

Miles River Easton P. O. Talbot Co. Md.

August 6<sup>th</sup> 1871.

William Colton Esquire

Sir,

On the rec<sup>t</sup> of your Letter of the 11<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup>. I took it to a friend, to read for me who advised, me to go with it to my late master Col<sup>l</sup> Edward Lloyd and see if he could furnish the requisite information, I did so and the Col<sup>l</sup> kindly furnished me with the enclosed statement, taken from the his fathers Slave record of Purchases and Sales, births Marriages and Deaths, It was old masters practice, to pair off his Slaves when old enough, and have them married by the Episcopal Clergymen of his Church, and had it not been for that practice many of his Slave women who lost their husbands in the Union Armies would not by this time be able to prove their marriage, for be it remembered, that more than seven long even years have elapsed since they were cut down in the prime of life and vigor of manhood on the battle field, by rebel bullets, and were it not that "God tempers the wind to the shorn Lamb" those destitute widows and their helpless Orphans would have had an awful time in scuffling for subsistence. My poor field, hoe and plow, come, and go, education, has not enabled me to know anything about dates, the officers at Washing can if they choose give the birth of my second son John at 59 minutes past 11 o'clock at night on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of December in the year 1856. though it would be more reasonable and appropriate, nearer the truth, to place it <sup>near</sup> the middle of the year, October the 15<sup>th</sup> is set down in the Col<sup>l</sup>s statement as the probable time. I have hope that the new Commissioner of Pensions will do me Justice, I therefore thank God and take Courage.

Yours most respectfully

Harriet Johnson