. } To the Sheriff of the said County of Rockingham, or his Deputy, or to either of the
Rockingham, ss. } Constables of *Newmarket* in said County.....Greeting.

In the name of the State of New-Hampshire, you are required to attach the Goods or Estate of *Luther Barker of Newmarket* in said County of Rockingham husbandman to the value of *twenty* dollars; and for want thereof, to take the body of the said *Barker* (if he may be found in your precinct) and him safely keep, so that he may be had before me *Wentworth Cheswill* Esquire, one of the Justices of the Peace for the County of Rockingham aforesaid, at *my dwelling house* in *Newmarket* in the County of Rockingham aforesaid, on *Monday* the *ninth* day of *July* next at *ten* of the clock in the *fore* noon, then and there to answer to *Samuel Bordman*

of Durham in our County of Strafford Gentlemen in a plea of trespass, for that the said Barker at said Newmarket on the fourteenth day of June in the year of our said 1810 with force and arms, seized, took & drove away, from and out of the possession of the Plaintiff, one yoke of his oxen of the value of sixty dollars, and then & there with force as aforesaid, and against the consent of the Plaintiff, did grievously work said oxen for a long space of time to wit for the space of twenty four hours. whereby the said Plaintiff was put to great trouble & expense in about endeavouring to find his said oxen, and his said oxen by means thereof then & there became & were greatly damaged, & lessened in value, to wit, in the sum of thirteen dollars - all which is against our peace and

to the damage of the said *Bordman* (as he saith) the sum of *thirteen* dollars, ~~cents~~, as shall then and there be made to appear, with other due damages. Hereof fail not, and make due return of this Writ, with your doings therein, unto myself, at or before the said *seventh* day of *July* Dated at *Newmarket* - aforesaid, the *15th* day of *June* Anno Domini, ~~1810~~ *1810*

Wentworth Cheswill

Rochingham to Newmarket June 25th 1810 then made
Service of this Writ by attaching it to the property of
the Debt valued at three cents and gave him a sum
on at the same time

feest 3/

Mitchell

Stephen Bordman Comptroller of
Newmarket
1810
James T. Bordman
Newmarket

Recorded July 1st 1810

to the damage of the said
dollars
has damage. Hereof full and true return of this Writ, with your doing therein.
was made, at or before the said
day of
Dated at
Anno Domini, 1810