

Adjournment of March Meeting held April 11th
at 6 O'clock P.M.

mett according to the adjournment and voted
to reconsider the 7 article voted that the Selectmen
be authorized to survey the Common according to
the deed of Samuel Jones to the Town of Acton
and report at the next meeting

2 article taken up and voted to excuse Sumner
Blood from serving as highway surveyor and chose
James Tuttle in his stead and was soon before
me Saml. Potter Sec^y & Town Clerk

10th article taken up voted to take up the preamble and
resolution and act upon them separately voted to accept
the ^{preamble} by striking out the word (cut throat and) voted to
adopt the preamble and each resolve separately as they
now are reported from the Committee with the
exception of (cut throat and) voted that the Town
Clerk and James S. Woodbury get these resolves printed
in all the papers they shall think best that will print
they free of expense and the Town Clerk are to record
these resolves and preamble an attested copy

Preamble

Whereas the United States Congress at its session in 1850
at the bidding of Slave holders and apparently for the promotion
of Slavery enacted a law for the recovery of Fugitive Slaves which
deprives the accused of those means of defence which the Constitution
allows to the most abandoned villain in the land and is so
manifestly inglorious and unconstitutional as to create
doubts in the minds of lovers of Freedom as to their duty in
obeying said law

And whereas public Opinion is the espouser of all Laws
enacted by an Elective Government Therefore we the Citizens
of Acton feel it our duty to express in this public manner
our views of this as we believe unjust and despotic Law

Resolves

Therefore Resolved that we sons of the puritans and descendants of that patriotic land who with Capt Isaac Davis and other kindred spirits on the nineteenth of April 1775 made the first organized resistance to the armied power of the mother Country while attempting to enforce oppressive laws in that war which led to the independence of these States feel it to be a duty we owe to the memory of our Fathers that we owe to ourselves to our descendants to our Country and to our God to record our solemn protest against said laws.

Resolved That although we justify our Fathers in their resistance to the oppressive acts of the Government of England we would not be understood as advocating forcible resistance to our government or any of its despotic laws, believing there is still power with the People at the ballot box to cause their rights to be respected and to effect the repeal of all unjust and oppressive laws and when selecting men for our rulers if we had more regard for principle than for party and when depositing our ballots if we would be guided more by the dictates of reason and the welfare of our race than by designing politicians and a corrupt party preference should have less reason to complain of unjust laws and less fear of losing our liberties.

Resolved that the act for the recovery of Fugitive Slaves with its summary process its irresponsible tribunals its violation of habeas Corpus and jury trials its disregard of the ordinary rules of evidence and its temptation to bribery is an abomination without a parallel in the annals of our Government.

Resolved That the apparent compromise and agreement between the advocates of chattel Slavery and the monied interest in sustaining the Fugitive Act and kindred measures should be a stimulus to all lovers of Freedom and the rights of man in uniting to sustain all measures which tend to advance the cause of human liberty and maintain our inalienable rights.

Resolves

Resolved That a compliance with the act for the recovery of Fugitive Slaves would be in opposition to all our cherished ideas of the Declaration of independence our bill of Rights and our moral duties as accountable beings. And that we would sooner suffer the pains and penalties that might be inflicted upon us for refusing it our aid than to be guilty of hindering a Fugitive from oppression in regaining and sustaining that liberty which we believe to be of more value than gold.

Resolved That as friends of liberty and well wishers for the peace and prosperity of our Country we believe that a rigorous enforcement of this law instead of cementing our bond of Union and stopping all agitation on the subject of Slavery will and should awaken the friends of human rights to increased activity and that our duty as lovers of our Country and our race should impell us to use all the means in our power for the repeal of this as we believe unwise and wicked Law.

Notes that this warrant be dismissed

Attest Daniel Webster Esq. Your Clerk

Then personally appeared Daniel H. Handley Albert Heyward Ephraim Oliver Luther B. Jones Isaac Reed Samuel Jones Charles Robbins Horace Tuttle John H. Robbins Samuel Horner John Hapgood George Wright Simon Hapgood Luther Billings Mr. Lyon and made oath they would faithfully and impartially perform the duty of highway surveyors the ensuing year
Attest April 12 1858

Before me Daniel Webster Esq. Justice of the Peace