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Unionville Easton P. O. Talbot County Maryland
May 2nd 1871.

To Hon: Comr. of Pensions
Washington D. C.

Sir,

Will you please excuse this Letter written by the hand of another, I am a poor ignorant negress and can neither read, nor write and have but small knowledge of language but I have feelings that I should like in some intelligable way to express.

My now deceased Husband, myself and our two children were all born Slaves under the Laws of Maryland and it so happened we were all Slaves to the same proprietor who was said to be the largest Slave owner in the State.

When the Slave holders Rebellion against the U. S. Government swelled into vast magnitude and became a horrible bloody war, we poor ignorant Slaves felt that some how or other our Liberty would grow out of it and the females persuaded their husbands, brothers and Sons that were competent to take up arms in defence of the Government against the rebels, after they left we were tied up and flogged for persuading them to go and our usual labor tasks increased to make up as far as it could for the loss of service occasioned by our wicked advice.

My husband and many of his fellow Slaves joined the Seventh Maryland Regiment, because of their black skins and woolly heads they were said to have been often placed in the most exposed situations, they were in numerous battles and skirmishes many of them were killed and others badly wounded, among the latter was my unfortunate husband, who was taken to a