

To his Excellency Robert Hunter Esq. Captain General and Governor in chiefe in and over Her Majestys Province of New York and New Jerseys and of all the Territorys and Tracts of Land Depending thereon in America and Vice Admiral of the Same

The humble Petition of Sarah Robins a Free born Indian Woman

Sheweth Unto your Excellency that your Petitioner is a Native of this Her Majestys Province and was born of free parents[,] hath lived great part of her time upon Long Island with one John Parker of Southampton[,] and by him was turned over to One John Week of Bridgehampton on the said Island who turned her over to Captain Robert Walters of the City of New York[,] but on what Account she knoweth not[.]

The said Robert Walters upon the first day of January last caused your Petition[er] against her will to be Transported unto the Island of Madeira in Order to be there sold for a slave [. B]ut after her arrival in the said place upon her application to the English Consul and declaring that she was a Free subject[,] the said Consul so procured that Captain Peter Roland[,] who brought her into the said Island[,] should bring her back again to this Colony[,]

she having before refused to be made a free woman if she would have turned to the Roman Catholik [sic] faith and be therein baptized[.] And your Petitioner being still in fear that she may be further Imposed on and at some time or other Craftily conveyed to some other part of the World under the Notion of a slave[,]

she Doth therefore in most humble manner pray that the said John Parker[,] John Week[,] or the said Robert Walters may be put to prove their Title to her as a slave[. A]nd if they fail therein Then she humbly prays your Excellencys Protection whereby she may be suffered to live quietly and safely in this her Native Country as a Free born subject of the same[.] And she as in Duty bound shall ever pray[.]

Written c. 1711 Punctuation has been added.

To whom is this document written?

What type of document is this?

What is Sarah Robins' legal status? _____

How do the men listed here treat her?

Why did Sarah Robins send this document?

What choice was Sarah given to be made free?

What does Sarah ask of the reader of this document?

When was this written? _____