

NORMAN MILLER (owner)

JAMES JOHNS

MARTINSBURG, VA

Hitchcock Moton (free stock)

Permalife  
COTTON CO.

Permalife  
COTTON CO.



Martinsburg May 28<sup>th</sup> 1849,

To the Clerk of Loudon County Court,

Dear Sir,

On yesterday two black men were taken up in our County and committed to jail. Each of these men has a paper purporting to be "free papers" issued from the County Court of Loudon. These papers are in every particular so unlike those usually issued, that I have been desirous to write you, and ascertain whether they are genuine or not. The writing is small and very tremulous, spelling bad, signatures unlike, and very rough. "Robert Brown" is the name of one, emancipated by the will of James Johns "Deceased," as proved by the oath of John A. Moor. is a copper colour about five feet & a half high, and about twenty five years of age. "was registered the 13<sup>th</sup> day of July 1846," the certificate was taken from the office on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of January 1846. The registry was produced in Court on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of August 1846, and no 1172. The name of the other is "Abraham Moton," does in his certificate same as in the other, emancipated by "James Johns," he is a "White Mulatto," "about five feet five inches and a half high, and is about twenty three years of age." These papers are signed by "J. S. G. Shively Clerk," or something of that kind, and bear "true" J. Sinclair as attestation. Altogether these papers bear a very suspicious appearance. These men are well acquainted in Washington D.C. I wish you to examine the record and ascertain whether these men were emancipated as their papers purport, and write me so soon as possible.

Yours truly

Norman Miller  
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