

2 Memorial from the Colored Citizens
of Pike County

To the Honorable Senate and
House of Representatives of the State of
Missouri

The undersigned, Citizens of the
County of Pike respectfully present,
That after long and wearisome years
of toil and servitude, during which we
had no volition or will of our own,
but were subject to the will of our
masters, and during which time, our
position under the law, was a kind
of medium between that of men and
that of brutes, being treated under
those laws, as men, so far as the
punishment for crime was concerned,
but as brutes, so far as any personal
rights or privileges were concerned -
and during which long period
of toil and privation and suffering,
many of us have grown old and
gray and infirm, the people of the
State, under the influence of the
inevorable logic of War, arose in
their might and struck off our
shackles and recognized our manhood.
For this act of Magnanimity, we
give everlasting honor and thanks.

But we respectfully suggest
that the recognition of manhood, the
right to hold property, the sacred right
of legal marriage, are scarcely a boon
when coupled with disabilities still
intained in the Organic Law of the
State.

we will not presume to enter into
(over)

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