

On board U.S. Gun Boat Victory N^o 33,
 Off Smithland Ky Oct 20th 1864
 Honorable Mayor of Louisville Ky
 Sir

We the undersigned petitioners having of our
 own free will and accord voluntarily enlisted in
 the Naval Service of the United States for the term
 of Three years or during the war on board the
 U.S.G. B Victory in the harbor of Louisville Ky
 in the month of August 1864 of which vessel
 acting Master Frederick Reed is Captain Com-
 manding and George W Shields is Surgeon.
 In the presence of said Captain and Surgeon and
 recruiting Officers and with the positive assurance
 that we were enlisting as Volunteers and not as
 Substitutes, all of us having been offered four and
 five times as much to go as Substitutes as our local
 and Federal bounties would amount to but having
 positively refused to serve as Substitutes for any
 amount of money whatever on the grounds that we
 were subject to Military duty to our Country and
 therefore could not enter the Service without com-
 mitting a base fraud as Substitutes, We therefore
 positively refused to enter the Service as Substitutes
 on any conditions whatever although being positively
 assured by recruiting Officers and other parties in
 Louisville that they would procure our reception
 as Substitutes for large sums of money, we were
 assured at the same time by our Captain and