

Dinah Chase Whipple

Prince Whipple married Dinah Chase in 1781. Dinah was also enslaved, and like him, she was educated and could read and write. She was granted her freedom on their wedding day. Prince was granted his freedom in 1784. A few years after their marriage, the couple was given a small piece of land in Portsmouth where they built a house. In 1806, Dinah opened the Ladies Charitable African School in their home. It was the first school for Black children in New Hampshire. She taught at and ran the school until she retired 1832.



Fun Fact

In the very famous 1851 Emanuel Leutze painting of George Washington crossing the Delaware, the third man in the front of the boat is supposed to be Prince Whipple. That is not him! He was not with George Washington when he crossed the Delaware.



Prince Whipple

The Fight for Freedom



Prince Whipple was born in Africa, but lived in Portsmouth, NH as the slave of William Whipple, a member of the Continental Congress representing New Hampshire.



When He Was Young

Prince Whipple was born in Africa around 1750. When he was a young boy, he was taken from his home and brought to America, where he was enslaved. At only 10 years old, he was bought by William Whipple, a merchant and slave trader from Portsmouth, NH. Prince became William Whipple's personal servant. Unlike most enslaved people at the time, he was given an education and learned to read and write.

Military Aide



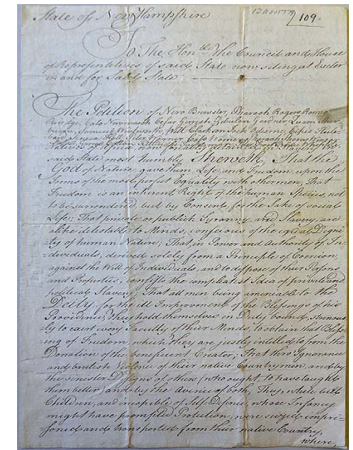
Prince's owner, William Whipple, was a member of the Continental Congress and one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, the leader of the New Hampshire Militia, and was at many Revolutionary War battles. As his personal

servant and military aide, Prince traveled with him and helped with important business during the war. Before leaving for the battlefield in Vermont, Prince is reported to have said to his owner, *"You are going to fight for your Liberty, but I have none to fight for."*

Prince's Fight for Freedom

After William Whipple retired from the Second Continental Congress in 1779 and returned to Portsmouth, Prince Whipple began the fight for his own freedom.

On November 12, 1779, Prince Whipple and 19 other enslaved men in Portsmouth wrote and signed the Petition of Freedom, asking New Hampshire leaders to end slavery in the state. In their letter, they declared that their freedom came from God and that no one had the right to take it away. However, the New Hampshire Council and Legislature took no action, and the men remained enslaved. Prince Whipple was granted his freedom in 1784, and four other men were freed before their deaths. Slavery was not officially abolished in New Hampshire until 1857.



In 2013, 223 years after the petition was first submitted, New Hampshire Senator Martha Fuller Clark resubmitted the petition. This time, it was unanimously passed by the state Senate, legally freeing the 14 men who had died still enslaved.