

The following document pertains to the loss of slaves by John B. Alexander of Fredericksburg, Va. It appears in the Confederate "Citizens File" for Alexander. The original can be found in Record Group 109 at the National Archives, Washington, D.C. Typescript produced by Eric J. Mink from digital copy of original found on Footnote.com

09/10

Background from Hennessy: John B. Alexander, a grocer, operated a store on upper William Street. Today the building still stands, part of the soon-to-be demolished Fredericksburg hardware complex across from the Free Lance-Star. In 1860, Alexander rented the place from its owner Joseph Alsop. Alexander was listed as being 57 in 1860 (the 1870 census lists him as being 60). He was worth \$2,650 in real estate, \$7,000 in personal property, including five slaves, two horses, two mules, and two pianos and harps. He was married to Mary with 6 mostly adult children living at home (five girls) and apparently a grandchild 2 years old. Alexander and his family lived in a home at what is today 700 Caroline Street—the parking lot next to the city visitor center. Alexander was Elected to city council in 1860 but resigned on April 7 (as did Peter Goolrick, the mayor, in a squabble over the appointment of police officers in the city). He died in 1870. His son John F. Alexander, 25, was a partner in Alexander and Gibbs tobacco company, which, by the way, hired the slave John Washington to work in their tobacco factory in 1860.

State of Virginia

Corporation of Fredericksburg, to wit,

On this 19th day of October, A.D. 1863, personally appeared before me the subscriber George F. Chew, a Notary Public for the Corporation aforesaid, in the State of Virginia, duly Commissioned and sworn, John B. Alexander, a loyal citizen of the Confederate States, and made Oath in due form of law, that he had lost from his residence in the Town of Fredericksburg, State of Virginia, the following Slaves of the names, ages, and values hereinafter stated, during the occupation of the said Town by the Federal Troops, and that said Slaves were abducted, harbored and carried off by persons acting under the authority of the United States Government, and engaged in the Military Service thereof, the Enemy of said Confederate States,

Viz:

Date	Name of Slaves	Ages	Values
1862 July	Frances Cook + Washer	26 years	\$1000.00
“ “	Betty No. 1 Seamstress	23 “	1500.00
“ “	George	4 “	400.00
“ Dec	Horace	45 “	<u>600.00</u>
			\$3500.00

And said affidavit further states that said Slaves of the said ages and values were owned by him as aforesaid, and were abducted harbored and carried off, at the dates stated, and during the existing war, by the Federal Troops then occupying the Town of Fredericksburg, and that the values of said Slaves are those wholly lost to him, the said John B. Alexander by reason of said unlawful acts of the said Enemy

John B. Alexander

Given under my hand this 19th day of October 1863

Geo F Chew
Noty Pub

The Deposition of George Aler, a Citizen of the Confederate States, residing in the Town of Fredericksburg, State of Virginia, addressed as proof of the loss of Slaves, sustained by John B. Alexander, a Citizen of the Confederate States, by abduction and harboring of the Enemy, before George F. Chew, a Notary Public for the Corporation of Fredericksburg, State of Virginia

The Deponent, being first duly sworn, deposes and says: That he resides in the Town of Fredericksburg, State of Virginia, and was well acquainted with the four Slaves enumerated in the foregoing Affidavit of John B. Alexander, and knows that the said Slaves did belong to him the said Alexander up to the time that he was deprived of them, by the Acts of the Enemy. The Deponent further says, that he considers the

respective values of said Slaves, as estimated by Mr Alexander, in his said Affidavit, are just and reasonable, and that he surely believes that the said Slaves, were abducted, harbored and enticed away by the enemy, to wit, the Federal Troops then occupying the Town of Fredericksburg, and that the values of said Slaves, are then wholly lost to the said John B. Alexander, by reason of said unlawful acts of the said Enemy.

And further this Deponent saith not.

George Aler

State of Virginia, Corporation of Fredericksburg, to wit,

I George F Chew, a Notary Public for the Corporation of Fredericksburg State of Virginia, duly Commissioned + qualified, do hereby certify, that foregoing writings contain the affidavit of John B. Alexander, a loyal Citizen of the Confederate States, to the fact of his ownership and loss by abduction and harboring of the Enemy, of the four Slaves therein enumerated, + valued at \$3500. – in the aggregate, which Affidavit containing the written evidence of said facts, was duly taken before and retained by me. And I further certify, that said writings also contain deposition of George Aler, a Witness addressed before me by the said John B. Alexander, as proof of the facts of said ownership of said Slaves and of their said loss, by the abduction and harboring of the Enemy, and also of the value of said Slaves; which said Witness, being first duly sworn, testified orally before me + his evidence was reduced to writing by me as aforesaid. All of which is respectfully certified by me and transmitted according to the Act of the Provisional Congress No 270, approved August 1861, to the Hon Secretary of State of the Confederate States. And I further certify that in my opinion, the above evidence so heard + transmitted by me, is entitled to full credit

Given under my hand and Official Seal, at
Fredericksburg, Virginia, this 19th day of October
A.D. 1863

Geo F Chew
Noty Pub