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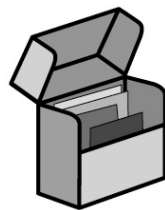
<https://www.streamtext.net/player?event=081116nara200pm>



About the National Archives



The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is the nation's record keeper. Of all the documents and materials created in the course of business conducted by the United States Federal government, only 1%–3% are determined permanently valuable. Those valuable records are preserved and are available to you, whether you want to see if they contain clues about your family's history, need to prove a veteran's military service, or are researching an historical topic that interests you.



KNOW YOUR RECORDS

National Archives and Records Administration



KNOW YOUR RECORDS
National Archives and Records Administration

THE KNOW YOUR RECORDS PROGRAM

consists of free events with up-to-date information about our holdings. Events offer opportunities for you to learn about the National Archives' records through ongoing lectures, monthly genealogy programs, and the annual genealogy fair. Additional resources include an online reference reports for genealogical research, and the newsletter *Researcher News*.

August 11, 2016

DC Emancipation Act

Damani Davis

In 1862, the DC Emancipation Act freed enslaved persons in the District of Columbia. Damani Davis, reference archivist, discusses petitions filed by owners and slaves under the Act.

Presenter's Biography



Damani Davis

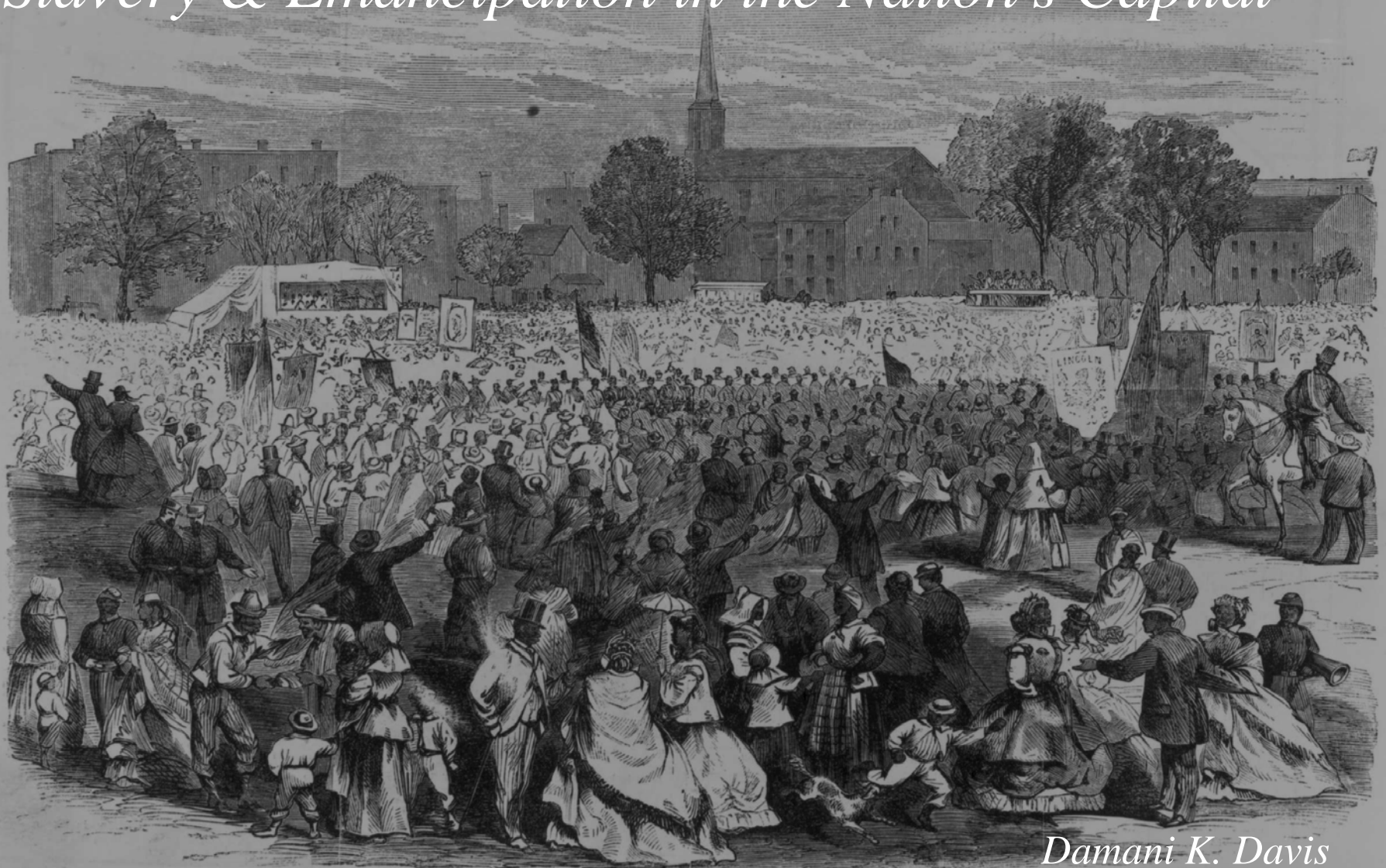
Reference Archivist

National Archives
Washington, DC

Mr. Damani Davis is a reference archivist at the National Archives' Research Services Division in Washington, DC. Since 2005, Damani has lectured at local, regional, and national genealogical conferences where he focuses on the African American presence in Federal records. He has published articles in the National Archives quarterly journal, *Prologue*, highlighting African American participation in the Revolutionary War, African American migration and search for landownership in the post-Reconstruction era, slavery, emancipation in Washington, DC, and early 20th century Federal citizenship records of blacks from the British West Indies.

A native of Philadelphia, PA, and a veteran of the first Gulf War, Damani pursued his undergraduate studies at Coppin State University in Baltimore, MD, where he received his B.A. in history in 1998. He further pursued his studies at the Ohio State University where he received M.A. in history in 2001.

Slavery & Emancipation in the Nation's Capital



Damani K. Davis

CELEBRATION OF THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BY THE COLORED PEOPLE, IN WASHINGTON, APRIL 19, 1866.—[SKETCHED BY F. DIELMAN.]

Washington, D.C.

A Major Center for the Domestic Slave Trade

South.¹ In the course of the debate Louis McLane, a representative



A Slave-Coffle passing the Capitol.

in the House from Delaware, suggested as a compromise a division

1836 Handbill Published by the American Anti-Slavery Society

SLAVE MARKET OF AMERICA.

THE WORD OF GOD.

"ALL THINGS WHATSOEVER YE WOULD THAT MEN SHOULD DO TO YOU, DO YE EVEN SO TO THEM, FOR THIS IS THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS."
 "AND THEY SIGHED BY REASON OF THE BONDAGE, AND THEY CRIED, AND THEIR CRY CAME UP UNTO GOD BY REASON OF THE BONDAGE, AND GOD HEARD THEIR GROANING."
 "THUS SAITH THE LORD, EXECUTE JUDGMENT IN THE MORNING, AND DELIVER HIM THAT IS SPOILED OUT OF THE HANDS OF THE OPPRESSOR, LIST MY FURY GO OUT LIKE FIRE, AND BURN THAT NONE CAN QUENCH IT, BECAUSE OF THE EVIL OF YOUR DOINGS."

THE DECLARATION OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE.

"WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT:—THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL; THAT THEY ARE ENDOWED BY THEIR CREATOR WITH CERTAIN UNALIENABLE RIGHTS; THAT AMONG THESE ARE LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS."

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES.

"THE CITIZENS OF EACH STATE SHALL BE ENTITLED TO ALL THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF CITIZENS OF THE SEVERAL STATES."—Article I, Section 2.
 "CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH OR OF THE PRESS, OR OF THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE PEACEABLY TO ASSEMBLE, AND TO PETITION THE GOVERNMENT FOR A REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES."—Article I, Section 5.
 "CONGRESS SHALL HAVE POWER TO EXERCISE EXCLUSIVE LEGISLATION, IN ALL CASES WHATSOEVER, OVER SUCH DISTRICTS (WHATEVER THEY BE) AS MAY BE REQUIRED AS A SITE, BY DECISION OF PARTICULAR STATES AND THE ACCEPTANCE OF CONGRESS, BEYOND THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES."—Article I, Section 8.

CONSTITUTIONS OF THE STATES.

"EVERY CITIZEN MAY FREELY SPEAK, WRITE, AND PUBLISH HIS SENTIMENTS ON ALL SUBJECTS, BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ABUSE OF THAT LIBERTY."—Constitutions of Maine, Connecticut, New-York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Tennessee, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, and Missouri.
 "THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IS ONE OF THE GREAT BULWARKS OF LIBERTY, AND THEREFORE SHOULD NEVER TO BE RESTRAINED."—North Carolina.
 "THE LIBERTY OF THE PRESS SHOULD BE INVINCIBLY PRESERVED."—Maryland.
 "THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IS ONE OF THE GREAT BULWARKS OF LIBERTY, AND CAN NEVER BE RESTRAINED BUT BY DESPOTIC GOVERNMENTS."—Virginia. Other States nearly the same.

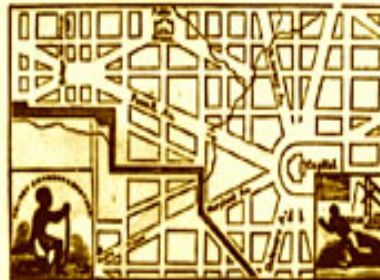
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

"THE LAND OF THE FREE."



SIGNING OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

THE RESIDENCE OF 7000 SLAVES.



PART OF WASHINGTON CITY.

"THE HOME OF THE OPPRESSED."



CAPITAL OF THE UNITED STATES. "Non-Resistance."

RIGHT TO INTERFERE.

People everywhere may have no right to interfere for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia. Now what are the facts in the case? Article I, Sec. 8, of the Constitution has already given Congress "power to exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever, over such District."

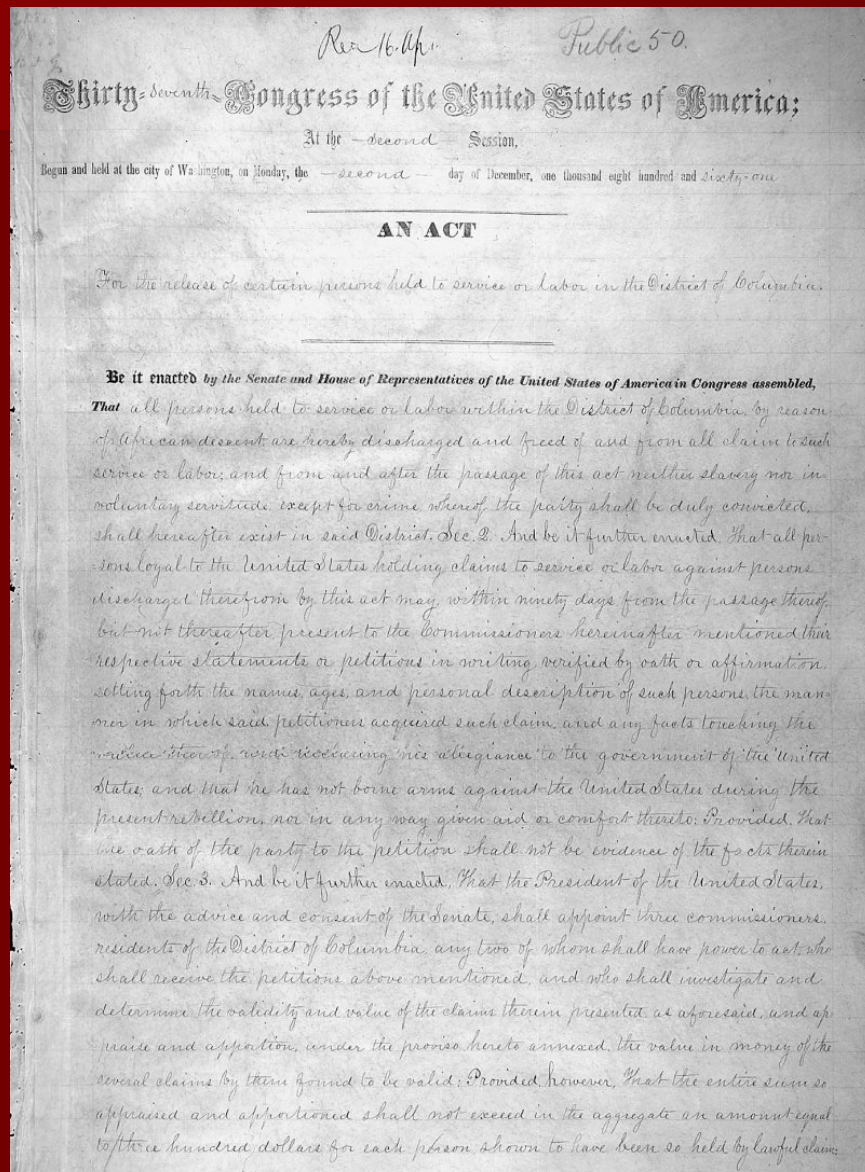
By the vote of Congress! On the 24th of November, 1790, Maryland passed an Act to cede to the Congress of the United States, say America, in the West, not mentioning the subject upon which the Congress may be open, and except for the best of Government of the District of Columbia, and that only in passing. On the 24th of November, 1790, Virginia did the same, and in those words, "And the same is hereby ceded and sold and incorporated to the Congress and Government of the United States, in full and absolute right, and necessary jurisdiction, as well as all or of certain matters or in such District, subject to the laws and orders of the United States."

Article of the Constitution. This was accompanied with a provision touching the "Aid." "That nothing herein contained shall be construed to vest in the United States any right of property in the soil, or to affect the rights of individuals therein, otherwise than the same shall or may be transferred by such individuals." Thus was also the provision, "That the jurisdiction of the Laws of the Congress, shall, over persons and property of individuals residing within the limits of the country, shall not extend to Congress, being exempted the nation, shall, by law, provide for the government thereof, under their jurisdiction is reserved provided by the terms of the Constitution unless unless"—graciously implying that then the jurisdiction of the Law of the State should cease, and Congress "exercise exclusive legislation" over persons and property, "in all cases whatsoever." And July 16, 1790, Congress accepted the cession, providing that the Laws of

the State should remain in force "until the time fixed on for the removal of the Government thence, and until Congress shall otherwise by law provide." It is therefore every Citizen's right, say they to interfere for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia.

[There—The Slave trade—smuggling by the Capital is now free, but should not. The Treaty is the annex of the "American Slave Trade," since on the authority of a Member of the House of Representatives, Mr. Jackson, "That during the last Session of Congress, (1835-36) as several Members were standing in the dome over the new Capitol, a shower of uncolored people were pouring in, and when just opposite one of them clanking his musket as high as he could reach, commenced singing the favorite National Song, "Oh! Columbia! Happy land!" &c. Page 62.]

District of Columbia Emancipation Act (12 Stat. 376): April 16, 1862



Supplemental Act of July 12, 1862 (12 Stat. 538)

Rec'd 12 July Public 127
Thirty-Seventh Congress of the United States of America;

At the *Second* Session,

Begun and held at the city of Washington, on Monday, the *second* day of December, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two

AN ACT

Supplementary to the "Act for the release of certain persons held to service or labor in the District of Columbia" approved April seventh, eighteen hundred and sixty-two.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

That the oath or affirmation required by the second section of the act entitled "An act for the release of certain persons held to service or labor in the District of Columbia" to verify the statements or petitions in writing filed before the commissioners, under the act aforesaid, of persons holding claims to service or labor against persons of African descent, freed and discharged, therefrom, under the act aforesaid, may in all cases in which the persons holding claims, as aforesaid, are infants or minors, be made by the guardian or by any other person, whether separately or jointly, having the custody, management, or control by law of the person and property of such infants or minors, and that in all cases in which the persons holding claims as aforesaid are non-residents of the District of Columbia, or resident absentees, the oath or affirmation required as aforesaid may be made by the attorney or agent of said non-resident or resident absentee, and in all cases in which the statements or petitions, required as aforesaid, of persons in the military or naval service of the United States, shall have been or may be hereafter verified before any commander of any military post, or of any officer having a separate command of any military force in the field, or before any captain, commander, or lieutenant commanding on the navy, the same shall be received and deemed valid, to all intents and purposes, as fully as if the verification had been or were made before any officer competent by law to take and administer oaths and affirmations. *Provided,* That the commissioners shall be satisfied that, at the time of the verification aforesaid, the person making the same was employed in the military or naval service of the United States within the jurisdiction of a rebellious State or Territory, and unable to make the oath or affirmation required, as aforesaid, before any officer authorized by law to take or administer the same holding allegiance to the United States, &c. &c. And be it further enacted, That if any person having claims to the service or labor of any person or persons in the District of Columbia by reason of African descent, shall neglect or refuse to file with the clerk of the circuit court of the District of Columbia the statement in writing, or schedule provided

Federal Records Relevant to Slavery in DC

1. THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE EMANCIPATION OF SLAVES (RG217)
 - **M520**, Records of the Board of Commissioners for the Emancipation of Slaves in the District of Columbia, 1862-63 (6 rolls)
2. RECORDS OF THE U.S. CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA (RG21)
 - **M433**, Records of the U.S. Circuit Court for the District of Columbia Relating to Slaves, 1851-1863 (3 rolls)
 - **M434**, Habeas Corpus Case Records of the U.S. Circuit Court for the District of Columbia, 1820-1863 (2 rolls)

M520, Records of the Board of Commissioners for the Emancipation of Slaves in the District of Columbia, 1862-63 (6 rolls)

Petitions filed with the Board of Commissioners pursuant to
the acts of April 16 and July 12, 1862

See also,

Serial Set Vol. 1189: *House Executive Document 42, 38 Congress, 1 Session*

Dorothy S. Provine, *Compensated Emancipation in the District of Columbia:
Petitions under the Act of April 16, 1862*

PETITION.

To the Commissioners under the act of Congress approved the 16th of April, 1862,
entitled "An act for the release of certain persons held to service or labor in the
District of Columbia."

Your Petitioner, Clark Mills of Washington County D.C.
by this his petition in writing, represents and states, that he is a person loyal to the
United States, who, at the time of the passage of the said act of Congress, held a claim to
service or labor against

six male and five female

persons of African descent of the names of Lettie Howard and her children
Tilly, Tom, Ellick, Jackson, George, and Emily; — Levi Thomas,
Rachel Thomas, Ann Robt, and Philip Reid,

for and during the life of said eleven persons,

and that by said act of Congress said eleven persons

were discharged and freed of and from all claim of your petitioner to such service or labor;
that at the time of said discharge said eleven persons

were of the aged of

and of the personal description following: ⁽¹⁾ viz: — Lettie Howard, 33 years old, color
black, short and thick set — healthy; — her six children, Tilly, 10 years,
Tom, 8 years, — Ellick, 6 1/2 years, — Jackson, 5 years, — George, 3 years, — and
Emily, 3 months old, all black color, sound and healthy; — Levi Thomas, 37 years old, black color, over six feet high, a large leg, rather
stiff, but sound and in good health; — Rachel Thomas, his wife, 40 years old,
mulatto color, healthy, very large, weighs about 200 pounds; — Ann Robt, 48
years, mulatto color, about five feet seven inches high, rather thin make, and
in good health; — and Philip Reid, aged 42 years, mulatto color, short
in stature, in good health, not propensely in appearance, but smart in
mind, a good workman in a foundry, and has been employed, in that
capacity by the Government, at one dollar and twenty five cents
per day.

Your Petitioner is not aware that any of above possess any
moral, mental, or bodily infirmities that impair their value; and
does not believe that any such exist; except that mentioned in regard
to the stiff leg of Levi Thomas.

That your petitioner acquired his claim to the aforesaid service or labor of said eleven persons, _____ in manner following: ⁽¹⁾ Lettie Howard and her child Tilly were purchased from Peter Havens some 8 or 9 years ago for eight hundred dollars, and her five other children were born since. — Levi Thomas and his wife Rachel, he purchased in Baltimore about the same time, and paid nine hundred and fifty dollars for them: — Ann Rofs he acquired by his wife: — and Philip Reid he purchased in Charleston, S. C. many years ago when he was quite a youth. He bought him because of his excellent talent for the ~~family~~ ^{business} in which your Petitioner was engaged, and paid twelve hundred dollars for him. — His papers having been burnt some years ago, he has no record evidence of his title. —

That your petitioner's claim to the service or labor of said eleven persons was, at the time of said discharge therefrom, of the value of (see below) dollars _____ in money. ⁽²⁾ Lettie Howard, — seven hundred dollars \$700.00

(See preceding page.)

Tilly Howard, five hundred dollars 500.00
John Howard, five hundred dollars 500.00
Elick Howard, four hundred dollars 400.00
Jackson Howard, two hundred fifty dollars 250.00
George Howard, one hundred fifty dollars 150.00
Emily Howard, fifty dollars 50.00
Levi Thomas, three hundred dollars 300.00
Rachel Thomas, four hundred dollars 400.00
Ann Rofs, five hundred dollars (\$500.) 500.00
Philip Reid, fifteen hundred dollars 1,500.00
\$5,250.00

Your petitioner hereby declares that he bears true and faithful allegiance to the Government of the United States, and that he has not borne arms against the United States in the present rebellion, nor in any way given aid or comfort thereto.

And your petitioner further states and alleges, that he has not brought said eleven persons _____ into the District of Columbia since the passage of said act of Congress; and that, at the time of the passage thereof, said eleven persons were ~~was~~ held to service or labor therein under and by virtue of your petitioner's claim to such service or labor.

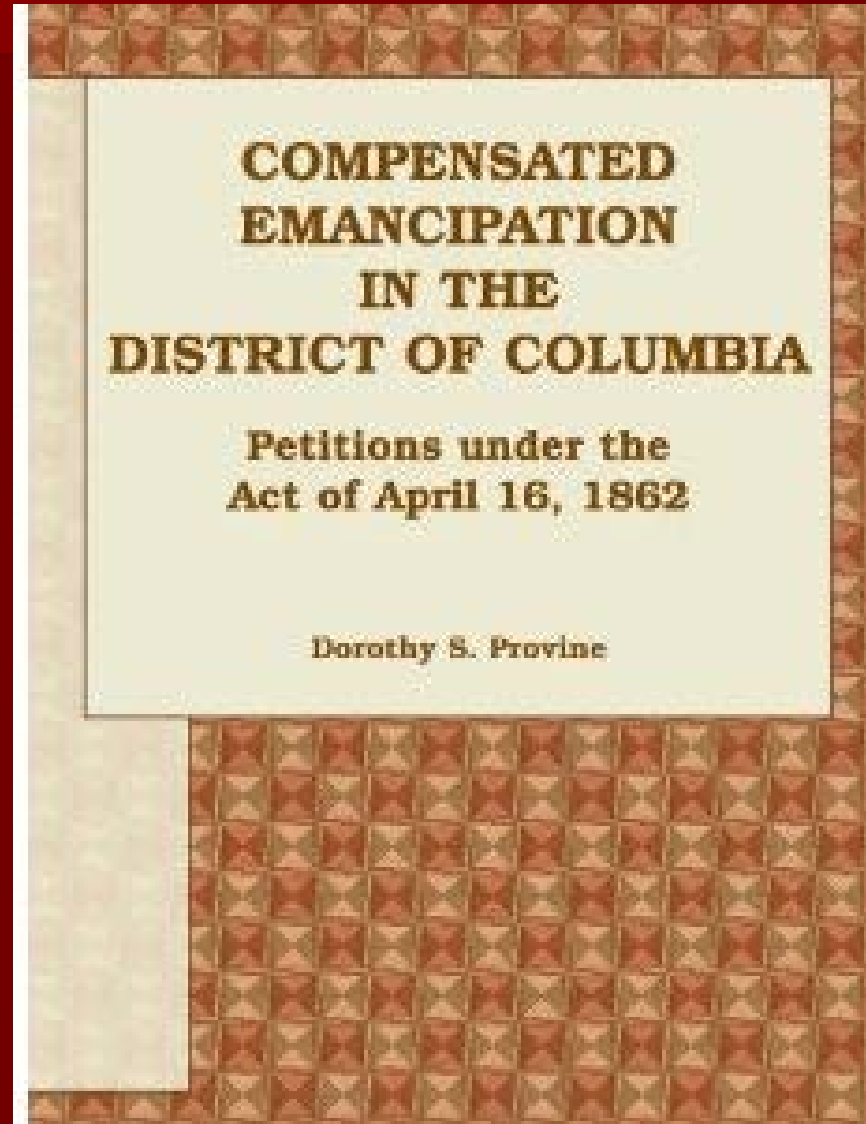
Your petitioner further states and alleges, that his said claim to the service or labor of said eleven persons, _____ does not originate in or by virtue of any transfer heretofore made by any person who has in any manner aided or sustained the present rebellion against the Government of the United States.

And your petitioner prays the said Commissioners to investigate and determine the validity of his said claim to the service or labor of said eleven persons _____ herein above set forth; and if the same be found to be valid, that they appraise and apportion the value of said claim in money, and report the same to the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, in conformity to the provisions of said act of Congress.

(Signed by)

Clark Mills

*Compensated Emancipation in the District of Columbia:
Petitions under the Act of April 16, 1862*
By Dorothy Provine



M433, Records of the U.S. Circuit Court for the District of Columbia, 1820-1863 (3 rolls)

- 1) Emancipation Papers
- 2) Manumission Papers and Affidavits of Freedom, 1857-63
- 3) Fugitive Slave Case Papers, 1851-63

(The National Archives has a searchable database of the names of individuals in these records)

M433, Records of the U.S. Circuit Court for the District of Columbia, 1820-1863 (3 rolls)

- Emancipation Papers
(According to initial terms of Act of
April 16, 1862)

(The National Archives has a searchable database of the names of
individuals in these records)

Columbus Alexander's Schedule & Documentation

14 Maid 50
Schedule
Columbus Alexander
Received 28 May 1862
Recorded in Man-
umission record folio
126
Cert. given those checked within
Indfd by C. Alexander
Removal to Frank Diggs Nov
13th 1862
14

[Sold by W. H. & O. H. MORRIS, Booksellers.]

To JOHN A. SMITH, Esq.,
Clerk of the Circuit Court for the District of Columbia.

SIR: You will please file and record in your office the annexed statement and schedule, under the provisions of an act of Congress, entitled "An act for the relief of certain persons held to service or labor in the District of Columbia," approved April 16th, 1862:

NAME	AGE	SEX	PARTICULAR DESCRIPTION.
Beverly Davis	About 25	Male	Black - medium size
Nancy Holmes	About 25	Female	Copper color, or Mulatto, medium size
Thomas Holmes	" 6	Male	Copper color or Mulatto
Arena Holmes	" 23	Female	Copper color - or Mulatto, medium size
Jefferson D. Holmes	" one year	Male	" " "
Maria Bowman	" 18	Female	Black - medium size
Josephine Bowman	" 2	Female	Bright Mulatto
Frank Diggs	" 21	Male	Black - medium size
George Singleton	" 25	Male	Black - thick lips medium size
John Wiley	" 22	Male	Black - medium size
Betty Hoff	" 70	Female	Black - low stature
Edna Jones	" 35	"	" " "
Lucy Jones	" 6	"	Black " "
John Jones	" one year	Male	Dark copper color

The persons mentioned in the foregoing schedule were, by reason of African descent and acquired title, ~~my~~ property, and by ~~one~~ held to service and labor in the District of Columbia at the time the act of Congress above cited was approved, the benefit of which is hereby claimed.

May 28th, 1862 - Columbus Alexander

Robert R. Aylmer's Schedule & Documentation

paid

Robt. R. Aylmer's
Certificate of Manumission
Filed 5th May 1862

Recorded in Manumission
record folio 2: 482
May 1862

Out given to Margaret
Sept. 4. R. R. Aylmer

[Sold by W. H. & O. H. MANNING, Rochester.]

To JOHN A. SMITH, Esq.,
Clerk of the Circuit Court for the District of Columbia.

SEE: You will please file and record in your office the annexed statement and schedule, under the provisions of an act of Congress, entitled "An act for the relief of certain persons held to service or labor in the District of Columbia," approved April 16th, 1862:

NAME	AGE	SEX	PARTICULAR DESCRIPTION
Margaret Watkins	21	Female	Margaret is of copper complexion, of stout stature, about five feet high, and of pleasing countenance.

The persons mentioned in the foregoing schedule were by reason of African descent and acquired title ~~any~~ property, and by ~~one~~ held to service and labor in the District of Columbia at the time the act of Congress above cited was approved, the benefit of which is hereby claimed.

Robt. R. Aylmer.
May 1st 1862.

M433, Records of the U.S. Circuit Court for the District of Columbia, 1820-1863 (3 rolls)

➤ Emancipation Papers (Supplementary Act of July 12, 1862)

(The National Archives has a searchable database of the names of individuals in these records)

Philip Meredith Manumission

Filed 30 June 1862

hand
Philip Meredith
Petition
Recorded in Manu-
mission Record No. 2
folios 80 & 81 —
Filed 30th June 1862.
Pd. Clerk. 75.
The undersigned
satisfied on the tes-
timony of James Ev-
erette of the truth
of the truth of the
written statement
now the same to be
so reported to the
Clerk of the Circuit
Court of the District
of Columbia.
Wm. H. Woodruff
Aug 2. 1862 Clerk
Pm

Former Slave of General Robert Lee

To JOHN A. SMITH Esq., Clerk of the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia.

Sir:

General Robert Lee of *Virginia* late of *Arlington Heights* having claim of the service or labor of the undersigned, and having refused or neglected to file in your office the statement in writing or schedule provided for in the 9th section of the Act of Congress, entitled "An act for the release of certain persons held to service or labor in said District," approved April 16, 1862, you will please file this petition or schedule in lieu thereof, in pursuance of the provisions of an act supplementary to said act which said last mentioned act was approved July 12, 1862. This petitioner further state that the undersigned *him* resided in said District *for twenty years* and has resided therein since the *16* day of *April* 1862, by and with the consent of *the* said *Robert Lee*

Name, *Philip Mendith* Age, *30* Sex, *male* Remarks, *Dark Copper Color about 5 ft 4 inches*

In witness whereof
Geo E A Gay

Philip Mendith

The Addison Family:

Alice, Rachel, Mary Ann, George, Alice, & James

Recorded in manuscript
Record No. 2 of 1862
Alice Addison paid
Rachel Addison
Mary Ann Addison
George Addison.
Alice Addison
James Addison
Sept. to all. Oct. 7th 1862
Hester Ann Lippel
The claimants
of the within named
servants appeared be-
fore the Commissioner
with the servants for
valuation and that
a report of the cases
may be made to
Congress for com-
pensation, for which
they have petitioned
and the servants are
now in the Dist. of Colum-
bia by the consent of said
claimants, who ask that
free papers be issued to
them, to which they are there-
fore entitled under the
act of 12th July 1862.
An order of Comm. of Genl. Warren

"The claimants of the within named servants appeared before the commissioners with the servants ...who ask their free papers be filed to them, to which they are entitled under the Act 12th July 1862."

The Addison Family

- Alice Addison, 55, brown colored, 5'4'', healthy & strong
- Rachel Addison (Alice's Daughter), 24, brown colored, 5'8'', healthy & strong
- Mary Ann Addison (Alice's Daughter), 26, brown, 5'6'', heavy built, healthy
- George Addison (Mary son), 10, brown, healthy
- Alice Addison (Mary's daughter), 3, brown, healthy
- James Addison (Mary's son), 9 months, brown, healthy

1

[Sold by W. H. & O. H. Moskowitz, Bookellers.]

To JOHN A. SMITH, Esq.,
Clerk of the Circuit Court for the District of Columbia.

SIR: You will please file and record in your office the annexed statement and schedule, under the provisions of an act of Congress, entitled "An act for the relief of certain persons held to service or labor in the District of Columbia," approved April 16th, 1862:

NAME	AGE	SEX	PARTICULAR DESCRIPTION.
Alice Addison	about 55 years	Female	Brown color - 5ft. 4 inches high - healthy and strong.
Rachel Addison her Daughter	about 24 years	Female	Brown color, about 5ft. 8 inches high - healthy and strong.
Mary Ann Addison Daughter of Alice	26 years	Female	Brown color, about 5ft. 6 inches high - heavy built, and healthy.
George Addison Son of Mary Ann	10 years	Male	Brown color - about 4ft. 6 in. high - slim and healthy.
Alice Addison Daughter of Mary Ann	3 years	Female	Brown color - healthy.
James Addison Son of Mary Ann	9 months	Male	Brown color - healthy.

The persons mentioned in the foregoing schedule were, by reason of African descent and acquired title, as our property, and by us held to service and labor in the ^{State of Maryland} District of Columbia at the time the act of Congress above cited was approved, the benefit of which is hereby claimed: — they left this City on the 13th of April last, three days before the approval of the said Act, because they feared they would be colonized in Africa, and to avoid that they went to their Father who is the slave of Harry Cook in Montgomery County, Maryland, where they remained until the 28th of September last, when they returned here and claimed their freedom under the above cited Act.

Washington City, October 6, 1862. —

Teresa Ann Saffell
 Anne M. Saffell
 John L. Saffell
 Richard Saffell
 Dr. L. Saffell
 Mary C. Saffell

Addison Family: Fled to “Father” in Fear of African Colonization

Sold by W. H. & O. H. Monahan, Booksellers.

To JOHN A. SMITH, Esq.,

Clerk of the Circuit Court for the District of Columbia.

Sir: You will please file and record in your office the annexed statement and schedule, under the provisions of an act of Congress, entitled “An act for the relief of certain persons held to service or labor in the District of Columbia,” approved April 16th, 1862:

NAME.	AGE.	SEX.	PARTICULAR DESCRIPTION.
Alice Addison	— about 55 years.	Female	Brown color — 5 ft. 4 inches high — healthy and strong.
Rachel Addison — her daughter	— about 24 years.	Female	Brown color, about 5 ft. 5 inches high — healthy and strong.
Mary Ann Addison — daughter of Alice	— 26 years.	Female	Brown color, about 5 ft. 6 inches high — heavy built, and healthy.
George Addison — — son of Mary Ann	— 10 years.	Male	Brown color — about 5 ft. 6 in. high — slim and healthy.
Alice Addison, — daughter of Mary Ann	— 3 years.	Female	Brown color — healthy.
James Addison — — son of Mary Ann.	— 9 months.	Male	Brown color — healthy.

The persons mentioned in the foregoing schedule were, by reason of African descent and acquired title, as our property, and by us held to service and labor in the ^{State of Virginia} District of Columbia at the time the act of Congress above cited was approved, the benefit of which is hereby claimed: — they left this City on the 13th of April last, three days before the approval of the said Act, because they feared they would be colonized in Africa, and to avoid that they went to their Father who is the slave of Harry Cook in Montgomery County, Maryland, where they remained until the 28th of September last, when they returned here and claimed their freedom under the above cited Act.

Washington City, October 6, 1862. —

Lurisa Ann Gaffell
— daughter of
John L. Gaffell
Richard Gaffell
— son of L. Gaffell
Mary E. Gaffell

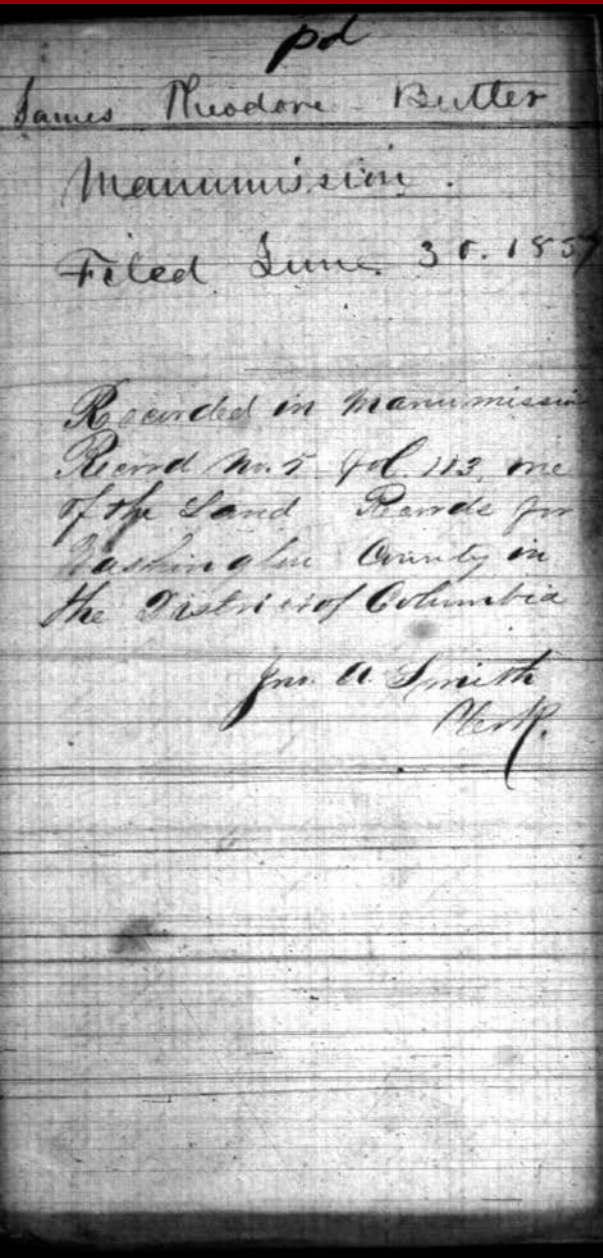
“They left this city on the 13th of April last, three days before the approval of the said Act, because they feared they would be colonized in Africa, and to avoid that they went to their father who is the slave of Harry Cook in Montgomery County, Maryland....”

M433, Records of the U.S. Circuit Court for the District of Columbia, 1820-1863 (3 rolls)

2) Manumission Papers & Affidavits of Freedom, 1857-63

(The National Archives has a searchable database of the names of individuals in these records)

James Theodore Butler's Card



James Theodore Butler

Affidavit of Freedom
(Manumission Filed 31 June,
1857)

James T. Butler's Manumission

District of Columbia }
County of Washington } ss.
On this twenty ninth day of June in the
year Eighteen hundred and fifty seven
before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace
in and for the County aforesaid personally
came Letty Thompson who is well known
to me as a credible person and makes
Oath on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty
God that she is well acquainted with
James Theodore Butler a black man
about twenty two years of age, and that she
knows him to be free and born of free pa-
rents. Sworn and subscribed before me
N. Callan Jp Seal

George Ball's Card

paid for -
Richard S. Coxe }
to George Ball } Dec
of
manumission

Received 1st December
1859 - To be Recorded
& same day was Record-
ed in manumission
Record at 5th folios
274 & 275 one of the
Records for Washington
County in the District
of Columbia & examined
by Geo. C. Smith

Richard S. Coxe (Owner)

George Ball (Manumitted)

Filed 1st of December, 1859

Description of George Ball

Know all men by these presents, that whereas I Richard J. Cox did on the sixth of April 1853, purchase of Mrs. Harbitt N. Newman a man slave named George Ball as a slave for life. And whereas it was expressly agreed and understood between said parties as one of the terms of said sale and purchase, that the said George Ball should be allowed to purchase his freedom at the price given for him to said Mrs. Newman to wit the sum of five hundred dollars, and that upon the full payment of said five hundred dollars he the said George Ball should be entitled to his freedom and receive letters of Manumission. And whereas the said George Ball duly paid to me the said Richard the full sum of five hundred dollars. And whereas the said George Ball is at this time of healthy Constitution and sound in mind and body, capable by labor to procure for himself sufficient food and raiment with other requisite necessities of life, and is at this time under the age of forty five, being about thirty nine years of age, and I the said Richard J. Cox being willing and desirous in execution of the above recited agreement to let free and Manumit the said George, do by these presents, in consideration of the premises, Manumit and set free the said George Ball, absolutely and unconditionally, to be free from the date of these presents. In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal to these presents, this thirtieth day of November in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty three.

Sealed and delivered in

presence of

Wm. H. H. H. H.
Wm. H. H. H. H.
11 11 11

Richard J. Cox



Summerville Family Deed of Manumission

Deed of Manumission
District of Columbia &
County of Washington
To all whom it may concern
Be it known that I Thomas Summerville
of the City of Washington in the District
of Columbia for divers good causes and
considerations and therunto moving
Have released from Slavery, Liberated Man-
umitted and set free and by these presents
do hereby release from Slavery, Liberate, Manumit,
and set free my wife Maria being of the age
of thirty four years and able to work and gain
a sufficient livelihood and maintainance
and the said Negro Slave named
Maria Summerville I do declare to be
henceforth free manumitted and
discharged from all manner of
service or servitude to me my Executors
or administrators forever
Signed sealed
and delivered in witness whereof I have
in presence of This fourteenth day of December
in the year of our Lord One
Thousand Eight Hundred
and fifty seven set my hand
Witnesses Do Hull Thomas Summerville Seal
District of Columbia &
Washington County
On the 14th day of Decem-
ber 1857 before me the Subscriber a Justice of the Peace
for the County aforesaid personally appearing
Thomas Summerville and acknowledging
the above Deed of Manumission to be his act
and deed for the purpose set forth Do Hull J.P. Seal

"...I, Thomas Summerville ... do hereby release from slavery, liberate, manumit, & set free, my wife Maria being of age 34 years ... I do declare [her] ... discharged from all manner of service or servitude to me, my executors, or administrators forever."

Thomas Summerville's Proof of Ownership

Know all men by these presents, that I Mary Watts
of Saint Marys County and State of Maryland for and in
consideration of the sum of seven hundred dollars cur-
rent money to be paid ^{in hand} by Thomas Somerville F.B. of the County
and State aforesaid, at and before the sealing and deliv-
ery hereof, the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, have
granted, bargained and sold, and by these presents bargain
and sell unto the said Thomas Somerville F.B.
his Executors, Administrators or assigns, one negro woman
Maria aged twenty six years, one negro child named
Sarah Ann aged six years, one negro child named Thomas
Randolph aged three years, and one other negro child na-
med Mary Ellen aged one year, all which negroes are slaves
for life. To have and to hold the said described
negroes above bargained and sold to the said Thomas
Somerville F.B. his Executors or Administrators and
assigns, forever to him and their only proper heirs and
benefits and like said Mary Watts for myself, my
Executors and Administrators, shall and will war-
rant and forever defend by these presents to the said
Thomas Somerville F.B. his Executors or Administrators
and assigns, the said described negroes, against me
my Executors and Administrators, and ^{against} all other
other person or persons whomsoever claiming the
same in any part thereof. In Testimony whereof, I
have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the
twenty sixth day of December eighteen hundred and
forty nine.

Signed sealed and delivered } Mary Watts *Seal*
in the presence of
N. Furch

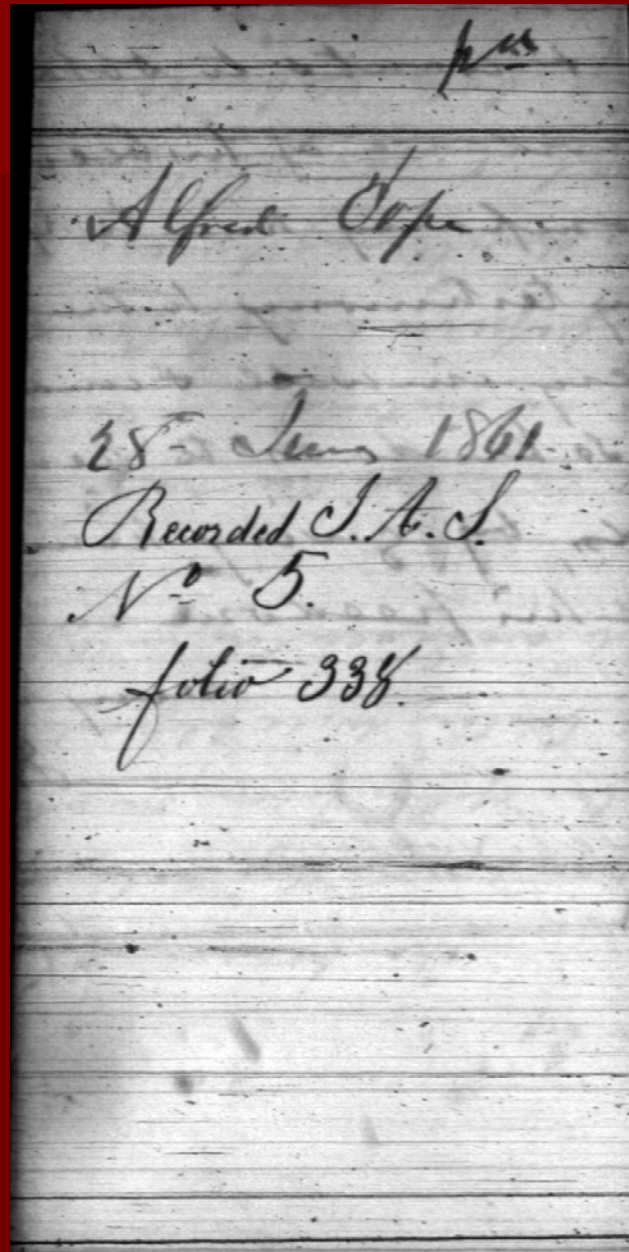
Received of Thomas Somerville F.B. the sum of
seven hundred dollars in the full of ^{the} consideration
specified to be paid in the above bill of sale.
26th December 1849. Mary Watts

“...I Mary Watts of St. Mary’s
County ... MD, for ... the sum
of \$700 current money ... paid
by Thomas Somerville (sic.)

“F.B.” ... sell unto [him] ...

Maria, aged 26 years, one Negro
child named Sarah Ann age 6,
one Negro child named Thomas
Randolph age 3, and one other
child, Mary Ellen, 1 year ... 26
December 1849.”

Alfred Pope, 28 June 1861



Alfred Pope's Affidavit of Freedom

To Jno. A. Smith Esq
D^r Sir The bearer Alfred Pope, a coloured man, who will hand you this note, was a servant of the late Col. John Carter of this town, on whose Estate I administer. By Col. Carter's will Alfred was set free, or is now with my consent an Executor in the enjoyment of his freedom.

Alfred caused the necessary certificate of his freedom to be entered of record in your office & had in his possession a certified copy. About a week since his dwelling house in this place took fire, in the night & was destroyed with all his furniture & clothing both of himself & family.

Alfred wishes to leave the District in search of employment & wants to obtain a copy from the record of the evidence of his being a freed man. I would accompany him to your office to offer in person my testimony to the foregoing facts but I am very unwell & unable to do so - will you be so kind as to render him the same service he needs, by giving him the renewed evidence of his freedom in the proper form.

Very respectfully
Jno. Mearns

Identified by J. J. L. L. L.

By Col. Carter's will Alfred was set free, [and] is now, with my consent as executor, in the enjoyment of his freedom."

"Alfred caused this necessary certificate of his freedom to be entered on record in your office & had in his possession a certified copy. About a week ago ... his dwelling house ... took fire in the night and it was destroyed with all his furniture."

Alfred Pope's Affidavit (Continued)

To Mr. A. Smith Esq
D^r Sir The bearer Alfred Pope, a coloured man, who will hand you this note, was a servant of the late Col John Carter of this town, on whose Estate I administered — By Col Carter's will Alfred was set free, or in now with my consent an Executor in the enjoyment of his freedom.

Alfred caused the necessary certificate of his freedom to be entered of record in your office. I had in his possession a certified copy. About a week since his dwelling house in this place took fire, in the night & was destroyed with all his furniture & clothing both of himself & family.

Alfred wishes to leave the District in search of employment & wanted to obtain a copy from the record of the evidence of his being a freed man. I would accompany him to your office to offer in person my testimony to the foregoing facts, but I am very unwell & unable to do so — will you be so kind as to render him the service he needs by giving him the renewed evidence of his freedom in the proper form.

Very respectfully
John Marbury

Identified by Jeph LePecaut

“Alfred wishes to leave the District in search of employment and wants to obtain a copy from the record of the evidence of his being a freed man. I would accompany him to your office to offer in person my testimony in the foregoing facts, but I am very unwell & unable to do so—will you be so kind as to render him the service he needs by giving him the renewed evidence of his freedom in paper form.”

Very Respectfully,
John Marbury

Alfred Pope & Hannah Cole

Freedmen's Bureau Marriage Record

Office Deputy Chapt. Marriages
West Capt. St. City Washington D.C.
July 25th 1867

Rev John Kimball
Deputy Marriages D.C.
Sir

I have the honor to submit the following report of "Certificates of Legal Marriage" issued by me during the month of July 1867.

Husband	Wife	Age	Where	Where	Remarks
Ben Ray	Samie Bechitt	1855	No ceremony	8	D.C.
Alfred Pope	Hannah Cole	1841	Mayor	8	"
John Jones	Marv Wilson	1853	No ceremony	4	Georgetown D.C.
Abraham Agant	Wally Field	1851	"	5	D.C.
Jas Hamilton	Clarke Wise	1861	"	7	"
Henry Thomas	Elaine Thomas	1841	"	10	St. Marys Co. Md.
Edw Layton	Elizabeth Jones	1857	Hall	4	D.C.
Lizma Wilson	Martha Preston	1858	No ceremony	6	D.C.
Dani Boyd	Elizabeth Boyd	1840	"	8	Montgomery D.C.
John Simon	Harriet Kelly	1862	"	2	London Co. Va.
Alfred Chinn	Martha Glen	1854	"	2	Georgetown D.C.
Jack Martin	Bertha Kelly	1865	"	4	Montgomery D.C.
Rich Johnson	Stephen Johnson	1857	Smile	1	Georgetown D.C.
Jas Henson	Wagon Jones	1850	North Howard	4	D.C.
James Johnson	Jane Jones	1857	No ceremony	2	Georgetown D.C.
Wm Peter	Eliza Doyle	1841	"	6	D.C.

Alfred Pope's Freedman's Bank Record, 25 January 1870

No. 3500 Record for Mount Zion Church Georgetown D.C.
Date of Application, Jan 25, 1870
Where born,
Where brought up,
Residence,
Age,
Complexion,
Occupation,
Works for,
Wife,
Children,
Father, Edgar Murphy
Barton Fisher
~~John H. Williams~~
Mother,
Brothers, Alfred Pope
Sisters,
Signature,

A Draft signed by three of the Banking Committee accompanied with the Pass Book will always be payable.
Banking Committee
Edgar Murphy
Barton Fisher
John H. Williams

#50

Mount Zion Church, Georgetown

“A Draft signed by three of the Banking Committee accompanied with the pass book will always be payable”

Banking Committee:

Edgar Murphy, Barton Fisher, Alfred Pope, John H. Williams
(John H. Williams crossed out).

Hannah Pope's Freedman's Bank Account, 18 August 1871

No. 8773 RECORD for *Hannah Pope*
Date, *Augt. 18. 1871*
Where born,
Where brought up, *Frederick St. George I.*
Residence,
Age, *21* Complexion,
Occupation, *Lives at Shop*
Works for
Wife or Husband, *Alfred Pope*
Children, *Catherine*

Father, *Bartholomew Williams*
Mother,
Brothers and Sisters,

REMARKS:

Signature *Hannah Pope*
Hannah

Residence: Frederick Street,
Georgetown

Occupation: Lives at Shop(?)

Children: Catherine

Mother: Barbara Williams

Alfred Pope's Freedman's Bank Account, 18 August 1871

No. 8362 RECORD for Alfred Pope
Date, Sept 5 1871
Where born,
Where brought up, Georgetown, D.C.
Residence,
Age, Complexion,
Occupation, Night Sweeper
Works for
Wife or Husband, Hannah Pope
Children,

Father,
Mother,
Brothers and Sisters,

REMARKS

Signature, Alfred Pope

Residence: Georgetown, D.C.

Occupation: Night Scavenger

Wife: Hannah Pope

Pope Family in the 1870 U.S. Federal Census

- Alfred 46, common laborer
- Hannah 40, keeping
- Catharine 20, teaching school
- Rachel 18, teaching school
- Alice 16, at home going to school
- Barbara 13, at home going to school
- William 7
- John 5
- Emma 1

“The Pope Household”

[illegible]

Pope Family in the 1880 U.S. Federal Census

[illegible]

- Alfred 56, keeps wood yard
- Hannah 51, keeping house
- Rachel 28, dress maker
- Barbara 23, school teacher
- Alfred Jr. 20, works at wood yard
- John 14, at school
- Emma 11, at school
- LuLu 8, at school

"Reub' Pannel" & Eliza Henderson

Names		Date of Marriage	By Whom	No. of Children	Where Born	Remarks
Husband	Wife					
Orick Aland	Mary Aland	1852	No ceremony	1	Pr for Co Mo th	
James Boege	Mary Boege	1849	"	5	"	
Samuel Hornet	Mary Hornet	1865	"	8	"	
William Rupp	Whislet Rupp	1860	"	+	Westmoreland Co Pa th	
James Jackson	Mary Jackson	1857	Rebo-Ornt	6	Charles Co Mo th	
George Brooks	Sony Davis	1858	No ceremony	4	Caroline Co W th	
Emmanuel Lave	Louisa Carter	1857	"	6	Pa th	Left his wife last fall
Thomas Lave	Eliza Thomas	1857	Witness	1	Chas Co Mo th	
Walt Williams	Eliza Williams	1843	No ceremony	1	Springfield Co W th	
Abraham Abraham	Anna Cardus	1851	"	6	Caroline Co W th	
James Hill	Mary Hill	1863	"	1	Pa th	
George Smith	Eliza Smith	1852	Witness	4	Westmoreland Co Pa th	
David Landon	Betsy Landon	1861	No ceremony	3	Springfield Co W th	
Robert Gray	Ninnie Morris	1854	"	5	Westmoreland Co Pa th	
Abraham La R	Caroline Page	1858	"	3	Lewis Co W th	
Charles Davis	Maria Davis	1856	"	2	Lancaster Co W th	
John Anthony	Melinda Lundy	1863	"	+	Atlanta Georgia	
Rayton Robinson	Betsy Gadsden	1858	Carl Wilson	4	Stafford Co W th	
John Thompson	Rachel Peltier	1862	James Jackson	4	Bedford Co W th	
Reub Pannel	Eliza Henderson	1857	No ceremony	2	King William Co W th	
Charles Johnson	Ann Lundy	1855	"	3	Bedford Co W th	
John Campbell	Ann Gray	1860	"	4	Orange Co W th	
Ed. Smith	Eliza Smith	1848	"	3	Lancaster Co W th	
Alex. Walker	Liamah Ruck	1848	"	5	Madison Co W th	
Levin Callahan	Mary Boyd	1854	W. Seal	4	Anne Arundel Co Md th	
William Brown	Fannie Brown	1850	No ceremony	1	King George Co W th	
Wash Chamber	Fannie Chamber	1860	John Williams	2	Richmond Co W th	
Wash Ogler	Charlotte Lewis	1858	No ceremony	2	St. Kent Co W th	

“Reubin Pannel” 1867

Freedman’s Bank Account

Record for *Reubin Pannel* 1867

Date, and No. of Application *Aug 24, 1867*

Name of Master, *Martin Staughter*

Name of Mistress, *Betsey*

Plantation,

Height and Complexion, *5' 4" light brown*

~~Married~~ Mother? *Married*

Name of Children, *Benjamin Pannel*

Regiment and Company,

Place of Birth, *King William Co. Va.*

Residence, *18th St. bet L & M. St. Wash*

Occupation,

REMARKS,

32

Signature, *Reubin Pannel*
mark

- Date: 24 August 1867
- Master: Martin Staughter
- Mistress: Betsey
- Hght/Comp: 5'4", light brown
- Children: Benjamin Pannel
- Place of Birth: King William Co., Virginia
- Residence: 18th St. btw. L & M, Washington, D.C.

“Ruben Pannell” 1873 Freedman’s Bank Account

- Date: 14 August 1873
- Age: 62
- Hgt/Comp: Dark
- Residence: 18st. btw L&M
- Occupation: Laborer
- Wife: Eliza Pannel

16255 RECORD OF *Ruben Pannell*

Date, *Aug 14th 1873*

Where born, *King Geo Co Va*

Where brought up, *18th st bet L & M*

Residence, *62 years*

Age, *62 years* Completion, *Dark*

Occupation, *Laborer*

Works for

Wife or Husband, *Eliza Pannell*

Children,

Father,

Mother,

Brothers and Sisters,

REMARKS:

Signature, *Ruben Pannell*
mark

“Rugan Pannell”

1880 U.S. Federal Census

- Rugan Pannell, 67, Huckster, born in VA
- Eliza Pannell, 35, Wife, Keeping house, born in VA
- Mary E. Pannell, 6, Daughter, born in DC

D. (12-2961)

Page No. 8

Supervisor's Dist. No. 17

Enumeration Dist. No. 57

SCHEDULE 1.—Inhabitants in Nashington, in the County of Nashington, State of Ind. of Ind.

enumerated by me on the 15th day of June, 1880.

1880

NAME	AGE	SEX	COLOR	RELATION	EDUCATION	INDUSTRY	PLACE OF BIRTH	PLACE OF NATIVITY	PLACE OF DEATH	PLACE OF BURIAL	PLACE OF INTERMENT	PLACE OF RESIDENCE	PLACE OF DEATH	PLACE OF BURIAL	PLACE OF INTERMENT	PLACE OF RESIDENCE
Harold Pannell	67	M	W	Husband	1	Huckster	VA	VA				VA	VA			VA
Eliza Pannell	35	F	W	Wife	1	Keeping house	VA	VA				VA	VA			VA
Mary E. Pannell	6	F	W	Daughter	1		DC	DC				DC	DC			DC

M433, Records of the U.S. Circuit Court for the District of Columbia, 1820-1863 (3 rolls)

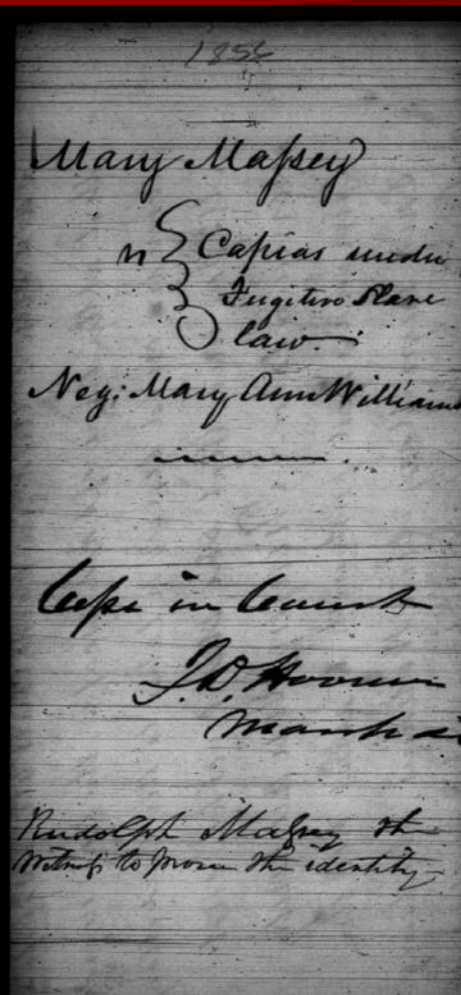
3) Fugitive Slave Case Papers, 1851-63

(The National Archives has a searchable database of the names of individuals in these records).

Fugitive “Contrabands” in Cumberland Landing, VA



Fugitive Slave Claim



Mary Massey (Owner)

Mary Ann Williams (Fugitive)

Warrant For Arrest of Fugitive: Mary Ann Williams

District of Columbia, to wit:

The United States of America

Do the Marshal of the District of
Columbia: Greeting:

Whereas Mary Massey of the County of
Alexandria, State of Virginia hath applied
to the Circuit Court of the District of Colum-
bia for the County of Washington for the
rendition to her of a certain black negro
woman named Mary Ann Williams
who was held to labor by the said Mary Massey
in the State of Virginia, and has escaped from
said state: And the said Court being satisfied
that at the time of said escape, the said negro
woman owed service or labor to the said Mary
Massey, and that she ~~still~~ owes her such
service or labor. Therefore You are hereby
commanded forthwith to arrest her the
said negro Mary Ann Williams, she being
found in your bailiwick, and her safety
keep, so that you have her body before the
Circuit Court of the District of Columbia for
the County of Washington in readiness
to do, receive, and submit to, what shall
be considered of and concerning her in the
premises.

Hence

“Whereas Mary Massey of ...
Alexandria ... Virginia hath
applied to the Circuit Court ...
for the rendition to her of a
certain black negro woman
named Mary Ann Williams ...
You are hereby commanded
forth ... to arrest her ... she
being found in your bailiwick,
and her safety keep, so that you
have her body before the Circuit
Court of the District of
Columbia ... Immediately....”

Mary Ann Williams: Arrested and Returned to Mary Massey

In testimony whereof I have hereunto
subscribed my name and affixed the
Seal of said Court this 18th day of October
AD 1859.

John Smith *clerk*

District of Columbia, S -
I, James Onizaph, Chief Judge of the
Circuit Court of the District of Columbia, do hereby
certify that the above attestation of John Smith
Clerk of the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia
for the County of Washington, is in due form -
Given under my hand this 18th day of October
AD 1859.

In re Mary Ann Williams, a fugitive from labor from
Virginia. Claimed by Mary Massey -
The said Mary Massey, having produced in open Court the
record hereunto annexed (marked A) and the said Mary Ann Williams being
brought into Court, by the Marshal on a Warrant issued by the Court in this
Premises, and her identity having been proved by Richard Massey - It is this
17th Dec. 1856 ordered by the Court that the Marshal of the District deliver her the
said Mary Ann Williams to the said Mary Massey, and the said Mary
Massey is authorized by this order to transport the said Mary Ann Williams
to the State of Virginia from whence she escaped, the said Mary Massey paying
to said Marshal the Cost of her detention and arrest -
My order of the Court -
vide Minutes, Oct. Term 1856. Dec. 17th

“...the said Mary Ann Williams being brought into Court by the Marshal on a warrant issued by the Court in these premises, her identity having been proved by Rudolph Massey—it is thus ... ordered that ... the Marshal ... deliver here the said Mary A. Williams to the said Mary Massey; and...Mary Massey is authorized ... to transfer ... Mary A. Williams to the State of Virginia from where she escaped....”

M434, Habeas Corpus Case Records of the U.S. Circuit Court for the District of Columbia, 1820-1863

- Petitions for Writs of Habeas Corpus
- Writs of Habeas Corpus
- Manumission Papers
- Statements of Freedom
- Other Documents Related to the Proceedings
of Accused Runaways

Habeas Corpus Petition of Emeline Brown,

22 March 1862

William M. Meredith Assistant
To the Honorable Judges of the Circuit Court of the Dis-
trict of Columbia for the County of Washington:

Emeline Brown a free colored woman, and the next
friend of her daughter Lucy Brown, petitions your Honors,
and respectfully represents, that her said daughter Lucy
Brown aged about twelve years, is unjustly and illegally
detained, and held in custody and keeping by one Benjamin
F. Hunt, of Georgetown, in the District of Columbia, and that she
is so held and detained against the will of your petitioner and
without any authority or warrant of law. Your petitioner
is informed that some year or two ago, her husband John
Brown, the father of said Lucy, and a slave for life, belonging
to Richard Pettit Esq. of Georgetown, hired the said Lucy to
the said Benjamin F. Hunt, but that she believes and avers,
that said child Lucy is maltreated, by the said Hunt, and
that she desires the services of her said child, for which
the said Hunt pays nothing to any person entitled to re-
ceive the same. Wherefore your petitioner prays that your
Honors will grant the United States writ of Habeas Corpus
directed to and commanding the said Benjamin F. Hunt,
to be and appear before your Honors at a time to be named
therein, and then and there to have the body of the said Lucy
Brown, and then and there to make known to your Honors the
cause of her said detention &c. and that the said Lucy Brown,
may be discharged from said custody &c. and as a duty owed
will ever pray &c.

Jones & Ashford
Att'ys. Genl.

Emeline Brown
By her counsel
Jones & Ashford.

District of Columbia } Dist.
County of Washington }

On this 28th day of March A.D. 1862 came person-
ally Emeline Brown, and made oath that the matters and things stated
and set forth in the foregoing petition are true, to the best of her
knowledge and belief.

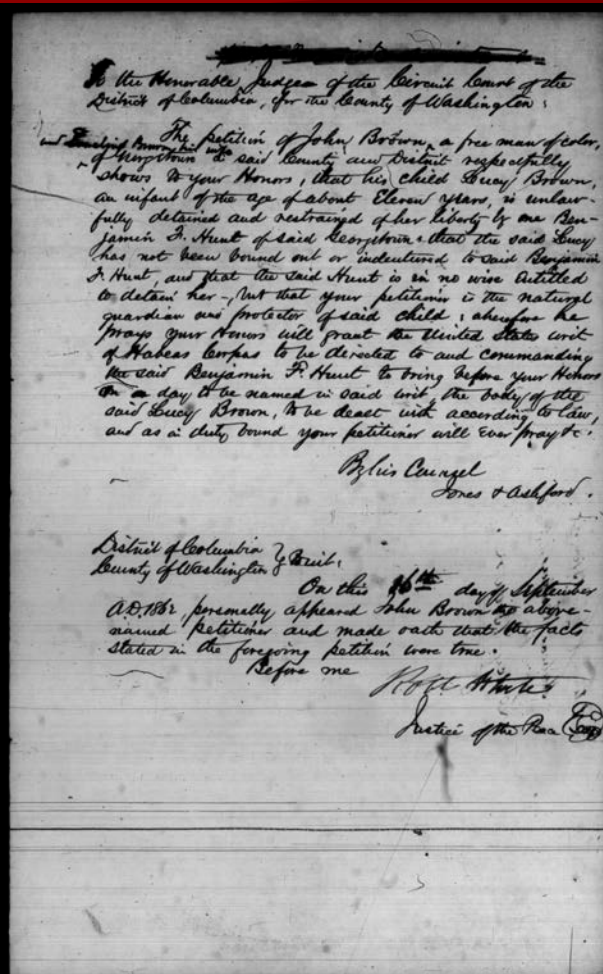
Before me Robert White Seal
Justice of the Peace

“Emeline Brown, a free colored woman...
represents that her ... daughter, Lucy, aged
12, is unjustly & illegally detained & held in
custody ... by one Benjamin F. Hunt of
Georgetown.

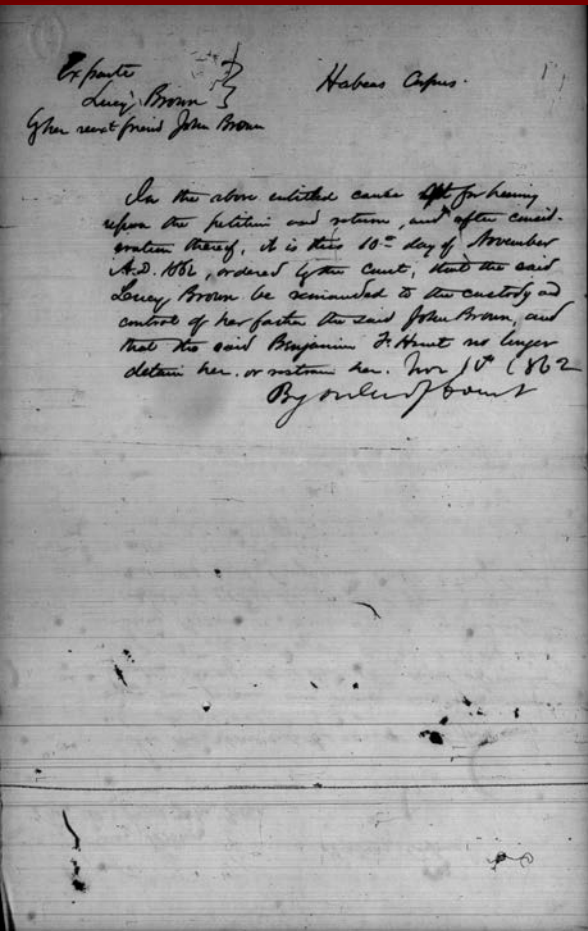
...[a] year or two ago, her husband John
Brown, the father of said Lucy, & a slave for
life, belonging to Richard Pettit esq. of
Georgetown, hired the said Lucy to ...
[Benjamin Hunt], but ...she believes...Lucy
is maltreated by the said Hunt, and...she
desires ... said child....

Habeas Corpus Petition of John Brown, 29 October 1862

The petition of John Brown, a free man of color of Georgetown ... respectfully shows to your Honors that his child Lucy Brown, an infant of ... about 11 years, is unlawfully detained & restrained of her liberty by one Benjamin F. Hunt of Georgetown, & that Lucy has not been bound out or indentured to said [Hunt] ... who is in no wise entitled to detain her, but that your petitioner is the natural guardian & protector of said child....



Lucy Ordered Into Custody of John Brown, 10 November 1862



In the above entitled cause ... it is this 10th day of November A.D. 1862, ordered by the Court, that the said Lucy Brown be remanded to the custody & control of her father, the said John Brown, and the said Benjamin F. Hunt no longer detain or restrain her....

Habeas Corpus Case of Basil Barnes

Elizabeth Contee would respectfully represents that she is a free colored woman residing in [Wash., DC]; and that she is the nearest legal relative of her brother, a colored boy aged abt. 7 years named Basil Barnes;... Basil has been fed and nourished by her, and all his wants provided for to the 28th of July last, when one Wm. A. Mulloy came to her residence & forcibly took from the premises ... Basil ...to some place unknown to your petitioner....

To the Honorable Judge Branch, Chief Judge of the Circuit Court for the County of Washington, in the District of Columbia.

Your petitioner, Elizabeth Contee would respectfully represent that she is a free colored woman residing in the City and County of Washington in the District of Columbia; and that she is the nearest legal relative of her brother, a colored boy aged about seven years and named Basil Barnes, that said Basil has been fed and nourished by her, and all his wants provided for up to the 28th of July last, when one William A. Mulloy came to her residence & forcibly took from the premises thereof the said Basil Barnes, and him took to some place unknown to your petitioner; without any right or color of right for so doing. These facts your petitioner is ready to prove by competent white testimony.

Your petitioner further represents that the said child Basil is himself free & was born of a free woman; that his mother is now dead, and was dead long previous to the act complained of; that the father of the said child is a slave owned by a Mrs. Lydia Lyells, residing in the neighborhood of Georgetown D.C., and is named John Allister and moreover, was never married to the mother of the said Basil.

Your petitioner begs leave to offer the testimony of George B. Clarke a white man who saw said Mulloy take the child. He also tenders her own free papers, and those of Rachel Barnes her own mother & who was also the mother of the said Basil.

For the causes mentioned, & for other causes, your petitioner prays that a writ of Habeas Corpus may issue to the said William A. Mulloy commanding him to bring the body of the said child Basil Barnes, before your Honor in order that right and

Basil Barnes' Parents Described

Your petitioner further represents that the ... child Basil is himself free and was born of a free woman; that his mother is now dead, and was dead long previous to the act complained of; that the father of said child is a slave owned by Mrs. Lyell or Lyells, residing in the neighborhood of Georgetown..., and is named John Olliday (sic.), and...was never married to the mother of ... Basil. Your petitioner ... offer the testimony of Oswald B. Clarke a white man who saw said Mulloy take the child. She also tenders her own free papers, and those of Rachel Barnes her own mother & who was also the mother of ... Basil.

To the Honorable Judge Cramb, Chief Judge of the Circuit Court for the County of Washington, in the District of Columbia.

Your petitioner, Elizabeth Cramb would respectfully represent that she is a free colored woman residing in the City and County of Washington in the District of Columbia; and that she is the nearest legal relative of her brother, deceased by age about seven years and named Basil Barnes; that said Basil has been fed and maintained by her, and all his wants provided for up to the 28th of July, last, when one William A. Mulloy came to her residence & forcibly took from the premises thereof the said Basil Barnes, and him took to some place unknown to your petitioner; without any right or color of right for so doing. These facts your petitioner is ready to prove by competent white testimony.

Your petitioner further represents that the said child Basil is himself free & was born of a free woman; that his mother is now dead, and was dead long previous to the act complained of; that the father of the said child is a slave owned by a Mrs. Lyell or Lyells, residing in the neighborhood of Georgetown D.C., and is named John Olliday and moreover, was never married to the mother of the said Basil.

Your petitioner begs leave to offer the testimony of Oswald B. Clarke a white man who saw said Mulloy take the child. She also tenders her own free papers, and those of Rachel Barnes her own mother & who was also the mother of the said Basil.

For the causes mentioned, & for other causes, your petitioner prays that a writ of Habeas Corpus may issue to the said William A. Mulloy commanding him to bring the body of the said child Basil Barnes, before your Honor in order that right and

Oswald B. Clarke's Testimony

Oswald B. Clarke ... declare that he saw William A. Mulloy on the afternoon of Friday, July last, take from the yard of Elizabeth Contee, a free colored woman, ... a colored boy aged 7 or 8 yrs. Said Mulloy was on horseback accompanied by a man on foot. Said Mulloy placed the boy on the horse behind him. The boy was evidently taken off forcibly. Said deponent further declares that the boy was taken in spite of the entreaties and protestations of said Contee.

District of Columbia,
Washington County, to-wit:
On this
day of Eighteen Hundred and Fifty, personally
appeared before me a Justice of the Peace in and
for the County and District aforesaid, Oswald B.
Clarke, who being duly sworn according to law, declares
that he saw William A. Mulloy, on the afternoon of
Friday the 26th of July last, take from the yard, of
Elizabeth Contee a free colored woman residing in the
City and County of Washington in the District aforesaid,
a colored boy aged about seven or eight years. Said
Mulloy was on horseback accompanied by a man on
foot. Said Mulloy placed the boy on the horse behind
him. The boy was evidently taken off forcibly. And
said deponent further declares that the boy was taken
in spite of the entreaties and protestations of said
Elizabeth Contee. -
Oswald B. Clarke

Subscribed and sworn to before me on the day
and year first above written. -
Thomas (Denny) JD

Robert Nelson Habeas Corpus Petition Against Alfred Jones

Robert Nelson, who
sues by his next friend
Edward Woodlond
vs. Alfred Jones
Habeas Corpus

The clerk will
file this petition
Edward C. Manning
Counsel for pet.
Nov 26th 1834

Let the writ go return
on Saturday Dec 1
26th By the Court
Filed 26th Nov 1834

Robert Nelson a minor of about 17
yrs. sues Alfred Jones with the help
& support of his friend Edward
Woodlond

All three men are free persons of
color.

Robert Nelson's Habeas Corpus Petition

To the Hon the Judges of the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia for Washington County

The petition of Robert Nelson a minor about ^{eighteen} ~~eighteen~~ years of age (and a free boy of colour), who is next friend and ~~the~~ Edward Woodland (a free man of colour) both of Washington City District of Columbia respectfully represents

That your petitioner (et al) is now held and confined in the possession of one Alfred Jones (a free man of colour) of said City and District, illegally and unjustly and against his free will and consent as is alleged of franchise - And that the said Alfred Jones claims the right thus to hold your petitioner by virtue of a certain deed of indenture executed by his mother (Patsey Nelson since deceased) his father being dead at the time before Samuel Drury Esq and ^{notary} two justices of the peace in and for said County and District - which said Deed of Indenture your petitioner alleges is defective in now of law, having been executed while the Orphan's Court of said County & District was in session and the same having never been recorded within the time required by law, nor has it been recorded ^{to this} day, filed among the records of the Orphan's Court of said County and District up to this day - And on account of other

...the petitioner [Robert Nelson] (a free boy of color) is now held & confined in the possession of one Alfred Jones (a free man of color)...Alfred Jones claims the right...by virtue of a...deed of indenture executed by [Nelson's] mother (Patsey Nelson, now deceased). [Of said indenture] your petitioner alleges is defective...having been executed while the orphan's court was in session...and never been...filed among the records of the Orphan's Court.

Robert Nelson's Allegations

...and further...that...Alfred Jones has treated [him] with harshness & cruelty, often beating him, cuffing him, in the most cruel and improper manner—that he has failed to supply him with proper food & clothing—that he fails to send him to school & church—and to teach him a trade—and that he has failed in all respects to give him proper training or make proper provisions for him....

defects, as your petitioners has reason to believe, which need of prudent your petitioners may be produced before your Honours — And further — that the said Alfred Jones has treated your petitioners with harshness and cruelty, often beating and cuffing him in the most cruel and improper manner — that he has failed to supply him with proper food and clothing — that he has failed to send him to school and church — and to teach him any trade — And that he has failed in all respects to ~~and~~ him proper training or make proper provisions for him — Your petitioners in view of the premises is therefore would pray your Honours to grant him the writ of Habeas Corpus directed to the Marshal of the District of Columbia and to the said Alfred Jones commanding the said Alfred Jones that he hand the body of the said Robert Nelson together with the copies of his confession and detention before your Honours to be done with according to law and receive ever yours

Edward C. Bannington
Counsel for petitioners

District of Columbia
Washington County

On this 26th of November A.D. 1846 before me the undersigned a justice of the peace in and for said County and District personally appeared Mary Woodland of said City and District and made oath in due form of law that the facts set forth in the above petition are true to the best of her knowledge and belief. Given under my hand and seal this 26th of November A.D. 1846
J. S. Murphy J. P.

R.D. Montague Testifies on Behalf of Granville Williams

Christiansburg July 17th 1855.

Dear Sir,

I have just received your note of the 12th inst. and hasten to inform you, that the boy Granville Williams is free. He is the son of Solomon Williams who formerly resided here, but left several years ago with a view of going to Liberia, as it was understood. This boy Granville, was at that time an indentured apprentice to Mr. Haydon Smith; and several of us endeavored to procure his release by Mr. Smith, who refused to let him off, inasmuch as he might accompany his father's family to Liberia. Mr. Smith was a Tanner, & having sold out, transferred the remainder of his time to Mr. George Hunter of Blacksburg. His whole story is correct, and if I thought that there would be any doubt about his release I would furnish any amount of testimony in favor of his freedom.

Very respectfully

Your obt. servant

R. D. Montague Clerk

He was registered at our May court 1855. As No 91 - he complied to me several days before court for his free papers, but I could not furnish them until court sat.

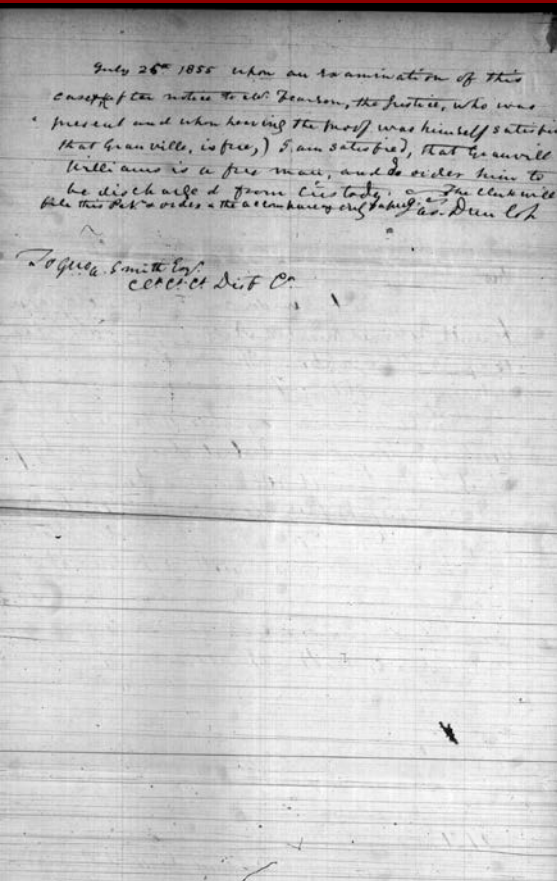
"Dear Sir, I have just received your note...and hasten to inform you that the boy Granville Williams is free. He is the son of **Solomon Williams** who formerly resided here but left several years ago with a view of going to **Liberia**."

"His whole story is correct, and if I thought that there would be any doubt about his release, I would furnish any amount of testimony in favor of his freedom."

Court Orders Granville Released

July 25, 1855

Upon an examination of this case ... I am satisfied that Granville Williams is a free man and do order him to be discharged from custody....



Some Useful Secondary Sources to Assist Genealogical Researchers

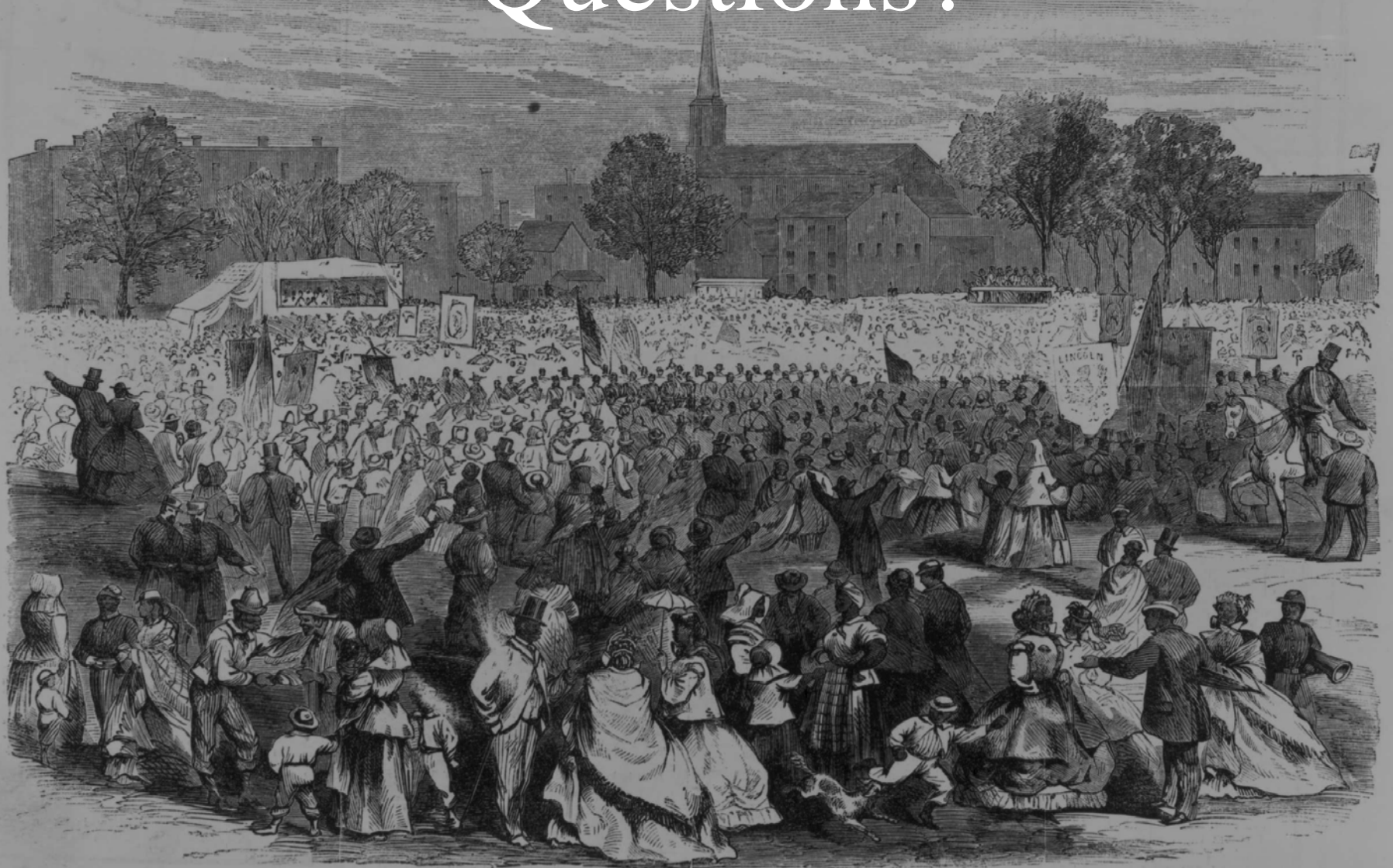
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Questions?



CELEBRATION OF THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BY THE COLORED PEOPLE, IN WASHINGTON, APRIL 19, 1866.—[SKETCHED BY F. DIELMAN.]

Thank you for attending!

If we did not get to your question,
you may submit it to inquire@nara.gov

Today's video recording and materials
will remain available at
www.archives.gov/calendar/know-your-records



KNOW YOUR RECORDS
National Archives and Records Administration