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To all whom it may concern whereas William Cook a free
man of color of the city of Annapolis in the State of Maryland
sometime in the year eighteen hundred and seventeen purchased
of a certain Mrs. Margaret Harwood my wife Kitty with her child
Rachel who had been born in the year eighteen hundred and sixteen
of whom I am the father, for the purpose of setting free the said Kitty
and her said child; And whereas since the purchase aforesaid
I have had by the said Kitty the following children to wit Mellicent
born in the year eighteen hundred and eighteen Priscilla born in
the year eighteen hundred and nineteen or early in the first part
of the year eighteen hundred and twenty, Edward born in the year
eighteen hundred and twenty two James born in the year eighteen
hundred and twenty four, Thomas born the twenty sixth day of
September in the year eighteen hundred and twenty nine and
Henry born the twenty second day of January in the year eighteen
hundred and thirty three Now therefore be it known that I
William Cook of the city of Annapolis in the State of Maryland
aforesaid for divers good causes and considerations me thereunto
moving as also for and in consideration of the sum of one dollar lawful
money of the United States to me in hand paid have released from
Slavery liberate manumitted and set free and by these presents do
release from Slavery manumit and set free the said Rachel, William
Priscilla and Edward together with all and singular the increase of
the said Rachel and Priscilla; and the said Rachel, William, Priscilla
I do declare to be henceforth free manumitted and discharged from
all manner of servitude ~~and~~ service to me my executor or administrators
forever And whereas I the said William Cook being at this time an
old and infirm man and unable to maintain myself; And whereas
in the nature of things it cannot be expected that I will live
many years longer; And whereas the fruits of my daily labors have
heretofore been employed in raising and maintaining my aforesaid
children and it is but reasonable to expect that some of them
should help me to bear the burden of my remaining days until
it shall please Almighty God to call me hence I have thought
proper to retain in my service of my aforesaid children James