



Fig. 1 Abigail Quincy's signature on her copy of Phillis Wheatley's book.

grandson, became editor of the *Abolitionist*, and the *National Anti-Slavery Standard*. It is tempting to believe that his grandmother's copy of Phillis Wheatley's *Poems* was part of Edmund Quincy's childhood and that its message helped form his conviction that slavery in America must be abolished. Whether she influenced Quincy or not, there can be no doubt that Phillis Wheatley's voice was one of the earliest and most articulate in America against the enslavement of her people.

**FURTHER READING:** See Henry Louis Gates, Jr., *The Trials of Phillis Wheatley: America's First Black Poet and Encounters with the Founding Fathers* (New York: Basic Civitas Books, 2003). Sidney Kaplan's *The Black Presence in the Era of the American Revolution* (Washington, D.C.: New York Graphic Society in association with the Smithsonian Institution Press, 1973) offers a thorough account of the life of Phillis Wheatley. Frances Smith Foster's *Written by Herself: Literary Production by African American Women, 1746-1892* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1993) describes Wheatley's literary accomplishment. See also William H. Robinson, *Phillis Wheatley and Her Writings* (New York: Garland Publishing, 1984) and Julian D. Mason, Jr., ed., *The Poems of Phillis Wheatley* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1966).

- NOTES**
1. This is from John Wheatley's foreword to Phillis Wheatley's *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral* (London, 1773).
  2. Kaplan, *Black Presence in the Era of the American Revolution*, 154-55.
  3. Kaplan, *Black Presence in the Era of the American Revolution*, 161.
  4. Cited in Foster, *Written by Herself*, 38.
  5. Mason, *The Poems of Phillis Wheatley*, 34.