

*Dear Brother*:—I want you to come over right away, and if you cannot come I want you to send mother. Mr. Beck wants you to come and make some arrangements about the children.

My family are all well, but still in bondage. Come soon.  
All join me in love to you all.

From your affectionate brother,  
JAMES HINSON.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, *November 2d.*

*Endorsed*—“States he is the father of Maria, James and Frisbie Hinson, that Mr. Wm. H. Beck has had them bound to him without his consent. Requests their release.”

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STILL POND, KENT Co., MD.,  
*November 12th, 1864.*

MAJOR ESTE :

*Sir*:—It has just come to my knowledge that you have the charge of freed persons, who have become so by the provisions of the New Constitution now gone into effect. I have to inform you that I had twelve, who were lately my slaves with their mother's consent, bound to me a few days ago, six of them range from a small babe to eight years of age, unable to render any service whatever, the others range from eleven to sixteen years, two had no mother, the girls were bound until eighteen, with freedom dues of new suit of clothes and twenty-five dollars in money on their arriving at age, the boys until twenty-one, with new suit of clothes and fifty dollars in money. I considered this sir, an act of humanity, I could not bear to turn them out of doors without some provision to keep them from starving and no home to go to; next to my own children, I felt it my duty to provide for their necessities, and even were there any profit, (which there is not,) in having them bound to me, surely I ought to be entitled to it, as I have raised them thus far at great expense without any profit. If you or the authorities can do any better part by them than I can, they are heartily at your service, and can be gotten whenever demanded; I have been advised to turn them adrift as soon as General Wallace's order made its appearance, for fear that evil consequences