

P E T I T I O N .

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 Letitia Howard and her children Tilly, Tom, Elick, Jackson, George, and Emily; Levi Thomas, Rachel Thomas, Ann Ross, and Philip Reid,

for and during the life^s 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 ages of

and of the personal description following: ⁽¹⁾ viz: Letitia Howard, 33 years old, color black; short and thick set - healthy; - her six children, Tilly, 10 years, Tom, 8 years, - Elick, 6 1/2 years, - Jackson, 5 years, - George, 3 years, - and Emily, 3 months old, all black color, sound and healthy; - Levi Thomas, 59 years old, black color, over six feet high, a large leg, rather stiff, but sound and in good health; - Rachel Thomas, his wife, 49 years old, mullatto color, healthy, very large, weighs about 200 pounds; Ann Ross, 48 years, mullatto color, about five feet seven inches high, rather slim make, and in good health; - and Philip Reid, aged 42 years, mullatto color, short in stature, in good health, not prepossessing in appearance, but stout 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.

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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 Haverum 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 Ross 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⁾

(See preceding pages.)

<u>Lettie Howard</u> ,	<u>seven hundred dollars</u>	<u>.....</u>	<u>\$ 700.00</u>
<u>Tilly Howard</u> ,	<u>five hundred dollars</u>	<u>.....</u>	<u>500.00</u>
<u>Tom Howard</u> ,	<u>five hundred dollars</u>	<u>.....</u>	<u>500.00</u>
<u>Elick Howard</u> ,	<u>four hundred dollars</u>	<u>.....</u>	<u>400.00</u>
<u>Jackson Howard</u> ,	<u>two hundred fifty dollars</u>	<u>.....</u>	<u>250.00</u>
<u>George Howard</u> ,	<u>one hundred fifty dollars</u>	<u>.....</u>	<u>150.00</u>
<u>Emily Howard</u> ,	<u>fifty dollars</u>	<u>.....</u>	<u>50.00</u>
<u>Levi Thomas</u> ,	<u>three hundred dollars</u>	<u>.....</u>	<u>300.00</u>
<u>Rachel Thomas</u> ,	<u>four hundred dollars</u>	<u>.....</u>	<u>400.00</u>
<u>Ann Ross</u> ,	<u>five hundred dollars</u>	<u>(\$500.00)</u>	<u>500.00</u>
<u>Philip Reid</u> ,	<u>fifteen hundred dollars</u>	<u>.....</u>	<u>1,500.00</u>
			<u>\$5,250.00</u>

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 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

NOTE (1).—Here describe the person, so as to identify him or her; and if there be more than one slave, describe each one separately.
NOTE (2).—Here state how the claim was acquired, when, from whom, and for what price or consideration; and, if held under any written evidence of title, make exhibit thereof, or refer to the public record where the same may be found.
NOTE (3).—Here state such facts, if any there be, touching the value of the petitioner's claim to the service or labor of the person, as may enhance the same, and also such facts, if any, touching the moral, mental, and bodily infirmities or defects of said person, as impair the value of the petitioner's claim to such service or labor, and conclude such statement with an avowal that the petitioner knows of no other infirmities or defects of said person which impair the value of petitioner's claim to such service or labor, and that he believes none other to exist. If the petitioner specify no such infirmity or defect, then his statement touching the value of his claim should conclude with an avowal that he has no knowledge of any such infirmity or defect.

Clark Mills' Petition to the Board of Commissioners for the Emancipation of the Slaves in the District of Columbia



Building of the Capitol Dome

Architect of the Capitol

Rev. 16. 11p.

Public 50.

Thirty-seventh Congress of the United States of America;

At the second Session,

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

AN ACT

For the relief of certain persons held to service or labor in the District of Columbia

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all persons held to service or labor within the District of Columbia, by reason of African descent, are hereby discharged and freed of and from all claims to such service or labor, and from and after the passage of this act neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except for crime, whereof the party shall be duly convicted, shall hereafter exist in said District. Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, that all persons loyal to the United States holding claims to service or labor against persons discharged therefrom by this act may, within ninety days from the passage thereof, but not thereafter present to the Commissioners hereinafter mentioned their respective statements or petitions in writing, verified by oath or affirmation, setting forth the names, ages, and personal description of such persons, the manner in which said petitioners acquired such claim, and any facts touching the value thereof, and declaring his allegiance to the government of the United States; and that he has not borne arms against the United States during the present rebellion, nor in any way given aid or comfort thereto: Provided, that the oath of the party to the petition shall not be evidence of the facts therein stated. Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, that the President of the United States, with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint three commissioners, residents of the District of Columbia, any two of whom shall have power to act, who shall receive the petitions above mentioned, and who shall investigate and determine the validity and value of the claims therein presented, as aforesaid, and appraise and apportion, under the proviso hereto annexed, the value in money of the several claims by them found to be valid: Provided, however, that the entire sum so appraised and apportioned shall not exceed in the aggregate an amount equal to three hundred dollars for each person shown to have been so held by lawful claim.

District of Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act of 1862

An Act for the Release of certain Persons held to Service or Labor in the District of Columbia

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all persons held to service or labor within the District of Columbia by reason of African descent are hereby discharged and freed of and from all claim to such service or labor; and from and after the passage of this act neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except for crime, whereof the party shall be duly convicted, shall hereafter exist in said District.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That all persons loyal to the United States, holding claims to service or labor against persons discharged therefrom by this act, may, within ninety days from the passage thereof, but not thereafter, present to the commissioners hereinafter mentioned their respective statements or petitions in writing, verified by oath or affirmation, setting forth the names, ages, and personal description of such persons, the manner in which said petitioners acquired such claim, and any facts touching the value thereof, and declaring his allegiance to the Government of the United States, and that he has not borne arms against the United States during the present rebellion, nor in any way given aid or comfort thereto: *Provided,* That the oath of the party to the petition shall not be evidence of the facts therein stated.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the President of the United States, with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint three commissioners, residents of the District of Columbia, any two of whom shall have power to act, who shall receive the petitions above mentioned, and who shall investigate and determine the validity and value of the claims therein presented, as aforesaid, and appraise and apportion, under the proviso hereto annexed, the value in money of the several claims by them found to be valid: *Provided, however,* That the entire sum so appraised and apportioned shall not exceed in the aggregate an amount equal to three hundred dollars for each person shown to have been so held by lawful claim: *And provided, further,* That no claim shall be allowed for any slave or slaves brought into said District after the passage of this act, nor for any slave claimed by any person who has borne arms against the Government of the United States in the present rebellion, or in any way given aid or comfort thereto, or which originates in or by virtue of any transfer heretofore made, or which shall hereafter be made by any person who has in any manner aided or sustained the rebellion against the Government of the United States.

Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That said commissioners shall, within nine months from the passage of this act, make a full and final report of their proceedings, findings, and appraisal, and shall deliver the same to the Secretary of the Treasury, which report shall be deemed and taken to be conclusive in all respects, except as hereinafter provided; and the Secretary of the Treasury shall, with like exception, cause the amounts so apportioned to said claims to be paid from the Treasury of the United States to the parties found by said report to be entitled thereto as aforesaid, and the same shall be received in full and complete compensation: *Provided,* That in cases where petitions may be filed presenting conflicting claims, or setting up liens, said commissioners shall so specify in said report, and payment shall not be made according to the award of said commissioners until a period of sixty days shall have elapsed, during which time any petitioner claiming an interest in the particular amount may file a bill in equity in the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia, making all other claimants defendants thereto, setting forth the proceedings in such case before said commissioners and their actions therein, and praying that the party to whom payment has been awarded may be enjoined from receiving the same; and if said court shall grant such provisional order, a copy thereof may, on motion of said complainant, be served upon the Secretary of the Treasury, who shall thereupon cause the said amount of money to be paid into said court, subject to its orders and final decree, which payment shall be in full and complete compensation, as in other cases.

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That said commissioners shall hold their sessions in the city of Washington, at such place and times as the President of the United States may direct, of which they shall give due and public notice. They shall have power to subpoena and compel the attendance of witnesses, and to receive testimony and enforce its production, as in civil cases before courts of justice, without the exclusion of any witness on account of color; and they may summon before them the persons making claim to service or labor, and examine them under oath; and they may also, for purposes of identification and appraisal, call before them the persons so claimed. Said commissioners shall appoint a clerk, who shall keep files and [a] complete record of all proceedings before them, who shall have power to administer oaths and affirmations in said proceedings, and who shall issue all lawful process by them ordered. The Marshal of the District of Columbia shall personally, or by deputy, attend upon the sessions of said commissioners, and shall execute the process issued by said clerk.

Sec. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That said commissioners shall receive in compensation for their services the sum of two thousand dollars each, to be paid upon the filing of their report; that said clerk shall receive for his services the sum of two hundred dollars per month; that said marshal shall receive such fees as are allowed by law for similar services performed by him in the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia; that the Secretary of the Treasury shall cause all other reasonable expenses of said commission to be audited and allowed, and that said compensation, fees, and expenses shall be paid from the Treasury of the United States.

Sec. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That for the purpose of carrying this act into effect there is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, a sum not exceeding one million of dollars.

Sec. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That any person or persons who shall kidnap, or in any manner transport or procure to be taken out of said District, any person or persons discharged and freed by the provisions of this act, or any free person or persons with intent to re-enslave or sell such person or person into slavery, or shall re-enslave any of said freed persons, the person or persons so offending shall be deemed guilty of a felony, and on conviction thereof in any court of competent jurisdiction in said District, shall be imprisoned in the penitentiary not less than five nor more that twenty years.

Sec. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That within twenty days, or within such further time as the commissioners herein provided for shall limit, after the passage of this act, a statement in writing or schedule shall be filed with the clerk of the Circuit court for the District of Columbia, by the several owners or claimants to the services of the persons made free or manumitted by this act, setting forth the names, ages, sex, and particular description of such persons, severally; and the said clerk shall receive and record, in a book by him to be provided and kept for that purpose, the said statements or schedules on receiving fifty cents each therefor, and no claim shall be allowed to any claimant or owner who shall neglect this requirement.

Sec. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That the said clerk and his successors in office shall, from time to time, on demand, and on receiving twenty-five cents therefor, prepare, sign, and deliver to each person made free or manumitted by this act, a certificate under the seal of said court, setting out the name, age, and description of such person, and stating that such person was duly manumitted and set free by this act.

Sec. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, is hereby appropriated, to be expended under the direction of the President of the United States, to aid in the colonization and settlement of such free persons of African descent now residing in said District, including those to be liberated by this act, as may desire to emigrate to the Republics of Hayti or Liberia, or such other country beyond the limits of the United States as the President may determine: *Provided*, The expenditure for this purpose shall not exceed one hundred dollars for each emigrant.

Sec. 12. *And be it further enacted*, That all acts of Congress and all laws of the State of Maryland in force in said District, and all ordinances of the cities of Washington and Georgetown, inconsistent with the provisions of this act, are hereby repealed.

Galusha A. Grow
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Solomon Foote
President of the Senate pro tempore

Abraham Lincoln

Approved, April 16, 1862.

Source:

National Archives and Record Administration,
http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/featured_documents/dc_emancipation_act/transcription.html



Statue of Freedom

Architect of the Capitol