

she and her four children have been held in slavery by him until the 5th of December, 1864, against her will and without compensation, and would not have been released then but the mother came down from Baltimore and threatened him with the law, and abusing the Government and the President, he still refused, and they left of their own accord and that he still retains her children in slavery against her will.

her  
FANNY ~~X~~ THOMPSON.  
mark.

Witness,  
F. T. McKINLEY.

STATE OF MARYLAND, CITY OF BALTIMORE, *to wit:*

Be it remembered, that on this the sixth day of December, 1864, personally appeared Fanny Thompson, and made oath that the matter and facts in the annexed certificate is correct and true.

F. T. McKINLEY,  
*Justice of the Peace.*

*Endosed*—“Deposition in regard to Richard Smith, of Chestertown, holding her children in slavery.”

LOCUS GROVE, KENT COUNTY, MD.

*January 4th, 1865.*

CAPT. ANDREW STAFFORD,

*My Dear Sir:*—Some time last November, Mr. George Spencer took my two boys, one aged nine years, and one aged seven years, and had them bound to him without my consent. I went to the Orphans' Court to stop it, but it made no difference. My wife used to belong to Mr. Spencer, and I want my children back, please intercede for me so I can get them. I did not know who to apply to. I can bring proof that I am able to support them. I can hire them out, one I can get twenty dollars for, and the other I can get his victuals and clothes this year. Please attend to it for me and oblige a poor colored man.

Your humble servant,

PERRY RILEY.

P. S.—Please send your letter to Mr. Thos. J. Shallcross.