

New York State Prison, June 17, 1846

Dear Sir,

Permit a black man by the name of Hillis who left your service nine years ago last January to implore your forgiveness and assistance. Since I left your service I have resided principally in the Northern and Eastern States until last June when I was traveling from Pittstown to Troy and on my way fell in company with some men who were apprehended for taking goods from the waggon of a teamster to the amount of \$100 and on searching the parcel a handkerchief which they said belonged to me was found with the goods and on that circumstance I was apprehended as an accomplice and lodged in Troy goal; the others made their escape and on my trial I was found guilty (upon no other circumstance than that of the handkerchief, the owner of the property not even appearing against me) and sentenced to this house for seven years to hard labor. I have lately heard of the death of my father and Mother and therefore

have no friend, to assist me in my unfortunate situation I have been in no trouble since I have been here. And I am fully sensible of my folly in leaving you as I did, and for which I sincerely repent. If you will now be so kind as to assist me in gaining my liberty I will return to my duty and by my industry, sobriety and gratitude attempt to reward you for your kind interference in my behalf. I was sentenced by the County Judge and sentenced by the name of Samuel Washington Seemore. I remain with regard and esteem yours at command

Hillis Seemore

Mr. James Carpenter
Gothen

Killis Letter (1816)

New York State Prison, June 17, 1816
Dear Sir,

Permit a black man by the name of Killis who left your service nine years ago last January to implore your forgiveness and assistance. Since I left your service I have resided principally in the Northern and Eastern States until last June when I was traveling from Pittstown to Troy and on my way fell in company with some men who were apprehended for taking goods from the wagon of a teamster to the amount of \$100 and on searching the parcel and handkerchief which they said belonged to me was found with the goods and on that circumstance I was apprehended as an accomplice and lodged in Troy gaol; the others made their escape and on my trial I was found guilty (when no other circumstance than that of the handkerchief; the owner of the property not even appearing against me) and sentenced to this house for seven years to hard labor. I have lately heard of the death of my father and Mother and therefore

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Killis Seemore

Mr. James Carpenter
Goshen