

Newmansville, Allachua County E.F.
(East Florida)
June 15, 1844

Dear Sir,

I have had the honor to recieve your favor of the 4th instant, and also the papers forwarded to me, by Captain Sprague, to which you refer.

It affords me great pleasure to say that, your communication and the papers mentioned have given me entire satisfaction. I now perceive that I was mistaken, in supposing that the negro girl slome(sic), to which these papers relate, have been captured, together with the manners of the mistake: and as I never wish to do any injustice, I feel it my duty to say that I am glad to find, that there is no longer any foundation for surmises with respect to the conduct of your officers.

Allow me, sir, to return your you my acknowledgements for your kindness in assuring me-that you will do your best to recover for me the girl in question-if she yet be in the hands of the Indians-and also for the measures which you have been good enough to take, to recognize the boy Toney.

With respect to the latter, I have myself lately received some information-and this together with a description of his person, may possibly be serviceable to you in any further efforts which you may be kind enough to make for his recovery, I have thought it would not be amiss to communicate them to you. The information which I have received is said to have come originally come from an Indian negro named Sampson. He declares that the boy Toney is now in the possession of Billy Bowlegs, and that he bought him from the Indian who originally kidnapped him, and paid three hundred dollars for him. He also says that he wears the Indian dress, speaks the Indian tongue altogether-and from these circumstances together with his color, which is that of a bright red mulatto, could not be told from an Indian.

So far as I am able to describe him, his color is that just mentioned, but his hair is that of the negroe(sic)-being entirely "kinky"-which would be one ground of his discovery should he attempt to pass as an Indian. He is now about seventeen years old. When young, he was inclined to ruptures, which I think it probable, he has not yet outgrown. He was rather thick and full about the jaws-and his eyes were bright and sharp, very much resembling the Indian in expression. These, sir, are all the items which I had to give respecting the boy Toney-and as I deemed it possible they might be available to you, in any efforts you might make in my behalf for his recovery, I ask your indulgence for having communicated them.

With the repetition of my acknowledgements for your past attention to me, and for your assurance of future considerations. I am, sir, very respectfully,

Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) Bennett M. Dell

To: General W. G. Worthe
St. Augustine

A true copy,
J. Edwd. Blake
1st. Lieut. Topl. Engs.
Adj. A. A. G.

Florida.

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Allow me, sir, to return you my acknowledgments for your kindness in assuring me - that you will do your best to recover for me the girl in question - if she yet be in the hands of the Indians - and also for the measure which you have been good enough to take, to recognize the boy Toney.

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So far as I am able to describe him, his color is that just mentioned, but his hair is that of the negro, - being entirely "kinky" - which would be one ground of his discovery should he attempt to pass as an Indian. He is now about seventeen years old. When young, he was inclined to raptures, which I think it probable, he has not yet outgrown. He was rather thick and full about the jaws - and his eyes were bright and sharp, very much resembling the Indian in expression. - These, sir, are all the items which I had to give respecting the boy Toney - and as I deemed it possible they might be available to you, in any efforts you might make in my behalf for his recovery, I ask your indulgence for having communicated them.

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(Signed) Bennett, M. Delle.

To

General. W. J. Worth.

St. Augustine.

A true copy.
J. Edmund Blake
1st. Lieut. 10th Regt.
Adj. A. A. L.