

On Monday, September 30th 1867,
I went to Cambridge and appeared before
Robert Bell, Esq. "Commissioner of Slave Sta-
tistics" under and by authority of an Act of the
General Assembly of Maryland entitled "An
Act to provide for taking and perpetuating
the evidence of the number of persons held to
labor and service in the State of Maryland
and emancipated by the Constitution adopt-
ed in the year 1864, and by whom such per-
sons were held"

My nephew, Dr. Eugene Hod-
son & my brother in law, Thomas Wethers
Smith testified as to the number, names,
age, sex and physical condition of the (11)
eleven slaves for life as held by me, on the
on the 1st day of November, 1864. I made
a transcript from pp. 89-89- and handed
it to Mr. Bell. and we three (3) viz: Dr.
Eugene Hodson, Thos. W. Smith & Levin Hod-
son swore to it. We, by so doing, endeavored
to comply with the law in the case.

It perhaps may be as well to
say that I had not been before Mr. Bell
at an earlier day owing to my absence in
the "Constitutional Convention" which began
its session on the 8th day of May and ended
on the 14th August, '67 - at the seat of
Government - Annapolis - Mr. Bell
told me however that I was within the pe-
riod prescribed by the law. -

The law declares - that "The testimony
in all cases shall be the sworn statement of the for-
mer owner or owners of his, her or their legal rep-
resentatives, confirmed by the testimony on oath
of at least two disinterested witnesses." & also

That "When the statistics are made
up by the Commissioner & deposited with the
Clerk of the Circuit Court, they are by Law "de-
clared to be legal evidence upon the question,
concerning the ownership of slaves in this
State at the time of the adoption of the Con-
stitution by which said slaves were emanci-
pated". -

I paid Mr. Bell \$2.75. or 25 cts. for each
one I owned in Nov. 1864. Levin Hodson.

Ms.
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I make the following statement for very obvious reasons. The New Constitution - abolishing Slavery was adopted and proclaimed by Gov. Bradford, Oct. 29, 1864.

The following are the names, ages and number of servants belonging to Levin Hodson on the 1st day of November, A. D., 1864. - I inherited these negroes from my father - Levin Hodson's estate - He died in this State, in Talbot Co. whilst on a visit to my mother's relations, in March, 1809. - Myself, William H. Yates, & Thomas H. Hicks, divided these negroes in 1833. Their decision or award may be found among my papers. - Joe. Loockerman is Ally's child. Ally belonged to my wife's father - Jacob Howard - who left her to his daughter, Mary Jane, the wife of L. H. - This will more fully appear by Jacob Howard's will. - I add such facts as seem to me to be proper and right, not choosing to rely alone on memory. -

No. 1 - Christopher Columbus Conaway - Harriet's child - commonly called - "Ruffs" - Aged between 40 & 45 years. - It may be proper to add that the said "Columbus" left his home for the residence of his family, in this immediate neighborhood, on Saturday evening the 16th April, 1864. He did not come home, as usual, on the following Monday morning, nor indeed has he been home, to my knowledge since he left. I have heard & believe that he has been at work, mainly, for a man by the name of "Fuller" in Fork neck, in this County - I further understand that the said Fuller has a contract for furnishing the government with cord-wood.

" 2. - Joe. Loockerman - son of Sam & Ally Loockerman - Aged 20 years. Joe enlisted in the U. S. Volunteer service in

in the village of Vienna in this County under a white man calling himself "Pot-woman, without my knowledge or consent. I learn from Mr. Daniel J. Maddell, Collector of the port of Vienna - also from Mr. Francis A. Leconte, both now then citizens of said town, that this man represented himself as "Lieut. Geo. C. Potwin, Recruiting officer" - of colored troops & presume I received no written or verbal notice of the fact - either from the Lt. Potwin or Joe. I will conclude by stating that I was, at the time Columbus & Joe left, confined to my bed by a severe & protracted attack of "Chronic Bronchitis". I learned the facts, as above, after convalescence. -

- " 3. - Julia - aged between 25 and 30 years.
- " 4. - Sam - Julia's child - aged between 10 & 15 yrs.
- " 5. - Henry - do do - " " 5 & 10 yrs.
- " 6. - Joseph Josiah, do - " " 3 & 5 "
- " 7. - Fanny - aged between 20 & 25 years
- " 8. - Maria - Fanny's child - aged - 3 & 5 yrs.
- " 9. - James Annia do do " between 1 & 2 do
- " 10. - Dacia - Aged between 18 & 24 years.
- " 11. - Hannibal - Dacia's child - a few months old.

See pp. 50 & 51 of a book in which I keep an account of my expenditures - & other "memoranda". - Levin Hodson. -

November 30th 1864. Julia was delivered of a female child on this date. This fact taken in connection with the having no home or place to go to. nor provision either for herself or her (4) children, is the reason why she desired permission to stay with us - at least until Christmas. - This request to stay on the part of Julia - who also wished "Aunt Betty" to remain in order to wait on her in her confinement, was granted by her mistress & myself. -