

Petition of John Robinson, of White Island,
sunshine, D.I.
State of Massachusetts Bay

To the Hon. Council & Hon. House of
Representatives of said State, setting in Boston
Nov. 19, 1777 -

The Petition of John Robinson of Robinson's Island in the
county of Lincoln, Mariner, humbly shews

That for several years past, your petitioner has lived at the
Eastward of said Robinson's Island, during which time the
principal part of his employment from his thorough
acquaintance with the harbors contiguous has been to pilot
& safe conduct into Port, any American Vessels that needed
his assistance. - That he [has] been since the
commencement of these present difficulties peculiarly active
in piloting the many privateers, which are continually
cruising about said Island into different harbours, & very
often into a convenient one of said Island which is adjoining
to his own possessions. That said Harbour is the continual
resort of Privateers, & where in general they supply
themselves with wood and water. That he lately has entered
on board the Washington Privateer & been a cruise against
the enemies of the united States of America - Your Petitioner
begs leave further ahow that about five leagues distance
from said Island there is an island called Cranberry Island,
the harbours of which are exposed to, & frequented by the
British Ships of War in their different Cruises against these
States. - That since this has been known to be the situation
of said Island, a certain Andrew Herrick of a public inimical
disposition to the cause of America which your Petitioner is
ready to prove, has moved his place of residence from a
town, named Naskeague situate on the Main, in the County
of Lincoln aforesaid & contrary to the advice of his friends
hath situated himself upon the outermost shore of said
Cranberry island, with a profest design of trading with the

enemy of which said harbour is never entirely deserted. - Your petitioner is ready further to prove, that owing to the uniformity of your Petitioners conduct in favor of America, & the continual representations of said Herrick, his Name has become conspicuous among the enemy & his possessions with his life have been repeatedly threatened - That sometime since he was alarmed with the appearance of the enemies barges, mann'd & accoutred, with a profest design of burning his buildings & destroying his estate, & had it not been for the assistance of the crew belonging to a privateer which at that time fortunately lay at Anchor in the Harbour, he, his family & his substance must have inevitably perished - T[hough] this attempt was made by the enemy, & after the exchange of several shots thro[ugh] his house, by which the lives of his Wife & Children were greatly exposed, the same cause prevented the execution of their second design, excepting the loss [of] some live stock from his Farm - Your Petitioner begs leave also to show that about three months since going on board the Privateer called the Active, commanded by Captain Gardener, with a design to pilot said ship into the Harbour of Robinson's Island, & save her from one of the enemy's ships of War, of larger force, & with whom she was then engaged, & must have struck to, from the ignor [?] of the adjacent Shores, having effected his purpose, he mentioned to the said Gardener, the said Herricks Character & Situation, who when made acquainted with the circumstances manned a barge, under the command of his Lieutenant to visit said Herrick. Upon his arrival, being asked by said Herrick who he was, & rec[eiv]ing for an answer "a barge in the Service of the King of Great Britain, the said Herrick then & there, in order to be at that time protected, produced a protec[?] which he had received from one of the British Ships of War (which is ready to [be] produced to your Honors) the Commodore as he then said, & further the said Her[rick] declared he had at different times traded with the British Fleet & always had [re]ceived his money for his Cattle & other things which he had made articles of Merchandise" & immediately offered the

Lieut. a bullock – Since this Expedition fr[?] the threats of the said Herrick & the Enemy, your petitioner has been obliged [to] fly from his possessions with his wife & family & leave exposed a large farm, great quantity of Stock & Provisions - Your Petitioner therefore, from his own peculiar situation, which is five miles from any habitation, from the profest inimical disposition of said Herrick & the power he is now in possession of & exercises to distress & destroy your Petitioner & the inhabitants living upon the neighboring shore, & for the allegations herein contained, which many stan[d]

ready to prove, earnestly prays your Honors that the said Andrew Herrick may be sent for immediately to answer to the above assertions, & that he may be remov[ed] from his present situation, & from the power of acting in direct opposition to the cause of his Country - and as in duty bound shall ever pray

John Robinson

In Council Nov. 26, 1777 Read & thereupon Resolved that John Taylor Esq wi[th] such as the Hon'ble House shall join be a Committee to consider the above Petition & report what is best to be done there on

Sent down for Concurrence

Gn Avery D Sec

In the House of Representatives Nov. 27, 1777
Read & Concurred and M Greenleaf & Capt. Batchelder are joined

G. Warren Spkr

Taken from "Documentary History of the State of Maine"
Edited by James Phin Baxter Vol. XV. Portland, Maine 1910