



## Oliver Wolcott

*[Archive]: Certificate of Resolution Rejecting a Proposed Amendment to the US Constitution that would Guaranteed States the Rights to Prohibit the Entry of "Negro Seaman" and Other Free Blacks within their Borders*

Hartford, Connecticut: 1825

\$4500

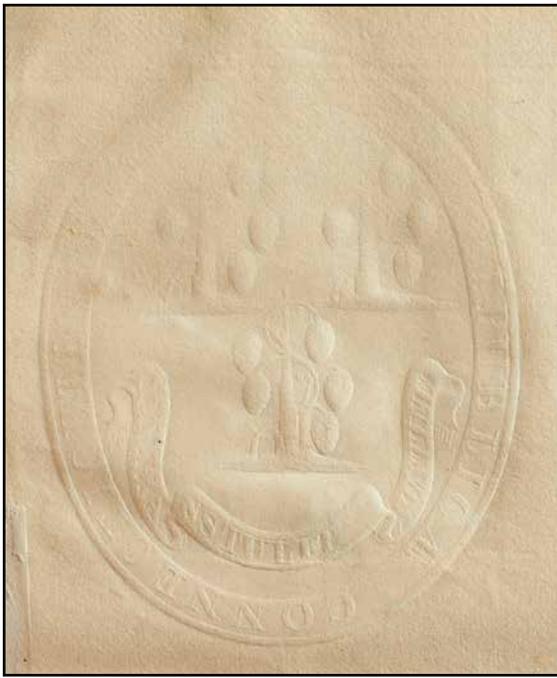
*At a General Assembly of the State of Connecticut, holden at Hartford, in said State, on the first Wednesday of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-five.*

**Resolved by this Assembly,** That the amendment to the Constitution of the United States, proposed by a resolution of the Legislature of the State of Georgia, passed December the 22d, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-three, providing, " that no part of the Constitution of the United States ought to be construed, or shall be construed, to authorize the importation or ingress of any person of colour, into any one of the United States, contrary to the laws of such State," be, and the same is hereby disapproved, by the Legislature of this State.

**Resolved,** That His Excellency the Governour be requested to transmit a copy of the foregoing Resolution to the Executive of each of the United States, to be laid before their respective Legislatures.

A true copy of record, examined and certified, under the Seal of the State, by

*Thomas Day,* Secretary.



A partially-printed two-page certificate measuring 15" x 9". It is dated June 1st 1825 and bears the signature of Oliver Wolcott, Governor of Connecticut. The certificate bears two embossed seals, and was folded and mailed to "His Excellency / The Governor of the State / of Pennsylvania / Harrisburg" with a manuscript annotation in the upper left that reads, "On Public Service." It bears a red "PAID" handstamp along with a circular, red Hartford postmark dated June 1. A manuscript "18 $\frac{3}{4}$ " cents rate marking is in the upper right, the cost of postage to send a letter up to 400 miles. Some edgwear else near fine.

The document announces Connecticut's rejection of the proposed amendment reading, "Resolved by this Assembly, That the amendment to the Constitution of the United States, proposed by a resolution of the Legislature of the State of Georgia, passed December the 22d, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-three, providing, 'that no part of the Constitution of the United States ought to be construed, or shall be construed, to authorize the importation of ingress of any person of colour, into any one of the United States, contrary to the laws of such State,' be, and the same is hereby disapproved, by the Legislature of this State."

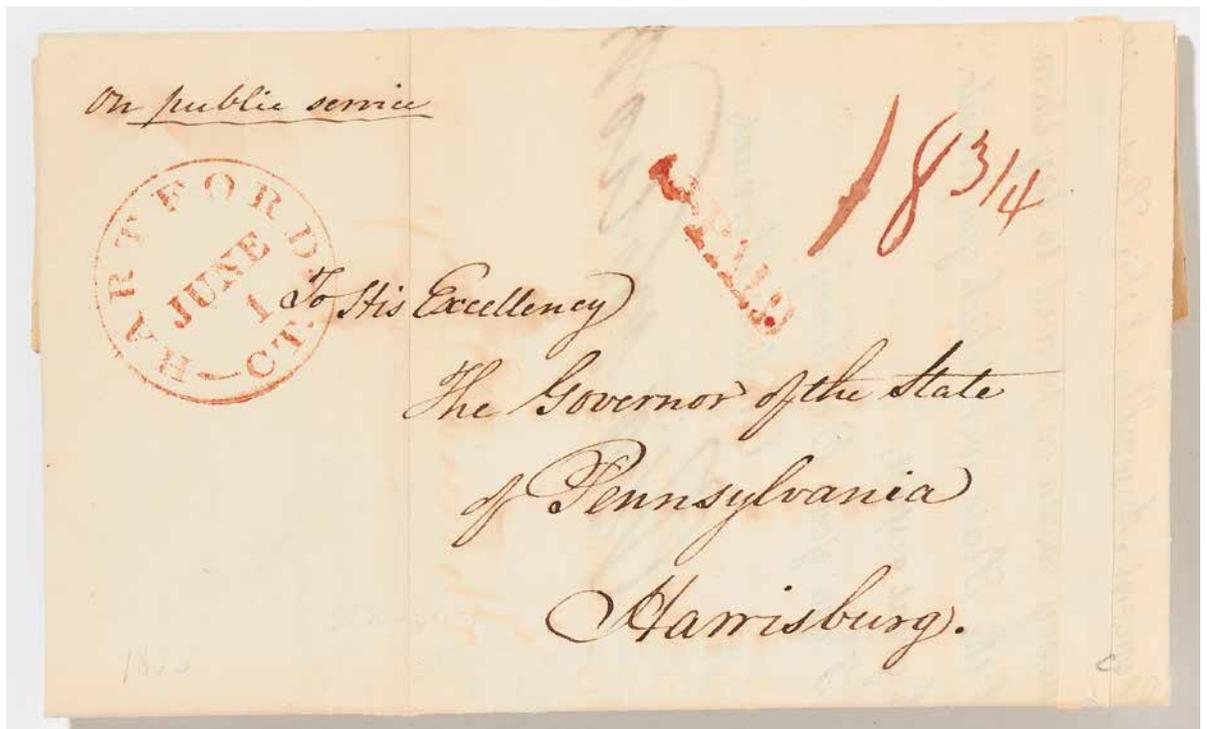
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This early attempt by Georgia to formalize the theory of nullification was prompted by the then recent Supreme Court decision in *McCullough vs. Maryland* that gutted the 10th Amendment and when coupled with *Marbury vs. Madison*, which enabled the Supreme Court to determine the meaning of the Constitution as it saw fit, caused Southern states to fear that a Northern interpretation of the Constitution's

"Commerce Clause" by the Supreme Court would overturn "Negro Seamen Acts" passed by state legislatures.

An interesting pre-Civil War document discussing changes to the Constitution which would limit travel by "Free Blacks."

[BTC#423812]



State of Connecticut:  
Executive Department, June 1st, 1825.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit a copy of certain Resolutions, adopted by the General Assembly of this State, with a request that your Excellency would be pleased to lay them before the Legislature of the State over which you preside.

With great respect,  
I am your Excellency's

Obedient Servant,

Wm. Wolcott.

His Excellency,  
the Governor of  
the State of Pennsylvania.

1825  
From your Excellency  
Wm. Wolcott Esq  
Governor of Connecticut  
to  
His Excellency  
Governor of Pennsylvania  
-his of certain resolutions of the  
General Assembly of the State  
of Connecticut, adopted at a  
session of the same held at  
the Middle States in the month  
of November 1824.  
These resolutions are contained  
in the report of the Committee  
of the General Assembly of the  
State of Connecticut, on the  
subject of the proposed  
amendment to the Constitution  
of the United States, and are  
now submitted to the Legislature  
of the State of Pennsylvania  
for their consideration.

Received at the office of the  
Secretary of the Executive  
Department - June 2nd 1825  
Wm. Wolcott

*At a General Assembly of the State of Connecticut, holden  
at Hartford, in said State, on the first Wednesday of May,  
in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and  
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