



EMPIRE STATE POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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WHO WAS NERO GRANT?

By Heather Sweeting

Upon first glance, this cover is just a simple update and claim settlement of a New York Supreme court case concerning a William Rice and an Oliver Rice.

It is signed "Yours Respectfully" by "H. Brother, Sheriff." Henry Brother held that office from 1846–1848.

The addendum makes it a valuable historical document. It states: "On this day Executed the Negro Nero Grant according to Sentence I feel much relieved by having the job off my hands." Initialed HB.

Who was Nero Grant and why was he executed? A search of the internet provided a few clues. First I checked "The Black Sheep page," [HTTP://GENEALOGYTRAILS.COM/NY/STEBEN/BLACKSHEEP_INDEX.HTM](http://GENEALOGYTRAILS.COM/NY/STEBEN/BLACKSHEEP_INDEX.HTM). This had two mentions of the murder from Steuben county newspapers:

Sentence of a Murderer. - Nero Grant, who was recently convicted of murder, in Steuben county, was brought into court on Wednesday and sentenced by Judge Bronson to be executed on the 26th of June next.

The Sun, Corning, NY, May 22, 1847
Nero Grant, the negro who murdered James Peas in Steuben co., was hung at Bath last week. He was over fifty years old.

Newark Daily Advertiser (Newark, NJ) Wednesday, July 7, 1847

