

years, and how many years, whether they have been enlisted or drafted into the military service of the United States so far as is known to said owners or others, and into what regiments they were placed, and what compensation, if any, has been received from the State or General Government by such owner or owners for such slaves so enlisted or drafted into the military service of the United States.

Required to visit each Election District &c.

Sec. 3. And be it enacted, That the said Commissioners shall visit each election district in their respective counties of which full notice shall be given, both in the public newspapers and by printed handbills, and in Baltimore city shall open an office and give notice of the same as aforesaid, and after giving such notice for at least ten days, shall proceed to take the evidence of the former ownership of slaves in this State according to the intent and provisions of the Act, and the testimony in all cases shall be the sworn statement of the former owner or owners, or his or her or their legal representatives confirmed by the testimony on oath of at least two disinterested witnesses.

Forms when filled up to be copied in alphabetical order.

Sec. 4. And be it enacted, That the original blank forms or tabular statements when so filled and attested, shall be by said Commissioners copied in alphabetical order and indexed into suitable books of record, to be procured and furnished by the said Commissioners at their own cost and expense, which books of record together with all the original papers therein copied, shall be deposited with the Clerk of the Circuit Court in each of the counties, and with the Clerk of the Superior Court of Baltimore City, and shall be by them preserved among the public records of the counties and city respectively aforesaid; and said books of record and papers when so preserved shall be and they are hereby declared to be legal evidence upon all questions concerning the ownership of slaves in this State at the time of the adoption of the Constitution by which said slaves were emancipated.

Compensation for services.

Sec. 5. And be it enacted, That the said Commissioners for the performance of the duties prescribed in this Act, shall be entitled to charge and receive the sum of twenty-five cents per capita, for each and every slave by him recorded as so formerly owned, to be paid in all cases by the former owner or owners, and no compensation or charge of any kind whatever, under the provisions of the Act shall be paid out of the State Treasury.