

Document 1:

Letter from Mary Rollins to James S. Rollins, January 16, 1864

Document 2:

Excerpt from USCT service record of James Harney (Hamilton)

Document 3:

Excerpt from speech by James S. Rollins given on the floor of the House of Representatives on January 13, 1865, discussing his support for the 13th Amendment.

was even their knocking at the door, and soon
gained admittance. Cadie was the first victim,
and was a very sick child indeed. He was scarcely
out of my arms for ten days. He is much
reduced, and very pale but he evidently has
some spirit left for when I was sponging
him over this morning he told me I was a
"tin-kiss fool", all of which is readily excused
now. Frank I was afraid would at one
time lose the use of his limbs. Flo's suffered
less than either of the others but was in bed for
about a week. With care I think they will
now get along without serious difficulty—
But Oh! what a hospital we have in the kitchen
Gus is entirely unable to do any thing even to
cut wood for his mother but still requiring
attention all the time. Pomp will surely die,
and I think very soon. Maria's mother
has a baby three weeks old, and is quite sick
Kit is here very sick I think has scarlet
fever. Minda whom you got from Stone
is here with five children all of whom
have the whooping cough her baby making

the sixth died yesterday with it, and was
buried this evening. Her husband W. P. W.
ran off would neither fight, or go to work.
George, and Hamilton enrolled here in
Columbia, and left about a week since
for Benton Barracks where they now
are, and to ease the clinia this little
contemptable John of ours has decamped
a second time. Robert has been giving Sam
(who is utterly worthless) and John whiskey
twice a day ever since you left here for
Washington City. finding it out a few days
since I told John he should not drink
it, whereupon he walked immediatly
off. Willis is here, and does what ever I
direct. Horace I have hired to Mr Williams
of Baptist college for 150 for the next year.
Mr Segans got Maria, and her children
away before my return.

Brown is perfectly trifling, and content
able, and if you leave him here long eno-
ugh will steal every thing on earth you
have. You may think this a dark

picture but it is simply a plain unvarnished
statement of facts. It is the truth that although our ice
house is not filled, and he Lin and Willis are all
the hands on the place, he attended Johns sale
which has just come off, and remained two
days buying Peafowl feathers and such trash.
He has driven Old Bob off, and is fixing up
the house he lives in for his Father. Can it be possi-
-ble that you authorized this? I can not believe that
you mean to get any more of that stock here.
Let me hear from you immediately on this point.
Do you know what a arrukara this man Brown
is? Our negroes had to carry him home from
Columbia Christmas, and put him in bed.
Is not he a pretty fellow to have any ones
interest in his hands? Mrs Douglas told me to
day he had filled their ice house would do
no more, and they had to employ other parties
to finish it. He is making handsomely off of you
and that is all he cares to do. Between De Robert and
Lin I dont know what will become of us. Robert
may want to help along but he is misguided, this
whiskey will ruin every thing. You rented
the Reed place to Mr Saunders before you left the
house is all torn up and the narrow path taken

and carried off. Mrs Lammars thinks Brown
has taken it to fit up Uncle Bob's house for
his father, and bin it up to prevent their going
to it. Cousin Nat who I suppose has attended
faithfully to John's interests thinks most of
the things sold well, but says he never
on earth witnessed such proceedings as
during the sale. Whiskey flowed in the
most generous profusion, and white men
and black fiddled, and danced, all
night in the negro quarters. Brown, and
Stewart "the blacksmiths," being honors on
the occasion. Brown told Rebecca when
he returned, that "he out-danced all
creation," to use his own beautiful expres-
-sion. Dook who says he is going to Idaho
in the spring purchased several mules.
corn & ana is going up there to remain
until he starts. He says write to him or
let him know through me how much
Lottow paid you recently, and how much
he "Dook," is now behind he wants to
settle up every thing before leaving.

John I understand will come down in
a few days to Nathaniel. They bought in
for the children the carriage (which costs
for 250 dollars) three handsome bears
and the parlor and dining room carpets
You ask why I did not say something
about my trip home in my note from
St Louis. Well, after parting with Jimmy
and yourself at the "Seleban, house",
the first thing I did was to sit down
and let a hearty cry in which I was
soon joined by Ping and Curt. I never
felt so perfectly desolate on Earth
It seemed I would die but this relief not
being granted me, and the long hour of
agony being over we started for the cars my dear
little boys accompanying me. I had just time
to get in bid them good bye, and was whiffed off to
the far west. I thought much, and anxiously
about them after leaving but am relieved by learning
through a letter from Jimmy that they got back to
the Arsenal all right. I had numberless hair
breadth escapes, headaches and last but not from
being least heart aches before reaching St Louis
but I finally got there at 12 o'clock at night
and remained all night at the "Planters".
I left Mr. Huntens for home in a few moments
after writing you that hurried note and was
most fortunate in getting home the way I did
for I never felt such intensely cold weather

COLORED VOLUNTEER DESCRIPTIVE LIST of James Homey Colored Volunteers, enlisted in the service of the United States under General Order No. 135, Head Quarters Department of the Mo. St. Louis, November 14th, 1863. Claimed to have been the slave of James S. Rellins a citizen of Boone County, State of Missouri.

Name.	Description.							Where Born.		Occupation.	Enlisted.			
	YEARS OF AGE.	EYES.	HAIR.	COMPLEXION.	FEET.	HIGHER.	State.	County.	When.		Where.	By whom.	Period.	
<u>James Homey</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>Brown</u>	<u>Black</u>	<u>Yellow</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6 1/2</u>	<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Howard</u>	<u>Farmer</u>	<u>4th Regt Colored Mo</u> <u>1864</u>	<u>St. Louis</u>	<u>J. T. Russell</u>	<u>3</u> <u>Yrs.</u>	

REMARKS.

Presented himself

I CERTIFY, on honor, that I have carefully examined the above named Colored Volunteer, agreeably to the General Regulations of the Army, and that, in my opinion, he is free from all bodily defects and mental infirmity that would, in any way, disqualify him from performing the duties of a soldier.

A. P. Ober, M.D.
Examining Surgeon.

I CERTIFY, on honor, that the above named Colored Volunteer was duly enlisted by me, and that the above is his correct Descriptive List. That I have minutely inspected him previous to his enlistment, and that he was entirely sober when enlisted; and that, in accepting him as duly qualified to perform the duties of an able-bodied soldier, I have strictly observed the Regulations which govern the recruiting service.

Station Colored Mo
Date Jan'y 4th 1864
J. T. Russell
Capt. E. M. M. & Co
Provost Marshal and Recruiting Officer.

James Horney P.M.
R. 889.

ENDORSEMENT.

No. 889

APPLICATION OF

James S. Rollins
OF
Columbia, Mo

For compensation for service of slave

James Horney

enlisted Jan'y 4th 1864

in E Co. 56 Regiment,

U. S. Colored Troops.

Received December 27 1866,

compensation awarded,

St. Louis Mo. 29th 1867

Three Hundred Dollars.

James K. Mills

Resident Board of Claims.

P. O. address of Applicant,

["Statesman" print.]

J. S. Rollins

War Department,
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE.

Washington, Jan'y 16 1867.

Respectfully returned to the
Commission for the State of
Missouri with the informa-
tion that James Horney
was enlisted at Columbia Mo.
Jan'y 4, 1864 and was
mustered in as P.M. Co. "E"
56th U.S.C.T. Jan'y 16, 1864,
R 889

H. Rosewell

Asst. Adj't General.

W.H.D.

Claim for Compensation for Enlisted Slave.

No. _____ I, James S Rollins a loyal citizen, and a resident of Columbia County of Boone State of Missouri

hereby claim compensation, under the provisions of Section 24, Act approved February 24, 1864, and Section 7, Act approved July 29, 1860, for my slave James Harvey

who ^{belonged to} enlisted January 4th 1864, at

Columbia, Missouri, as will appear by the certificate of H. J. Russell St. Paul, and after Private Marshall has attached, and has obtained

Mustered in the 5-6th Regiment U. S. Colored Troops,

Co. E certificate of which enlistment, and a descriptive list, as required, accompanying this application.

In proof of my loyalty to the Constitution and Government of the United States, I present the accompanying oath, which I have taken, signed and acknowledged, to be filed with this application, in accordance with requirement of General Order, No. 529, 1863, War Department, Adjutant General's Office.

And I hereby constitute and appoint J. S. ROLLINS, of Columbia, Mo., my agent and attorney irrevocably to present the foregoing claim, to receive and receipt for all moneys payable under it, and in general to do any and everything necessary and proper to be done for its examination, adjustment and collection, hereby ratifying and confirming all that my said attorney may or shall legally and properly do in the said premises.

James S Rollins
Signature of Claimant.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE.

I James S. Rollins the owner and claimant, do solemnly swear that the foregoing claim is a just and true claim due to me as master and owner of the said slave, and that the facts alleged in said claim in respect to enlistment of said slave into the military service of the United States are true. And I do further swear that I have never joined, or been concerned in any insurrection, or rebellion; that I have never borne arms against the United States; that I have never given any aid, countenance, counsel or encouragement to any person or persons engaged, or whom I had reason to believe were about to engage, in insurrection, rebellion or armed hostility against the United States; that I have neither sought, nor accepted, nor attempted to exercise the functions of any office, civil or military, nor to perform any service whatever, under any authority or pretended authority in hostility to the United States; that I have not yielded a voluntary support to any insurrection, rebellion or pretended government, authority, power or constitution within the United States, hostile thereto. And I do further swear that, to the best of my knowledge and ability, I have supported and defended, and will continue to support and defend, the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic, and that I have supported, defended and obeyed, and will continue to support, defend and obey, the Constitution and laws of the United States; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I take this oath freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion. So help me God.

James S Rollins



sworn to, subscribed and acknowledged before me, at Columbia Mo this 28th day of November 1864.

Lewis M. Smith
Notary Public



James S. Rollins Claimant for Compensation

for James Harney slave, under the Acts of Congress of February 24th, 1864, and July 29th, 1866, having been duly sworn, declares that at the date of the Emancipation of said

James Harney into the military service of the United States he was the lawful owner of said James Harney - and obtained his title to him in the following manner; he bought him under Execution on the 22^d day of July 1837 - of Nathaniel Ford Sheriff of Howard County, Missouri, he being sold by the name of James Harney, and he files herewith his Bill of Sale Executed to him, by the said Nathaniel Ford dated the 24th day of November 1837 - as well as the proof below showing his title to said James Harney - he also states, that he continued in possession of, and the legal owner of said slave, up until his enlistment, into the military service of the United States -

Wm. H. Smythe and J. B. Douglas having been duly sworn, declare that they are personally acquainted with James S. Rollins the claimant for compensation for one James Harney under the Acts of Congress of February 24th, 1864, and July 29th, 1866, and know that said James Harney at the date of his Emancipation into the military service of the United States, and for fifteen previous thereto, the slave of said James S. Rollins. They also declare that they have no interest in said claim.

J. B. Douglas and Wm. H. Smythe having first been sworn, upon their oaths declare that they reside, respectively, in Columbia county of Boone State of Missouri; and Wm. H. Smythe : that they are personally acquainted with James S. Rollins claimant for compensation for one James Harney under the Acts of Congress of February 24th, 1864, and July 29th, 1866. And that they know that said "claimant has firmly and faithfully maintained his allegiance and adherence to the Government of the United States, by defending its cause against the government of the so-called Confederate States of America, in all suitable and practicable ways, and according to his ability;" they also swear that they have themselves maintained a like allegiance and adherence to the government of the United States, and that they have no interest in said claim.

State of Missouri }
County of Boone } ss.
Personally appeared the above named James S. Rollins Wm. H. Smythe and J. B. Douglas

Wm. H. Smythe and J. B. Douglas Ex. Pr. Marshal
November 28 1866

and made oath to the truth of the foregoing statements, by them respectively subscribed.
Lewis M. Smythe
Notary Public

Know all men by these presents, that whereas I
Nathaniel Ford Sheriff of Howard County, did on the 22nd
day of July 1839, sell at public sale in the town of Fayette
by virtue of one execution in favor of John G Stephenson
and sundry others of small amount, to me committed from
the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Howard County and
State of Missouri, all against Alphonso Betmore, and that at
said Sale, which was then and there made for ready money James
J. Rollins was the best and highest bidder for the following
negroes to wit: one negro woman named Rebecca
about thirty five years of age for the sum of four hun-
dred and fifty dollars: and three of her children to wit
Lewis about fourteen years of age at ~~the time of~~
two dollars: James Franklin about ^{ten} years of
age at three hundred and seventy six ^{dollars}; and Charles
about 8 years old at three hundred and seventy
four dollars, in all amounting to the sum of seven hundred
and ninety two dollars, to me in hand paid
by the said James J. Rollins: the receipt of which is hereby
acknowledged: Now therefore I Nathaniel Ford
Sheriff as aforesaid, and by virtue of the power
and authority in me vested by law, do by these
presents grant bargain sell and deliver to the
said James J. Rollins, his heirs and assigns forever
all the right title and interest, which the said
Alphonso Betmore, at the time of the levying the
Execution aforesaid, & at the day of Sale aforesaid

1839

had in and to, the Names above mentioned
Given under my hand and
Seal on this 21st day of November
1837.

Mathaniel Wood

Also another negro boy Robert, taken as the
property of Benjamin Holliday on an execution
to me directed from the Clerk of the Howard
Circuit Court in favor Nathan S Pullen on
and ~~the other in favor of~~ John ~~meathum~~ ^{to} the said boy was
sold at the July term of the Howard Circuit
Court 1837, when James J. Rollins became
the highest and last bidder, at the sum of
four hundred and seventy ^{dollars} ~~five~~ ^{which said}
sum has been paid to me: Now I N. Ford
Sheriff of Howard County by virtue of the
authority in me vested by law, do by these presents
grant bargain & sell, to the said J. Rollins all
the right title and interest of the said Benjamin
Holliday in and to the boy on the day of sale aforesaid
& restoration whereof, I have hereto set my
hand and seal this 21st day of Nov. 1837.

Mathaniel Wood

Hence I go a little further than my venerable friend from Missouri [Mr. King], though he and I are exactly in the same category upon this question. I express my belief that the limitation preventing the abolition of slavery in the States by Congress was not placed in the Constitution because of a desire to leave that an open question, but because of hoping and believing that at a distant day in the history of our country, when there would be a higher and more Christian-like civilization, a better view of this subject, then we, their posterity, might have the power, which they gave to us in the instrument itself, to take hold of the question and dispose of it in some fair, right, and proper way. Such is my belief; whether it is well founded or not is another thing. They regarded the institution as an evil, and no such limitation could have been incorporated into the Constitution by the convention which framed that instrument. They regarded it as an evil to be disposed of one day or another, and they left the door open to those who were to come after them, for the express purpose of enabling them, when a good opportunity offered, to do the very thing which they failed to do themselves.

And this accords precisely with the opinion of the Hon. A. H. Stephens of Georgia, Vice-President of the Confederate States. In his celebrated speech made after the adoption of the Montgomery Constitution, he says :

African slavery as it exists among us was the immediate cause of the late rupture and present revolution. The prevailing ideas entertained by most of the

leading statesmen at the time of the formation of the old Constitution were that the enslavement of the African was in violation of the laws of nature; that it was wrong in principle, socially, morally, and politically. It was an evil they knew not well how to deal with, but the general opinion of the men of that day was that somehow or other in the order of Providence the institution would be evanescent, and pass away. This idea, though not incorporated in the Constitution, was the prevailing idea at the time.

Mr. Speaker, every man, however humble he may be, has some personal pride in the opinions he may entertain upon a great question of this sort. I am not free from considerations of that kind, and when I hear my friends over the way upon the Republican side of the House—and I know I have a great many friends there—intimate that because a man cannot vote with them and me upon this amendment he sympathizes with the rebellion, or is an apologist for the rebellion or for slavery, I confess that I cannot indorse either the good taste or the propriety of such imputations. Such remarks have been applied to me elsewhere than here, and yet I know they have not fitted my case, because I take this occasion to state my opinion—an opinion I have entertained for twenty-five years—that the institution of African slavery cannot be defended either upon moral or religious grounds, or upon principles of natural right or political economy.

I am a believer in the Declaration of Independence, wherein it is asserted that "all men are created equal." I believe that when it says "*all men*" it means every man who was created in the "image of his Maker" and walks on God's footstool, without regard to race, color, or any other accidental circumstances by which he may be surrounded. I know that astute politicians, crafty and ambitious men, in various periods of the Republic have tried to draw a distinction between this man and that man because he happened to have a differently colored skin; to show that the Declaration was applicable to white men only, and not to the black man, the red man, or any other than the white man. That the word "all" meant a part, not "all"! But, sir, I believe that general clause in the Declaration of Independence was meant by the immortal man who penned it, and by the immortal men who signed it, and by a large majority of the great men of that day, North and South, to assert the grand principle, founded in the rights of man, founded in reason, and in strict accordance with the law of morality and of the Divine will, that "all men are created equal," without distinction of race or of color. And although our ancestors failed to apply the principle, although they were derelict in duty by not living up to the great enunciation of principles which they made to the world and mankind, it is no proof to my mind that they did not mean exactly what I say they meant in the expression to which I have referred.

Mr. Speaker, all these considerations are influencing me in the very vote that I shall give upon this amendment; but I desire to say that my experience upon the subject of slavery has been quite singular and diversified. An antislavery man in sentiment, and yet heretofore a large owner of slaves myself,—not now, however,—not exactly with my consent, but with or without my consent, I learned from a telegram a morning or two ago, that the convention recently assembled in my State adopted an amendment to our present State Constitution for the immediate emancipation of all the slaves in the State. I am no longer the owner of a slave, and I thank God for it. Although I think this subject might have been disposed of in a better way, causing less inconvenience to our people and doing in fact the slave no harm, I make no complaint of the convention for that act; and although there is no clause of compensation, I very gracefully yield to the public sentiment and to the action of this distinguished body of men called in my State to consider its welfare. If the giving up of my slaves without complaint shall be a contribution upon my part to promote the public good, to uphold the Constitution of the United States, to restore peace and preserve this Union, *if I had owned a thousand slaves they would most cheerfully have been given up.* I say with all my heart, let them go, but let them not go without a sense of feeling and a proper regard on my part for the future of themselves and their offspring! I say, let them go, and let them enjoy all the privileges consistent with sound policy and that freedom which has been vouchsafed to them! Let them go; and, sir, there is no man in this House or in this nation who feels a deeper interest in their comfort, in their happiness, in their elevation, than I do, and in the comfort and welfare of their children and their children's children for all time to come! I say again, sir, let them go, and may the blessing of God rest upon them!

[Here the hammer fell, the hour having expired.]

Mr. ASHLEY: I ask that the gentleman have leave to continue his remarks.

By unanimous consent the leave was granted.

Mr. ROLLINS of Missouri: As I have said, my experience in relation to this question of slavery has been singular and somewhat diversified. Why, sir, I remember that seventeen years ago, when I was a member of that proud, honorable, and patriotic party, the old Whig party of the country, and when I was quite a young man, my friends placed me in the responsible position of candidate for the high office of Governor of my State, and that I found as my competitor upon that occasion my venerable and honorable friend who occupies a seat on my left [Mr. King]. We traversed

our great State from one corner to the other; we met time and again upon the hustings; he was a friend of General Cass, and I was a Whig and the friend of General Taylor; and he must pardon me upon this occasion—and especially as we are now together—if I bring to view a single reminiscence. One of his arguments, I remember, was that the elevation of General Taylor to the office of President and the election of myself to the office of Governor would be dangerous to the institution of slavery. I, a Kentuckian by birth, supporting a large slave-owner for the Presidency, and myself a large slave-owner, combated that view as best I could in opposition to my venerable friend. I am happy, however, to know that on this occasion we meet, and that hereafter there is to be no further controversy between him and me upon this question.

I remember, also, that as late as 1857, when again my political friends, regarding me far too highly, did me the honor of placing their standard once more in my hands in candidacy for the highest office in the gift of the people of my State, I found myself confronted by a gentleman who was born in New York, able and talented, and never the owner of a slave; but throughout that entire canvass the burden of his "talk" against me was that it would never do to elect me, and that if they did, in some way or other the institution of slavery would suffer at my hands in the State of Missouri; and although I think to-day that I was legally elected, after the old Democracy had figured some six or eight weeks, the election being over, *they brought out a majority against me of two hundred and thirty on a vote of 100,000!*

But this is not the whole of my personal experience upon this subject. When first I had the honor of being a candidate for a seat upon this floor in 1860, I met as my competitor a very worthy and distinguished gentleman who now occupies a seat in the other end of the Capitol, a man of exalted talent and ability and a high order of patriotism, who is my personal friend and who, I am gratified to see, fills his place ably and gracefully; but I remember that it was the same old story with him as with my venerable friend here [Mr. King] and the other gentleman to whom I have alluded, that it would not do to send me here even, because in some way or other I might be detrimental to the institution of slavery in my State. I am happy, however, to say that that distinguished gentleman and myself will no longer have any controversy upon that point.

We are together so far as this amendment is concerned. We take now much the same view of this important question, the only difference being that he has gone far ahead of me in any view I entertain or action I expect to take in the matter. It will never do, in the day of civil war and revolution, to be excusing one's self for inconsistency. Men change every day. Read the inaugural address of President Lincoln; read the diplomatic correspondence of the distinguished Secretary of State; read your own speeches

of two or three years back, and you will see how changes have taken place. Read my speeches, and you will find me preaching a short time ago one doctrine and now preaching another. I am proud that a man has the right to change; I am gratified that I am not too obstinate to change; I am glad that additional light shines upon the darkened intellect to enable us to change our opinions when we find that we are wrong, and hope all of us have sufficient regard for the truth to embrace it when we see it. Change is a law of nature. It is written on our physical organization, on our moral organization, on our mental constitutions. If there were no right to change, change morally especially, what in the name of God would become of many of the gentlemen on both sides of this House? There is an old adage that says, "Wise men sometimes change, fools never do." Sir, the peculiar friends of slavery have controlled the Government for much the greater part of the time since its establishment; and but for their own wickedness and folly might have saved the institution and had their full share in its management for many years to come. If they have lost the political control, all are blameless save themselves.