

Ballstown Spa Sept 28th 1864

Mr Lincoln kind sir please pardon me for intruding
upon your time a very tittle but circumstances
are such that a presumption can be overlooked at
such times my husband is a soldier in the army
he enlisted the 15 of last december and has been gone
ever since and he has not received any pay since he
has bin gone i am sick and have a family of littel
children to take care of and have no means to care
for them with and a soldiers wife is looked upon
as some one that never wants as long as her husband is
in the army alive i cannot get the least bit of
help here i have tried every way and every one tells
me if my husband is in your service i must go to
you for assistance when i was able to work i don
well enough i am willing to work for my self so that
my husband can work for his country i am proud
to be the wife of a union soldier i could live
on most any thing so that i could live at all but i
cannot earn a dingle sent i am sick in bed now as i
write and my littel ones are a crying for bread and
i have none to give them but i put my trust in
god i no he does all things well and i dont think he has
made any of his creatures to let them die with destitution
and as every one has advised me to apply to you
for assistance i in a humble manner do so in prayer
and believing that god will make manifest to your heart
how very needy i am my husband belongs to the 20th new york
regiment of infantry 68th of united states colored troops
he is in camp Calumetta new orleans in state of louisiana
you will find i have told you the fault of the
officers commanding the regiment that he has not had any
pay nor any of the regiment i ask you in the name of
our heavenly father to try to give me some relief for

i am ready if ever any mortal was do kind and
humble sir please lend an ear to ^{my} petition for if i
was not in the sorest distress i should never dar to
presume to adress you but i think one that strives
for the good of ther country as you do could never
let another fella suffer super to death that is
a doing all thats in ther power to help put down
the rebelon and restore peace and union which i hope
through the help of god may some reign over the land
i will now calase praying you to hear my prayer
i am most respectfully your abedant servant
Merry Ann Vinson

My husbands name is Amos Vinson

Ballston
227 Sept. 28 1863

Mrs. M. A. Vinson

Requests that her

husband Amos

Vinson, be st. 20

Reg. 21st. may

be paid.

W. 303. October 1 1863.

Payor Genl

Amos Vinson