Petition of E[phraim] Small & als,
praying for an Act incor-
porating them & their asoci-
ates into a body politic
with all the powers & pri-
ileges usually granted to
societies incorporated for
Religious purposes.

J. L. Meggnier

Parishes &c -

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Represent-
atives 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 Port-
land 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 of land to erect a house of public
worship thereon. 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 in-
corporate themselves. Your petitioners therefore re-
spectfully pray that the legislature would grant them an
act of incorporation and such other privileges and immunities

as in the wisdom of the legislature will comport with the just rights of all the citizens and afford encouragement to the children of a depressed people. desirous of resuming their proper rank among their fellowmen. And as in duty bound will ever pray.

Portland Jan^{y} 17. 1828.

Ephraim Small
Tutor Shillaber
Clement Thompson
John Sigo
Reuben Ruby

} Committee

as in the wisdom of the legislature will comport with the just rights of all the citizens and afford encouragement to the children of a depressed people. desirous of securing their proper rank among their fellowmen. And

We the undersigned do hereby give notice that a respectable number of the coloured people of this town, who have formed ourselves into a religious Society assembled at the house of Mr Clement Thompsons on the 16th instant, and after 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 Phillips
Clement Thompson. } Committee
John Sigs
Reuben Ruby

In Senate January 30. 1828

Read & referred to the Comt on Parishes &c Sent down for concurrence.

Robert P Dunlap jr Pres.t

House of Representatives
February 2 1828

Read and concurred

Jno Ruggles Speaker

STATE OF MAINE.

In Senate February 5th 1828

The Committee on Parishes &c to whom was referred the Petition of Ephraim Small and others praying that

the People of color resident in Portland may be incorporated into a society for public worship &c —

have had the same under consideration, and ask leave to Report, that the Petitioners have leave to bring in a Bill which is herewith submitted

Joel Miller Chairman.

STATE OF MAINE.

Senate Feb. 10, 1826.

The Committee on Engrossed Bills report, that they have examined a Bill entitled An act to incorporate the Abyssinian Religious Society of Portland

and find the same truly copied from the original.

Chairman.

Power Jr on order

STATE OF MAINE.

House of Representatives, Feby 14 182 8

The Committee on Bills in the third reading, to whom was referred a Bill entitled an Act to incorporate the Abyssinian Society

ask leave to Report the same with out amendment

Andrew Le. Emerson Per Order.

State of Maine

House of Representatives July 15. 1828

The committee on engrossed Bills have strictly examined a Bill intitled "an Act to incorporate the Abyssinian religious Society of Portland" and report the same correctly engrossed —

by order of the committee

A. Holbrook

Chap 60 424

Bill to incorporate the Abyssin-
-ian Society —

1828

Mr. Meggnier vote Answe
recm^d. on Friday next 11 —
Members pres^t. 20 —

Concurred in engrossy

3 Reads Tuesday 10 A.M.

State of Maine —

In the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty eight —

An act to incorporate the Abyssinian[A] Society[B] —

Sec 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in Legislature assembled, That Ephraim Small, Titus Skillings, Clement Thompson, John Sigs and Reuben Ruby, with their associates and successors, be and hereby are incorporated into a body politic, by the name of the "Abyssinian[C] Society[D]"; with power to sue and be sued; to have a common seal and change the same; to make any by-laws not repugnant to the laws of this State; to take by gift, grant or purchase any estate real or personal to the amount of ten thousand dollars; and to give grant or bargain and sell the same; and shall have all the powers and privileges incident by law to parishes and religious societies —

Sec. 2. Be it further enacted, That the first meeting of said corporation, shall be holden at such time and place, and be notified in such manner, as the majority of the persons herein named may direct —

In Senate Feby 8th 1828

~~This Bill was received & second reading refused~~

This Bill having had two several readings passed to be engrossed

Sent down for concurrence

Robert P Dunlap Pres.t

House of Representatives

February 14th 1828

This Bill having had three several readings, passed to be engrossed as amended in sundry amended marked II. Sent up for concurrence

John Ruggles Speaker.

State of Maine —

In the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty eight —

An Act to incorporate the Abyssinian[A] Society[B] —

Sec 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in Legislature assembled, That Ephraim Small, Titus Skillings, Clement Thompson, John Sigs and Reuben Ruby, with their associates and successors, be and hereby are incorporated into a body politic, by the name of the "Abyssinian[C] Society[D]: with powers to [illegible]

named may direct —

In Senate Feby 8th 1828

This Bill was received & read a second reading & passed

This Bill having had two several readings passed to be engrossed

Sent down for concurrence

Robert P Dunlap Pres,t

House of Representatives,
February 14th 1828

This Bill having had three several readings, passed to be engrossed as amended by the Committee on Religious Societies and Libraries as amended by Section I. annexed and marked II. Sent up for concurrence

John Ruggles Speaker.

II

In the title at A Insert — 'Religious'

In the title at B Insert — 'of Portland'

at C the end of fifth line Insert — 'Religious'

at D after the word Society in the sixth line Insert "of Portland'

In Senate February 15th 1828

The Senate do further recede from their former vote as to concur with the House in passing this Bill to be engrossed as amended

Robert P Dunlap Pres't