The State of Alabama Marion County

my son Edward G Terrell has lived near me and helped me in my difficulties many years. he has spent the energies of his life to help me for this and for the natural regard I have for him as my child, I give to him his heirs &c the negroe woman delilah and her child Abba, now living with him, to him and his heirs for ever, on this express condition, That if myself or Edwards mother my wife should in the events of life consider that either of us should stand in need of said negroes — then either of our own judgements shall rule and take the said delilah to our service & use, well as her present and future issue, But if neither of our necessities should induce us or either of us, to take possession of said negroes, they will remain always the property of the said Edward.
For Abba as above, the said Edward will pay me in five years one hundred and fifty dollars if the child lives so long. without this payment all as above, the child is still mine my writing to everybody is notorious. I make this good and lawful without any witness verrifying all which I have hereto set my hand and seal on the 15th day of December 1840

J D Terrell (Seal)