

L37



State of Arkansas }
City of Fort Smith } October the 12th A.D. 1865
To the Honorable
O. Howard Superintendant of the
Freedmans Bureau. Washington City D.C.
Sir

We your petitioners would respectfully represent to your honor, (as follows). —

That at the commencement of the late rebellion we resided in the Indian country, and were held as slaves by the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians, in different locations in those Territories. And during the progress of the war we made our respective escapes from bondage to the freedom of the Federal lines, but left our wives & children Fathers & Mothers Brothers & sisters behind still to endure the severity of their savage masters, or till such times as the fortunes of war should bring them relief, "as we had hoped"

But to our sad disappointment and regret the war is now apparently ceased, and a general peace amongst the white and red man is agreed upon, and generally adhered to by those two races, and yet our dear ones are still held and tyrannized over in a most cruel manner by their former masters. Since the right of property in our race has been abolished by U.S. Gov. these savage masters have become more

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unfeeling and brutal in their treatment to us,
Our color is by them despised, in many in-
stances they have driven their former servants
from under roofs and murdered them for very
slight provocations there is at this time many
families quartered in old out-sheds others in
the woods sheltered, at the mercy of the elements
and have to bear the scoffs and scorn and
insults of all that are proper to offer such indigni-
ties to them they are friendless and unprotected.
"Such is their miserable condition
at this time".— And yet the Indians will
not suffer them to leave the limits of their
country. Or suffer us to go to their relief

The Indians are more cruel to the relatives
of those who fled to the Federal lines and bore
arms against them in and since the late
war than they are to others.

The Indians of those nations passed a law
at the commencement of the late war, sentencing
every colored person to immediate death who
attempted or escaped from their country when
ever caught on their soil, this law is being
at this time vigorously enforced, where they
can secure a violator. many of our comrades
have gone in to the ^{Indian} country in pursuit of
their respective friends. but none has as yet retu-
rned all have been murdered by the Indians

U 7 5 3
So you will discover that it is out of our power
to do any thing for the relief of our suffering and
dejected friends now residing in the limits of
those Nations, Hence we come to you bureau ask-
ing and begging relief for our suffering people

We have applied to the Military Command-
er Brig. Genl. H. D. Hunt who is in command
of the U.S. Troops of this Department who states
that he is powerless in the premises, and ad-
vised us to make our complaint known to your
Department, praying your assistance in procuring
the desired relief for our people. —

We would here respectfully take occasion to
briefly narrate the following.

It is a distance of about one hundred
and sixty miles from this Military post
(Helmuth) to where our people reside if this com-
mander could be ordered to demand our
people of the Indians. We believe that the
Indians would permit them to come to us.
And we here take occasion to state that we
have succeeded well in all our enterprises
and various pursuits in a pecuniary point.
We believe we have sufficient means to sup-
-port our people if they were here in our custody.
(We mention this to show should the U.S. Gov. assist
us in securing to our selves our relatives that
we can provide for their wants and thereby prevent
them from becoming paupers on the Gov.)

unless the Gov. interferes and intercedes in our behalf "in this matter" we will never be able to accomplish our desire, we are powerless in our sphere

We have hereto appended a list of the names and locations of the persons who are our relatives and that we desire to come to our location and that we wish the Gov. to demand marked exhibit "A"

Now in conclusion permit us to say in all candor and sincerity and truth. That we are not masters of language powerful enough to express our heartfelt gratitude and gratefulness to Our Heaven-born Gov. of U.S.A. for the great interest she has of late manifested in our behalf

And any favor in our behalf bestowed will be gratefully received And for which we will ever pray

Very Respectfully
Your most obedient Servants

Per Daniel Looman, Chairman

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B.W.
L.W. 78
C. Lett
F.R.

Buck Bushyhead ^{his} X	Andrew Chief Watkins ^{his} X
Wesson Brown ^{mark} X	Ben Colbert ^{his} X
Grundy Thompson X	Harrison Thompson ^{mark} X
Willson Thompson X	Randolph Gardner X
Isaac Kemp X	Gerry Kemp ^(Gerry Kemp in 2) X
	Henry Kemp ^{never been in} X
	John Fisher X

P.O. address
H Smith
State of Arkansas

Exhibit ("A")

A list of Colored Freedmen

For which a Requisition is
 Required from the United States Gov.
 Remarks To the Choctaw & Chickasaw Government
 as per Petition -

To wit:

Family of Buck Busheyhead a discharged U.S. soldier	Nancy & Lucyann & Josephine & Margaret & Narciss. Busheyhead. all reside in Blue County - Choctaw Nation
Family of Charles Perry a discharged soldier	Cigga & Simon & George & Sanders Perry 3 sisters. Ann & Lucy Becca Perry Residence Chickasaw County - C.S.
Family of Andrew Chief Watkins a farmer by occupation	3 sons. James & Jacob & Charles Watkins reside in Poshme tanhaw county C.S.
Family of Watson Brown by occupation Interpreter	wife Harriet Brown 1 child name Winny Brown Residence Jackfork county - Choctaw Nation
Family of Daniel Loman occupation farmer	wife Sophia and one child Robert Loman also sister and four children. Sister's name Nancy Harrison children's names Lurah & Sary & Vida & Jack all reside in Kimish County Choctaw Nation
Family of Ben Colbert Gov. Employee at Smith Ark	Has Mother & two brothers Mother's name Rachael Colbert. Bros. names July & Mobeal Colbert one sister Nancy Colbert - all reside in Kiamish county - Choctaw Nation

Remarks	
Grundy Thompson by occupation Blacksmith	Has a wife named Rachael Thompson resides in Blue county Choctaw Nation at Thompsons salt-works
Family of Hanson Thompson by occupation Blacksmith	Has 5 children named Mahaly & Harry & Angeline & James & Rachael. Residences Blue county Choctaw Nation at Thompsons saltworks
Family of Willson Thompson a farmer by occupation	Has a wife Name Elizabeth one child ^{Infant} named also a mother named Jane Thompson and two Brothers William & Pompey Thompson Reside at Blue county-Choctaw Nation at Thompsons salt-works
Family of Randolph Gardner by occupation Boarding house Keeper	Has a mother & 3 aces 1 nephew. Mothers name Tennessee Gardner. Aces names Lawry & Misa & Jane Gardner nephews name John Gardner all reside in Looperville county- Choctaw Nation
Family of Isaac Kemp a Gov. emp- poyee	Has a wife & one child wifes name wifes name Susan Kemp Childs name Elizabeth Kemp also a mother Francis Kemp and her children & in number Francis & Mary & Charles & Elijah also a Mother-in-law named Lucy Colbert all reside in Chickasaw county- Chickasaw Nation
Family of Jerry Kemp he is by occupation Blacksmith	Has a wife and four children wifes name Francis Kemp Childrens names Francis & Mary & Charles & Elijah all reside in Chickasaw county- and Chickasaw Nation

Remarks

Family of
Henry Kemp
by occupation
a farmer

Has a wife and 3 children (wifes name Caledonia
Kemp childrens names Haroy & Leander & Infant
all reside in Chickasaw County Chick-
-asaw Nation

Family
of William
Tisher
by occupation
a Government

Has a wife named (Elen) & (Child) named (Alexander)
one sister name (Marilyn Tisher) two Nieces named
(Isabella & Prly Tisher) also Father & Mother
named (John & Nancy Kemp) and there ~~three~~
children (Moses & Leickson & Betty Adeline & Manuel
and Francis Kemp) also a sister and her chil-
dren Francis Kemp Mariah & Iverson & Baw chu-
-na & Theresa & Johnney Kemp and Infant.
all reside in Choctaw county Choctaw
Nation

all of which is Respectfully
Submitted for consideration

very Respectfully

Your most obedient-
Servt

Samuel Looman

& et, als,

To the Superintendent
of Freed men

at Washington city

H. C. "