

**Order for Removal of Joseph Shuerden and his family from Portsmouth back to Middletown. The Shuerden family was living in Portsmouth without the permission of the Town and was not paying taxes.**

**Dated 4/12/1790 PHS #1700.030**

To the Sergeant or either of the Constables of the Town of Portsmouth and to the overseer of the poor of the town of Middletown in the county of Newport and the State of Rhode Island, & to each and every of them, greeting.

Upon the complaint of the overseer of the poor of the Town of Portsmouth, in said county of Newport, unto the Town Council of said Portsmouth that Joseph Shuerden, Abigail Shuerden, his wife, Mary Shuerden, aged about five years, Martha Shuerden, aged about three years, and Caleb Shuerden, aged about one year, their children, has come to inhabit the Town of Portsmouth, having not gained legal settlement therein, nor produced any certificate owing them selves settled elsewhere, and that the said Joseph, Abigail, Mary, Martha and Caleb Shuerden is become chargeable to the said Town of Portsmouth. We the said Town Council upon due proof thereof made as well upon their documentations of the said Joseph and Abigail as other wise. And otherwise upon due consideration had of the premises, do adjudge the same to be true and we there wise adjudge that the lawful settlement of the said Joseph, Abigail, Mary, Martha and Caleb is in said town of Middletown in the county of Newport, state aforesaid.

We therefore require you, the true sergeant or constable of the Town of Portsmouth aforesaid, some or one of you to convey the said Joseph, Abigail, Mary, Martha and Caleb from and out of the Town of Portsmouth to said Town of Middletown and them deliver to the overseer of the poor thereof, or to the same or one of them. Together with this our order or a true copy thereof at the same time showing to them the original and we do also hereby require you the said overseer of the poor of the said Town of Middletown to receive and provide for them as inhabitants of your town. Given under my hand and seal of the Town Council aforesaid, this twelfth day of the month called April, A.D. 1790, and fourteenth of Independency.

By order of Council

[Signed by:]

[Abraham/ Abram] Anthony, Town Council Clerk