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To his Excellency the Governour, and Council
and Representatives, now sitting in Boston
the humble Petition of John Parker, & Joseph Parker
of Andover Sheweth,

That whereas our mother Mary Parker of Andover, was apprehended upon suspicion of witchcraft, and being brought to a tryall at Salem Court, was condemned: since her death the Sherriff of Essex sent an officer to seize on her estate. The said officer required us in their majestys name to give him an account of our mothers estate, pretending it was forfeited to yr King; we told him that our mother left no estate; (which we are able to make appear) notwithstanding which, he seized upon our Cattell, Corn & hay, to a considerable value; and ordered us to go down to Salem and make an agreement with yr Sherriff, otherwise the estate would be expos'd to sale. We not knowing what advantage the Law might give him against us, and fearing we should sustain greater Dammage by yr loss of our estate, went to the Sherriff accordingly, who told us he might take away all that was seized, if he pleas'd, but was willing to do us a kindness by giving us an opportunity to reddeem it. He at first demanded ten pounds of us, but at length was willing to take six pounds, which he has oblig'd us by Bill to pay him within a month. Now if our mother had left any estate, we know not of any Law in force in this Province, by which it should be forfeited upon her condemnation; much less can we understand that there is any Justice or reason, for yr Sherriff to seize upon our estate. And tho' it is true our own act has oblig'd us to pay him a Summ of money, yet we declare that we were drawn to it partly by the officers great pretences of Law for what he did, partly to prevent yr loss of our estate which we feard would be immediately sold. Now we humbly pray this Honored Court to consider our case, and if it be Judged that so much money ought not to have been demanded of us, upon the forementioned account: we pray that we may be discharged from that obligation, which the Sherriff, taking advantage of our ignorance hath brought us under. And yr Petitioners as in Duty bound shall ever pray &c.

Dated at Andover
9th Novemb. 1692.

John Parker
Joseph Parker

M^r Joseph Parker?
Folcom 1692

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