

# Antislavery Petitions MA Dataverse

Garth Griffin

<http://garthgriffin.com>

# Project goal

Curate a collection of historical petition documents and make them available publicly for scholars to easily access and analyze.

Authors: Daniel Carpenter, Nicole Topich, and Garth Griffin.

Supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities (PW-5105612), Massachusetts Archives of the Commonwealth, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University, Center for American Political Studies at Harvard University, Institutional Development Initiative at Harvard University, and Harvard University Library.

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## Antislavery Petitions Massachusetts Dataverse

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## Description and Scope

Petition: School discrimination

Original: <http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:FHCL:10670502>

Date of creation: (unknown)

Petition location: Salem

Legislator, committee, or address that the petition was sent to: Mr. Remond [Charles Lenox Remond]; John Prince, Essex; committee on education

Top signatures:

1. Stephen C. Phillips
2. Charles Lenox Remond
3. Alfred Stone
4. Sarah P. Remond
5. Nancy Remond
6. Charlotte Forten

Actions taken on dates: 1855-02-21

Legislative action: Received in the House on February 21, 1855 and referred to the committee on education and sent for concurrence

## Description

Total signatures: 115

Legislative action summary: Received, referred, sent for concurrence

Legal voter signatures (males not identified as non-legal): 50

Female signatures: 48

Other male signatures: 8

Unidentified signatures: 9

Identifications of signatories: inhabitants, legal voters, other persons, [females], [other males], [males of color], [females of color], [others]

Prayer format was [printed](#) vs. [manuscript](#): Printed

Signatory column format: column separated

Additional non-petition or unrelated documents available at archive: additional documents available

Additional archivist notes: Several reverends, mayor

Acknowledgements: Supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities (PW-5105612), Massachusetts Archives of the Commonwealth, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University, Center for American Political Studies at Harvard University, Institutional Development Initiative at Harvard University, and Harvard University Library.



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- Petition 5 (seq. 15-19)
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- Petition 8 (seq. 28-32)
- Petition 9 (seq. 33-35)
- Petition 10 (seq. 36-38)
- Petition 11 (seq. 39-47)
- Petition 12 (seq. 48-54)

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives  
of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts:

THE undersigned, inhabitants of Cambridge, respectfully request the Legislature to provide, by due legislation, some efficient means to prevent the colored children of Boston from being deprived of the equal privileges of the Common Schools of that city.

LEGAL VOTERS. OTHER PERSONS.

H. C. Halligas E. C. Nash  
W. Macke Alfred Stone  
Wm. Ives Mrs John D. Griggs  
Wm. D. Smith Mrs Wm. Sney  
Rev. Jos. M. Drives Maria A. Driver  
J. W. Driver Eliza J. Kenney  
Lydia P. Chase  
Martha C. Bennett  
Mannahet Stinson  
Sarah Hayward  
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Rev. P. Ellis  
P. W. Ellis  
Rev. J. Leonard  
G. J. Rice  
W. B. Ellis  
Mrs Thomas Cole  
Lydia H. Chase  
Eliza C. Chase  
Charles S. Key  
James Vary  
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**Topic Classification (Vocabulary)**

**Passed Acts; St. 1855, c.256, SC1/series 229, Petition of Stephen C. Phillips**  
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 Description: Petition: School discrimination Original: <http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:FHCL:10670502> Date of creation: (unknown) Petition location: Salem Legislator, committee, or address that the petition was sent to: Mr. Remond [Charles Lenox Remond]; J...Continue [+]

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**Passed Acts; St. 1843, c.5, SC1/series 229, Petition of Francis Jackson**  
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 Description: Petition: Interracial marriage, anti-miscegenation law Original: <http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:FHCL:10670411> Date of creation: (unknown) Petition location: Boston Legislator, committee, or address that the petition was sent to: Charles Fran...Continue [+]

doi:10.7910/DVNFDFEX

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**House Unpassed Legislation 1843, Docket 1230A, SC1/series 230, Petition of Francis Jackson**

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 Description: Petition: Against railroad discrimination Original: <http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:FHCL:11029510> Date of creation: (unknown) Petition location: Boston Legislator, committee, or address that the petition was sent to: Charles Francis Adams, Bo...Continue [+]

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**House Unpassed Legislation 1850, Docket 2525, SC1/series 230, Petition of Thomas Treadwell Stone**

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 Francis Jackson (60)  
 received (41)  
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**Topic Classification (Vocabulary)**

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## Description and Scope

Petition: Secession from the Union

Original: <http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:FHCL:11005504>

Date of creation: (unknown)

Petition location: Boston

Legislator, committee, or address that the petition was sent to: Benjamin D. Peck, Mendon and Blackstone; committee on the judiciary

Top signatures:

1. Wendell Phillips
2. Henry I. Bowditch
3. William Lloyd Garrison
4. Samuel May
5. Augustine C. Taft
6. Charles K. Whipple
7. Henry J. Prentiss
8. Francis Jackson
9. John M. Spear
10. Robert F. Wallcut
11. Edmund Jackson
12. Charles Spear
13. Cornelius Bramhall
14. Daniel F. Child
15. Henry C. Wright
16. W.W. Brown [William Wells Brown?]
17. Parker Pillsbury
18. Henry Watson
19. Hervey E. Weston
20. Ann G. Phillips
21. Mary G. Chapman
22. Mary Frances Robbins
23. Robert R. Crosby
24. James B. Yerrinton
25. Joseph Southwick
26. Isaac H. Snowden
27. Samuel Snowden
28. William I. Bowditch
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To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth:

The undersigned, inhabitants of the City of Boston in this State, deeply impressed with the duty and importance of such a request, earnestly request that you will immediately call a CONVENTION OF THE PEOPLE of this Commonwealth, to determine what measures shall be taken for protecting their rights and liberties, and for a peaceful SECESSION FROM THE AMERICAN UNION, for some or all of the following reasons:

I. Because a portion of the citizens of this Commonwealth, on account of the color of the skin which it has pleased an All-Wise Creator to bestow upon them, are not permitted to visit the southern States, under penalty of fine, imprisonment, or ENSLAVEMENT FOR LIFE—the Federal Government having neither the power nor the disposition to give them any protection whatever;—thus destroying the sovereignty and independence of Massachusetts as a State, and virtually reducing her entire population to vassalage under those whose chief business it is to plunder the poor and defenceless, and to trade in slaves and the souls of men.

II. Because the measures taken, in strict conformity with the Constitution, to bring these outrages to the notice of the Federal Courts, have been forbidden, under legal penalties, by the Slave States, and the Agents of the Commonwealth, specially deputed for this purpose, have been prevented from visiting and violating the laws of the United States.

III. Because the lives of our citizens of the Commonwealth are put in imminent peril at the South, if, on visiting that portion of the Union, they shall venture to exercise liberty of speech or of the press, in manly and Christian opposition to the anti-republican and nefarious system of slavery, which is there cherished, and defended by the most frightful instrumentalities.

IV. Because it is impossible for those, who solemnly maintain that "all men are created equal, and that they are endowed by their Creator with an inalienable right to liberty; to unite in political fellowship with slaveholders; for LIBERTY and SLAVERY are, and necessarily must be, utterly antagonistical to each other.

V. Because it is morally degrading and politically disastrous, as well as a glaring absurdity, for a State glorying in its freedom, to be in partnership with States glorying in the institution of Slavery.

VI. Because, by the sanction of a strong slaveholding nation to the original Union, against the solemn and repeated reprobations of the Legislature, in the name of the people of Massachusetts,—in open contempt of even the forms of Constitutional law, and without any Constitutional power on the part of Congress,—the Constitution has ceased to be any longer binding on those who were the original parties to it, and ought not to be considered as in existence.

VII. Because, even if this annexation were not a subversion of the Union, as formed in 1787, still we regard the Constitution of the United States, as to its compromises in behalf of slavery, as "a covenant with death, and an agreement with hell," which ought to be immediately annulled by a free, moral, and Christian people; and because, as long as they shall consent to it, the people of this Commonwealth will be morally and politically responsible for all the crimes and honors of the slave system.

VIII. Because, by the alliance of the North with the South, the Slave Power has been enabled to acquire the immense territories of Louisiana, Florida, and Texas, which it otherwise could not have done, and is now successfully waging a war of invasion against Mexico, for the acquisition of a large portion of that injured Republic, mainly, if not exclusively, to secure its own tyrannical supremacy over the entire country, and to multiply the number of its victims indefinitely.

LEGAL VOTERS.

*Wm. Phillips*  
*H. L. Bowditch*  
*Wm. Lloyd Garrison*  
*Samuel May Jr. (Boston)*  
*Augustine C. Galt*  
*J. Merrill*  
*Charles K. Whipple*  
*Henry J. Hunt*  
*W. H. Brown*  
*Francis Jackson*  
*D. S. Grandin*  
*Georg. M. Rogers*  
*et al*

Others  
*Henry E. Wright*  
*W. W. Brown*  
*Wm. Chapman*  
*John P. Quincy*  
*Henry Watson*  
*Myron Shew*  
*Harvey E. Weston*  
*George W. Greene (Boston)*  
*William Sharrett*  
*(See also other columns)*  
*F. B. Garrison*

*Ann G. Phelps*  
*Mary C. Chapman*  
*Elizabeth A. P.*

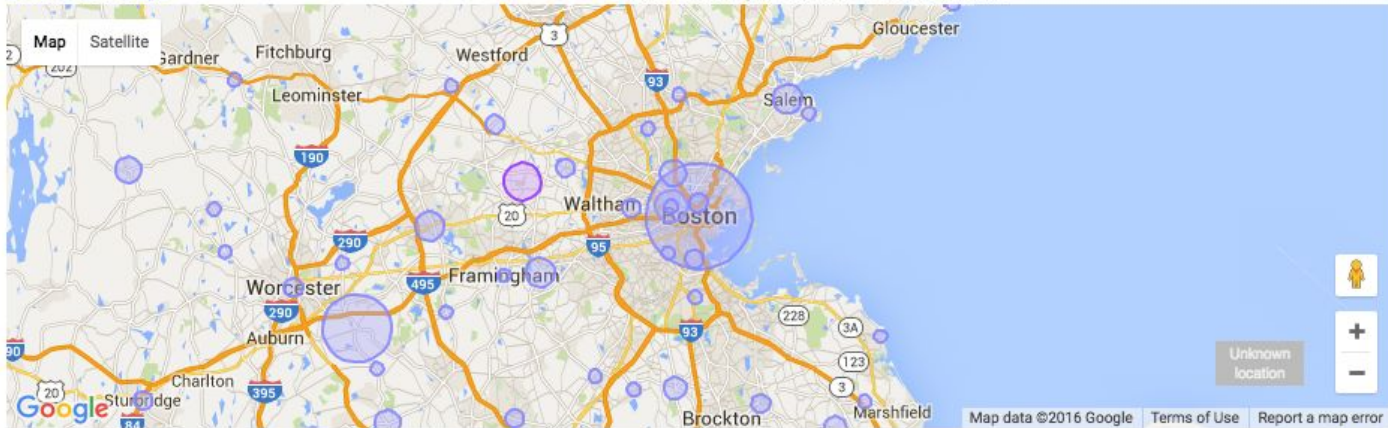


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**Anti-Slavery Petitions Massachusetts**



**Title**  
Type to filter

**Selected signatures**  
Type to filter

**Female only signatures**  
 No  
 Yes

**Date range: 1775 - 1825** 281 of 3090 rows Timeline playback ▶

Signatur	Date start	Date end	Location	Title
130	1794-06-03	1794-06-19	Newbury	Captivity in Algiers
98	1798-02-22	1798-03-02	Nantucket	Better treatment of men on whaling ships
80	1811-01-28	1811-02-01	Mashpee	Rights, liberties, and resources
80	1787-01-04	1787-01-04	Boston	Support for transportation to Africa
77	1824-05-29	1824-05-31	Boston	Measures for securing the right of suffrage
72	1807-12-01	1808-01-29	Mashpee	Indian guardians
63	1814-05-16	1814-06-07	Gayhead	Indian guardians
60	1782-10-01	1782-10-01	Berkshire	Property
59	1811-07-13	1812-01-23	Gavhead	Indian ouardians

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Anti-Slavery Petitions Massachusetts

Map Satellite

Sardner Fitchburg Westford Gloucester

### Boston :: petition details

**Support for transportation to Africa**  
Creation date: 1787-01-04  
Activity dates: 1787-01-04 to 1787-01-04  
Location: Boston  
Signatures: 80  
Selected signatures: Samuel Stevens, Brister Slanzer, Lanchester Hill, Prince Hall, Boston Smith, Ceser Spear, Prince Rand, Prince Gray, Samuel Beene  
Female only signatures: No  
Citation: House Unpassed Legislation 1787, Docket 2358, SC1/series 230, Petition of Samuel Stevens  
[View details in Dataverse](#)  
[View scanned petition](#)

**Measures for securing the right of suffrage**  
Creation date: (unknown)  
Activity dates: 1824-05-29 to 1824-05-31  
Location: Boston  
Signatures: 77  
Selected signatures: Jonathan Simonds, Ebenezer Clough, William Barry, Charles Lincoln Jr., Russell Jarvis, William Shed  
Female only signatures: No  
Citation: Senate Unpassed Legislation 1825, Docket 8102, SC1/series 231, Petition of Jonathan Simonds  
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Inspecting 64 of 281 visible rows out of 3090 total rows.

[Close](#)

Signatur	Date star
130	1794-06-04
98	1798-02-24
80	1811-01-24
80	1787-01-04
77	1824-05-29
72	1807-12-04
63	1814-05-29
60	1782-10-04
59	1811-07-04

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Author: Daniel Carpenter  
Massachusetts Archives of the Commonwealth, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University, Center for American Political Studies at Harvard University, Institutional Development Initiative at Harvard University, and Harvard University Library.



# Thank you!

<https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataverse/antislaverypetitionsma>

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Garth Griffin -- <http://garthgriffin.com>