

GEN MSS 1294  
Connecticut Legal Documents Collection  
Box 3  
Folder 14

*Bias Stanley Papers 1796-1854*

H

AFFAIRS OF BIAS STANLEY (COLORED) OF NEW HAVEN AND ESTABLISHMENT OF  
COLORED CHURCH HERE.

- 6 drafts of inscription for tomb of Bias Stanley.
- 9 drafts of inscription for tomb of Margaret Stanley.
- Letter from A. G. Beman to Deacon Bias Stanley; New Haven, March 7, 1843.
- Last will and testament of Bias Stanley, Nov. 12, 1833.
- Passport for Bias Stanley signed by John Jennings; Philadelphia, Oct. 11, 1796.
- Letter recommending Bias Stanley by Fitch Wheeler; New Haven, Jan. 8, 1823.
- Letter recommending Bias Stanley by Lyman Atwater; New Haven, Aug. 7, 1832.
- Certificate of character for Bias Stanley, signed by 14 people.
- \* Letter from Simeon S. Jocelyn to Biars Stanley; New York, Oct. 31, 1834.
- Letter from Richard Augustus to Tobias Stanley; New York, Aug. 21, 1841.
- Agreement between Timothy Dwight and Bias Stanley; April 14, 1817.
- \* Agreement between African United Society and Rev. Simeon S. Jocelyn; Nov. 7, 1825.
- Remarks of Mr. C -----, Jan. 13, 1826.
- Proposal for a Society to prevent Slander.
- Constitutional Articles of the African United Society of New-Haven; Oct. 21, 1824
- \* *Separate cards made at request of Mr. Foster Rice.*

In memory of  
Bris Stanley  
born in Chester Pennsylvania  
died in New Haven Connecticut  
August 22. 1854  
aged 85

Deacon of the Temple Street Church  
of Colored People  
to which after faithful service  
during many years  
he devoted the earnings of his life

"The hoary head is a crown of glory  
if it be found in the way of righteousness"

In memory of

"

Bias Stanley,

"

born in

"

died in New Haven, Aug. 1854,

"

aged 82.

"

For many years  
Deacon of the Temple St.  
Church of Colored People.

Deacon of the  
Temple Street Church  
of Colored People:

<sup>in</sup>  
~~In~~ life

to which, after faithful  
service during many years,

its faithful supporter:

he devoted at last

<sup>in</sup>  
~~In~~ death

his ~~whole~~ estate.

its liberal benefactor.

"The hoary head is a crown of glory,  
if it be found in the way of righteousness."

"

"

Above are two inscriptions, but on the whole I am inclined to prefer yours for  
its brevity, except that I prefer to begin "In memory of." I have given the desig-  
tion not the ~~right~~ <sup>real</sup> name of the Church.

In memory of  
Bias Stanley  
born in  
died in New Haven  
August 25 1854  
For many years  
Deacon of the African Church  
its faithful servant  
&  
its liberal benefactor  
He devoted his estate to its support

ECH. Dec. 1855.

In memory of  
Ben Stawley  
born in Chester Conn.  
died in New Haven Conn.  
August 22. 1855  
aged 85

after years of faithful service  
as Deacon of the Temple Street  
Church of Colored People  
He devoted to their benefit  
the earnings of his life

"The hoary head is a crown of glory  
if it be found in the way of righteousness"

Epitaph

Epitaph of  
Ben Stawley  
(Colored) of  
New Haven  
and a faithful  
member of  
Temple Street  
Church of  
Colored People

In Memory of  
Margaret  
wife of Deacon Bias Stanley  
died in New Haven Conn.  
November 12. 1861.  
aged 81.

Thoughtful for her people  
she generously completed  
her husband's charities,  
and bestowed her savings  
on her church and on  
poor widows of her color.

"The daughters of my dispersed  
shall bring mine offerings"

On the third tablet

---

This worthy colored couple,  
walking together in the fear of God  
for more than 50 years,  
by industry and frugality  
saved near ten thousand dollars,  
which they gave to Christ  
for the education of youth  
and the support of his church  
among their people.

In Memory of  
Bian Stanley  
born in Chester Pennsylvania  
died in New Haven Connecticut  
August 22. 1854,  
aged 85.

Deacon of the Temple Street Church  
of Colored People  
to which after faithful service  
during many years,  
He devoted the earnings of his life.

"The hoary head is a crown of glory  
if it be found in the way of righteousness."



Epitaphs

In Memory of  
Bian Stanley  
born in Chester Pennsylvania  
died in New-Haven Connecticut  
August 22. 1856  
aged 85

Deacon of the Temple Street Church  
of Colored people  
to which after faithful service  
during many years,

He devoted his whole estate  
the earnings of his life.

"The hoary head is a crown of glory  
if it be found in the way of righteousness"

In memory of  
<sup>wife</sup> Margaret  
relict of Deacon Bria Stanley  
born in  
died in New Haven Connecticut  
November 12. 1861  
aged 81

Careful for her people  
and completing the charities ~~of her husband~~  
of her husband  
she gave her property  
for their poor widows  
and their desolate ones.

"The daughter of my dispersed  
shall bring mine offering"

In memory of  
Margaret, widow of  
Deacon Elias Stanley  
died November 12. 1861  
aged 81

Caring for her people,  
especially for those of her own sex  
~~filling up the measure of~~  
and <sup>continuing</sup> completing the charities  
of her departed husband  
she gave her property  
for their welfare

"The daughter of my dispersed  
shall bring mine offering  
Leviticus 3. 10

Caring for her people  
and completing the charities of her husband  
she gave her property  
for their widows and desolate ones

Epitaphy,

Miss Mee

Thoughtful for her people,  
she generously completed  
her husband's charities,  
and bestowed her savings  
on her church, and on  
poor widows of her color.

Thoughtful for her people,  
she generously completed  
her husband's charities,  
and gave her savings  
to <sup>her</sup> church and  
to ~~the~~ poor widows  
of her color.

For third tablet

<sup>coloured</sup>  
This worthy couple,  
by industry & frugality,  
saved nearly ten thousand  
dollars, which they devoted  
to the cause of religion  
and humanity.

In memory of  
Margaret,  
relict of Deacon Elias Stanley,  
died in New-Haven Connecticut,  
November 12. 1861,  
aged 81.

Careful for her people,  
especially for those of her own sex  
and <sup>completing</sup> continuing the charities  
of her departed husband,  
she gave her property  
for their <sup>benefit</sup> welfare.

"The daughter of my dispersed  
shall bring mine offering."

~~Zephaniah 3 Chap. 10 verse.~~

A. G. Berman  
8 vols of tracts from Church  
1843

Deacon Elias Hunt  
Barnes



New Haven March 7<sup>th</sup> 1843.

Deacon Elias Stanley

Dear Sir:— The church after listening to your statements about the money belonging to it, and also your resignation of the office of Treasurer, and request that an other should be appointed in your stead, to whom you might hand the funds belonging to the church. Voted That the thanks of the Church should be presented to you for the faithful manner in which you had discharged the important trust committed to you so many years since; and at the same time permit us to hope, and pray that the evening of your days may be serene and peaceful so befitting the close of a long and virtuous life; and that while you still linger in our midst, the Church and Society which has so long been and object of your solicitude and toils may still share largely in your fervent prayers for its spiritual prosperity; and in your munificent benefactions for its temporal welfare. In what you have done, and what you shall do may the blessing of Almighty God rest upon it, and cause that many souls shall be saved through it as crowns of your rejoicing and trophies of Redeming Grace.

By Vote of the Church

W. Beman. Pastor



By vote of the Church Deacon Luke Lathrop  
has been appointed Treasurer, to whom you  
will hand the remaining funds, and the notes  
of which your report spoke.

W. B. Beman

In the name of God Amen.

I Elias Stanley of the City of New London, being  
of sound mind, do make this my last  
will & testament, that is to say, ~~After~~ After my  
Just debts & funeral expenses are paid  
I give & bequeath to my beloved wife Margaret  
& to her heirs & assigns, for ever, all my estate  
both real & personal; & do hereby constitute  
the sd. Margaret Executrix of this will.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set  
my hand & seal this 12<sup>th</sup> day of November  
1733, in presence of the subscribing  
witnesses, ~~who witness~~ the same in  
presence of the Testator & of each other.

Sarah Smith  
Witness  
Nathan Smith.

B. Stanley

Miss Langley

Miss

City of Philad.<sup>a</sup> Is

Permit the bearer Stanley Dias a free black  
Man to pass to Corrells Ferry in Bucks County  
unmolested, he behaving with propriety.

Given under my Hand & Seal the 11<sup>th</sup> October 1790

John Jennings  
Alderman



Pass. 1796

New Haven January 11th 1832

I have boarded with Dr. Stanley for  
the best part of a year, I have never  
witnessed, at his table any extravagance  
or excess in eating or drinking, or at his  
House any conduct inconsistent with  
purity of decorum or strict morality  
Nor do I believe that he would consent  
to be served at his House that would  
not be proper at every other place

John Wheeler

This May Certify that I am well  
acquainted with Mr. Starbuck & any what  
ever he agrees to he will perform  
Respecting his Cows Lyman Sturtevant  
New Haven August 9<sup>th</sup> - 1832

Das<sup>t</sup> Warner Red says merit  
or Das<sup>t</sup> Freeman Jones M Freeman



Bartholomew

38  
3  
4

102  
25  
9  
          
136

102  
5  
34

To whom it may concern  
I hereby certify, that I have been well acquainted with Bias  
Stanley of Newtarn, a coloured Man, for about twenty years  
one half of which time he has lived in my family;  
that for ten years, I have also been well acquainted with  
his Wife Margaret, who has lived in my family, that  
they have several years ~~they have~~ kept house, and  
often entertained Boarders.

I further certify, that they are persons possessing  
estimable characters, for morality and good conduct;  
and that they have always kept an orderly and  
good boarding house. Newtarn N. S. January 1823  
Isaac Mills

I cheerfully write in certifying that the facts contained in  
the above and foregoing Certificate are true.  
M<sup>rs</sup> Isaac Mills

We hereby certify, that we have been acquainted  
with Bias Stanley & Margaret, his wife, for many  
years, that their characters stand fair, and  
we have never heard any thing against either  
of them  
Nathan Smith  
Mr. W. C. Chan

David Daggett

Chs. Denison

J. D. Wright

Geo. Hoadly

Signs Street

Bias Stanley lived with my father more than a year his wife more  
than 6 and I believe them perfectly trustworthy in every respect  
both as to their morality and sobriety and I never knew any deviation  
from strict propriety.  
Mary Anne Hoadly

M<sup>rs</sup> David Daggett

This may certify that I have  
been acquainted with Byars Stanley  
for the last eight years & have never  
known or heard of any conduct of his  
or his wife inconsistent with a Christian  
or that would in any way implicate  
his moral character

New Haven  
Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> 1822

Nathan Smith

The subscribers have not heard of  
of any disorderly conduct at the house  
of Byars Stanley nor any impeachment  
of his moral character or of Margaret  
his wife - Elisha Munson

Leverett Griswold

We have the satisfaction to say we have lived in  
Mr Stanley's house nearly 2 years - the next door  
to his own dwelling - & have always observed a general  
propriety of conduct in his family -  
and have frequently heard Mr & Mrs Stanley say  
they would not allow any impropriety of conduct  
in any of their boarders - & have frequently been  
in the house at the time the boarders were  
at meals, when I have remarked the decorum  
& order of his house - Ann & F. Miller

W. V. Jocelyn  
1834

Deacon Bias Stanley  
College St  
New Haven

Mr. Erney

New York Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> 1834

Mr. Biass Stanley

Dear Sir

The bearer Mr. Isaiah Erney has an important invention which I have with other friends advised him to go to New Haven and shew to Professor Olmstead and to President Day and Professor Silliman to get their opinion upon it. The engine he takes with him, and as it will be very convenient for those gentlemen to see it at your house. I have advised Mr. Erney to call and see if you can accommodate them a day or two in your family. We hope that it will be found that Mr. Erney's invention will be of great service and <sup>it</sup> will help the reputation of the colored people to have one of their number make any important improvement in the Mechanic Arts. My regards please to give to Mrs. Stanley. Respectfully

Truly yours  
Simon S. Schayer

Peckham August 11  
1841

Mr Tobias Stanby  
New Haven  
Ct

New York Aug 25<sup>th</sup> 1841  
Mr Tobias Stanley } Dear Sir I write  
this to introduce to you Mr Leuchford  
Leoni an oppressed Brother from  
North Carolina. I became acquainted  
with him in May last and find him  
every way worthy of sympathy and place  
the fullest reliance in his Statement  
by affording him any assistance which  
may in your power you will oblige

Yours Sincerely

Richard Augustus

African United Society  
agreement with New Haven  
Society for Safety &

MS Vault  
New Haven  
Deeds box 1



This agreement made and entered  
into between Mr. Simon S. Jocelyn on the  
one part and the African United Ecclesiastical  
Society's Committee on the other part all of  
New Haven Witnesseth

That whereas the said Simon S.  
Jocelyn hath accepted a call from the above  
Society as their minister thereupon he  
doth covenant and agree to supply the desk  
the first and third Sabbaths in each and every  
month and perform the ministerial duties  
of the Society for the term of one year beginning  
on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sabbath in Sept. 1825.  
And the said Committee on their  
part doth covenant and agree to pay said  
Simon S. Jocelyn the sum of fifty Dollars  
in quarterly payments

In witness whereof we have set  
our hands this 7<sup>th</sup> day of Nov<sup>r</sup> 1825

In presence of

Prince Duplex  
John Lishon

Simon S. Jocelyn  
Bias Stouley  
Wm Larnen  
Prince Cooper  
Scipio C. Augustus  
Wm D. Sady

It is hereby agreed between Timothy Dwight &  ~~Tobias~~  
Bias Stanley that the said ~~Tobias~~ <sup>Bias</sup> shall have the lot belonging  
to the late Dr. Dwight, standing on the Hartford Turnpike, for  
the coming season, for the purpose of tillage, on the following  
conditions. Timothy Dwight shall furnish half the seed  
& he shall furnish the manure & cart it on to the lot  
~~Tobias~~ <sup>Bias</sup> shall do all the work, such as plowing, planting,  
weeding, hoeing, &c. furnish half the seed, spread the manure  
& gather all the crop on the field. The crop shall be divided  
equally between the two parties, & each party shall take  
home his share of the crop. → J. Dwight

Bias x Stanley his mark

New-Haven

April 14 1817.

Journal Dwight  
Leave of 4th 1867

*[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. Some words like "Dwight" and "leave" are faintly visible.]*

of Mr. H. H. [unclear]  
of [unclear] 1867

1<sup>st</sup> C..... Remarks. That the Episcopalians and Methodists were deprived  
of any privilege in the union Society ~

Thought it very important that those of his order should continue  
in the same mode of worship and doctrine as himself ~

That he had been very much disappointed with regard to the  
conduct of the union Society — ~~that~~ <sup>because they</sup> (meaning the Episcopalians  
and Methodists) had not had a fair proportion of the use or worship  
in the house ~

That we objected to have a colored Minister ~

That the union Society could not be called a Christian Society  
because the Sacrament was not administered there ~

That he was very much surprised at the observation made by the  
Baptist Ministers — to have the communicants partake of the  
Sacrament at their respective Churches or where they had been  
in the habit of so doing — because they (meaning the Baptists)  
did not commune with any Christians but those of their own  
order ~

New-Haven 13<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1826 ~

*[Faint, illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]*

Remarks

112

18th. Jan'y. 1826

9  
to the Church — The question has long  
been in agitation to know how peace and  
happiness ~~in the Church~~ may be secured in  
the Church — some of us have thought it our  
duty to form ourselves into a society for  
the purpose of putting a stop to slander  
and back-biting in the Church — It has  
often been remarked, that the sin of inter-  
ference was the prevailing evil of this Church  
It may be to some extent but not half so  
much as the sin of slander — we can hardly  
trust each other, some will pretend friendship  
till they get something to set the fire of  
malice agoing which generally goes through  
the whole Church, we wish to prevent  
this and for that purpose would form  
ourselves into a society with some thing  
like the following rules — The members  
of the society shall pledge themselves to  
abstain from speaking of the faults of ~~the~~<sup>the</sup>  
brethren or sisters. except to the offender  
himself — They shall not be busy bodies  
meddling with affairs which do not strict-  
ly concern themselves — Hints or insin-  
uations calculated to make unfavorable  
impressions toward a brother or sister  
shall be considered an offence — The mem-  
bers of the society will not hold fellowship  
with those persons who are guilty of these  
things let their circumstances in life  
be what they may — we feel that we  
are all liable to err in this respect and  
we wish to guard against it ourselves  
and discountenance it in others — with  
these views we subscribe ourselves  
friends to peace and happiness in the  
Church

Prepared for a Society to  
prevent Slavery

~ Constitutional Articles ~

~ Of The ~

African united Ecclesiastical Society of New-Haven

Preamble

We the Descendants of Africans residing in New-Haven being desirous of improving the morals Promoting Piety and increasing religious knowledge among us: - do hereby form ourselves into an Ecclesiastical Society on the following Constitutional Principles

1<sup>st</sup> This association shall be Denominated "the African united Ecclesiastical Society of New-Haven"

2<sup>d</sup> The Society shall consist of all Persons of African Descent of lawful age who shall subscribe this association and shall have hired seats in the house or shall annually pay into the Treasury such Sum as may be agreed upon them by the Committee

3<sup>d</sup> The annual meeting of the Society shall be in the month of December at the time and Place Designated by the Committee at which meeting a Moderator Clerk Treasurer and a Committee of not less than five to take care of the Prudential concerns of the Society shall be chosen and the Committee when chosen may call special meetings

4<sup>th</sup> The Society when convened on due warning may make such rules and regulations as they may deem proper or necessary for the benefit of the Society not contrary to or inconsistent with this Constitution

5<sup>th</sup> As the object of this association is to unite the efforts of all Denominations of Christians amongst us in the Support of Public worship and with that view Messrs Stanley Wm. Sanson and Prince Cooper have lately purchased a convenient house for Public worship for the Sum of Six hundred and have paid in Part and secured the rest Payable in one year with interest and have expended about twenty Dollars in repairs and now hold the Same in trust for the use of said Society Provided they refund them the Purchase money with the interest when due: and it is hereby Declared with the Consent of said Trustees that the said house is open to all Denominations of Christians so long as the interest of the Purchase shall be made to them and when the Principal and



interest shall be paid the said house shall be to belong to said  
Society and to prevent interference and to give to each Denomination  
a fair Proportion of the use the same shall be under the Superintendance  
and Control of the Committee whose duty it shall be to procure  
Breaching every Sabbath when it can be done and it shall be the  
duty of all the members to attend and worship devoutly in the house  
of the Denomination at any time using the house ~  
6<sup>th</sup>

The Ships in the house shall be annually rented in such  
manner as the Committee shall Direct ( Provided the highest sum  
on any Ship or Pew shall not exceed five Dollars) and the avails applied  
to discharge the interest and Principal of the Purchase till  
the same shall be discharged - after which they shall be applied  
to defray the ordinary expenses of the Society ~  
7<sup>th</sup>

The Committee may from time to time assess the members of  
the Society in such moderate sums in proportion to their several  
abilities as they shall find necessary to defray the current  
expenses ( Provided the Committee shall in no case assess any  
individual of said Society more than three Dollars per  
annum) and further no member while in arrears for his assess-  
ment shall be entitled to vote in any Society meeting ~

In witness whereof we subscribe our names ~

New-Haven 21<sup>st</sup> October 1821

Constitution of Ecclesiastical Soc<sup>y</sup>  
October 21. 1824

MS Vault  
New Haven  
Deeds: Box 1