To the Honorable the general assembly of the State of North Carolina

The Humble petition of John Dennis Scott, a freeman of Color of the County Wake respectfully represents; that your petitioner was born a slave, and in that capacity served his master, as he believes, faithfully for a number of years: that your petitioners master being satisfied with the earnings he had received, & believing your petitioners conduct had been meritorious, some years past, applied to the Superior Court of Wake & obtained permission to liberate your petitioner. Leave that time your petitioner has purchased his wife & his only son, then a child, both of whom were slaves, & has in consequence of her good behaviour obtained permission to liberate her, but was unable to obtain the permission as respects the boy, on account of his tender years; leaves which time, the power has been taken from the Court by an act of the legislature.