

*From William Greenleaf Eliot Personal Papers, Series 02, University Archives,
Department of Special Collections, Washington University Libraries*

1842 – letter acknowledging receipt of slave girl (transcript)

Know – all men by these presents, that I Johnson Hellen of Washington City, for the consideration of the sum of one hundred and twenty five dollars, to me in hand paid, by William G. Elliot, of the said City, the receipt where of I do hereby acknowledge, have bargained, sold, delivered and conveyed, and by the presents do bargain, sell, deliver and convey, unto the said William G. Elliot, his executors and administrators, my yellow girl, called Virginia, to serve as a slave, until she attains the age of twenty five, and from and after her arrival at that age, the said girl Virginia, to be free and absolved from slavery which said girl until she attains the age of twenty five, and any issue she may have to serve until they search that age, I will warrant and defend to the said William G. Elliot, his executors and administrators, against me and my executors and administrators, and against every other person or persons whomsoever. In witness whereof, I have on this 6th day of October in the year 1842 set my hand, and seal to these presents the words and any issue she may have to serve until they reach that age, first inserted.

Witness
Sam [Harkness]

Johnson Hellen {seal}

Virginia was emancipated – she has since married Wm. Parks, handyman – and is I believe very happily settled. W.G.E.