

Supplemental Reading:  
Petition by Paul Cuffe, et. al. to the Massachusetts legislature, 1780

To the Honorable - the Justice of the Court of General [Sessions?] of the peace begun & held at Taunton within and for the County of Bristol the Third Tuesday of December AD 1780.

Humbly therewith-- That Your Petitioner John Cuff Indian man & Paul Cuff a minor Indian man, sons of Ruth Cuff Indian woman Inhabitants & Residents with in the Town of Dartmouth in said County were & are Taxed Rated and assessed as well for their and each of their polls as for estate & legal & personal in the State Tax, County and town taxes of said county & town in the respective years undernamed and mentioned in the several & respective sums following ...

... The said John Cuff for the year of our Lord 1777 his Poll Tax in the state rate being twenty shillings, & his poll tax in the town rate, one shilling and one penny. & the said Paul Cuff in the said State Rate one pound, a Poll Tax, & another poll tax in the town rate one shilling & one penny in said year and further the said John and Paul Cuff were rated & assessed jointly a poll tax of forty shillings in two several State Taxes in the year ...

... The said John & Paul swear further in the year 1779 John & Paul Cuff were Jointly Rated a State Tax for poll tax £ 20.0.0 & for Real Estate £ 9.16.10, 2/9, & also in a Town Taxed year jointly for Poll tax £ 7.15.8 and for Real Estate three pounds fifteen shillings, & eight pence and another tax for poll jointly £ 20.0.0 & for real estate £ 9.18.9 and further the said John & Paul were jointly rated in State Tax in the year 1780 a poll tax at £ 40.0.0 & for Real Estate £ 21.18.4 and in a Town Rate same year jointly for Poll £ 10.0.0 & for Real Estate £ 5.10.0 and further the said John & Paul were jointly rated for the year 1780 a State Tax being for Poll £ 0.10.0 & and also for Real Estate jointly, 6/11, 3/4, & for personal estate & also for another town rate in said year for Poll Tax & Estate real & personal the like years as the last mentioned, and also another Town Rate Jointly in a Poll Tax Tax £ 0.12.2 & for Real Estate £ 0.9.2 & for personal estate £ 0.0.10 and also in another Town Rate in paper money ...

... The said John & Paul further suggest to your Honour that they are Indian men and by Law not the subjects of taxation for any Estate Real or personal And Humbly Pray Your Honour that as They are Applied Jointly a Double Poll Tax & this said Paul is a minor for whom the said John is not by Law Answerable or Chargeable that the Poll Taxes aforesaid and also all and Singularly Taxes aforesaid on their and Each of their Real & Personal Estate aforesaid may be Abated to them & they allowed their Reasonable Costs and as in Duty Bound shall pay.

John Cuffe  
Paul Cuffe

Full original petition can be found [here](#).

Questions:

What does this symbol mean: £?

What is the purpose of this written appeal?

Did this appeal succeed?

Why would “Indian men” not be “the subjects of taxation for any Estate Real or personal?”

How does this appeal in 1780 relate to the other events happening around the same time period?