

HEARTMAN COLLECTION
TEXAS SLAVE TRADE DOCUMENTS

BOX 1

FOLIO 3

ITEM 1

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
HOUSTON, TEXAS

Republic of Texas } No the Honorable the District Court
Washington County } for the County aforesaid.

Your Petitioner John M. Boston, Respectfully represents to your honor that himself and Lucinda M. Boston, alias Gethin of the County aforesaid, were on or about the day of December, in the year of our Lord One Thousand eight hundred and thirty seven & without the sanction of this Court legally married; that each party at the time of their intermarriage was possessed of some property & sufficiency both in money and economy to maintain & support their family in comfort & decency; He represents to your honor that they lived in conjugal peace and harmony for six or eight months, until all his means were exhausted in supporting the family & she having several children by a former marriage; about which time your Petitioner was attacked with a severe spell of sickness, which rendered him for several months entirely unable to support the family by bodily labour; that in this state of infirmity and debility he made repeated and frequently solicitations to his wife for leave to use some of her means in support of their family; which reasonable request she positively & promptly refused; at the same time refused your Petitioner that care, comfort and attention which his weak and distressing situation imperiously demanded; and this condition left him until his recovery; He further represents to your honor that she hindered her negroes, and disposed of her property otherwise; without his knowledge or consent; and utterly refused either to suffer him to control any part of her property, or to claim any assistance from it in support of the family; till this unjust, unchristian and reproachful conduct your Petitioner was compelled to bear month after month, still labouring, and incessantly to support the family, under a hope his wife would return to her duty & obligations; but to his sorrow and regret her cruel and reproachful conduct increased in violence; she finally drove him to leave the country; your Petitioner finds his situation insupportable and that it is impossible that they can ever live together in amicable peace and harmony; that his said wife is incorrigible in her disobedience to him; she therefore prays your honor decree divorcing them from the bonds of "vinculo matrimonii"; she prays that she be cited to answer this Petition within the time prescribed by law; and more particularly that she be compelled to answer categorically on oath, Did you not positively refuse to suffer the Plaintiff in this case to use any part of your property to support your family? -

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Did you not prohibit him from having any control of your Nees
or other property? Did or did you not authorize of your industry
without his knowledge or consent? Did you not in an angry &
approachful manner repeatedly order him to leave you & your
return? Do you believe there is a prohibition of your em-
living together with any prospect of conjugal harmony?

He knows what other and further relief is from the circum-
stances of his case & your honor shall deem meet.

And your Petitioner to all pray
Petitioner Do. Pl.