

Claim of Thomas Cook
Page 1 of 11

797

J. Hellers Admn'r

de bonis non of Walter

Hellers deceased.

Thomas Cook was the executor

May 19th 1928

22d July 1828 – allow'd the duly
authorized Rep's of Walter Hel
-lers for two slaves taken
from Maryland @ \$280 each
making \$560 – Int. reserved

Walter Hellers, heirs
by their

Claim of Thomas Cook
Page 2 of 11

Cook, Tho., Exec? of } Washington, DC
Hellers, Walter, dec } 1 Sept 1823
Recd " " "

2 slaves - \$1,000 –

46

The Hon'ble

John Quincy Adams

Secretary of State

U.S.

Washington 1st Sept. 1823

Sir

I have the honor to endorse
herewith, a claim for two slaves, taken by
the enemy, during the late war, to be heard be=
fore the commissioners, for deciding on claims,
under the first article of the Treaty of Ghent.

Respectfully your very Ob Serv't

Tho Cook Esqr Exc't W.H.

The Hon'ble

Secty of State

Claim of Thomas Cook
Page 3 of 11

James Baker Esq

Secty to the Board of Commrs
[illegible] St. Petersburg Convention
Washington

Washington 14 March 1825

Sir

Enclosed you will find all the
papers taken from the folio of your office, by me,
returned, except the original deposition, in the
place of which there is a new one, taken strictly in
the manner dictated by the Commr's in their advert't.

I wish this claim acted upon, when the Commr's
are in readiness, as respects the information to be
obtained from the Brittish [sic] government, and when they
take up the Maryland claims generally for Deported slaves.

I have employed no counsil [sic], and supposing any
requests - - - Respectfully your very Ob Serv't

Tho Cook

Claim of Thomas Cook
Page 4 of 11

In the Cook's of 1 Sept 1823

{ Cook, Tho. Ex'r of
Hellers, Walter, dec'd } Washington, D.C.

Certificate of Executorship

United States of America,

Washington County District of Columbia,

To all to whom these presents shall come

greeting – Know ye, that on the third day of

November in the year of our Lord one thousand

eight hundred & fifteen, the last will and tes=

=tament of Walter Hellers late of Washington

County aforesaid, deceased, was in due form

of law exhibited and proved in the Office

of the Registrar of Wills for Washington County

aforesaid, and that on the eight day of Novem=

=ber one thousand eight hundred & fifteen Letters

Testmentary of all and singular the goods,

chattels and credits which were of the said

deceased, was by the Orphans Court of Wash=

=ington County aforesaid, granted unto

Thomas Cook the Executor in and by the

said will named and appointed, he having first

Claim of Thomas Cook
Page 5 of 11

first entered into Bond for the due perform-
=ance of the duties Hereof according to law –

Witnesses Richard B. Lee Esquire

Judge of the Orphans Court of

Washington County, District

of Columbia, this 30th day of

August in the year 1823 –

Test. Heury, Neale Reg Wills

Claim of Thomas Cook
Page 6 of 11

James Baker Esqr

Secty to the Board of Comm'ers

[illegible] St. Petersburg Convention

Washington

Washington 18th March 1825

Sir

In consequence of your virbally [sic] intimating to me yesterday, that it would be more agreeable to have the original Deposition of Mr. Sollers returned to the files of your office. It is accordingly herewith enclosed for that purpose. My not returning it with the other papers was owing to my having been under an impression, that the use of it, was superseded by the new one, filed in the place of it and which I found more convenient to take, when Mr. Sollers was on a visit to the District, then to have the original authenticated in the manner directed by the Comm'rs.

Respectfully

Your very Ob Ser't

Tho Cook

Claim of Thomas Cook
Page 7 of 11

In Tho. Cook's of 1 Sept 1823

{ Cook, Tho. Ex't of
Hellers, Walter decd } Washington D.C.

2 slaves - \$1,000

The United States

[illegible] to the Estate of Walter Hellers

For the two following slaves, taken by the enemy
during the late war, in the month of [illegible]
worth at the time arguably to the Deposition of Bennett
Sollers, a disinterested person, the following prices to wit:

Ben or Benjamin 21 or 22 years of age -----\$600.00
Sena or Cecilia - 17 or 18 years of age ----- 400.00
\$1,000.00

Washington City 1 Sept 1823

Tho Cook, Esqr Exc't W.H.

Claim of Thomas Cook
Page 8 of 11

State of Maryland
Calvert County Sc

Be it remembered that on this
26th day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand
eight hundred and twenty three personally appears Bennett
Sollers, gentleman of Calvert County, before the subscriber one
of the justices of the peace for said County in the State of Maryland
and being duly sworn on the holy evangely of almighty God
deposeth and saith that some time in the month of July in the
year eighteen hundred & fourteen and whilst a number of Brittish [sic]
armed vessels were lying the River Patuxent a coloured
man slave called Benjamin about twenty one or two years
of age and the property of Walter Hellers Esq (now deceased)
left the house of this deponent, and went on board of
one of the Brittish [sic] as was supposed and so far as came to the
knowledge of this Deponent - and that the value of
said slave in the opinion of this Deponent at that
time was not less than Six hundred Dollars.

What in the course of a few days afterwards a
female slave the property of said Hellers was taken by force,
from the [illegible] neighbourhood where she had secreted herself by a Brittish [sic] detachment
that came on shore from the fleet then lying in the Patuxent
and had with them a coloured man the husband of said
female slave which slave they took on board, & she remained

Claim of Thomas Cook
Page 9 of 11

In the possession of the enemy – that the said slave was called Cecilia and was at that time about seventeen or eighteen year old and in the opinion of this Deponent at the time was worth four hundred Dollars

Sworn before

James Dixon

State of Maryland, Calvert County Sc:

I hereby certify that James Dixon Esquire before whom the within deposition was made and taken and who has thereto subscribed his name was at the time of so doing one of the Justice of the peace of the said State in and for Calvert County aforesaid duly commissioned and Sworn...

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the seal of my Office this twenty seventh day of August A.D. 1823

William S. Morsell Clk
of Calv't County Court

In Tho. Cook's of 1 Sept. 1823

{	Cook, Tho. Ex'r of	}	Washington, D.C.
{	Hellers, Walter, decd	}	

2 slaves - \$1,000

Claim of Thomas Cook, Calvert County, Case No. 797, Case Files. Ca. 1814-28, entry 190, Record Group 76, National Archives, College Park. MSA SC 5496-050721

Claim of Thomas Cook
Page 10 of 11

Deposition

Bennett Sollers

Respecting two
slaves the pro-
perty of W. Hellers

District of Col'a

Washington County Sct

Be it remembered that on this fourth
day of March 1825 personally appears Bennett Sollers of
Calvert County Maryland, before the subscriber one of the Justices
of the peace for the aforesaid District & County and being duly sworn
on the holy evangely of almighty God deposeth and saith, that
some time in the month of July or August in the year 1814 and whilst a
number of Brittish [sic] armed vessels were lying in the River
Patuxent, a coloured man slave called Ben or Benjamin about twenty
one or two years of age the property of Walter Hellers Esq'r now
deceased left the House of this Deponant [sic] and went on
board of one of the Brittish [sic] vessels as it was believed at
the time and that he never returned to his master but
remained in the possession of this Brittish [sic] as was supposed
and as far as came to the knowledge of this Deponant [sic]
and that the value of said slave in the opinion of this

Claim of Thomas Cook
Page 10 of 11 - continued

Deponant [sic] was at that time not less than Six hundred Dollars. That in the course of a few days afterwards a female slave called Sena or Cecilia [illegible words crossed out] [illegible words crossed out] about seventeen or Eighteen years old and the property of said Walter Hellers now decs'd was taken by force [illegible word crossed out] from the neighbourhood where she had concealed herself by a Brittish [sic] detachment that came on shore from the fleet that was then lying in the Patuxent River and had with them [illegible words crossed out] Jack the husband of said female slave whom they took on board and where she remained in the possession of the Brittish [sic] with her said husband Jack the property of Doctor William Somerville who

Claim of Thomas Cook
Page 11 of 11

had previously been taken by the Brittish [sic].

That the said female slave called Sena or
Cecilia was at the time worth four hundred
Dollars

Sworn to Before

Jn N. Moulder

Justice of the Peace

District of Columbia, County of Washington, Sct

I William Brent clerk of the Circuit Court of the District
of Columbia for the County of Washington hereby Certify that
John N. Moulder Gentleman before whome [sic] the foregoing affidavit
was acknowledged is a Justice of the peace in and for said County
duly commissioned and qualified and that his signature thereto
is [illegible] signed the same in my presence. –

In Testimony Whereof I hereto set my
hand and affix the seal of the said Circuit
Court this Eleventh day of March in
[illegible] year of our Lord One thousand Eight
Hundred and twenty five.

Wm Brent Clk