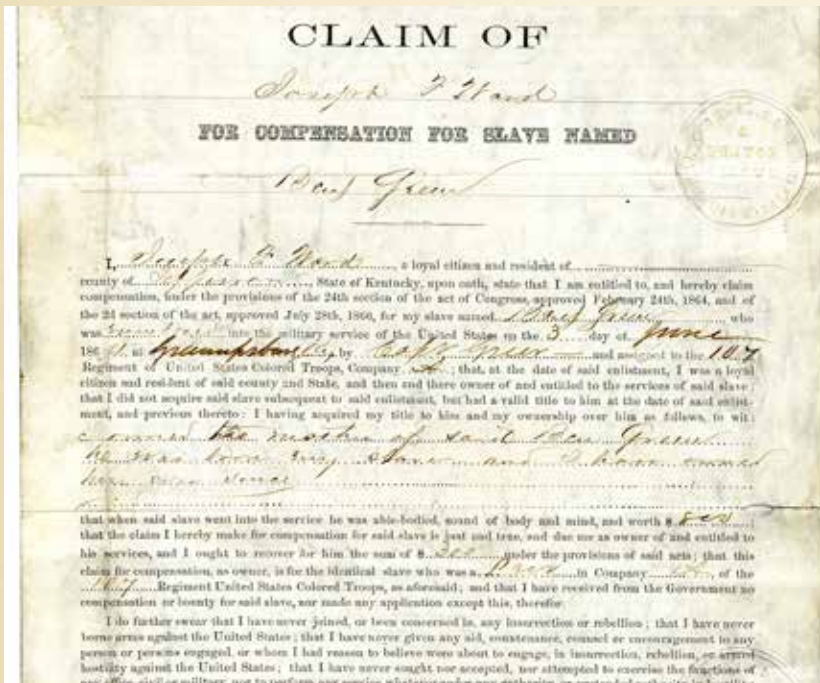


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# KentuckyHistoricalSociety

## CIVIL WAR TO CIVIL RIGHTS: JOSEPH F. WARD COMPENSATION CLAIM



Kentucky Historical Society collections

Joseph F. Ward of Jefferson County sent multiple claims to the state government seeking \$300 in compensation for Benjamin Green. Before the war, Green's mother was Ward's slave, which made Benjamin Ward's property, as well. Although Green was free and the 13th Amendment made slavery illegal in the United States, slave owners still felt they should be paid for their lost property in the same way that Union sympathizers were compensated for their crops and homes during the war.

Slave owners in Washington, D.C., were compensated during the war, but no state passed compensation legislation for slave owners following the Emancipation Proclamation and passage of the 13th Amendment.

JEFFERSON COUNTY — After the Civil War, slave owners in Kentucky sought compensation for their slaves who mustered into a U.S. Colored Troops unit.

After Gov. Thomas E. Bramlette reluctantly endorsed African American enlistment and recruitment, a number of Kentucky's slaves joined the USCT units to fight for their freedom. However, slave owners were not pleased to lose their property and felt they should be properly compensated for their service to the Union.

The Kentucky Historical Society (KHS) links Kentuckians with their past via archival collections that document people from every walk of life, reaching back to 1509. Letters, diaries, oral histories and photographs, as well as the first and second Kentucky Constitutions, are included. Find these and other KHS collections online at [khscatalog.kyvl.org](http://khscatalog.kyvl.org)

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