

Please ask Gussie if she has received a photograph of her great uncle, the copies have not as yet come to hand. If Houston is with you ask him to see Pollock and have sent by mail. Augusta is also entitled to one, as he was her only paternal uncle. We are all well.

Yours, &c.,

B. F. HOUSTON.

S. M. SHOEMAKER, Esq.

Endorsed—"States that a negro soldier, Corporal Berryman, 7th Md. Reg't came to his house and carried off two apprentices, a girl aged 7 years and a boy 5 years, and that he has raised them from infancy and requests the case to be investigated."

STATEMENTS TAKEN IN THE CASE OF DR. B. F. HOUSTON, OF
CHESTERTOWN, MD.

Dr. B. F. Houston, Chestertown, Md., says:

During my absence in the country on the 28th of December, 1864, the negro man James Berryman came to my house and carried off two children who were bound to me by the Orphans' Court of Kent county, their parents being in the opinion of the court, unable to support them. The mother of the children was present at the time of their children being bound and refused to give her consent. The children were bound after the passage of the new Constitution, the children are now in the possession of the mother one being hired to a Mr. Russell and the other being with her sister. She, the mother, being lazy and unable to support them. The man when he took them away said he had received orders to do so by Gen. Birney, but did not show any order.

William Houston, son of Dr. Houston, says:

I met the negro James Berryman, coming out of the gate of our house on the 28th of December, 1864, with the two children and followed him to his wife's sister's house where I left him supposing that he was merely taking them there to pay a visit. I afterwards met him on the street and asked for the children when he said he had taken them by order of Gen. Birney. He did not show me the order, I did not ask for it.

Mr. W. A. Vickers, Chestertown, says:

I hire the mother of the children at \$5 00 per month, she is hard working and as far as I can see honest, she is slow but willing to work, she does not appear to have any bad habits, I do not know what she does with her money.