

*Letter to Silas H. Stringham, Commander of the  
North Atlantic Squadron*

*O. S. Glisson*

*July 15, 1861*

Rappahanock [Va.]

Sir I have to report, that this morning at daylight we observed a boat adrift near Stingaree Light House and soon after discovered a man in the Light house. We manned a boat, armed her, and sent her with an officer to pick up the boat, and to ascertain who was in the Light House

At 8<sup>h</sup> 30<sup>m</sup> the boat returned bringing with her six Negroes who had deserted from the shore during the night and taken shelter in the Light House casting their boat adrift to avoid detection

They appear to be very much frightened and state that the people on shore are about arming the Negroes with the intention of placing them in the front of Battle. their taking this course has caused much excitement among the negro population, who are deserting in every direction. Two other boats made their escape last night in the hope of being picked up by some Vessel passing in the Bay

I have rationed these Negroes on board of this Vessel, until I receive orders from you as to their disposal. They inform me that there is not a Union man near the entrance of the River. A few weeks since they murdered the only Union man near Stingaree Point.\* His widow M<sup>rs</sup> George Wilson, with three little children are yet on the Farm near the Point, they are apparently unmolested.

These negroes further inform me, that ammunition is very scarce, and that the five hundred men in Mathews County have not two rounds of Cartridges with them. these men are about ten miles from Stingaree Point and are the nearest armed force in this vicinity.

Enclosed I forward you a list of these Slaves together with a list of the names of their owners. I am sir very respectfully Your Obedient Servant, O.S. Glisson<sup>†</sup>

\* Glisson means Confederates, not the "six Negroes," had murdered the only Unionist in the area.

<sup>†</sup> Glisson was the commanding officer of the U.S.S. *Mount Vernon*.

List of slaves	Owners
John Hunter	Joseph Moore
Samuel Hunter	
Miles Hunter	
Peter Hunter	J. Crittenden
Alexander Franklin	Robert R Carter
David Harris	Jeremiah Harron