General

Please give your attention to these matters.

D.B.

Send this to Professional.

Oath
To Major Lew Hunt
Commanding 16th Army Corps

Your petitioners, Thomas J. Johnson, George H. Kent and W. T. Sims, would respectfully state that they are now confined in the Basin Prison in this City as prisoners of war and on the eve of being sent North and that they were arrested on the 26th of last month (November) by Col. Bond's 6th Illinois Cavalry at Summerville in Fayette County. They were from there to be taken and from there sent here, as prisoners of war, that all of your petitioners are residents of and residing in the 1st District of Fayette County. That Thomas J. Johnson is about eighteen years old and residing with his mother, about one mile North of Summerville. That George H. Kent is about nineteen years old and residing also with his mother as a head hand. That W. T. Sims is about eighteen years of age and is residing with his father, in the town of Summerville and is here only support vitulato.

Your petitioners respectfully affirm, and state that they have never been in arms against the Government of the United States - that two of them
Thomas V. Johnson and George W. Trent

took the oath of allegiance three months ago to the Government of the United States and have strictly and ever intended to strictly live up to the same. That P. J. Lewis is now willing to take the oath of allegiance that he never has been in arms against the Government of the United States and that he does not deem himself as a prisoner of war and sent North for exchange. Where he could be forced into the so called Confederate Army that all of your petitions unto the same belong on this subject and are opposed to bring back North all 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 States and upon their release, are willing to take in oaths of allegiance, their Oaths, or perform other acts required of persons in like situation necessary to show their desire to remain loyal to the United States Government.

Your petition (reel) further states that at the time of their arrest they had been notified by Capt. Bell...
Claiming to be Confederate Officers that they would be required to report at Richardson's Head quarters at Conners' Ferry. But your petitioners allege and most positively aver that they had not and never intended to be absent themselves, and that the time had elapsed for which the application was made, and at the time of their receiving the above doing all they could to keep from being forced into the Confederate service.

Your petitioners would therefore pray that they be released from the Ellis Island Prison or such terms and conditions as to Major Gen. Sherman may deem just, and proper.

Thos. D. Johnson

Henry E. Green

R. D. Smith

My. Blind & Thornton, (copy)

State of Tennessee

County of Shelby

Personally appeared before me a Notary Public duly commissioned for the County and State of Tennessee G. H. Johnson, who after being duly sworn makes oath and says that I am a true
of the petitioner, J. E. Johnson, and an intimate
friend of the other, that I know of my
personal knowledge, that the facts, as stated
in the foregoing petition, are true.

J. H. Johnson

Sworn to and subscribed before me

As Justice my hand Y'date, at
Office Memphis, Ten.

L. O. E. Thompson

Notary Public