

Transcription

To the Honl. John Critcher Judge of the Circuit Court of Westmoreland County, humbly complaining, shews to yr honor [*word canceled*] petitioner Peter Wiggins that many years ago, Yr petitioner cohabited with one Malinda Thompson and they then being in a State of slavery, were recognized and recognized each other as man and wife, that during the period of their cohabitation, they had several children, ~~of which children~~ to wit James, Peter, Mary Susan, and Martha Anne, which children were always recognized by yr petitioner as his sons, and daughters, and were so acknowledged by the sd Malinda that yr petitioner until recently has cared for and provided for the said children, that recently, the sd Malinda has assumed control of them, and as yr. petitioner is informed and believes has undertaken to hire the boys, James & Peter respectively to one P. C. George and W. W. Brown, and the Girl Mary Susan to one Edwin Hull. that the sd. children are now illegally in the custody, of the afosd. parties and that they the sd parties refuse, to surrender– them to yr petitioner. who as their father, is legally intituled to their custody. Wherefore your petitioner prays yr honor, will award him a writ or writs of Habeas Corpuss. commanding the aforementioned parties, to produce the bodies of the said children before yr honor– and to submit to all such orders as yr honor may deem right and proper– touching the sd children. And yr petitioner will ever pray– &c.

Beale P.V.

Citation: Petition of Peter Wiggins, 1867, Westmoreland County Writs of Habeas Corpus, 1867, 1870, Westmoreland County Court Records, Local Government Records Collection, Library of Virginia.