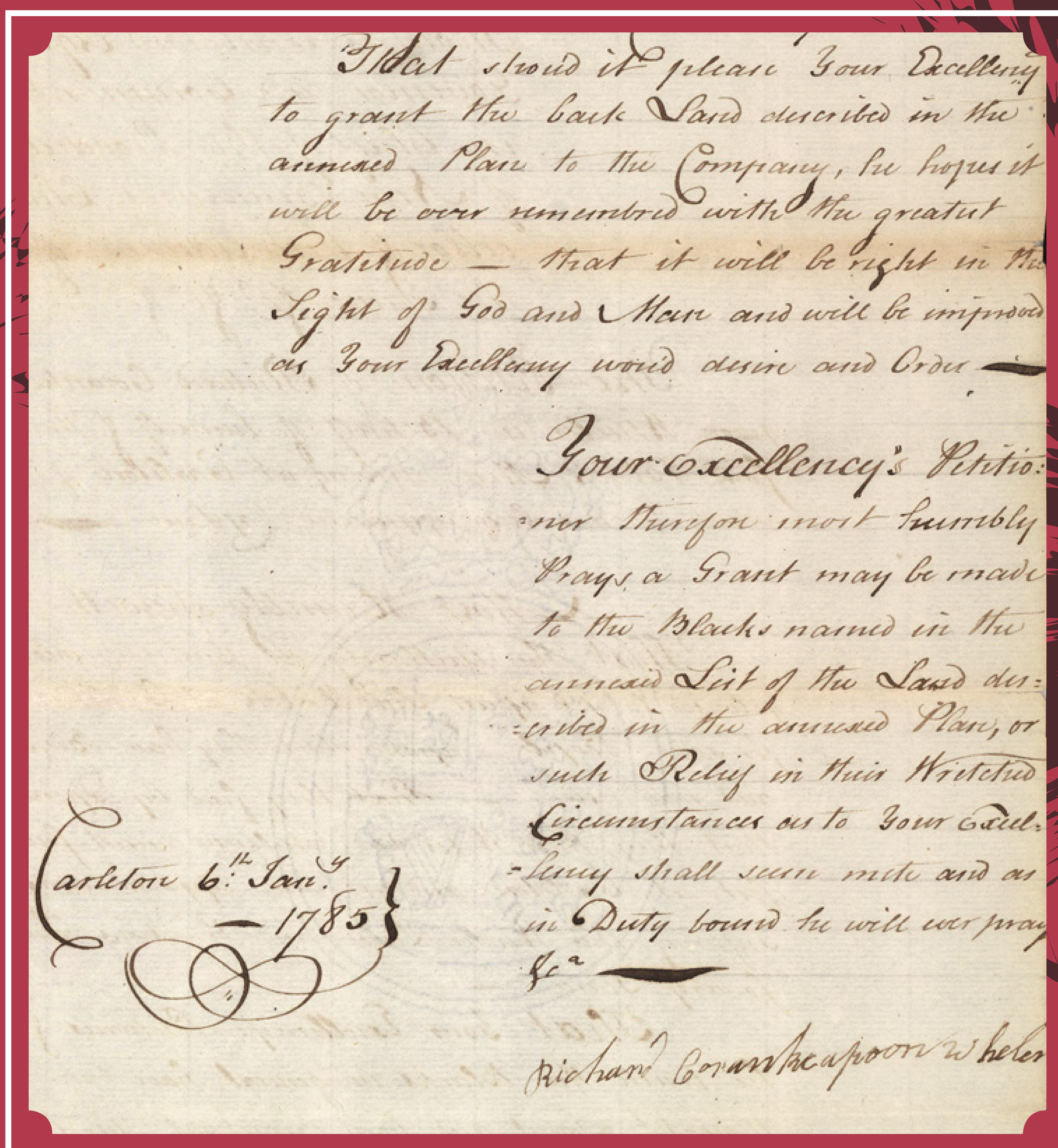


RICHARD CORANKAPOON WHEELER

~1753-1801, Location Unknown



BLACK LOYALIST LEADER

Richard Corankapoon Wheeler was a Black Loyalist leader of the late eighteenth century. Before the American Revolution, Corankapoon was enslaved to Caleb Wheeler of New Jersey. In 1776, one year into the war, Corankapoon purchased his own freedom, going on to serve the British Loyalist side. Corankapoon registered in *The Book of Negroes* in 1783 along with approximately 3,000 other Black Loyalists, and was entitled to freedom and land grants upon immigrating to New Brunswick (then Nova Scotia) in 1783. Corankapoon was allocated a plot of land in the Westfield-Grand Bay Area along Richards Lake (then Negro Lake), with 35 other Black Loyalist settlers. Able to read and write, he authored petitions on behalf of his community in protest of the disproportionate acreage and land quality granted to white loyalists. Corankapoon continued to petition for greater rights and assistance for his community throughout the 1780s. He then left for Halifax in 1791 and departed for Sierra Leone, amongst 1,190 other Black Loyalists of the Maritimes, led by Thomas Peters. He helped build the community of Freetown, Sierra Leone, serving as the town's Marshal and inspector of farms. He also funded and oversaw the building of Freetown's largest cargo-ship at the time.