

**October 21, 1864 - Questions about issuing a liquor license to a freedman**



County Court Clerk's office

Nashville, October 21, 1864.

Gov. And. Johnson

Sir:



Application is made to my by Wade Hickman<sup>Note 1</sup>, a slave, for license to sell spirituous & other liquors.

I understand your Proclamation of Sep. 7th, 1864, to declare that all cases coming before judicial tribunals, involving the rights of colored person, shall be adjudicated as cases of free persons of color. Sec. 690. Code of Tennessee, provides that the license before mentioned shall not be granted to free person of color.



I beg leave therefore to make the following enquiries:

1 Is the granting of this license such a case coming before a judicial tribunal as is contemplated in your proclamations?

2 Am I directed by you to proceed to grant the license without regard to Sec. 690. of the Code?

3 If I am so directed, shall I dispense with the oath prescribed in Sec. 690?

4 Am I to act in the future as in this case in the determination of similar questions?

Very Respectfully yours &c

P L. Nichol County Clerk

*Papers of Andrew Johnson, Vol. 7, pp. 241-242.*

**Note 1:** See February 24, 1865, "The Colored People's Friend," in which Hickman is among a party who presented Andrew Johnson with a keepsake watch.