

Clara Robinson, Petition to Remain in Virginia, 1848 Transcription (page 1 of 2)

To the Honourable The General Assembly of Virginia.

Humbly coming, Your Petitioner Clara Robinson a free woman of color, respectfully Sheweth; That She hath been recently emancipated by her Mistress Elizabeth Gibson resident of the City of Richmond in consideration of her previous services and uniform good conduct and demeanor as set forth in the deed of emancipation recorded in the Hustings Court of the City of Richmond, and now being of advanced age (60 years) and bound to the City of Richmond by the Strongest ties, all of her children being slaves living in the said city, and holding associations of the Kindliest character with many of the families of white Citizens here resident, She is exceedingly loth to quit the City, unknown and unprotected to wander to a foreign state meeting the hardships and infirmities of old age unsupported and uncheered by the warmth of filial affection or Kindly grattitude for past services. and therefore She respectfully prays that She may be allowed to remain within the Commonwealth of Virginia for the remainder of her life and be admitted to register in the City of Richmond as a manumitted slave! And Your Petitioner further respectfully shews that in addition to the considerations above stated, She has been for several years professionally employed in the City as an accoucheur or midwife and given satisfaction generally in that capacity, in evidence whereof she tenders the Certificate of the Honorable James A. Seddon drawn up in his own hand and signed by a large number of the medical faculty of Richmond who in the course of their obstetrical practice have had occasion to employ her and kindly given this testimonial of their valuation! This certificate moreover proves that She is and will be well supported by her employment so long as such services are necessary in Society and thus not become a burden to the State or City, Should the Legislature in their wisdom grant the burden of this prayer! All of which is

Most Respectfully Submitted

Clara Robinson

December 13th 1848

See the certificate on next page!

Citation: Petition, Clara Robinson, Dec. 20, 1848, Henrico County, Legislative Petitions of the General Assembly, 1776-1865, Accession 36121, Library of Virginia.

Clara Robinson, Petition to Remain in Virginia, 1848 Transcription (page 2 of 2)

Having had occasion at different times to employ for several months Clara Robinson, I take pleasure in stating that I have found her a faithful, attentive, respectful and honest servant, and in the discharge of her peculiar duties as an attendant on the sick, and a nurse for infants, remarkably kind, careful and competent. She has passed middle age and has, I am informed a large family of Children, who are all slaves. The necessity of her removing from the State would consequently involve the rupture of all her kin and associations and be a great hardship to her, while to many families in the habit of employing her on trying occasions, it would cause a serious inconvenience and annoyance, and I am satisfied if in any instance whatsoever, it be proper, as the policy of the Law manifestly contemplates it may be to allow a manumitted slave to remain in the State, she presents as strong a case as can well be presented for the exercise of such indulgence.

James A Seddon Decr 1st 1848

James Beale, M.D.

F. Marx M.D.

Jno A Cunningham M.D.

N. L. Bohannan M.D.

F. H. Deane M.D.

J. H. Tompkins, M.D.

G. G. Minor, M.D.

W A Paterson, M.D.

Philip Harrison

E H Carmichael

[Docket:]

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The Petition of Clara Robinson! (A free woman of color). December 20, 1848.

ref'd to Cts of J. [referred to Courts of Justice]

Jany 19 1850

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