To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Maine in Legislature assembled:

The undersigned, in behalf of themselves and of the people of color resident within the town of Portland, respectfully represent that the people whom they represent are desirous of forming themselves into a religious society for the purpose of public worship and to be incorporated for the purpose of enabling them to receive a deed of a lot to erect a house of public worship thereof. And your petitioners are advised that inasmuch as they have no meeting house or place of public worship and cannot therefore give the notice required by the provisions of the statute, Chapter 135, they cannot avail themselves of the mode pointed out of making an application to a justice of the peace and incorporate themselves. Your petitioners therefore respectfully pray that the legislature would grant them an act of incorporation and such other privileges and immunities
There are 54 members that belong to this society, but they are not all present.

James Lewis
Chairman of the Society
as in the wisdom of the legislature will comport with the just rights of all the citizens and afford encourage-ment to the children of and depressed people desirous of receiving their precepts and among their fellows men. And

We the undersigned do hereby give notice that a respectable number of the colored people of this town who have formed ourselves into a religious society assembled at the house of Mr. Clendenin Whorton on the 15th instant and after the due deliberation we then proceeded in regular order and chose a committee to act in the behalf of this society consisting of five persons. It was then legally voted and unanimously agreed by the whole body present that this society should be called the Abyssinian Society.

Ephraim Small
Titus Shilling
Clement Shingoro. Committee
John Sigs
Reuben Ruby
as in the wisdom of the legislature will comport with the just rights of all the citizens and afford encouragement to the children of oppressed people, delirious of securing their proper rank among their fellow men. And as in duty bound will ever pray.


Ephraim Small
Twen Shillings
Committee

Clement Thompson
John Sigs
Reuben Ruby
In Senate January 31, 1828

Read referred to the Com[e]t on Pamphlets sent down for examination.

Robert P. Ainsley, Prst.

House of Representatives
February 2, 1828

Read and concurred

Mo. Weeks, Speaker.
Petition of E. H. Small & ab, praying for an Act incorporating them & their associates, into a body politic, with all the powers & privileges usually granted to societies incorporated for religious purposes.