2 or more

General
Please give
your decision
on these papers
D.P.B.

Sent this to Pm
Marshal
OAH

To Major Gen Hurlbut

Commanding 16th Army Corps

Your petitioners Thomas E Johnson George H Kent and R T Simes, would respectfully State - that they are now confined in the Irwin Prison in this City as prisoners of War - and on the eve of being sent North as such - that they were arrested on the 26th of last Month (November) by Col Prince's 6th Illinoise Cavalry at Summerville - in Fayette County Tenn - thaken from thence to Le Grange - and from there sent here, as prisoners of War - that all of your petitioners are residents of - and residing in said County of Fayette Tenn - That Thomas E Johnson is about Eighteen years old residing with a Widowed Mother, about one Mile North of Summerville - that George E Kent is about Nineteen years old - and is residing also at Mrs Johnson as a hired hand - that R T Simes is about Eighteen years of age - and is residing with his Widowed Mother in the town of Summerville - And is her only support & protector -

Your petitioners expressly affirm, and State that they have never been in Arms against the Government of the United States - that two of them

(Thomas E Johnson and George H Trent) tooke the oath of allegance twelve months ago - to the Government of the United States - and have strictly - and ever intend to strictly live up to the same - that R. T. Simes is now willing to take the oath of allegance. that he never has been in arms against the Government of the United States - and that he does not desire to be held as a prisoner of War - and sent North for exchange. Where he would be forced into the so called confederate Army. that all of your petitioners entertain the same feelings on this subject - and are opposed to being sent North as prisoners of War. Where they would be liable to be exchanged and forced into the Confederate Army - as they desire to remain, and be loyal to the Government of the United State - and upon their release, are willing to take an oath of allegance, Give Bond, or perform an other act required of persons in like situation - Necessary to show their secere desire to remain loyal to the United States Government.

Your petitions would further state that at the time of their arrest - they had been notified by a Capt Bell

(Claiming to be a Confederate Officer) that they would be required to report at Richardson's Head quarters - as Conscripts - But your petitioners alledge - and most positively aver that they had not - and never intended to so report themselves - and that the time had elapsed - for which the Notification was given - and at the time of their arrest they were doing all they could to keep from being forced into the Confederate Service -

Your petitioners would therefore pray that they be released from the Irwin Black Prison - on such terms and Conditions, as to Major Gen Hurlbut may seem just, and proper -

Thos E Johnson
George H Kent
R F Simms

By Bland & Thornton - (Attys)

State of Tennessee }
County of Shelby }

Personally appeared before me a Notary Public duly Commissioned for the County and State aforesaid G. H. Johnson - Who after being duly Sworn Makes oath and Says - that I am a Brother

of the petitioner T E Johnson - and an intimate friend of the others - that I know of my personal knowledge - that the facts, as stated in the foregoing petition, are true -

T H Johnson

Sworn to and subscribed before me
as witness my hand & seal, at
office Memphis Tenn
this 7th day of Dec 1863

C B Thornton
Notary Public