

Mss 10

PAUL CUFFE PAPERS

SERIES A

SUB-SERIES 2

VOLUME 1

LETTER BOOK

1813

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Paul Cuffe his Letter book Westport 2nd month 25th 1813

Dear friend

Westport 2nd mo 18th 1813

Hannah Littel

Believe me that thy friendly respect toward me
when at Baltimore, has often brought thee in my Remem-
-ber = I have lately received a Letter from the London
African Institution stating their wishes, for the Africans
aid from America, in helping forward benevolent Views
in Sierra Leone in Africa, and wished to know the minds
of the Leading men of our government in uniting with
the British Government in granting Liberty for a Vess-
-el to pass from America to Sierra Leone in Africa, and
to have this Communication keep open with privilege to
carry and bring for Cargoes the Commodities of each
Country, in order to enable the proprietors or the owners
of the Vessels, to carry this business into Effect. This Com-
-munication is for the purpose to carry people of Colour to
Africa - there is several families ready to embark if
the way was open

Learnin that thou was intimate with the pres-
-idents wife, and believing thee to be a woman of influence
and well acquainted with Councilors of the federal City therefore
I wish thee to make use of such application as thou see meet and
let me know the encouragement that I may have and which
way it might be most advisable to apply, unto the government either
individually or from a body of Africans convened for that purpose
I am thy ashuud friend

Paul Cuffe

Estimable friend Westport 2nd mo 25th 1813.

John James

from a sense of duty that we owe to each other as creatures who
has often bought they ease to the View of my mind and
hearing of a woman of colour who had ben made use of in
such complaints thorough the use of which great Relief
had been obtained I Lost no time in making application
unto her which I hope thee will not take amiss

N.B. take one paper of the herbs and put in
a Quart of water (spring water is the best if to
be had handy if not make use of other) simmer them
on the fire from one hour, then strain it off and
add half pint of holands then take jell of this deduction
in one day Sweetened well with molasses
after few days increas to 2 gills and so on as it seems
to agree with thee this will be take mornings ^{midday}
and at night when one paper is used up take
the second so on untill the has gone through
the ointment is to be rubed on the part that
is most in pain rub it on with the hand taking
care to let the strokes be downwards dont heat
by the fire to dry this ointment in nor put on so
much as to be very greasy
in love to thee and family I subscribe

my self thy Affectionate friend

Paul Cuffe

Westport 2nd mo 22nd 1813

[3]

Dear and Affectionate Cousins

I Receive yours of 22nd ultimore - and was glad to find
you were in health - and highly pleased with the country
I have seen the fertility of many parts of the
Country highly flattering - but when I come to take a view of
of the substance it often brought a Great Solomenity and
gloom over a well engaged mind - you have not stated whether
true Religion flourishes in that Country - nor whether the
children of africa is Liberated from their gaulding chains of
Slavery and that of our american native neighbours
can be Received in full Communitity So as to say some brethren
come Sister let us unite in love and go up to the house of
the Lord to send the true and living God with one heart
and mind if you have found this happy Land sell
all that you have and purchase an Everlasting inheritance
therein. my Soul feels to travel for the wellfare of
my fellow creatures Both here and hereafter - Dear
cousins do not give over your engagements to serve
the true and living god - have you ever Received
your certificates

Dear Cousin Rhody Wainer we
except of thy loving and kind Advice to us and our children
and hope we may not forget thy counsel with love and
sincier desire my wife unite with me in subscribing myself
your Affectioned friend

Paul Cuffe

you have had my advice in great love and I cannot
alter do not let slip in dustry - take care of
little things but your coat according to your coat take
Early advice of the weighty Body of friends do not let
passion over ballance reason Paul Cuffe
your Relation are generally in health hoping the many friends
you are giving the same Blessing & great wood shed and kept
all his Land together Sarah Soul lay at the point of
death

Westport 3rd mo 6th 1813
Esteemed friend

John James

I have received thine of the 1st mo 30th It has had a long
passage I left all the ship's papers with A Barker for
him to examine and any correction that was necessary should
be pointed out to the in order to come to a right arrange-
ment for settlement and when done - he to furnish thee with
the balance if not exceeding \$3000 as that amount was
~~left in~~ as that amount was left in Barker's hands for
that purpose if thou and Barker has settled the ship's
business Abraham will furnish thee with the above men-
tioned sum if not please lose no time in settling as I
am desirous to know how my account stands

When B. Rathbone has furnished me with account current
of the traveller & cargo & by it I learn that her cargo
is not near so bad and we have over drawn so that there is a
balance due them of \$1400 I hope neither of us may draw
any more on the Rathbones except of the traveller or cargo unless
we have made some settlement any error that shall be
made to appear will be cheerfully rectified

I cannot at present say that I see any way clear to
enter into the great winter of misery which the two governments
have plunged themselves into but shall write unto Barker & Co
to know how far it may be advisable to undertake such a voyage
I do not wish to be obstinate but hope always to be willing
to act for the best for our interest

in much love to thee & family I am thy affectionate friend

Paul Cuffe

Estimé friends Westport 3rd mo 6th 1813 [5]
Barker & Co

I received yours of the 15th ultimo, and since have received a letter
from John James wishing my order to you authorizing him to draw on
you for the amount in your hands I answered John that I had left
the business for settlement of the ship Alpha business in your hands
and when adjusted the balance was in your hands to be drawn for if
not exceeding \$3000 and that if not done to have it done as soon as
might be, as I wished all of my business between him and me
settled as I wished to know how we stood - I have not written to
the Rathbones as I conclude there oft to be some arrangement
between John and myself before I could clearly state unto them
how to have the statement made but have mentioned to John
that neither of us may draw any more on the account of the
traveller until further settlement & with the \$3000 to be kept
for John when you think best for him to have it I am quite con-
-tious that John should have his money as soon as you think
advisable - John further mentions that of the ship taking
a freight and wished me to go in the ship, I told him at present
I could not see my way clear to undertake such an adventure
but would inquire of you how far it would be advisable
I should to know what insurance could be got for and how far
and against what risks could property be insured

John mentions of furnishing you with such accounts as
called for and that of being supplied with the sales of the
travellers cargo & he had pointed out several errors I told
him any error that was made to appear would be cheerfully
rectified he further states the balance due him of about
\$4600 which I think is a great sum for me to pay out
of so small a sum as I am in possession of

I am your affectionate friend Paul Cuffe

Westport 3rd mo 16th 1813

Dear friend

John James

Three of the 2nd ultimore ~~has been duly answered~~ are at hand
and three of the 3rd of the 1st month has been duly answered - I
do not see any way to go out with the ship with any safety
if the ship will neither sail on charter and there is no opening
for her to be sent to sea I believe she had better be sent at
Wilmington and be put in the care of James Brian in order to lessen
the expence, Abraham Barker had my order when I left
New York to remit the money in his hands, as soon as
he should find the accounts to correct - which I hope has been
done before now

I am thy assured friend
Paula Saff

Amia friend

Westport 3rd mo 16th 1813

[7]

Christ & Davis

I Received yours of the 22nd ultimore stating your wishes
to have my Little Lot of Samuwood - few days ago I
had an application for the whole of my Samuwood from
men who lived in Boston; I stated the price at \$10 per
hundred - if they do not take it you can have it at
that price I desired at proughkeeps

I do not expect to remove the wood at
present unless it will bring me \$200 per ton I know of
no other Samuwood for sale I am your assured friend

Paula Saff

P.S. the Plagues that prevail among the nation
and the sickness that our country are visited with are
loud preachings unto us be also Ready P.C.

Westport 4th mo 7 1813

Dear friend

John James

I recieved thine of ye 24th ultimore

I much unite with the in a wish for peace to take place - but it doth not look much like peace for our coasts and shores are daily approached by the great ships of war and we in preparation for building warships and that of our rulers declaring war at that hazardous moment I cannot see any real evidence that they manifest any despoⁿ to settle a treaty with england

I enclose a copy of the acct of Wm & A Bathbone By which thou wilt observe there is considerable balance Due them - in thy acct stated to me thee charged Me \$602-22 Cts which ought to be only \$322-40 Cts however when this comes in a right range I dare say we shall be able to come to the right thing it would be very Consolating to me to be at Philadelphia yearly meeting but as the times Calls so loud for Industry In preparing the ground to raise our bread the must give Me up this year - I hope thou and abraham barber hath got the ships accounts regulated and thou in the possession of thy Money before this reaches thee If it is not done please to not lose no time In doing it as I do not wish my property to lay exposed in newyork and I also wish to pay every man as fast I owe as fast as I possibly can get it and keep my family in bread - the ship alpha lays at daily expence if the expence can be lessened it would feel pleasant to me however I do but just mention it and leave it to thy superior judgment believing thou will act for the best for our Interest

I am thy assured friend

Paul Cuffe

Westport 4th mo 11 1813

Esteemed friend

Abraham Barker & Co

having received a number of Letters from our mutual friend John James stating his wishes for his payment I have Encouraged him to lose no time in settling or adjusting the Alpha accounts with you and call on you for the amount that may fall due to him if not overmounting the funds left in your hands - as I did not wish to risk it long in newyork or as it was subject to his order after settlement was made - and I wish you to forward the business so as there may be no loss sustained on either part be

Abraham & Charles went in the Ship John Quakerly of Philadelphia David Hill master owned by John Meany of Philadelphia should the ship arrive at newyork I wish you to settle there wages and place the same to acct of your friend Paul Cuffe p.s. should the ship arrive at Philadelphia I have directed John James to call

Westport 4th mo 11 1813

Please settle with and pay to abraham Barker the wages of abraham Rodian & Charles freeburg Apprenticed to me) your compliance will oblige your friend Paul Cuffe to John Meany of Philadelphia or his agent at newyork

Esteemed friend

Westport 4th mo 11 1813

John James

Thine of the 31st ult are at hand — I wrote thee under date of the 7th instant which will answer the contents of this present letter — I can say my oil that arrived at Nantucket which was very considerable part of of the voyage hath fell in such hands that I have not as yet been able to get hold of it this and the many heavy debts that I was imbricated under hath found a market for all the funds I could command — however that I do not lessen the obligation I am under to thee, and as I have left the settlement with our mutual friend Abraham Barker I wish him to be as thro' I myself was there and wish thee and him to lose no time in getting through with the settlement of the Business &c

I had 2 apprentices shipped at New York in the ship John Bulkeley of Philadelphia David D Hill master owned by John Meary Philadelphia - Voyag to Lisbon & 82nd mo should this ship arrive at Philadelphia I wish thee to settle their wages and receive the amount and please to aid of thy assured friend Paul Cuffe

friend John Meary owner of the ship John Bulkeley of Philadelphia - please settle the wages that fall due by Abraham Rodian & Charles Freebunge Apprentices (to me) with John James merchant Philadelphia thy compatriot will oblige thy friend Paul Cuffe

Date at Westport 4th mo 11 1813

Esteemed friends

Westport 4th mo 13th 1813

Swift & Davis

yours of the 5th instant are at hand the camwood are on hand I shall endeavor that you shall have the wood, but the navigation at present is so obstructed that our coasters have all stopped running if the way should open I shall send the wood on without any further order at the same time should wish to be informed what bonding it is to be landed and to whose care if there should be no opportunity to get the wood to you in a reasonable time and an opportunity offer for sale of it I shall inform you before I effect such a sale

I am yours Ever with wishing friend

Paul Cuffe

Westport 4th mo 13th 1813

Esteemed friend

John White

I received thine of the 26th ultimo

I can say fish here and hereaway are some what scarce and the prices are \$3.75^{to} to \$4 per quintle and the navigation is so abstracted with British cruizers that our courstons have stopped running so that there cannot be any conveyance at present - corn with us are \$1.25^{to} retail dull on account of the scarcity of money and the stay nation of business, people in some degree are endeavoring to make their living according to their circumstances. I had few bushels of corn few day since from New York which was very much serunk indeed if that is the general sample of yours corn it would not answer at all. I and my family are in health hoping these may find thee and thine in joying the same blessing for which I desire ever to be thankful

I am thy ever wellwishing friend
Paul Buffe

Westport 4th mo 13th 1813

[13]

Esteemed friend

Lemuel Sowl

Thou will observe from what is hereafter written that the hires of Benjamin Sowl hath prosecuted Silvenus Willcox for twenty two Dollars and six cents. which sum Silvenus Willcox saith that he has no knowledge of owing of. he further saith the fawl that he went up conty he went to Benjamin Sowl and paid him a note amount to twenty dollars or upward and at that time all of his papers was looked over for accounts and there was no other account found, that payment he expected made a full settlement if silvenus hath paid once it is very rong that he should be compelled to pay it again, rather then to go to goal silvenus has agreed to submit it to men the dates they sued from are 91 & 90 if thee can throw any light on the case it would be great relief to silvenus for he seems to be all most unable to bare up under the task as he never under went such prosecution before

I am Silvenus a sister &
as fare as truth will suport Paul Buffe

Mercifull Father I humbly beseech thee that thou wilt be pleased to enlighten my understanding that my mind may no longer be in doubt also all who have called on thy name, that they may be favored with the influence of thy holy spirit to see and understand the knowledge of the true light

As a query was put to me by two methodist preachers whether I understood english I answered there there was a part I did not understand viz.

that many persons who profess being enlightened with the true light, yet had not seen the evil of one brother professor making merchandize of and holding his brother in bondage this has often felt very trying to me, and in much love, I beg leave to lay my request before the beloved united society assembled for the methodist conference in the city of New York that they through the divine assistance may be enabled to clear this stumbling block and lighten the load that lays heavy on one who wishes well to all mankind

Paul Cuffe

New York 5th mo 10th 1812

I felt engaged that the above I should not omit carry I went unto their Bishop and then delivered him the above copied Request - I was accompanied by my friend Thomas Eddy of New York

New York 11th mo 21. 1812
Dear & affectionate friends
Thomas Clarkson & William Allen

I have duly recd your favour of the Eight month last, and being from home having not the letter by me & the present situation of the times are such that I can only give this impartial information (viz) I have met with, and corresponded with the people of colour in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore &c and it is proposed for them to form themselves into a society, for the purpose of keeping up a correspondence, with this society throughout the united States & beyond the sea wherever this concern has on may spread in some of those places, the society has met and formed some out lines for the order of the society I forwarded a Copy of your letter to the Bostonians, and they very much regretted that there was no opening for no higher number (viz) no more families, I much ~~wrote~~ ^{write} in sentiment with you that of having few families of good credit, & I think when these people come to be inspected it may be as many as they can turn out fit for our use &c I hope that the unnatural war be soon brought to an end but notwithstanding the separation of the union between the two power I trust there is that union and communion established in the pure church which no human invention can separate from the love of God may we be favoured to be member of this happy church is the sincere desire of one who wishes well to all mankind
Paul Cuffe

PS should the war continue, & the institution should feel inclined that a communication be kept open between America and Africa, by the aid of Paul Cuffe, it will be necessary that they provide a licence from the British government, & I ~~should~~ think it would be accommodated here I shall endeavor to write you as soon as I am prepared concerning the grant of the land and such other business as appears to be necessary

Westport 4th mo 19 1819

friend

Thon masters

Shine of the 28 willmore ar at hand - and was
glad to learn that the had recovered of thy bad coat
and was verrey glad to be informed the kindness of friend
James wife in being helpful to the in thy sickness
I hope thee may not be unminfull of thos kindness
when thou art restored to thy health

I am glade that thou art satisfied to continue
on board the ship Alpha and I hope the may as
long as we need a man on board - I have ment
ion to friend James whether it may not be best
to run the ship to wilmington and put her where she
may lay at a less expence but this i may submit
to his superior judgment

I notice that of thy going to School School
Learning is Lawfull and excellent Qualification
the great yoice of School Learning is to ~~improve~~
Improve it and if we give our mind to seek
after it - it will not be withheld from us
the many long even the winter past
I was in hopes the would been wise enough
to improved them to thy great advantage
All the object I have in view in mentioning
the above hint is on this account in case
of thy wages being lessened if thy need at home
calls for all thy earnings this I mention
hoping to give no offence but leave it for
thy due Consideration I have recd thy letter
from my Son Paul he is in prison

in garra and on a scant allowance and a poor
provisions ~~that~~ I hope our government may see
to an exchange be made for them or send a vessel
with provisions to their relief

Paul Cuffe

Westport 4 mth 25th 1813

Dear friends

Elisha Tyson

Notwith standing our being Separated far asunder
the Remembrance of our Baltimore friends hath often
come in to my remembrance - I hope these may find the
and thine in health as they leave me and mine for
which I desire ever to be thank full to the father of
mercy - I have recd letters from Thomas Clarkson
and William Allen in behalf of the London African
institutions - Dates from ye 6th mo 7 to 10 mo 29 1812
they contain valuable information - and from
the ~~now~~ minutes of the meetings of the institutions
they continue with unremitting zeal for the
good Cause of Africa &c

They mention in their Letter of 10 mo 29th to know
how the minds of the people leading men of the
American Government would approve of a licenced
Vessel to sail between America and Sierra Leone
after Consulting my friend Wm. Ratcliff I wrote
a letter to Hannah Little of Washington to
make use of such Carriers as she thought
Best in sounding the mind of the President
and advise me accordingly I have received no
answer from her any thing she can do in
advancing with Hannah Little &c
will be gratefully acknowledg by thy friend

Paul Cuffe

Supplement

My mind is to Render all the aid to Africa in my
power I have had communications with the people
of colour at Boston Providence & New York Philadelphia
&c in Boston they appear very zealous for the cause
and I am sure appear to wait for an opening to pass
to Africa as well as in New York in Boston they have
formed themselves into a Society in order to a fore the
in all to poor Africans should the Road to Africa
open it would be very desirable to have some of the Africa
from the Southern States who are acquainted with
Cultivation of Rice and cleaning of it and tobacco raising
and curing and farmers in general for I think Africa
would Reape great advantage in having her Lands
worked into Cotton coffee and Sugar plantations

It hath been a great Cross way to my ^{Country} ~~place~~
that of the united States plunging herself into that dread
ful vortex of misery the fruits of which hath been
Bainfull to nations -

Give my love to Jesse ^{his} wife and
other enquiring friends any Error in spelling or En-
closing please excuse as I never had an hours schooling

Paul Cuffe

Esteemed friend

Westport 4th mo 25th 1813

Christopher M^r Pherson

Some few months since being in company with Henry
Imley and entering upon the subject of the London African
Institution & they have made inquiry for persons to settle in
Sierra Leone for aiding the benevolent views of the insti-
tution for the improvement of Africa this place is settled
under the English patronage it is supervised by a governor and
consists of a court of justice as they call in laws the judges
when amounting to 24 or 20 of colour & four Europeans —
and there is a church of England a Methodist & enter-
prising and a Baptist meeting house in the town. I have
mentioned this to you & if there has any draft that way I should
be very happy to assist in all that is in my power — I have
inquired if there is any people of colour of good characters that will
understand farming — in rice tobacco cotton coffee &c that will
live in that country if so when the way opens on account of the war
their passage would be attended unto — I am a stranger unto
to you — you may inquire of W^m Rotch of New Bedford
Editor Benjamin Rush of Philadelphia Eliza Tyson of Baltimore
and write to me if worthy of your notice Excuse me
for using such a freedom with so great a stranger
but rest assured my motives are not bad

I am in sincerity thy African friend

Paul Cuffe

Esteemed friend

Westport 6th mo 2nd 1813

[21]

E. Lisha Tyson

I have duly received Thine of the 12th ult and should have
answered it sooner — but considering it to be a weighty matter
I thought it right to take the advice of my consulting friends —
William Rotch Junr and Samuel Rodman of New Bedford advised
not to apply to Congress this present session but put it off untill
the winter sitting and endeavour to obtain something from the
British government and the matter would be likely to succeed

which was the very thing that the London African Insti-
tution wished to obtain to lay before their government was
the minds of the leading men of the United States

I feel my mind some what pressed to know the right
time — I have mentioned in a letter to W^m Rotch Jr whether it would not
be trusting the subject with too much coolness to delay
the business untill next winter — I did not wish to get before the
guide nor to lagger too far behind — my thoughts are whether
— or a petition addressing the business to Congress and send to
the care of my friends for their consideration whether it
might be best to lay it in or not as they thought best I do not
mention — and shall say that W^m Rotch Jr hath great unity with
the Sentimentalists — if I get any thing important I shall right soon
in the mean time a letter from thee would be acceptable

I am thy assured friend Paul Cuffe

P S Dear friend please to see or right to Hannah Little
and let her know that I Cuffe hath received her valuable
information and feel acknowledge her kind attention
and hope her reward may be in that that tongue is not
able to express

P C

Dear friend

Westport 7th 1813

John ~~was~~ ^{very} mean

it was much unexpected to see that they would have paid
my 2 arrears their wages - for the captain was kind
my mind about - they have arrived home with no money
to any amount - so I have to leave it or call on the
concern for it be -

the discount of 17 per cent amounting to \$8.63
I think when they comes to look it over they will
have no objection in paying to my friend John
James as Capt told me his orders was to pay
a months wages in Lisbon

it appears to me the discount should be add
d to their wages

I am thy assured friend Paul Cuff

Note a Letter to John James Dated as
above Wm 8th 1813

in answer to his of the 5th 1813

Esteemed friends

Westport 8th 1813

(23)

Abraham Barker & Co

John James' Last Letter to me. States Alexander
Wilson feels the need of funds on account of
being Endorsers for him. and wished me to
give ^{order} for Alexander to call on you for
\$1000 - if Alexander Wilson can secure
you to your Satisfaction for the Payment
of the money. if in winding up the account
it do not appear to be due to John then
I have no objections for Alexander to receive
the money of you (\$1000)

I wish you to send me 4 barrels flour
by the Little Cedar Sloop Sowled & Cotton

I am your assured friend

Paul Cuff

Esteemed friend

8th mo 1st 1813

John James

I Received there Dated in 6th mo Requesting an order
for our mutual friend Alexander Wilson
to Draw \$1000 from Abraham Barker.

I Saw A Barker at Bedford he then Told
me that he on his arrival at New York would
have a regular Statement of the accounts
made out that it might stand clear what
is due they however leaving nothing from
him I have wrote Abraham Barker if the
accounts are not arranged to Let Alexander
Wilson Secure him to his Satisfaction for the money
and Pay the \$1000 to Alexander Wilson

I am thy assured friend Paul Cuffe

Esteemed friend

Westport 9th mo 28th 1813. [25]

William & Rich^d Rathbone

I have Duly received your of the 30th Nov. 1812.
favored by Capt Crocker I hope you will be able to get
the pay ment of Richard Gore I think you had better get the
best offer from him you can and settle it at that I also observe
from the amount current that it stands Balance in your favor of
£1487. 4³ which is more than I had an ~~idea~~ ^{idea} of - it
would be very Desirable to have the sales closed and ac-
counted so that John James and my self could be able to come to
Settlement undoubted by you have heard of the failure of John
and ^{if} these destroying times should hold I do not know how soon it
may be my lot. It would be very Consoling Satisfaction to me to
see the sons of Africa handsly engaged for the discipline of truth
that would attend to their happiness here and their welfare here
after if no accommodation should take place between this and the next
sitting of Congress I have a memorial prepared in order to lay before
them to Grant Liberty that may be an Equal intercourse
carried on between America and Africa and then get it appropriated by
your government I have much to regret at the unhappy situation that
our two governments are plunged ^{under} into give my love to your mother and all
the family to Thomas Thompson and family and to all inquiring friends
I am often with you in mind altho we are separated far asunder by the great
oceans and more so by the contending power but I trust there is that
union established in the members of the true Church that neither
be the froars nor thorns will be able to separate

P.S. I am your assured friend Paul Cuffe
if as will please flour is \$12 barrel 19⁸ to a barrel
to prevent any bills on \$12⁵⁰ per lb
account of the traveler taken 20th per lb
Cargo - from the ship
Balance due you I think the price European cloth has advanced ^{and} 25 per
there was no really need from me as well as the
of this caution
11th mo 11 1813

Affectionate friend

Westport 9th mo 23rd 1813.

William Allen

I duly recd yours of 29th of ye 10th month 1812 and have to regret that I never have been furnished with suitable matter to give the Sutch information as would be desirable as to the joint letters of thy self and Thomas Clarke for. I never have fully answered and cannot this time only acknowledge your and the Institution benevolent acts I hope the day is not far off. When we shall be able to put some of our plans into execution as to the Grants, if a way should open to going to Africa with people it would be very desirable but at present the subject cannot be taken up with propriety should the way open I make no doubt from the resolution of the institution but suitable encouragement would be given and every care necessary would be taken for the reception of the people &c. I have made some more towards sounding the mind of the president and he recommends an application to congress I have forward a memorial for that purpose but it has not been brought before the house, should there be no accommodation taken place between the two powers, between this and the 12th mo next I intend to go to the head Department, and petition there to let Paul Cuffe with a vessel to pass and repass to and from America & Africa with such persons as may be disposed to go and ease as may enable him to carry his voyage into execution unmolested I hope between this and that time to receive an information from three of the British Government being in favour of such a nature at least for the encouragement of the Civilization of Africa if the British government should be in favour of it I have but little doubt but it would be obtain in America I hope that peace and tranquility may be the happy experience of the succeeding year between the two contending powers for all wars are clothed with Disflouration of misery &c.

I have had to experience losses in most of my sea engagement my whale ship was condemned on the coast of Chile worth nothing I was in hopes to have been able to inform thee that the voyage would nearly cleared it self but am sorry to to say from

the last information from Liverpool from the Rathbone the cargo left with them was not all sold at that, that was sold did so bad that I believe there will be a heavy loss on the voyage - thou wilt regret that the institution do not as yet reimburse Paul Cuffe for any loss that he has already sustained but if ever our plans are carried further execution perhaps their aid would be very desirable I think a sawmill might be computed to cost about £250 there must be provision made for setting the sawmill up previous to her being carried thither I shall expect the proprietors to manage the mill I thought if individuals could be the owners of the mill so much the better I should think best not to carry wood work or not much of it only the iron work and if any such of the wood work as would be most difficult to be made in Africa a wagon such one as I think would answer the purpose would cost here about £20 I should endeavour to send or carry her out just for an experiment.

Ans^r to thy sixth query £30 per head for carrying passengers from Liverpool to Sierra Leone and they found themselves but should say it might be done for £30 from America and find then this will depend something how ^{dear} the licence will come I think ten or twelve family or there about would be proper to try the experiment. As to the three appears the friendly society of which the parents of the Lads made a part was anxious they should come with me to become acquainted with navigation science of industry I have kept them to school until this summer I took them into the field with me in order to raise ^{something} to subsist on through the winter when I intend keeping them to school again I believe if we can make shift to grapple through the storm and the Lads be favoured

to get home again it will be an excellent ^{School} ~~Lesson~~ for them selves as well as gratification to their parents & the rest of Africa.
I Long to see the increase of the ~~country~~ society in Sierra Leone with faithfullness I wish for the well fare of the friendly society when they write to them please let their address be to the Society or its clerk & be sure by making too much of one individual might draffle the minds off from the society and thereby help to weaken the good cause I am much please that the was favoured with Judge Smith company and information as well as I in Hamelton I hope that society may not fail of making shipments to them at least so far as to make returns for the goods shipped to them when they have volunteered self for their service

I have received information from the clerk of the society at Sir Leone by cartel from that place dated in the 7th mo informing me the man in whom I left my business with is dead wishing me to empower some that place to see to my business I have about £400 in that country which I hope the society will take care of I shall send a power to James Wise by way of London I hope they will please forward it the first opportunity James Wise is the clerk of the friendly society at Sir Leone may love to themselves and families hoping these may find the same thing as well as they leave me and mine tell Cornelius that his letter was truly acceptable all which brought him fresh in my memory I believe may say hardly ^{to be} forgotten I am not free to say much about the present but can just add that the gloom which to our shadow at this time seems as tho the very ~~dark~~ land were doped in morning but I hope the true church and its members will be favored to keep their plans

I am they affectionate friend

Paul Cuffe

Respected friends Westmont 9th mo 29 1813

of the friendly Society

Notwithstanding our sad separation over the great Deep is a great distance yet I am often with you in mind the desire and travel of my Soul is that we may become a godly people

I can tell you my Soul rejoiced when I saw the letter that friend Stephenson wrote to his friends that in New York put in the publick papers learning that the Society meet with him to his great satisfaction and I have received letters from the London African Institution expressing their satisfaction in having a body established in Sierra Leone through whom they can correspond this I tell you out of pure love in order to encourage you to keep the Society alive and the right way to keep the Society alive is to have living members

I should been rejoiced to have received few lines from the beloved Society and to have been informed of their continuing in their monthly meetings in order to transact such business as might come before them

Beloved friends when you meet together have great care to seek the Lord for your Counsellor then your meeting will be crowned with wisdom for he is the wonderful Counsellor - Aaron Richards George Davis and Moses Jenkins are all well - when I arrived at home I hired a School master and put the boys to School 4 months and when our winter School began I put them in School through the winter School I went to New York to carry the lumber to market last winter and George went with me we were gone about 3 weeks otherwise he was to School now Schools in our district is kept in the winter by a man but in the summer by a woman so this summer the young men hath been to work with me in order to raise something to eat now cold winter I have a fire day School kept and give the boys the privilege to go to School and to meeting but am sorry to inform you it is with too much reluctance that they are brought upon to go

however I shall keep them to School through the winter season as long as they stay with me or at least as long as I think it profitable - George Davis went out to work this summer to have his earnings he worked 2 1/2 days and returned home to me again I have given Aaron and George now and then a little pocket money but do not think it best to hurt them with money for it is said the love of money is the root of all evil if it was not for Georges temper and my passions we should get a long very well - however if the storm do not hold too long we shall part good friends upon the whole the young men be have pretty well thus far

I earnestly request the beloved friendly Society
will so far take care of my business as not to let
any thing suffer - those people indebted to me &
consider that they are holden to place me interest
on the debts after the time they become payable and
and secure me for the payments as the Society are
not an incorporated Society I cannot empower the Society
to act for me but shall send the power to the clerk
of the Society (viz) James Wise and hope the Society
will render him their aid and feel interested in
well doing - here are number of families holds
themselves as candidates to imbarke for servitude
as soon as the way opens - if there should be no
accommodation return the two contending powers before
the next setting of Congress I shall then present a
memorial to them to grant privilege for a vessel
to go to Africa unmoled and for this to be a privi-
lege by the English Government which I think
very likely they will be done

I have heard nothing about any of the men
that left my vessel nor the missionaries

Dear friends I have the pleasure to
subscribe my self your most Affectionate
friend
Paul Cuffe

Estmed friend Westport 9th mo 28th 1813 [31]

James wife Clark of the friendly society
I have Received thine of the 18th of July by the
cartel and regret very much the loss of our
esteemed friend David Edmonds as also in other
letters of Sarah Forgison and several others all
which are loud calls unto us.

I hope our beloved friendly society will feel their
minds influenced with friendly zeal that will
not suffer strangers to suffer for the wants of
friends to take of his property in his absence
if regular steps had been taken to have kept
that power of attorney alive it would have
answered every purpose however I shall make
new appointment and send forward a power
I wish thee to secure all the pay either by collecting
them and holding the property for me untill I
shall give further orders or let my creditors secure
you with bondmen - however I should wish if
you could collect in money to buy bills and send
them to William Allen of London as you are ac-
quainted with him. if it is collected in wood do
not ship it but store it for me E. J. Smith
was owing me 2 tons of wood Capt. Mc millen
was to ship it for me and I gave him Smith pro-
mefory note for the same I never ^{have} had any account
from my friends of their receiving it I wish thee
to inquire of Capt. Mc millen if the wood is not
gone get the note for the 2 tons of wood and if
it is gone take cognizance of him who it is shipped
to in England also get the Back rent of the savage
and take the other as fast as it become due

Mimmoreandom of the accounts of the bills

account of David Edmonds senior	£ 38. 11. 6	
account against Stephen Jackson	8. 11. 5	
John Hazell 4 notes sum of	73. 14. 0	
John Tobias	2. 11. 6	
Pompy young	25. 00. 00	To take from you
William Mungo	9. 11. 06	
Thomas Richards	18. 9. 5	
Eli Akim	33. 5. 0	
Eli Akim	18. 14. 6	
Worrick Frances	64. 17. 9	
David Edmond Junr	4. 7. 3 1/2	
Worrick Frances	35. 12. 2	
James Smith	2. 10. 0	
{ Cash left with David Edmond }		2. 00. 00
{ to let Zachariah have if needed }		£ 337. 16. 0 1/2

The above are a true statement of what demand I have in Sierra Leone. I am endeavouring to obtain Liberty from America and England to open the communication between this country and Africa if that can be obtain I shall be with you the next season. There hath not mentioned what has become of the men that left me in Sierra Leone nor what has become of the Missionary nor the prizes of any articles nor how the times are with you.

Aaron George & Moses are all well tell their parents. I shall endeavour to take good care of them and soon as an opportunity offers to return them home. Capt. Wainer & John Wainer are well John has got married the enclosed power of attorney is for to act for me as though I myself was personally with you. I am thy assured friend
Paul Cuff

P.S. please to give my best wishes to the friendly society and tell them if they could send some small present to Thomas Clarkson and William Allen it would show your respects towards them and I believe would be very gratifying to them if it was only some nice pieces of Calmwood and a piece of Ivory to make them a cain or two
P Cuffe

Dear friend

Westport 9th mo 30th 1813 [33]
Ann Edmonds

I duly received thine by the cartel of the 18th of July wars and rumors of wars are very prevalent through the world so that if that colony escapes of the commotion it will be almost the only place

I and my family feel a near sympathy with thee the loss of our valuable friend David Edmonds my Dear Husband.. and have to regret that the colony will sincerely feel the loss of him as well as his surviving family - but as it is appointed for all living ones to die.. he hath paid that debt and laid in the path that we must experience and it doth not matter when but the great object is to be prepared for that great and solemn change - the Lord giveth and the Lord hath taken away for that is his right and blessed be his name. I hope and trust our deceased friend hath fell asleep in Jesus' bosom where I do hope to rest

I hope these lines may find you and family in health as they leave me and my family together with Aaron George & Moses - Thomas Wainer and family are well John Wainer hath got married I shall instruct Jane wife about my business my house hold furniture I am perfectly easy about. I never have been able to learn any thing about the men that left at Sierra Leone nor about the Missionary - but if George Warren should be living give my love to him and the rest of his friends who bore his company and all inquiring friends to thyself and family. If Samuel Hicks should be living tell him I have taken care of his things and shall endeavour so to do and should like to have some information from him what is to be done with them. I am thy assured friend
Paul Cuff

Affectionate friend

Westport 6th mo 16th 1813

Hannah Little

Thine of the 5^{mo} 13th have been some time at hand I
fully feel to acknowledge thy kind aid with sentiments of
gratitude and hope thy reward will be in that which
time will only will be able to make manifest

I have petitioned Congress according to consent
I have directed the petition to the care of our friend
Elisha Tyson - (I hope thee will not take it amiss
in my placing the care on Elisha for I do not wish
to overlook thee or over burden thee) - the opinions of my
friends is that this present sitting of Congress would
be short and time would not permit my cause being
taken up at present - but as the cause had been
moved if no more were done it would show a coolness
when Elisha receives the petition and takes advice
he is at liberty to go according to advice and if it is
not presented to their sitting of Congress and there
should be any inquiry made thee on any other person
would be able to say the subject was still alive
time being short and funds small it did not appear
best for me to come on at present

I am thy assured friend

Paul Cuffe

Affectionate friend

Westport 6th mo 16th 1813

Elisha Tyson

notwithstanding I wrote thee some short time since it now
becomes necessary to write to thee again (viz) my advising
friends consent for me to commit to thy care a petition to
Congress and I wish thee to receive the petition and take
the advice of such friends as thee thinks well of and
either permit it to Congress or not at present

It has been the prevailing opinion of my advisors that
this sitting of Congress would be too short and so much

Business on hand that they would not have time
to take the cause up at present but my feelings were
such as there had been some move in the cause if
nothing was offered further there would be appearance
of coolness now if this petition should not go forward
to this sitting of Congress and the cause should be
in power to Hannah Little or any other person would
be able to say the cause was yet alive &c.

time being short and money scanty it did not appear
best for me to come on at present but at a future day
shall feel to be at the disposal of my friends

I am thy assured friend

Paul Cuffe

To the President Senate & house of representative of the united
states of america the memorial petition of paul Cuffe of west
port state of massachusetts respectfully sheweth that your
memorialist ~~has~~ actuated by motives which he conceives
are dictated by that philanthropy which ~~are~~ is the
offspring of christian benevolence he is induced to ask
the patronage of the Government of the united state in
affording aid in the execution of a plan which he
cherishes a hope may ultimately prove beneficial to
his Brethren of the african race within their native
climate In order to give a complete view of the object
in contemplation it may not be considered trespassing
too much upon your time to premise some of the lead-
ing ~~circumstances~~ ^{circumstances} which have led to the present appli-
cation - Your memorialist being a descendant of
africa & early instructed in habits of solicity & industry
has gratefully to acknowledge the many favours of a
bountifully providence both in preserving him from
many of the evils to which the people of his colour
have too often fallen into, but also by blessing his
industry with such a portion of the comforts of life
as to enable him in some degree not only to com-
municate but to relieve the sufferings of his fellow
creatures - and having early found implanted in
his heart the principles of equity and justice
he could not but view the practice of his brethren
of the african Race in selling their fellow creatures
into a state of slavery for life as very inconsistent
with that divine principle and his mature age
having been greatly ~~instructed~~ ^{taught} in the abundant
labour of many pious individuals both in this

[37]
country and in England to produce a termination of the
wrongs of africa by prohibiting the slave trade and also
to improve the condition of the degraded inhabitants
of the land of his ancestors He conceived it a duty
incombent upon him as a faithful steward of the
mercies he had received to give up a portion of his time
and his property in visiting that country and afford-
ing such means as might be in his power to
promote the improvement & civilization of the
africans under these impressions he left his
family & with the sacrifice of both time and money
visited sierra Leone and there gained such informa-
tion of the country and its inhabitants as enable him
to form an opinion of many improvements that
appeared to him essential to the well being of that
people these he had an opportunity of personally
communicating to several distinguished members
of the Royal african institution in London and he
had the satisfaction at that time to find that his
recommendations were approved by the celebrated
philanthropists the Duke of Gloucester
W. Wilberforce T. Clarkson W^m Allen & others
and has since learned that the institution have
also so far acceded to his plans as to make some
special provisions ^{to carry} them into effect one of
these objects was to keep up an intercourse with
the people of colour in the united states in the
expectation that some persons of reputation
would feel sufficiently interested to visit
africa and endeavour to promote habits of

industry strictly & frugality amongst the nations
of that country - These views having been communicated
by your petition to the people of colour in Baltimore
and Philadelphia New York and Boston they
with a zeal becoming so important a concern have
manifested a disposition to promote so laudable an
undertaking and several families whose characters
promise usefulness have come to a conclusion
if proper ways could be open to go to Africa for a
temporary residence in order to give their aid
in promoting the objects already adverted to
your petitioner still animated with a sincere
desire of making ^{the} knowledge he has acquired
and the sacrifices he has already made more
permanently useful in promoting the civilization of
Africa solicits your aid so far as to grant permission that
A vessel may be employed if liberty can also be obtained
from the British government between this country and
Sierra Leone to transport such persons and families
as may be inclined to go, as also some articles of provision
together with implements of husbandry and machinery
for some mechanic arts and to bring back such of the natives
productions of that country as may be wanted for all the
pecuniary profit does not enter into calculation in
the object in contemplation nor does it afford any
very promising prospects yet without a little aid
from the trifling commerce of that country the
expenses would fall too heavy upon your petitioner
and those of his friends who feel disposed to patronize

the undertaking - your petitioner therefore craves ^{the}
attention of Congress to a concern which appears to him very
important to a portion of his fellow creatures who have
been long much excluded from the common advantages
of civilized life and prays that they will afford him
and his friends such aid as they in their wisdom
may think best

With much respect I am your
assured friend

Westport 6th 16 1813

Paul Cuff

Westport 11th mo 8 - 1819

Dear friend

William Allen

I have had the perusal of a letter to w^m Rotch of the date ye 19th of the 4th mo also received one from the dated ye 10th of the 3rd mo I was pleased to hear of the well fare of friends in London &c and to learn that the institution still holds out for the good Cause of the advancement of Africa - I feel very desirous to render all the services I am Capable of for the Civilization of Africa - the Congress sets next month at which sitting I expect to attend for the purpose of obtaining Liberty of a neutral Path between America and Africa to meet the approbation of the British government

in viewing all men as friends " on receiving information from James wife of the death of my attorney I immediately forwarded a power to J wife in obsequious remarks in thy letter I am little thought full whether I have not exposed my property subject to confiscation if so and this letter reaches thee in time please open the letter to James wife and stop the power of attorney and give him such instructions as thee sees Best for my interest William Rotch being a man far advanced in years but of sound pragment this retired I make his son William my advising friend any Communication thou hast to state on my affairs Please to make it to w^m Rotch Jr

All that thou hast mentioned ~~thine~~ are very satisfactory to me I nearly mention this to relieve trouble of the old man it was great relief to my mind to hear of the safe arrival of P. Hornie & E. Cogswell and to hear of the well fare of Stephen Gurlitt

Dear friend

Westport 11th mo 11th 1813

William Spriggs & Sister

I hope these may find thee and thy sister in perfect health as well as the rest of my friends and acquaintance I am in health my wife is unwell it is pretty general time of health not withstanding we hear of deaths frequently all which may teach us that this is not always to be our abiding place and that we should make wiser improvement of our time. My wife Alice remembers her love to thee and thy sister and acknowledge the receiving the needles and Case together with the scissors and its Case &c. It was the greatest curiosity that ever ~~fell~~ ^{fell} into her hands she had many spectators to see such wonders as never before had been seen in the neighbourhood she further adds her pleasant feelings to you for the kind treatment you showed to her husband ~~at~~ whilst in Liverpool and desires that you will be rewarded with that treasure with which mortals nor rust will not be able to corrupt

Please remember me to Thomas Thompson his wife Francis and they to remember me to their aunt

My wife unites with me in expressing ourselves your affixed friends

Paul & Alice Cuffe

Esteemed friend Westport 5th of the 12th mo 1813

Elipha Thornton junr

I Received thine of the 3rd instant
one of the Ladds feels discouraged about
going the Voyage seems to state an
Apprehension that the English will impress
him &c — Charles freeburg concludes
to go the Voyage and if he goes the Voyage
he will have one half of his wages
and find himself cleaving — and
thou hast my consent to ship
the young man providing he is not
to be clandestinely imployed.

I am thy assured friend
Paul Cuffe

Westport 12th mo 8th 1813 [43]

Esteemed friend Josiah Braddlee

I Learn from thine of the 17th ult that from a sample
thou would be able to say what the leather would
bring I have accordingly have forward a Box con-
taining 36 pieces of Neats Leather.. which I think
is a fair sample of the leather.. which I wish
thou to sell for the most they may bring and
forward me the sales which will be sure infor-
mation of what the leather may bring

I have Invoiced 20 pieces of the like sample
for sale in Newbedford they averaged 13 2 1/2 Cents
per piece - this is the retail prices - N B these
pieces should net me \$1 per piece to make the
hides equal to what I sold them at by the Cargo

the above statement I mention for thy guide
but shall direct the 36 pieces to be sold for
the most they may bring should the demand
be encouraging I have about 400 pieces or sides
I should like to make sale of and am

thy assured friend
Paul Cuffe

Invoice of 20 Cattle hides

Consigned to the ^{care} of Peter & A Howard
for sale on account & Resque of Paul Cuffe

\$	Cents	
18 ¹³	1 40	I wish you to Recive the Box
12 ^{me}	1 40	of Neats Leather Containing
8 th	1 50	20 sides - They are Barked
	1 80	
2	00	Each side near the butt with
1	20	pen and ink the price they
2	00	are to be retailed at but
1	50	
1	12	in case any appears to take the
1	33	
1	30	whole you may make deduction
1	00	from 5 to 10 per Cent discount
1	00	
1	20	
1	20	
1	50	
1	25	
	75	
	75	
1	25	
\$	26 45	

Timothy Pickering
Much esteemed Friend

New Bedford - 12^{mo}. 12 1813

[45]

Being at this place on a visit to my connections I find that Capt Paul Cuffe the bearer of this, is about setting off for Washington to present a petition to Congress for liberty to send a vessel to Africa in the cause of civilization, and believing his undertaking, - laudable one, I take the liberty of furnishing him with this introduction to thy notice - As he will be furnish'd with letters by my Brother-in-law W^m Rotch S^r C. Gore & L Wheaton, I beg leave to refer thee to them and the petition he bears for more particular information relative to the object in view, and having much confidence in the uprightness of Capt Cuffe I shall be greatly oblig'd by thy extending such aid^{and} influence as may comport with thy judgement and convenience. - Whatever services thou mayest have it in thy power to render him will be very gratefully accepted by him and confer a particular favor on

Thy sincere & very respect-
-full Friend W^m Dean

Christopher Gore Esqr
Much respected friend

New Bedford 12th mo 10th 1813

My friend Paul Cuffe being the
bearer of a petition to Congress, which will explain
the object of his views, I take the liberty of recom-
-mending his laudable and benovolent design to thy
consideration, and if it meets thy approbation I solicit
thy rendering him such aid & influence as thou may
deem proper - My esteemed friend W^m Allen of London
has often mentioned to me the great utility the members
of the Royal African institution apprehend their
benovolent establishment had receive from the labours
and recommendations of Paul Cuffe and they are
so desirous that a communication should be kept
open with this country and Africa from the
apprehension that their views for the Civilization
of the Africans will be promoted by it they have
applied to their government for an indulgence
therein with hopes of success -

The reputation of Paul Cuffe is well establish
in the minds of his friends & acquaintances his
Zeal to promote the civilization of the inhabitants
of the land of his acceptors - has met their cordial
approbation - Whatever services thou can render
in promoting his concern will be gratefully accepted
by him as well as by thy very respectful friend
W^m Rotch Jr

Will^m Reed
Esteem^d Friend

New Bedford - 12 mo 13th 1813 [47]

Being at this place on a visit to my connections
I find that Capt Paul Cuffe, the bearer of this, is
about setting off for Washington to present a petition
to Congress for liberty to send a vessel to Africa in
the cause of civilization; and believing his undertak-
-ing to be a very laudable one, I take the liberty of furnish-
-ing him with this introduction to thy notice - As he will
be furnish with letters by my Brother-in-law W^m Rotch Esq
C. Gore and L. Wheaton, I beg leave to refer thee to them, and
the petition he bears, for more particular information
relative to the object in view, and hearing much con-
fidence in the uprightness of Capt Cuffe, I shall
be greatly oblig^d by thy extending such aid and influ-
-ence as may comfort with thy judgment and conveni-
-ence - Whatever services thou mayest have it in thy
power to render him will be very gratefully accepted
by him and confer a particular favor on

Thy very respectful Friend
W^m Dean

Laban Wheaton Esq
Respected friend

New Bedford Nov: 10th 1813

My friend Paul Cuffe the

bearer of this, has for many years been con-
-cerned for the promotion of the civilization of some
of the inhabitants of Africa and in the prosecu-
-tion of that laudable concern he has twice visited
that country and I have received several testimo-
-nials from a particular friend of mine in
London William Allen one of the active
members of the royal african institution
not only that it was his belief but also that of
Thomas Clarkson, William Wilberforce & others
of that benovolent institution. that Paul Cuffe's
assistance had been very useful in promoting
their views and they have anticipated much
advantage would result to the people of Africa
if the intercourse could be kept open with this
country & great Britain. In the last summer
they had applied to their government for that
indulgence the result of which was not
known at my last dates. P now goes to Wash-
-ington to present a petition to congress for that pur-
-pose he has already spent a great deal of time & con-
-siderable money in pursuit of his object, and wishes
the aid of a letter to aid otherwise the expence

will fall too heavy upon him. Should then a person
of his concern, I have no doubt thou wilt readily ~~afford~~
~~afford~~ afford him thy aid & influence to procure
such aid or permission from our government as
may appear proper upon this occasion and any
services thou may please to render him will be
gratefully acknowledged by thy very
respectful friend

W^m Notch Jr

Westport 2nd mo 17th 1814.

Dear friend

James Potter

understanding that there was at my house desirous of being informed about my going to Africa the result of my applications has not as yet been obtained when I know the result I shall endeavour to give the and Every person timely information

and in the meantime I should like to

have the names of all those who may wish to go to that country that we may make arrangements according to their convenience and reception

I am thy assured friend

a

Paul Cuffe

Westport 2nd mo 17th 1814.

[51]

Dear friend

Cato Sawyer

I this day received thine of the 11th instant & note the contents the petition has passed the senate and the Legislature I had it lay in the house of Representatives and whether it will find its way through the house of representatives or not I cannot tell if the petition is granted by the united states I must then have to obtain permission from the British government and this could not be effected until next fall all which would be a very good season of the year on account of arriving there in the dry season. I am happy to learn that you are desirous to render your aid to Africa the place of my departure from the united states is at present unknown the terms for passengers who are well recommended will be favourable

as to the great advantage that we may be to our mother country and its inhabitants or they to us are as yet unknown but for this many years I have had my mind turned towards that country believing that if some sober steady people could be willing to go to that country in order to moralize and paternize the inhabitants of Africa it would attend greatly to the civilization of that country there by the peoples minds might be prepared to receive the principles of truth that might attend to their present and further betterment

Think by our industry in settling that country and opening a trade from that country to this and to have connections in both countries we might be of great gain and place our children in the country of their origin upon a level with our neighbours the white Brethren (viz) they become their national Representatives their merchants and their navigation and becoming a national body so as to be the heirs to the Legislature and until such time that we become a nation capable representing our nation together to other savers we shall always labour under that narrow prospect that has been so long hanging over heads that the people of colour are not capable of business but this however must be a work of

Time but be of good cheer for has made all nations of one blood and they who do well will be rewarded accordingly.

I can just add that I ~~must~~ meet with the people of color in Baltimore Philadelphia and New York then they concluded to form a small society of good characters in order to correspond with the African Institution in London African Ancestral Whores and also to receive applications from those who are willing to go to Africa and upon Examination if found worthy to give to them certificates and they thus presenting the certificate the will be open for their conveying any communication that may be of service to the from me. I shall at all times be willing to serve the in this way.

I am with sentiments of due

I am your
most obedient
humble servant

Paul Cuffe

Esteemed friend

Westport 3rd mo 9 1814

Samuel R. Fisher

I have received the letter that the directed to me from Christopher Gore and by that as well as the papers, find that the bill was rejected in the Committee of the House of Representatives, and the referred to a Committee of the whole House and since I have got no further information

The inclosed is a full Power authorizing me to take Charge and have full Control of my half Part of the Ship Alpha fully believing that you will do the best for my interest I talked with William Rotch^r he thinks it not a proper time to sell her at Present I talk with James about sending a man on to take Charge of the Care of the Ship but as yet have found none I am thy affec^d friend Paul Cuffe

Westport 3rd mo 9 1814

Esteemed friend Richard Allen

I hope by this time your Society has been all
Regular formed - I met with the people of
Coulbourn at New York they appeared very zealous
for the good Cause of Africa and concluded
to form them selves into a Society for the same
purpose of that in Philadelphia

I have also talked with Richard Johnson
and he seems to be some what cool on the
subject the mentioned to me a bout but with
nothing with standing he will authorise me to as far
as one hundred dollars and no further
I reached my home on the 17th ultimo and found
my family as well as usual Give my love to thy
wife and the family as well as all inquiring friends

I am thy assured friend Paul Cuffe

~~I expect~~ I expect you have had all the
information about obtaining liberty
for Africa as I can give as it has all gone
in the papers

Esseme friend

Westport 3rd mo 4th 1814

55

John James

I arrived home on the 17 ult and found my family
as well as usual - and hope these may meet thee and
thine in health and all inquiring friends

the next terms that I can get a man to
undertake upon, to come on to Philadelphia and
take care of the Ship is at \$26 per month
and he wholly employd in our service, otherwise
he will come on, on the same conditions that
John Masters now attends (viz) \$13 per month
for the Ship & \$10 for the wry and take the
Chance in further opportunity of getting goods
for himself - he finding himself - an answer
to this by mail will be looked for & expected
And I have impowered Samuel R. Fisher
to be the Sole Controller of my half of the
Ship Alpha: So any conclusion that thee
Comes to with him would be as thro I myself
was present in person - I hope this will meet
thy cheerful approbation

I am thy assured friend Paul Cuffe