

Sexual Assault Prosecutions, New York City, 1733-1820

John Wood Sweet, "Sexual Assault Prosecutions, New York City, 1733-1820," dataset, last updated 20 June 2022.

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ID no.	DATE, COURT, CITATIONS	ACCUSED	SURVIVOR	ADJUDICATION	PUBLICITY	NOTES
1	<i>The King v Cato</i> , 21-23 Jan. 1733/34, CG&QSP Minute Book 1722-42/43 (Rough): 329-334.	Cato (Black, enslaved by Peter Valette, merchant)	Susanna Sylvester (14)	Charge: attempted rape. Convicted. Sentence: death. Burned alive.	Accounts of Cato's execution included reports of at least two other sexual assault complaints against him and a correction about reporting the attempted rape of Sylvester as if it were a "real Rape": <i>NY Gazette</i> , 28 Jan. 1733/34, 6 Feb. 1733/34; <i>NY Weekly Journal</i> , 28 Jan. 1733/34, 4 Feb. 1733/34.	
2	<i>The King v Jannean</i> , 20 July 1737, CG&QSP Minute Book 1722-42/43 (Rough): 348-50.	Jannean (Black, enslaved by William Carr)	Ann Carr (married to William Carr, bricklayer)	Complaint: attempted rape. Convicted of assault only. Sentence: 39 lashes.	Three "Negro" attempted rapists arrested: <i>NY Gazette</i> , 18 July 1737. Trial report (disparaging Ann Carr): <i>NY Gazette</i> , 25 July 1737. Carrs separate: <i>NY Gazette</i> , 1 Aug. 1737.	
3	Complaint of Abigail Cottrell against Philip Philipse, Robert Livingston [Jr?], Captain Thomas French and Captain Johnson, with an Information of Mary Bush relating to the same, 5 June 1753, SCJ Parchment Rolls, 48-K-5.	Philip Philipse (merchant), Robert Livingston the younger (merchant), Capt. Thomas French (mariner), Capt. Johnson	Abigail Cottrell (spinster, widow, "stranger" to city)	Complaint of attempted rape. No further proceeding found	No public report found.	
4	<i>King v. John Van Zandt</i> , 15 Jan. 1754-24 Jan. 1756, SCJ Minute Book 1750-54 (Engrossed): 341; Minute Book 1754-57 (Engrossed): 84, 119, 173, 239.	John Van Zandt	Mary Mitchell	Indicted for attempted rape. Plead not guilty; then no contest. Convicted. Sentence (Engrossed): fined £40.	No public report found.	Concurrent prosecutions against Van Zandt for assault of a constable (Kempe Papers, box 2, folder 4) and a civil suit for maladministration an estate.
5	<i>King v. James Mayne</i> , 24 Apr. 1754, SCJ Minute Book 1754-57 (Engrossed): 16; SCJ Pleadings 1754-1837: K-673.	James Mayne, Esq.	Eleanor Murphy (servant)	Complaint by Elizabeth Wright (married) of attempted rape of herself, a 12-year-old servant, and a third woman. Indicted for attempted rape of one woman. No further proceeding.	No public report found.	Concurrent prosecution for another assault and battery: Complaint of Martin Blake against James Mayne, Esq., for breaking and entering and assault, n.d., SCJ Pleadings K675; related presentment, SCJ, Apr. 1754, box 2, fol. 1, Kempe Papers

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6	<i>The King v John Lawrence the younger, Charles Arding, Cornelius Livingston, and Hendrick Oudenaarde</i> , 1 Aug. 1754-18 Apr. 1755, SCJ Minute Book 1754-57 (Engrossed): 49, 53, 118, 125, 145-146; SCJ Pleadings 1754-1837: K-501, K-650. See also: William Kempe to Alderman Byvanck, ca. 1754 (responding Byvanck's description of Mary Anderson a bad strawberry), box 16, fol. 2, Kempe Papers; William Livingston to W. Kempe, 26 Aug. 1754, Livingston Papers, vol. A, MHS.	John Lawrence the younger, Charles Arding, Cornelius Livingston, and Hendrick Oudenaarde	Mary Anderson (14), daughter of widow Elizabeth Anderson	Indicted for attempted rape. Acquitted.	No public report of the rape charge found. Report of Elizabeth Anderson's public whipping: <i>NY Mercury</i> , 19 Aug. 1754.	Related proceedings, 1754-1756, against Attorney General William Kempe, Elizabeth Anderson, and Mary Anderson: WILLIAM KEMPE: SCJ Minute Book, 1754-1757 (engrossed): 82 (15 Oct. 1754, Kempe indicted for maladministration); 116 (25 Jan. 1755, Kemp requests indictment be quashed); 155 (19 Apr. 1755, indictment quashed). ELIZABETH ANDERSON: SCJ Minute Book, 1754-1757 (engrossed): 47 (indictment of Mary Anderson, disorderly house, 31 July 1754), 49 (process ordered, 1 Aug. 1754); 50 (indicted again under the name Elizabeth Anderson, specifying "bawdry and tipling," 2 Aug. 1754); 86 (24 Oct. 1754, Elizabeth Anderson, order to plea); 155 (19 Apr. 1755, indictment quashed; her attorney is Mr. Nichol). CG&QSP Minute Book, 1743-1760 (rough): 6 Nov. 1754, Elizabeth Anderson to be discharged from custody upon paying fees; 4 Feb. 1755 (appears); 5 Feb. 1755 (appears); 7 Feb. 1755 (to be discharged upon paying fees). MARY ANDERSON: CG&QSP Minute Book, 1743-1760 (rough): 3 Feb. 1756 (appears); 4 Feb. 1756 (appears); 5 May. 1756 (discharged).
7	<i>The King v James Gaines</i> , 26 Nov. 1754-25 Jan. 1755, SCJ Minute Book 1754-57 (Engrossed): 112, 115, 116, 200.	James Gaines (taylor)	Margaret Bennet (8)	Indicted for attempted rape. Convicted. Sentence: £10 fine, 1 hour pillory; 6 months jail, 7-year bond for good behavior.	Arrest of "James Gale, a Taylor" for rape of 6-year-old: <i>NY Mercury</i> , 2 Dec. 1754; reprinted: <i>Pa. Gazette</i> , 5 Dec. 1754.	
8	<i>King v Tom</i> , 22-29 Oct. 1763, SCJ Minute Book 1762-64 (Engrossed): 281, 286, 294, 296.	Tom (Black, enslaved by Mrs. Haynes)	Mary Ryan	Indicted for attempted rape. Convicted. Sentence: death. Hanged.	Conviction: <i>NY Gazette</i> , 31 Oct. 1763. Execution: <i>NY Gazette</i> , 28 Nov. 1763; <i>Newport Mercury</i> , 5 Dec. 1763.	
9	<i>The King v John Hay</i> , 22-25 Jan. 1766, SCJ Minute Book 1764-66 (Engrossed): 373, 376. Case of John Hay, 1766, box 11, fol. 19, Kempe Papers.	John Hay	Elizabeth Kidney (9)	Complaint: rape. Indicted for attempted rape. Acquitted.	No public report found.	
10	<i>The King v John Domaine</i> , 31 Oct.-1 Nov. 1766, SCJ Minute Book 1766-69 (Engrossed): 26, 27, 31. <i>King v John Domine</i> , 30 Oct. 1766, box 1, fol. 3, Kempe Papers.	John Domaine (laborer, reportedly from Philadelphia)	Catherine Larkings (8)	Complaint: rape. Indicted for attempted rape. Convicted. Sentence: whipped 39 lashes three times.	Conviction and whipping: <i>NY Journal</i> , 6 Nov. 1766; <i>Providence Gazette</i> , 8 Nov. 1766; <i>Newport Mercury</i> , 10 Nov. 1766; <i>Conn. Courant</i> , 10 Nov. 1766; <i>Conn. Gazette</i> , 14 Nov. 1766.	

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11	<i>King v Henry Vlock</i> , 28 Oct. 1767-22 Jan. 1768, SCJ Minute Book 1766-69 (Engrossed): 315, 326, 327, 382; Minute Book 1764-67 (Rough): 257, 280. <i>King v Henry Vlock</i> , Court Undetermined, Oct. 1767, box 11, fol. 2, Kempe Papers.	Henry Vlock (aka Flock)	Rosina Berkenmeyer (single woman)	Indicted for rape. No trial: victim defaults; defendant discharged.	No public report found.	
12	<i>King v William Territ</i> , 2 Aug.-15 Oct. 1771, SCJ Minute Book 1769-72 (Engrossed): 398-399, 400, 433. Presentment, <i>King v William Territ</i> , SCJ, 1771, box 2, fol. 3, Kempe Papers.	William Territ, leather breeches maker	Ann Lashier (seamstress)	Indicted for attempted rape. Released on bail. No further proceeding found.	No public report found.	
13	<i>King v. William Creighan</i> , 9 Aug. 1771, CGS Minute Book 1760-72 (Rough): n.p.	William Creighan	Elizabeth Emmerson (single)	Indicted for rape at CGS. Case ordered removed to SCJ. No further proceeding found.	Indictment of "a Man for committing a Rape," <i>NY Journal</i> , 15 Aug. 1771.	
14	<i>King v Michael Corbet</i> , 3 Jan. 1772. SCJ Minute Book 1769-72 (Engrossed): 472.	Michael Corbet	unnamed	Indicted for rape. No further proceeding found.	No public report found.	
15	<i>King v. John Whiteman (the younger)</i> , 28 Oct. 1773. SCJ Minute Book 1772-76 (Rough): 132.	John Whiteman the younger	Ann Jan Stevenson	Indicted for attempted rape. No further proceeding found.	No public report found.	
16	<i>The King v John Berwick</i> , 11 May 1776, CGS Minute Book 1772-89: 183, 184.	John Barwick (carman)	unnamed	Indicted for attempted rape; case continued on 11 May 1776; no further proceeding found (perhaps because the minutes of the court did not resume until after the end of the war).	No public report found.	
17	<i>The People v Eleazar McTennery</i> , 10 May 1785, CGS Minute Book 1772-89: 258; May Term CO&T Minute Book 9 (1784-1796): 101, 104, 123. Hays, "List," 7.	Eleazer M. Tennery	Elizabeth Nesbet	Indicted for rape at CGS. Case removed to CO&T. Convicted. Sentence (Engrossed): "No Judgment Rendered."	Conviction: <i>NY Packet</i> , 13 Jun. 1785; <i>Conn. Journal</i> (New Haven), 15 June 1785; <i>New-York Journal</i> , 16 June 1785; <i>New-Jersey Gazette</i> (Trenton), 20 June 1785; <i>Political Intelligencer</i> (Elizabethtown), 22 June 1785; <i>Weekly Monitor</i> (Litchfield, Conn.), 28 June 1785; <i>Conn. Gazette</i> (New London), 1 July 1785; <i>Columbian Herald</i> (Charleston), 11 July 1785.	

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18	<i>The People v. Lewis D. Flynn</i> , 9, 10, 13 Nov. 1786, CGS Minute Book 1772-89: 333, 334, 341. Jan. Term 1787, SCJ. Hays, "List," 13, 15.	Lewis D. Flinn (grocer)	A child no more than 9, "nearly an idiot."	Indicted for attempted rape at CGS. Case removed to SCJ, January Term 1787. Convicted of assault only; sentence: fined £40.	Arrest of Lewis D. Flinn "a man of infamous character" for rape: <i>NY Journal</i> , 19 Oct. 1786; <i>Country Journal</i> (Poughkeepsie), 25 Oct. 1786.	NOTE: I could not locate his trail in surviving minutes of the SCJ or the CO&T, which are both incomplete for this period. See also disorderly house prosecutions against Flynn: G&QSP Minute Book, 1762-1790, 316, 318 (7 Aug. 1786: found not guilty of keeping a disorderly house), 333 (9 Nov. 1786), 334 (10 Nov. 1786); 341 (13 Nov. 1786).
19	<i>The People v Henry Bedlow</i> , 30 Sept-8 Oct. 1793, CO&T Minute Book 9 (1784-1796):305, 317-18. Hays, "List," 38. DA Indictments: filed 3 Oct. 1793.	Henry Bedlow (gentleman)	Lanah Sawyer (17, single, seamstress)	Indicted for rape. Acquitted.	William Wyche, <i>Report of the Trial of Henry Bedlow</i> (New York, 1793). Extensive newspaper discussion after trial—of the case, the related riots, and the published report. See: Sweet, <i>The Sewing Girl's Tale</i> (2022).	
20	<i>People v. Thomas Parsells</i> , 7-8 Aug. 1795, CGS Minute Book 1790-97 (Engrossed): 301, 304, 306. Hays, "List," 44. DA Indictments: filed 7 Aug. 1795.	Thomas Parcels (carman)	Mary Gerritt (married)	Indicted for attempted rape. Convicted of assault only. Sentence: £40 fine and 1 month jail.	No public report found.	
21	<i>The People v. Sharp</i> , 6 Oct. 1797, CGS Minute Book 1797-1801 (Engrossed): 5, 7. Hays, "List," 59. DA Indictments: n/f.	Sharp (free Black man)	Jane Caldwell	Indicted for attempted rape. Convicted of assault only. Sentence: \$5 fine.	No public report found.	
22	<i>The People v. Peter Nixon</i> , 4-5 Jan. 1798, CGS Minute Book 1797-1801 (Engrossed): 43,49. Hays, "List," 63. DA Indictments: 4 Jan. 1798.	Peter Nixon	Mehetabell Welden and Mary McCullen	Indicted for attempted rape of two women. Convicted of assault only against both women. Sentence: \$25 fine, 3 months prison, on both counts.	No public report found.	
23	<i>The People v Polete Clement</i> , 9, 10, 11 June 1798, CGS Minute Book 1797-1801 (Engrossed): 140, 143, 151. Hays, "List," 66. DA Indictments: filed 9 June 1798. Prisoners at Newgate, 1:11-12, A0775, NYSA.	Polete Clement (French, shoemaker, 36)	Esther Morgan	Indicted for attempted rape. Convicted of assault only. Sentence: \$5 fine.	No public report found.	
24	<i>The People v Polete Clement</i> , 9, 10, 11 June 1798, CGS Minute Book 1797-1801 (Engrossed): 140, 144, 151. Hays, "List," 66. DA Indictments: filed 9 June 1798. Prisoners at Newgate, 1:11-12, A0775, NYSA.	Polete Clement (French, shoemaker, 36)	Margaret Durand	Indicted for attempted rape. Convicted of assault only. Sentence: \$5 fine.	No public report found.	

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26	<i>The People v George Bowman</i> , July Term 1798, CO&T Minute Book 10 (1796-1801): 153, 154. Hays, "List," 68. DA Indictments, filed 24 July 1798.	George Bowman (carpenter)	Margaret Heyser (married)	Indicted for attempted rape. Plea: not guilty. No further proceeding.	No public report found.	
27	<i>The People v John Street</i> , July Term 1798 CO&T Minute Book 10 (1796-1801): 146, 149, 165-66. 9 Aug. 1798, SCJ Minute Book 1797-1800 (Engrossed): 132-33. Hays, "List," 70. DA Indictments: n/f.	John Street	Elizabeth Yandell	Indicted for attempted rape. Case removed to SCJ. Convicted of assault only. Sentence: fined \$200.	No public report found.	
28	<i>The People v William Purvis</i> , 8, 10, 11 Dec. 1798, CGS Minute Book 1797-1801 (Engrossed): 220, 225. Hays, "List," 72. DA Indictments: n/f. Prisoners Received at Newgate, 1:15-16, A0775, NYSA. Order to prepare pardon: John Jay to Daniel Hale, 17 Dec. 1798, N-YHS.	William Purvis (Scottish, mason, 49)	Jane Fortune	Indicted for attempted rape. Convicted. Sentence: 12 months prison. Pardoned.	No public report found.	
29	Indictment of Patrick Flynn, DA Indictments, filed 20 Dec. 1799,(1-6 Feb. 1800 folder).	Patrick Flynn (shipwright)	Jane Ryan (married)	Complaint and supporting affidavit, 20 Dec. 1799, about a rape two months earlier. No further proceeding.	No public report found.	
30	<i>The People v William Van Tassell</i> 8, 11 Feb., 8 Apr. 1800, CGS Minute Book 1797-1801 (Engrossed): 447, 455, 493. Hays, "List," 85. DA Indictments: filed 8 Feb. 1800.	William Van Tassell (from Westchester County, laborer or farmer)	Hannah Van Tassel (married)	Indicted for attempted rape. Discharged without trial.	No public report found.	

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31	<i>The People v Richard Croucher</i> , July Term 1800, CO&T Minute Book 10 (1796-1801): 311, 313, 316. Hays, "List," 88. DA Indictments: n/f. Prisoners at Newgate, 1:37-38, 49-50, A0775, NYSA. Pardon by Gov. Clinton, 1 Feb. 1803, B0042-78, 1:173-74, NYSA.	Richard Croucher (English, seller of stockings and linens, 44)	Margaret Miller (13)	Indicted for rape. Convicted. Sentenc (Engrossed): life in prison. Pardon.	Many newspaper reports of his conviction and conviction, e.g. <i>Mercantile Advertiser</i> , 9 July 1800, 12 July 1800; <i>Commercial Advertiser</i> (NY), 15 July 1800. <i>Report of the trial of Richard D. Croucher ... for a rape on Margaret Miller</i> (New York: Forman, 1800). Reported: Jacob D. Wheeler, <i>Reports of Criminal Law Cases</i> , vol. 2 (NY, 1824): 42-47. Many newspaper reports of his pardon (e.g. <i>Commercial Advertiser</i> , 18 Feb. 1803) and subsequent crimes: <i>American Citizen</i> (NY), 21 June 1803, 4 July 1803.	For the afterlife of Margaret Miller, who was murdered by her husband: <i>Full and Particular Narrative of the Life, Character and Conduct of John Banks</i> (New York: For the Proprietor, 1807); <i>The Only Correct Account of the Life, Character, and Conduct of John Banks</i> , Fourth ed. (New York: For the Proprietor, 1806).
32	<i>The People v. William Meharg and William Murdock</i> , 8, 9, 14 Oct. 1800, CGS Minute Book 1797-1801 (Engrossed): 571, 574, 600. Hays, "List," 92. DA Indictments: filed 8 Oct. 1800. Prisoners at Newgate, 1:40-41, 53-54 (Murdock), A0775, NYSA.	William Meharg and William Murdock (Irish, smith and farrier; 25)	Prudence Hill	Indicted for attempted rape. Convicted. Sentenc (Engrossed): 1 year prison (Meharg); 4 years prison (Murdock).	Sentence: <i>Mercantile Advertiser</i> , 15 Oct. 1800; <i>American Citizen</i> (NY), 16 Oct. 1800.	
33	<i>The People v Grant Cottle</i> , 9 Oct. 1800, CGS Minute Book 1797-1801 (Engrossed): 576. DA Indictments: filed 9 Oct. 1800. Hays, "List," 92.	Grant Cottle	Maria Cottle (his daughter)	Indicted for attempted rape. No further proceeding.	Cottle "absconded from justice": <i>Mercantile Advertiser</i> (NY), 15 Oct. 1800.	
34	<i>People v John Burke</i> , 7 Feb. 1801, GGSP, Minute Book 1797-1801 (Engrossed): 672, 674. Hays, "List," 98. DA Indictments: filed 6 Feb. 1801.	John Burke (trader, labourer)	Margaret McGrath (about 7)	Indicted for attempted rape. Acquitted.	No public report found.	
35	<i>People v William Reynolds</i> , Mar. Term 1801, CO&T Minute Book 10 (1796-1801): 352, 357. Hays, "List," 99. DA Indictments: n/f.	William Reynolds	Elizabeth McKennon	Indicted for attempted rape. Convicted of assault only. Sentence: \$30 fine.	No public report found.	
36	6, 9 June 1801, CGS Minute Book 1797-1801 (Engrossed): 732. June Term 1801, CO&T Minute Book 10:366. Hays, "List," 102, 103. DA Indictments: n/f.	Abraham Chadwick (cartman)	Sarah Oliver (married)	Indicted for rape at CGS. Case removed to CO&T; not guilty plea. No further proceeding.	No public report found.	
37	<i>The People v William Treadwell</i> , 6, 9 June 1801, CGS Minute Book 1797-1801 (Engrossed): 732, 734, 743. DA Indictments: filed 5 June 1801. Hays, "List," 102.	William Treadwell	Dorothy Fisher	Indicted for attempted rape. Convicted of assault only. Sentence: 6 months prison.	No public report found.	

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38	<i>The People v Louis Cutley</i> , 8 June 1801, CGS Minute Book 1797-1801 (Engrossed): 736. June Term 1801, CO&T Minute Book 10: 366, 371. Hays, "List," 103. DA Indictments: n/f.	Louis Cutley	Catharine Johnson	Indicted for rape at CGS. Case removed to CO&T. Acquitted.	No public report found.	
39	<i>The People v John Graham</i> , 5 June 1802, CGS Minute Book 1801-1804: 179, 181. Hays, "List," 116. DA Indictments: 5 June 1802.	John Graham	Rachel Millard	Indicted for attempted rape. Acquitted.	No public report found.	
40	<i>The People v Patrick Smith</i> , 5, 6 Aug. 1803, CGS Minute Book 1801-1804: 359, 362. Hays, "List," 133. DA Indictments: n/f. Prisoners at Newgate, 1:180, A0775, NYSL.	Patrick Smith (Irish, storekeeper, 23)	Elizabeth Denman	Indicted for attempted rape. Convicted. Sentence: 3 years prison.	Sentence: <i>Commercial Advertiser</i> (NY), 11 Aug. 1803; <i>Daily Advertiser</i> , 12 Aug. 1803; <i>Spectator</i> , 13 Aug. 1803.	
41	<i>The People v James Smith</i> , 5, 6 Aug. 1803, CGS Minute Book 1801-1804: 359, 363. Hays, "List," 133. DA Indictments: filed 5 Aug. 1803.	James Smith	Jane Rann	Indicted for attempted rape. Acquitted.	No public report found.	
42	10 Feb. 1804, CGS Minute Book 1801-1804: 423. June Term, CO&T Minute Book 11 (1801-1804): 346, 352. Hays, "List," 138. DA Indictments: 3 Feb. 1804.	Charles Dougherty	Letitia Harper (married)	Indicted for attempted rape. Case removed to CO&T. Acquitted.	No public report found.	See also indictment of Mary Dougherty, spinster, for a related assault: DA Indictments, filed 10 Feb. 1804; CG&QSP Minute Book 1801-1804: 423, 429 (found guilty).
43	<i>The People v Matthias Hays</i> , Apr. Term 1804, CO&T Minute Book 11 (1801-1804): 304, 307, 321. Hays, "List," 141. DA Indictments: filed 17 Dec. 1803, 17 Apr. 1804.	Matthias Hays (laborer)	Bridget Waters (single woman; former servant of Hays)	Indicted for rape on 14 Aug. 1803. Acquitted.	Hayes was also prosecuted for a 11 June 1803 assault and battery against Mary Frazier (wife of John Frazier), DA Indictments, filed 7 Apr. 1804; and sued by Frazier and her husband, 5 Nov. 1804, Mayor's Court, Judgments, 1804#42.	See related civil suit: John Frazier and Mary Frazier v Mathias Hays, Nov. 5, 1804, Mayor's Court, Judgments, 1804#42, NYCC. <Scott, ed., <i>CG&QSP, 1801-1804</i> , 78 (Apr. 7, 1803). <
44	Apr. Term 1804, CO&T, MB11: 307, 363. Hays, "List," 141.	Timothy Hart	Eliza McCulloch	Indicted for rape. Acquitted.	No public report found.	
45	<i>The People v Garrand</i> , 14 Aug. 1804, CGS Minute Book 1801-1804: 521, 522, 528. Hays, "List," 146. DA Indictments: n/f.	Garrand, alias Garreau	Jane Ryerson	Indicted for attempted rape. Convicted of assault only. Sentence: \$5 fine.	No public report found.	
46	<i>The People v John Markus</i> , 14 Aug. 1804, CGS Minute Book 1801-1804: 521. Hays, "List," 146. DA Indictments: n/f.	John Markus	Sally Ann Egbert	Indicted for attempted rape. No further proceeding found.	No public report found.	

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47	<i>The People v James Kipp</i> , 2, 4 Oct. 1804, CGS Minute Book 1801-1804: 535, 547. Hays, "List," 147. DA Indictment: filed 2 Oct. 1804.	James Kipp (sail maker)	Elizabeth Linden (married); Elizabeth Powill m. Henry Linden in 1802)	Indicted for attempted rape. Acquitted.	John A. Graham published his closing for the prosecution (with disguised names) as "The People vs. D—— D—— } Rape," <i>Speeches Delivered at the City-Hall of the City of New-York</i> (New York, 1812), 87-91. In both cases: the assaults took place in August in the 4th Ward; the trials in the CGS ended in acquittal; the accused was a sailmaker; the victim was married. See Longworth's <i>1804 Directory</i> .	
48	<i>The People v William Fleming</i> , June Term 1805, CO&T Minute Book 12: 113, 117. Hays, "List," 158. DA Indictments: filed 12 June 1805.	William Fleming (laborer)	Elizabeth McKay (married)	Indicted for attempted rape. Acquitted.	No public report found.	
49	<i>The People v Harry</i> , Aug. 1805, CGS Minute Book 1804-1808: 120; Jan. Term 1806, CO&T MB 12 (1805-1807): 130, 159, 209, 235. Hays, "List," 160, 166. DA Indictments: filed 12 Aug. 1805, 6 Jan. 1806.	Harry (Black, enslaved by E. W. Laight)	Elizabeth Browning (6-7)	Indicted at CGS for rape. Case removed to CO&T. Convicted of assault only. Sentence: 1 year prison.	Trial and age of victim: <i>Daily Advertiser</i> , 4 June 1806; <i>Republican Watch-Tower</i> , 6 June 1806; <i>Mercantile Advertiser</i> , 7 June 1806.	
50	<i>The People v Christopher Basketdore</i> , Dec. 1807, CGS Minute Book 1804-1808: 557; Mar. Term 1808, CO&T Minute Book 13 (1808-1826): 4, 26. Hays, "List," 200. DA Indictments: filed 8 Dec. 1807.	Christopher Basketdore	Mary Kenzie	Indicted at CGS for rape. Case removed to CO&T. Acquitted.	No public report found.	
51	<i>The People v William McClure</i> , Feb. 1808, CGS Minute Book 1804-1808: 585, 588. Hays, "List," 203. DA Indictments, 8 Feb. 1808.	William McClure (laborer)	Mary Scott	Indicted for attempted rape. Convicted of assault only. Sentence: 30 days prison.	No public report found.	

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52	<i>The People v Charles Wakely</i> , 21 Dec. 1809-Feb. 1810, CGS Minute Book 1809-1810: 398, 456, 465, 478-79, 481, 483-86, 492. Hays, "List," 243 (rape), 245 (perjury). DA Indictments: filed 12 Feb. 1810 (rape); filed 24 Feb. 1810 (perjury).	Charles Wakely (gentleman)	Rebecca Fay (married)	Charged with rape. Acquitted. Wakely and 5 defense witnesses then indicted for perjury during rape trial; all acquitted except Amy Nelson ("colored"); she was sentenced to 3 years and 1 day prison.	Trial: <i>Columbian</i> (NY), 20 Feb. 1810; <i>NY Gazette</i> , 23 Feb. 1810. <i>Trial of Charles Wakely, for a rape on Mrs. Rebecca Fay: wife to Doctor Cyrus Fay, physician: before the Court of General Sessions of the Peace for the City and County of New-York, for the February term, 1810 / taken by stenographer, by permission of the court</i> (New York: M'Carty & White, 1810). Prosecution for perjury during the rape trial against Wakely and others: <i>Columbian</i> , 26 Feb. 1810; <i>Evening Post</i> (NY), 5 Mar. 1810. <i>Trial of Charles Wakely, for a rape on Mrs. Rebecca Fay</i> (New York: M'Carty & White, 1810). Objections to the published report: <i>American Citizen</i> (NY), 5 Mar. 1810; <i>NY Gazette</i> , 5 Mar. 1810; <i>Republican Watch-Tower</i> , 6 Mar. 1810	
53	<i>The People v David Crawford</i> , June 1810, CGS Minute Book Apr. 1810-Nov. 1810: 116, 123. Hays, "List," 249. DA Indictments: filed 16 May 1810, 7 June 1810.	David Crawford (laborer)	Phebe Love (9-10, "an idiot")	Affidavit describes a rape. Indicted for attempted rape. Convicted of assault only. Sentenc (Engrossed): fined \$10.	No public report found.	
54	<i>The People v George Turpentine</i> , June 1810, CGS Minute Book Apr. 1810-Nov. 1810: 142, 188. Hays, "List," 249. DA Indictments: filed 11 June 1810. Prisoners at Newgate, vol. 1 (Annual Account, 1810), A0775, NYSA.	George Turpentine (Irish, laborer)	Dinah Hicks (8, Black)	Indicted for attempted rape ("assault and beating with intent to ravish"). Convicted. Sentence: 4 years in prison.	No public report found.	
55	<i>The People v William Jersey</i> , June 1810, CGS Minute Book Apr. 1810-Nov. 1810: 163, 174. Hays, "List," 250. DA Indictments: filed 14 June 1810.	William Jersey, (laborer, Black)	Sally Carver (6-7, "a yellow girl")	Indicted for rape. Acquitted.	No public report found.	
56	<i>The People v William Henry</i> , 13 Feb., 3, 10 Apr. 1811, CGS Minute Book Dec. 1810-Jun. 1811: 176, 231, 276; also convicted of grand larceny: 169, 172, 229, 233, 272. Hays, "List," 265. DA Indictments: filed 12 Feb. 1811.	William Henry (Black, about 12 years old, laborer).		Indicted for attempted rape. Convicted of assault only. Sentence: fined \$5. (Convicted of grand larceny, sentenced to 3 years prison.)	No public report found.	

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57	Indictment of Timothy Sullivan, CGP, DA Indictments: filed 11 Mar. 1811.	Timothy Sullivan		Sexual assault complaint. Evidently grand jury did not indict. No further proceeding.	No public report found.	
58	<i>The People v Anthony</i> , 7, 8 Aug. 1811, CGS Minute Book Jul. 1811-Jan. 1812: 74, 77, 117. Hays, "List," 280. DA Indictments: filed 8 Aug. 1811.	Anthony ("Colored," laborer, indentured servant)	Mary Ann Ferguson	Indicted for attempted rape. Convicted of assault only. Sentence: 12 months prison.	No public report found.	
59	<i>The People v Samuel Summers</i> , 8, 12 Jan. 1812, CGS Minute Book Jul. 1811-Jan. 1812: 411, 429. Hays, "List," 293. DA Indictments: 8 Jan. 1812.	Samuel G. Summers (yeoman)	Elizabeth Warner (married)	Indicted for rape. Acquitted.	No public report found.	
60	<i>The People v Richard R. Kelly</i> , 8 Jan., 4 Feb., 14 Mar. 1812, CGS Minute Book 07, 1811-1812: 412; Minute Book Feb. 1812-Jul. 1812: 5, 49, 131. Hays, "List," 293. DA Indictments: filed 8 Jan. 1812.	Richard R. Kelly	Joanna Vermilyea (7)	Mother describes a rape. Indicted for attempted rape. Convicted. Sentence: 30 days in prison.	No public report found.	
61	<i>The People v Kent Cotton</i> , 13 Apr., 6, 15 May 1813, CGS Minute Book Apr. 1813-Nov. 1813: 23, 52, 78. Hays, "List," 325. DA Indictments: filed 13 Apr. 1813.	Kent Cotton (Black, laborer)	Susan Johnson (under 7)	Father describes a rape. Indicted for attempted rape. Convicted. Sentence: 60 days prison, \$200 fine.	No public report found.	
62	<i>The People v Joshua Parker</i> , Mar. 1814, CGS Minute Book Dec. 1813-Oct. 1814: 186, 209, 232. Hays, "List," 347.	Joshua Parker ("colored")	Nancy Barr (13)	Indicted for rape. Convicted. Sentence: life in prison.	<i>NY Gazette</i> , 16 Mar. 1814. <i>National Advocate for the Country</i> (NY), 5 Apr. 1814: notes 1 rape conviction and 1 attempted rape conviction in the previous year at the city's CGS.	
63	<i>The People v Garret Fitzgerald</i> , 17 Feb. 1815, CGS Minute Book Nov. 1814-Jul. 1815: 240, 243. Hays, "List," 370. DA Indictments: filed 17 Feb. 1815	Garret Fitzgerald (laborer)	Mary Deane (married)	Indicted for rape. Acquitted.	No public report found.	
64	<i>The People v Patterson Jolly</i> , 6 Oct., 13, 16 Dec. 1815, CGS Minute Book Aug. 1815-Mar. 1816: 135, 248, 264. Hays, "List," 386. DA Indictments: filed 6 Oct. 1815.	Patterson Jolly	Mary Ann Marsh (married)	Indicted for attempted rape. Convicted. Sentence: fined \$20.	Conviction: <i>Columbian</i> (NY), 14 Dec. 1815; <i>National Advocate</i> , 14 Dec. 1815; <i>Shamrock</i> (NY), 16 Dec. 1815.	
65	<i>The People v Jerome Sardie</i> , 14, 18, 19 Aug. 1815, CGS Minute Book Aug. 1815-Mar. 1816: 35, 50, 61). Hays, "List," 380. DA Indictments: n/f.	Jerome Sardie		Indicted for attempted rape. Convicted. Sentence: 7 years prison.	No public report found.	

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66	<i>The People v Terry Scandlin</i> , 3, 5, 13 July, 1816, CGS Minute Book Apr. 1816-Dec. 1816: 153, 157, 182. Hays, "List," 408. DA Indictments: filed 3 July 1816.	Terry Scandlin (25, laborer)	Gertrude Waldron (61, married)	Indicted for rape. Convicted. Sentence: life in prison.	"Terry Scandlin & John Anderson," <i>NY City-Hall Recorder</i> 1, no. 7 (July 1816): 108-09 (Scandlin), 203 (this was the only rape case of the year).	
67	<i>The People v Morris Matthews</i> , Feb. 1817, CGS Minute Book Jan. 1817-Sept. 1817: 109. Hays, "List," 427. DA Indictments: filed 31 Dec. 1816, 12 Feb. 1817.	Morris Matthews (laborer)	Caroline Earle (10-11)	Indicted for attempted rape. No further proceeding.	No public report found.	
68	<i>The People v William L. Sergeant Abraham Lozier, James Ryder, and James Devoe</i> , 5, 10, 12, 15 Mar. 1817, CGS Minute Book Jan. 1817-Sept. 1817: 142, 146, 148. 157, 163, 181. Hays, "List," 428, 429. DA Indictments: filed 5 Mar. 1817.	William L. Sergeant (laborer), Abraham Lozier (laborer), James Ryder (laborer), and James Devoe (laborer)	Jane Robertson (single)	Indicted for rape. Acquitted. Immediately charged with attempted rape. Convicted of assault only. Sentence: 3 years prison.	"William L. Sergeant, Abraham Lozier, James Ryder, and James Devoe's Cases," <i>NY City-Hall Recorder</i> 2, no. 3 (Mar. 1817): 44-45.	
69	<i>The People v Henry O'Blenis</i> , 9 Apr. 1817, CGS Minute Book Jan. 1817-Sept. 1817: 203, 207. Hays, "List," 430.	Henry O'Blenis (laborer)		Indicted for rape. Acquitted.	No public report found.	
70	7, 8, 17 May 1817, CGS Minute Book Jan. 1817-Sept. 1817: 282, 288, 313. Hays, "List," 432.	James Requa (hay cartman per Longworth's <i>Directory</i>)		Indicted for assault and battery with attempt to rape. Convicted of assault and battery "only." Sentence: Fined 6 cents and costs.	No public report found.	
71	<i>The People v William W. Jenner</i> , 14 Aug., 12, 17 Sept. 1817, CGS Minute Book Jan. 1817-Sept. 1817: 466, 526. Hays, "List," 438. DA Indictments: filed 13 Aug. 1817.	William W. Jenner (or, Jenner; 44, schoolteacher)	Margaret Luke (11) and Margery Luke (13)	Indicted for attempted rape. Convicted of misdemeanor indecency. Sentenc (Engrossed): 3 years prison, \$500 fine.	Many reports including: <i>Columbian</i> (NY), 15 Sept. 1817; <i>NY Daily Advertiser</i> , 16 Sept. 1817. "William W. Jenner's Case," <i>NY City Hall Recorder</i> 2, no. 9 (Sept. 1817): 147-49.	
72	<i>The People v Henry O'Blenis</i> , 8, 11, 18 Oct. 1817, CGS Minute Book Oct. 1817-Feb. 1818:13, 27, 69). Hays, "List," 441. DA Indictments: filed 8 Oct. 1817.	Henry O'Blenis (laborer)	Rachel Riddle (spinster)	Indicted for rape of Rachel Riddle on 27 Sept. 1817. Convicted. Sentence: life in prison.	Sentence: <i>NY Daily Advertiser</i> , 21 Oct. 1817; <i>Commercial Advertiser</i> , 21 Oct. 1817; <i>Columbian</i> , 21 Oct. 1817. "Summary. (Rape.)," <i>NY City-Hall Recorder</i> 2, no. 10 (Oct. 1817): 160.	See his sexual assault prosecutions; his 1816 attempted murder conviction (<i>NY City-Hall Recorder</i> , 1, no. 7 (July 1816): 117); and related rape prosecution of Rachel Riddle.
73	<i>The People v Henry O'Blenis</i> , 8 Oct. 1817, CGS Minute Book Oct. 1817-Feb. 1818: 13, 27, 69. Hays, "List," 441. DA Indictments: filed 8 Oct. 1817.	Henry O'Blenis (laborer)	Eliza Ann Bunting (wife of Samuel Bunting)	Indicted for rape on 27 Sept. 1817; pled not guilty. No further proceeding.	No public report found.	See other prosecutions of O'Blenis.
74	<i>The People v Jerry Jacobs</i> , 8 Oct. 1817, CGS Minute Book Oct. 1817-Feb. 1818: 13. Hays, "List," 441. DA Indictments: filed 8 Oct. 1817.	Jerry Jacobs (laborer)	Rachel Riddle (spinster)	Indicted for rape of Rachel Riddle on 27 Sept. 1817. No further proceeding.	No public report found.	See related prosecution of Henry O'Blenis.

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75	<i>The People v John Conlon</i> , 4, 11 Mar. 1818, CGS Minute Book Mar. 1818-Aug. 1818: 10, 45. Hays, "List," 456. DA Indictments: filed 4 Mar. 1818.	John Conlon (laborer)	Maria Forshee (servant)	Indicted for attempted rape. Acquitted.	No public report found.	
76	<i>The People v James Gordon</i> , 9, 12, 13 June 1818, CGS Minute Book Mar. 1818-Aug. 1818: 49, 277, 298, 307. Hays, "List," 464 (June session 1818, attempted rape). DA Indictments: filed 9 June 1818.	James Gordon (laborer)	Susan Decklyn (married)	Indicted for attempted rape (by impersonating woman's husband). Convicted. Sentence: 2 years in prison.	"(Intent to Ravish) James Gordon's Case," <i>NY City-Hall Recorder</i> 3, no. 6 (Jun. 1818): 91-92 (one legal issue is whether the jury could convict of the lesser charge of assault and battery only instead of the greater charge of assault and battery with intent to rape). See also Daniel Rogers, "Assault and Battery... With Intent to Ravish," <i>The New York City Hall Recorder for 1821</i> (Jan. 1822): 117-120.	Note: previous prosecution for assault and battery: ("List," 458, Mar. Session 1818).
77	<i>The People v Dennis Hosey</i> , 5 Aug., 17 Sept. 1818, CGS Minute Book Mar. 1818-Aug. 1818: 429, 437. Hays, "List," 468. DA Indictments: filed 28 July 1818, 5 Aug. 1818.	Dennis Hosey (grocer)	Mary Brett Jr. (11, servant)	Indicted for attempted rape. Acquitted.	No public report found.	
78	<i>The People v Charles Carpenter</i> , 13 Nov.-9, 12 Dec. 1818, CGS Minute Book Sept. 1818-Dec. 1818: 274, 313, 333. Hays, "List," 480. DA Indictments: filed 13 Nov. 1818 (nole pros.); filed 9 Dec. 1818.	Charles Carpenter (laborer)	Ellen Carsen (17, Black, apprentice)	Indicted for assault and battery; no further proceeding. Indicted for rape. Acquitted.	"The People v Charles Carpenter," <i>NY Judicial Repository</i> 1, no. 4 (Dec. 1818): 165-73.	
79	<i>The People v Owen Foley</i> , 9 Feb. 1819, CGS Minute Book <??: 127. Hays, "List," 487. DA Indictments: filed 9 Feb. 1819.	Owen Foley (laborer)	Nancy Tiffany	Indicted for attempted rape. No further proceeding.	No public report found.	

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About this dataset: This dataset compiles information about sexual assault prosecutions (charges of rape and of assault and battery with intent to rape) by the colonial and state governments in New York City and County (Manhattan, in this period) from surviving legal records. It does not include information about sexual assaults in other jurisdictions (such as British courts martial during the Revolutionary War or prosecutions in other counties); nor does it include references to sexual assaults in civil actions or in criminal cases in which the charges did not include rape or attempted rape. I am grateful to Sharon Block, who shared data collected for her book *Rape and Sexual Power in Early America* (Chapel Hill, 2006); to research assistants Victoria Hensley, Nancy Gray Schoonmaker, and Nikita Shepard; and to the archivists who facilitated this project: Kenneth Cobb, New York City Municipal Archives; James Folts, New York State Archives; Edward O'Reilly, the New-York Historical Society; Judith Todman, the Archives at Queens Borough Public Library; and Joseph Van Nostrand, New York County Clerk's Division of Old Records. For a list of abbreviations and relevant scholarship, see the foot of this document.

ID no.	DATE, COURT, CITATIONS	ACCUSED	SURVIVOR	ADJUDICATION	PUBLICITY	NOTES
80	<i>The People v John Dolphin</i> , 9, 14 June 1819, CGS Minute Book <??:415, 434-35. Hays, "List," 495. DA Indictments: filed 10 June 1819.	John Dolphin (carpenter)	Madeline Bentley (6)	Indicted for attempted rape. Convicted of assault only. Sentence: 3 years in prison.	No public report found.	

Sources and abbreviations:

CGS MB = Court of General & Quarter Sessions of the Peace (New York City & County) Minute Books, 1684-1839, New York County Clerk, Department of Old Records (accessible on microfilm at the New York Municipal Archives). Volumes identified by dates of coverage; some designated either "Rough" or "Engrossed." A useful guide to these minutes up to 1804 is Kenneth Scott's series of abstracts: *New York City Court Records: 1684-1760* (Washington, D.C., 1982); *New York City Court Records, 1760-1797* (Washington, D.C., 1983); *New York City Court Records, 1797-1801* (Arlington, Va., 1988); and *New York City Court Records, 1801-1804* (Arlington, Va., 1988).

CO&T MB = Court of Oyer & Terminer, Minute Book, 1784-1826. This court was a criminal branch of the Supreme Court of Judicature. Minute Books for the period 1784-1820 survive only on microfilm in the Historical Documents Collection at the Archives at the Queens Borough Public Library; they are designated both by volume number and by dates of coverage.

DA Indictments: Indictment Papers, 1790-1879, New York County District Attorney Records, 1790-1984, New York Municipal Archives. Case files identified by filing date.

Hays, "List" = Jacob Hays (attributed), "A General List of All Persons Indicted and Convicted in the City and County of New York from the End of the American Revolution to the Year 1820," ca. 1822, survives only on microfilm in the Historical Documents Collection at the Archives at the Queens Borough Public Library.

Kempe Papers = John Tabor Kempe Papers, 1678-1782, New-York Historical Society. This collection includes the case files of William Kempe (Attorney General of New York, 1752-1759) and his son John Tabor Kempe (Attorney General of New York, 1759-1782).

SCJ MB = Supreme Court of Judicature (New York City & County sittings), Minute Books, 1691-1847, JN531, New York State Archives. Volumes identified by dates of coverage; and many are further designated either "Rough" or "Engrossed."

SCJ Pleadings = Court Papers (Misc.), 1754-1837 (formerly Pleadings 1754-1837), Supreme Court of Judicature, JN532, New York State Archives.

Further reading: Many of these cases are usefully discussed in published scholarship. For the entire period, see: Sharon Block, *Rape and Sexual Power in Early American* (2006) and "Coerced Sex in British North America, 1700-1820," Ph.D. diss. (Princeton, 1995). On the colonial period, see, especially: Thelma Willis Foote, *Black and white Manhattan: the History of Racial Formation in Colonial New York City* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004) and "Black Life in Colonial Manhattan, 1664-1786," Ph.D. diss. (Harvard University, 1991); Julius Goebel and T. Raymond Naughton, *Law Enforcement in Colonial New York: A Study in Criminal Procedure, 1664-1776*, (Montclair, N.J.: Patterson Smith, 1970); Serena R. Zabin, *Dangerous Economies: Status and Commerce in Imperial New York* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2009). On the Early Republic, see: Marybeth Hamilton Arnold, "'The Life of a Citizen in the Hands of a Woman': Sexual Assault in New York City, 1790-1820," in *Passion and Power: Sexuality in History*, ed. Kathy Peiss and Christina Simmons (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1989); Christine Stansell, *City of Women: Sex and Class in New York, 1789-1860* (New York, 1986).