



Smithsonian Institution

Freedmen's Bureau

North Carolina Assistant Commissioner, Letters Received, Entered in Register 2, F-M, Part 1

Extracted on Mar-28-2024 04:38:34

The Smithsonian Institution thanks all digital volunteers that transcribed and reviewed this material. Your work enriches Smithsonian collections, making them available to anyone with an interest in using them.

The Smithsonian Institution (the "Smithsonian") provides the content on this website (transcription.si.edu), other Smithsonian websites, and third-party sites on which it maintains a presence ("SI Websites") in support of its mission for the "increase and diffusion of knowledge." The Smithsonian invites visitors to use its online content for personal, educational and other non-commercial purposes. By using this website, you accept and agree to abide by the [following terms](#).

- If sharing the material in personal and educational contexts, please cite the Freedmen's Bureau as source of the content and the project title as provided at the top of the document. Include the accession number or collection name; when possible, link to the Freedmen's Bureau website.
- If you wish to use this material in a for-profit publication, exhibition, or online project, please contact Freedmen's Bureau or transcribe@si.edu

For more information on this project and related material, contact the Freedmen's Bureau. [See this project](#) and other collections in the Smithsonian Transcription Center.

[F 10 ENCL]

State of North Carolina }
Hertford County } SS

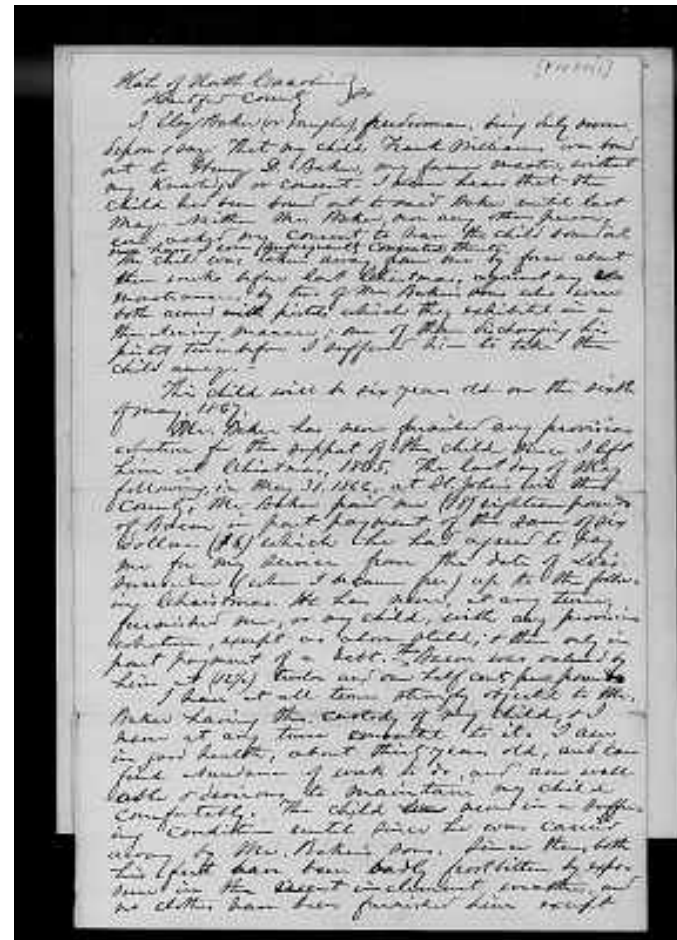
I, Elsy Baker (or Vaughn), freedwoman, being duly sworn, depose & say: That my child Frank Williams, was bound out to Henry D. Baker, my former master, without my knowledge or consent. I never heard that the child had been bound out to said Baker until last May. Neither Mr. Baker, nor any other person, ever asked my consent to have the child bound out. nor have I ever subsequently consented thusly.

The child was taken away from me by force about three weeks before last Christmas, against my remonstrances, by two of Mr. Baker's sons who were both armed with pistols which they exhibited in a threatening manner; one of them discharging his pistol twice before I suffered him to take the child away. —

This child will be six years old on the sixth of May, 1867.

Mr. Baker has never furnished any provisions whatever for the support of the child since I left him at Christmas, 1865. The last day of May following, i.e. May 31. 1866, at St. John's in this County, Mr Baker paid me (18) eighteen pounds of Bacon in part payment of the sum of six dollars (\$6.) which he had agreed to pay me for my services from the date of Lee's surrender (when I became free) up to the following Christmas. He has never, at any time, furnished me, or my child, with any provisions whatever, except as above stated; & then only in part payment of a debt. — The Bacon was valued by him at (12½) twelve and one half cents per pound.

I have at all times strongly objected to Mr. Baker having the custody of my child, & I never at any time consented to it. I am in good health, about thirty years old, and can find abundance of work to do, and am well able & desirous to maintain my child comfortably. The child was never in a suffering condition until since he was carried away by Mr. Baker's sons. Since then, both his feet have been badly frostbitten by exposure in the recent inclement weather, and no clothes have been furnished him except



State of North Carolina }
Hertford County } SS

I, Elsy Baker (or Vaughn), freedwoman, being duly sworn, depose & say: That my child Frank Williams, was bound out to Henry D. Baker, my former master, without my knowledge or consent. I never heard that the child had been bound out to said Baker until last May. Neither Mr. Baker, nor any other person, ever asked my consent to have the child bound out. nor have I ever subsequently consented thusly.

The child was taken away from me by force about three weeks before last Christmas, against my remonstrances, by two of Mr. Baker's sons who were both armed with pistols which they exhibited in a threatening manner; one of them discharging his pistol twice before I suffered him to take the child away. —

This child will be six years old on the sixth of May, 1867.

Mr. Baker has never furnished any provisions whatever for the support of the child since I left him at Christmas, 1865. The last day of May following, i.e. May 31. 1866, at St. John's in this County, Mr Baker paid me (18) eighteen pounds of Bacon in part payment of the sum of six dollars (\$6.) which he had agreed to pay me for my services from the date of Lee's surrender (when I became free) up to the following Christmas. He has never, at any time, furnished me, or my child, with any provisions whatever, except as above stated; & then only in part payment of a debt. — The Bacon was valued by him at (12½) twelve and one half cents per pound.

I have at all times strongly objected to Mr. Baker having the custody of my child, & I never at any time consented to it. I am in good health, about thirty years old, and can find abundance of work to do, and am well able & desirous to maintain my child comfortably. The child was never in a suffering condition until since he was carried away by Mr. Baker's sons. Since then, both his feet have been badly frostbitten by exposure in the recent inclement weather, and no clothes have been furnished him except

North Carolina Assistant Commissioner, Letters Received, Entered in Register 2, F-M, Part 1
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Extracted Mar-28-2024 04:38:34



Smithsonian Institution

Freedmen's Bureau

The mission of the Smithsonian is the increase and diffusion of knowledge - shaping the future by preserving our heritage, discovering new knowledge, and sharing our resources with the world. Founded in 1846, the Smithsonian is the world's largest museum and research complex, consisting of 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park, and nine research facilities. Become an active part of our mission through the Transcription Center. Together, we are discovering secrets hidden deep inside our collections that illuminate our history and our world.

Join us!

The Transcription Center: <https://transcription.si.edu>

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SmithsonianTranscriptionCenter>

On Twitter: [@TranscribeSI](https://twitter.com/TranscribeSI)

Connect with the Smithsonian

Smithsonian Institution: www.si.edu

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Smithsonian>

On Twitter: [@smithsonian](https://twitter.com/smithsonian)