

To His Excellency the Hon. A. W. Bradford  
Governor of Maryland

The undersigned citizens of Allegany county would respectfully represent to your Excellency, that, there is now lying in the jail of this county a free-colored man by the name of James Harris, under conviction for the offence of aiding some persons of like color with himself, but subject to bondage under the laws of this state, to escape from the state, for which offence the law consigns him to the penitentiary for not less than six years, unless the clemency of your Excellency interposes in his behalf.

The case, according to the statement of one of the jurors, seems to be this:— This man Harris was seen to leave Cumberland in company with these parties, (who came from a district some ten miles east of Cumberland) and at a point about five miles from town hailed the stage, and by the permission of the driver got aboard with these parties, whose fare he paid. Upon arriving at the next station, they left the stage for want of room and this man, Harris was heard to advise them to remain until next evening, when he would pay their passage to Uniontown Pa. —

Moreover, this man Harris is the father & Grand father of some of these parties, and was doubtless influenced in his conduct by these relations, as well as by the revolutionary character of the times. — The Jury who convicted, are strong in their sympathy for this victim of paternity & revolution, for as your Honor will perceive, the act was of recent occurrence, no longer than August last; and they will constitute the first on the list of your respectful petitioners. — One of the jurors remarked in the presence of the writer of this petition, that

though he believed

the man Harris was guilty of the charge, yet he for one did not feel like punishing him for what every body else seemed now to be doing.

Further, this Harris is personally known to the public as a very worthy man, being sober, honest & I believe industrious. We therefore, earnestly but respectfully present his case to your Honor as one of great hardship, and hope, that, your Excellency, will find, upon a consideration of his case, it, to comport with your views of duty to this Commonwealth, to extend a full pardon to this unfortunate man of a most unfortunate race; and your petitioners will ever wish prosperity & long life to your Excellency.

John S. Hook Jurors

- Levi Shaw
- W. D. Conner
- Lewis Dwyer
- Lucas Moser
- Lewis Fritchard
- Jonathan Friend
- Jess Korns
- Joshua J. Harley
- William Ashby
- Henry Sicker
- J. B. Campbell
- Members of the Legislature
- W. P. Webb - Senator
- A. Green - Delegate
- Henry Brown
- W. S. Shaw
- Geo. C. Perry

This is the Jury which tried the Case

- J. A. Young
- R. H. McLaughlin
- A. T. Poose
- Jas. W. Sanders
- C. M. Kizer
- Stephens Beale
- Wm. Christ
- Geo. A. Hoffman
- A. M. S. Bush

State of Maryland

- 3 -

James Harris  
Negro.

Copy of Deed of Entry.  
11

In the Circuit Court for Allegany County  
October Term 1863, 3

State of Maryland } No. 25 Criminal App.  
vs. } Presented for enticing away  
James Harris } Slaves &c.  
Negro. } Prot. Indict. Copy. In fail.  
Oct 26<sup>th</sup> Plea not Guilty.  
Jury sworn, Trial, Verdict  
Guilty.

1863. Nov<sup>r</sup> 7<sup>th</sup>. Sentenced to the Penitentiary for  
6 years and 6 months from this date.

State of Maryland }  
Allegany County, 3<sup>rd</sup> }  
I, Horace Wesley, clerk  
of the Circuit Court for Allegany County, do hereby  
certify the above to be a true copy of original  
Docket entries in above case, taken from the  
Docket of October Term 1863, of the Circuit Court  
for Allegany County, Maryland.

In testimony whereof I hereunto  
subscribe my name and affix the  
seal of said Circuit Court at  
Cumberland, this 30<sup>th</sup> day of  
May 1864.

Horace Wesley clerk,



Cumbeantel Sept. 4 - 54

Gov. Bradford

Dear Sir

There is now confined in the State Penitentiary a negr. named James Harris who was sent there for aiding and abetting slaves in running away from their masters. The best one he attempted to assist was his own daughter which I think should in some measure extenuate his fault. He was a faithful slave until he obtained his freedom, which was after the death of my mother, and was hired out 20 years from the death of my Father, and he even worked a year after he should have been free to pay one of the heirs who thought he was not able to give him the time. Paid for his free claim papers also. I am induced to ask this favor of

you in consideration that his services whilst  
a slave went to the support of my Mother  
and her children, and as both Law and  
Justice have been satisfied I trust you  
will think favorably of his case, that  
he may have the pleasure of being with  
his wife and children. When a slave  
he was the property of Joseph Perry  
Hillary, and heirs, a name well known  
in this county.

Hoping in your known liberality and  
mercifulness I leave him to you.

Yours respectfully  
M<sup>rs</sup>. M. E. White

Cumberland  
Msct.

222

James Harris  
for Pardon

Day of hearing  
Dec. 20. 1864

Cumberland, Maryland  
November 15. 1864

To His Excellency  
Governor A. W. Bradford

The undersigned, citizens of Allegany County, Maryland, respectfully ask your Excellency to pardon immediately James Harris, a colored man sent to the penitentiary about a year since, convicted of aiding his children to escape from servitude. We can assure your Excellency, from long personal knowledge of James Harris, to the very period of his conviction, of his quiet, respectable and excellent behavior, without exception during his lifelong abode in this County and City; with this single exception, if he be really guilty of the offence for which he was convicted. Some of us can further say, that the prosecution of Harris at the time when it was commenced, and under the state of feeling then existing in Maryland on the Slavery question, was stimulated more by party feeling, than a desire to see the laws faithfully executed, though in this expression, we do not intend to ascribe a consciousness of such motives to anyone instrumental in urging the prosecution; nor do we intend any reflection on them whom duty it was to execute the laws in his particular case. We therefore pray your Excellency to pardon said James Harris as soon as the laws will admit, if in your view



discretion, you deem it proper to do so,  
respectfully submitted.

Thomas Jones

Gen. A. Prudden

Mark Powell

State's Attorney

Robert Read

C. M. Thurston

A. C. Green

Robert Shriver

Hopewell Webb

E. Shriver

Geo. A. Hoffman

Wheeler Deal

C. S. McLeary

J. W. St. Louis

J. W. Young

J. Wickard

Wm. R. Doall

John Hayes

Geo. F. Gephart

W. McQuerry

J. C. Johnson

C. D. Orr

A. M. Adams

Joseph G. Craig

James Smith

Wm. Hottel

Wellington Glenn

Geo. W. Souers

G. M. Rizer

M. L. Rizer

Lombard and Nov 27. 1864

I take pleasure in expressing an earnest hope  
that the Governor of Maryland may grant the  
pardon, above asked for, by highly respectable  
and influential citizens of Allegheny

Respectfully  
Francis Thomas

I know James Harris personally, and believe him to  
be an honest man, and know that he sustains a good  
character among his neighbors, and I cheerfully give the  
following testimony:

James Smith  
Judge of the Circuit Court  
for Allegheny County

State of Maryland

or

John J. Zell.  
J. Davis  
W. A. Brown

In Circuit Court for  
Charles County.  
May Term 1863.  
Recog? Securities in the  
sum of \$45.00 each, for the  
personal appearance of pri-  
ncipal to the Court to ans-  
wer, Debt called upon  
for by writ, Ordered by  
the Court to be repeated to  
next Court & affidavit of  
True Copy  
J. A. Brown  
AK

William Brawner  
Peregrine Davis  
for  
remission of forfeited  
recognizances

State of Maryland } In the Circuit Court  
vs }  
John Gells } for Charles County -  
To His Excellency  
A. W. Bradford  
Governor of Md.

The petition of William Browner & Peregrine Davis humbly represents, that some time prior to December Term eight teen hundred and sixty two, a certain John Gells upon Charge of Larceny had been recognized to appear at Court & your petitioners became his Sureties: & your petitioners further represent, that said Gells, volunteered & became a Soldier in the Service of the Federal Government before said Term, & at said Term of Court, the Grand Inquest of the County found no presentment against said Gells. The said Gells did not appear and his recognizance was forfeited & your petitioners assessed in the sum of One hundred Dollars; from the payment of which, under all the circumstances, surrounding the case, your petitioners pray Your Excellency to be released, as your petitioners now powerless to compel his appearance at Court and as in duty bound your petitioners will

Ever May 20.

Grandjurors

Joseph Stewart

J. W. Burch

Benjamin W. Gardner

Thomas L. Jones

Geo. W. Owen

M. S. Penney

Paul B. Shannon

T. V. Riby

A. Smoot

F. H. Sells

Wm. S. Dent

Benton Barnes

John Shackelford

R. W. Bryan

W. P. Posey

John Wall

J. H. Morgan

John L. Speak

Sam. Davis

G. W. Berry

Geo. Herbert

Sam. T. Berry

M. S. Mephuson

B. H. Harris

Fredrick L. Dent

Thos. L. Samall

John P. Gray

Geo. W. Carpenter

Peter Wheeler

Samuel Hanson

C. W. Hungerford

J. D. Carpenter

Robt. Diggins Sr.

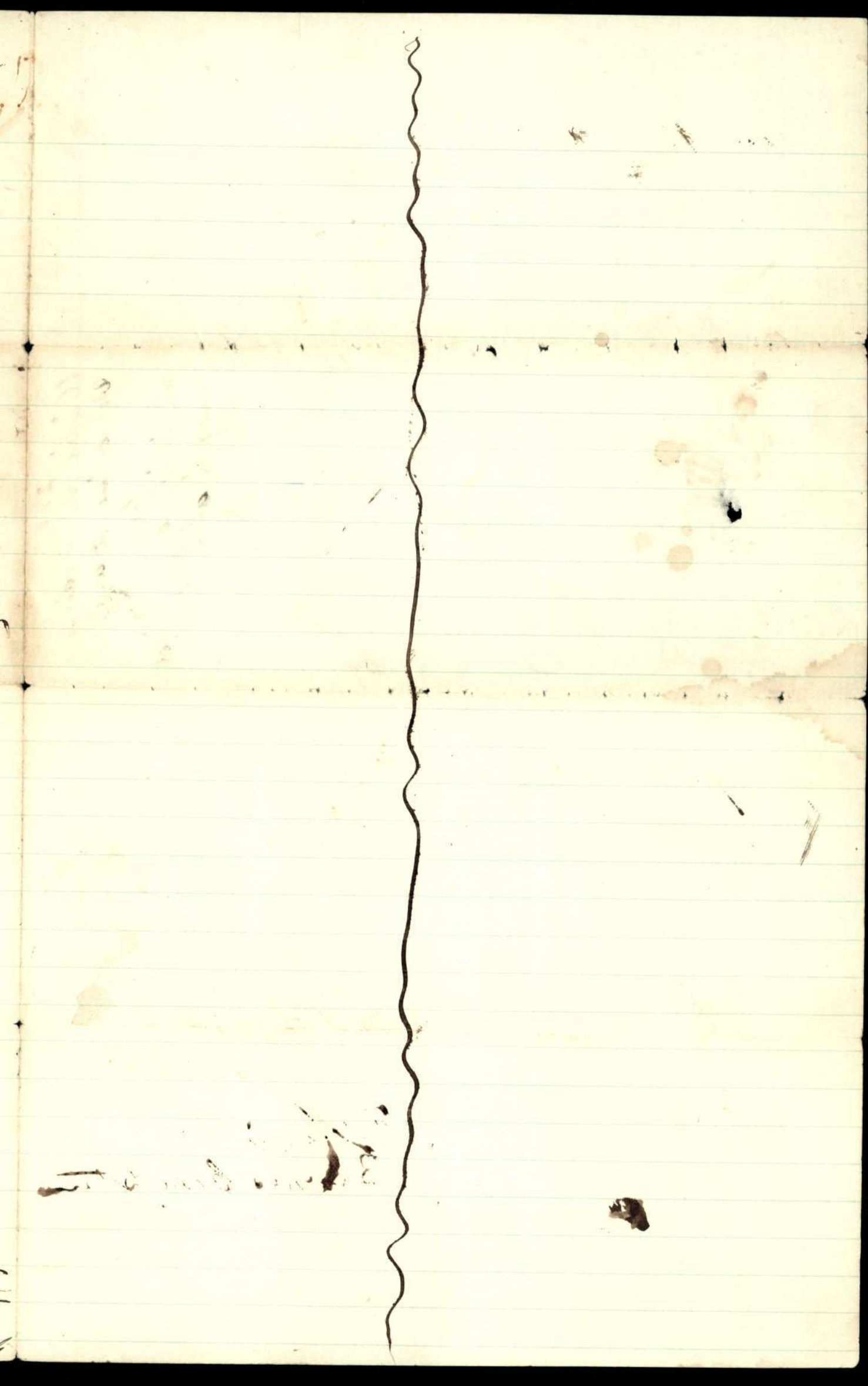
H. C. Willett

W. K. Harbison

Barnes Empton

Under the circumstances above set forth I recommend the release of the forfeiture alluded to in said petition  
Jan'y 20<sup>th</sup> 1864

Geo. Brent, Judge of Circuit Court for Chas. County



221

George W. Coulson

for Pardon

Day of hearing Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>



To His Excellency  
Augustus W. Bradford  
Governor of Maryland.

We the undersigned Citizens of Baltimore and its vicinity respectfully but earnestly solicit of your excellency your interposition in behalf of George W. Coulson who is now in the Maryland Penitentiary.

He was convicted upwards of four years ago, with an "Assault with Intent to Kill" and was sentenced to eight years imprisonment, more than half of which has now elapsed, if your Excellency will acquaint yourself with the extenuating circumstances of his case, and in view of his decided amendment which will be testified to by the officers of the Institution in which he is confined, we do think the demands of justice have been satisfied, and we hope your excellency will exercise the attribute of mercy and make glad the heart of his aged parents and restore to society one whom we have no doubt in the future will be a useful respectable and good citizen. To this end we earnestly entreat your Excellency for the interposition of Executive Clemency in his case, and as in duty bound we will ever pray. &c.

Respectfully  
Yr. Obedt. Servant

Caleb Hoshall  
Alexander M. Cullough  
Rufus King  
William Gallway  
Edw. Hays  
Chas. F. Watkins

John W. Pomeroy  
John Phelps  
Daniel S. Amstrong

Joseph Walker  
Samuel Robinson

Robert Graham  
John W. Quinn

Edw. Le Jeune  
Geo. W. Fisher

John G. Patterson  
Aquila Ames

Nich. C. Tidings  
George Byrham

Jam. Sutton  
John N. Miner

Andrew J. Enson  
G. W. W.

William S. Keech  
Joseph Allison

Sam. W. Barron  
H. Edwin Cook

Christian Gore  
Edw. L. Lawke

Geo. W. Mather  
Geo. Enson

Robt. S. Lowe

Lewis H. Wheeler

A. H. Ware

Believing that the ends of justice have  
been subserved by the punishment already  
endured by George W. Coulter, we recommend  
him to Executive Clemency -

7 Jan. 1864

John H. Price.  
R. J. Hittling  
Rich<sup>d</sup> W. Mason

Maryland Penitentiary  
Baltimore Jan<sup>y</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> 1864

This will certify that Prisoner George  
W. Coulsin, has since his commitment to  
this Institution, conducted himself in  
an exemplary manner, but seldom  
reported for violation of the Discipline  
has been obedient to the Rules, and is  
considered a good Prisoner

M. W. Thompson Warden

Copy Record

State  
of  
George Coulson

Convicted Baltimore County  
March 1860 for an  
Assault with intent to Kill, and  
Sentenced to Eight Years and  
One Month Confinement in the  
Maryland Penitentiary

Received in the Maryland Penitentiary May 20, 1860  
Term expires April 20, 1868,

Test

J. C. Dougherty, Clerk of the  
Maryland Penitentiary  
Balt. January 26, 1864



Lorovortown Jan'y 7<sup>th</sup> 1863

His Excellency  
Gov. Bradford

Dear Sir

Some four or five years ago, a man named Coulson was tried and convicted in the Circuit Court for Baltimore County for an assault with intent to murder and sentenced to the penitentiary for eight years. The shooting took place in the City of Baltimore from which place the cause was removed to this Court. The proof was that young Coulson, who was on a police, in popping a house in Baltimore City, fired a pistol ball through the window in such manner as to render it almost impossible that any one in the room could have been injured and no one was injured. I was then and am still satisfied that he had no intention of injuring any one, but he was nevertheless convicted. I was then and am still of opinion that he fired the pistol out of mere mischief for the purpose of frightening any one who might be in the room. I recollect the facts well because I defended Coulson upon his trial. He deserved some punishment for his recklessness, but I think the punishment he has suffered is already greater than

he deserved and that his is a case that  
deserves the interposition of Executive  
Clemency.

I am very respectfully  
Your Obedt Servant  
Rich<sup>d</sup> Mason

219  
Wm<sup>o</sup> G. Middleton  
for  
remission of  
Forfeited Recognizance



To his Excellency A. W. Pack.  
Gov. of Maryland.  
The petitioners of William  
J. Middleton of Charles County  
Maryland, respectfully shew  
to your Excellency, that a  
Negro slave belonging to him  
called Murrells, was recog-  
nized for his appearance  
at the December term of the  
circuit court for Charles County,  
to keep the peace towards  
William T. Theistune of said  
county; and that your peti-  
tioners desiring the services  
of said Negro, as well as wish-  
ing to relieve him from a  
long confinement in the  
county jail became the se-  
curety for the appearance  
of said Negro at the said  
December term of court.  
Your petitioners further  
state, that said Negro  
remained quietly with him  
until a short time since,  
when he ran off, not with  
a view, in your petitioners  
belief to avoid his appearance  
at court; but as many other  
negroes in the same county  
have done, influenced by the  
by the state of affairs now sur-  
rounding them and by their  
ignorance of the difficulties

of their apprehension. Your  
petitioner has good reasons  
for believing that said negro  
went off to the rendezvous  
at Benedict, in said county,  
for the enlistment of negro  
troops. In view of the im-  
possibility of getting him in  
relay from Benedict, I should  
hold him there as believed, or  
the great difficulty and ex-  
pense in apprehending <sup>him</sup> else-  
where should be out of  
the county, as he certainly  
is if not at Benedict, or  
in the United States service  
elsewhere, your petitioner  
respectfully solicits your  
excellency to remit the  
forfeiture of one hundred  
dollars incurred by him by  
reason of the non-appear-  
ance of said negro as aforesaid.  
Your petitioner would add that  
his circumstances have been  
very much impaired by the  
depreciation of property caused  
by the war, and the payment  
of this money would be a se-  
rious inconvenience, and dif-  
ficult for him, and your petitioner  
will very gladly

Wm G. Middleton

Under the circumstances stated in the above petition I recommend  
that the forfeiture of the recognizance of the petitioner be remitted  
by His Excellency the Governor - Geo. T. Breat Judge of Circuit  
Court for Chas. County  
Jan 9<sup>th</sup> 1864

The undersigned citizens  
of Charles County, Maryland  
concur in the prayer of the  
foregoing petition and re-  
spectfully ask his excellency  
the Governor to remove  
injustice in question.

G. W. Wain Ch. of  
the C. C. for Charles County

~~Wm. G. Middleton~~

Virginia Brent

J. Stone

Geo. W. Mitchell

J. W. Hawkins

J. F. Matthews

R. A. Edden States Atty.

H. A. Burges -

Members  
of the  
Bar

Geo. A. Munnth Shff

State of Maryland

et

"Negro Marcellus."  
William G. Middleton

Indented Kiss  
True Copy of  
"Sub."

In Circuit  
Court for Charles  
County, Decemr.  
Term 1873.  
Recog.<sup>o</sup> the fe-  
civity in the sum  
of \$100.<sup>00</sup> for the  
sumal appearance  
of principal to this  
Court & to keep the  
peace against W.  
L. Spentun  
J. M. Crain CLK