

Maryland Charles County To wit

February 23<sup>rd</sup> 1828 I hereby certify that  
Justice Currie a resident of Charles County within  
one and a half miles from Benedict and about  
one mile from Mr Jesse Edwards appeared before  
me the subscriber a Justice of the peace for  
said County and makes oath on the Holy  
Evangel of almighty God that he the said Justice  
Currie was well acquainted with Mr Jesse Edwards  
owner of said Boy Phil at the time the  
British landed at Benedict and that he  
saw the boy Phil with the British and  
dressed in the British uniform and that Mr  
Jesse Edwards was never in possession of the  
Boy afterwards and in his opinion was carried  
off by said British to the best of his knowl-  
-edge and belief given under my hand and seal this  
22<sup>nd</sup> day February 1828

Sworn before

John S. Step

State of Maryland Charles County to wit  
I hereby certify that John S. Step Justice  
man before whom the above deposition appears  
to have been taken and whose name is  
thereto subscribed was on the day of the  
date thereof and still is one of the Justices  
of Maryland's Justices of the peace in and

for the County aforesaid duly commissioned  
and sworn, and to all whose acts as such  
full faith and credit is and ought to be  
given, as well in Courts of Justice as otherwise

In Testimony whereof I have  
hereto subscribed my name  
and affixed the seal of  
Charles County Court, this  
23<sup>rd</sup> day of February Eighteen  
hundred and twenty eight

John Barris Clk of  
Charles County Court



John Edwards  
Clerk



Charles County to wit the 4th Ap: 1815

Jesse Edwards aged about sixty four years  
being duly sworn on the holy evangely of Almighty  
God deposesh & saith:

That when Gen: Ross landed his army at  
Benedict, a party from it out to his farm at  
two miles from Town, and an Officer asked him  
what family he had? he answered himself, one  
child, (a daughter about twelve years old, who  
was boarded out at school) and some negroes con-  
stituted his family - He (the Officer) then asked him  
where his negroes were, the deponent answered that  
they had got alarmed when they heard that the Bri-  
tish were coming and had gone into the woods - The  
Officer then ordered the deponent to go and bring them  
home, that neither they or any other of his property  
should be molested, the party shortly after left the  
deponent's house - The deponent then went to the  
wood, about half a mile off, where he had sent his  
negroes, with his cart and oxen, and <sup>for the purpose of concealment</sup> housed them in  
in the possession of another British party, and seven  
of his negroes in the cart - and they (the British)  
had just started with them driving toward the  
River. The deponent told <sup>them</sup> that that was his property  
and that a British Officer had just left his house and  
had ordered <sup>them</sup> to bring his negroes home, and that neither

Edwards paper

deposition

for slave no value

See also the acts of  
North. Washington

Jesse Edwards  
deposition

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they or any other property of his should be disturbed. They <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>Pr.</sup> then gave the Deponent all his property except his cart & boy Phil, about eighteen years old. They said they must keep them to carry a cannon from Harper's Shop to Town, but that they would be restored. The Deponent followed them to Town with a hope of having his property returned as soon as the cannon was carried to camp, but was disappointed, a guard was placed over it and he promised restoration the next day.

The following <sup>day</sup> he went again to their camp at Benedict in quest of his boy Phil, and after getting into camp was met by a soldier who knew him and who accosted him in the following manner "well old man you have lost your boy, you will never get him again, he has this day enlisted in the King's service, he is as free as you are." The Deponent looked for his boy and found him very drunk laying across a soldier, in soldier's attire, so drunk that he did not know him his master.

That evening the whole army marched up the road by the deponent's house and halted opposite thereto within eighty yards thereof. Gen. Ross came to the Deponent's House, and the Deponent, finding that his boy (Phil) with his cart & steers, were at the gate that leads to his house, went to the mother of the boy (Phil) and told her that her son was at the gate, and that Gen. Ross the Commander in Chief was in

the house and that if she would apply to him to release her child perhaps she might succeed. The woman immediately went to Gen. Ross and with uplifted hands and tears in her eyes implored the release of her son. The Gen. replied that he could not do it then, but when he returned from the City of Washington, the boy might return to his master, if chose it; then turning to the Deponent - in the hearing of the mother of said boy, addressed him thus "sit, you need not be disturbed at the freedom of this boy only, for in a few days they will all be free - I swear to this state above

before

Thos Barber, Jr.



District of Columbia County of Washington County  
on this 4<sup>th</sup> day of November 1893 personally  
appears before the subscriber one of the United States  
Justices of the peace in and for the County aforesaid  
Leopold Edwards and makes oath on the holy Ev-  
angels of almighty God that he is a resident of  
Charley ~~County~~ <sup>County</sup> in the State of Maryland,  
That on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of August 1814 the British  
Army came to his dwelling house and took  
away by force a negro lad about 19 years  
of age and carried him on board of the ship  
then lying in the Patuxent River and that he  
has never seen or heard of the said slave since  
that time, also at the same time that the said British  
Army carried off two oxen.

The said Edwards further states that the  
said slave was named Philip and was  
worth four hundred and fifty dollars and  
that the said oxen were worth fifty dollars

Charles A. W. Wharton J.P.



Slaves. N'd

Lepr Edward of

Charly County Maryland

1. Slave - Phil - \$ 450.

2. ~~open~~ ~~at the court~~ 50.

Recd 16 July 1824.

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The claim of Jose Edwards for the slave named

Phil

is sustained by his own affidavit and the testimony of Currie. The evidence is decisive as to the capture and deportation and further as to his having been collected into the British Service, The dates of the time of his capture before the treaty and the fact of his being collected and being in uniform render it almost certain that he had not crossed out of the U States before the 17<sup>th</sup> of February 1815. There on the British documents a number of slaves owned & perhaps only assumed after his capture it is rendered impossible to disprove him; as the British have not furnished evidence to show to whom each of the slaves belonged before their capture

H. Ashton for Claimant



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Levi Edwards  
1 Slave

To be collected -

Allowed for one Slave  
Taken from Maryland  
\$ 280

In Reserve

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28<sup>th</sup> July 1823 - Residue of  
Claim Rejected