National Observatory
Washington Aug 8th 1853

My Dear Sir

Your letter accompanying a certificate for me to sign and file up came to hand on Saturday last, When I left Texas I do recollect your letting me have fifty dollars, but upon what conditions has entirely escaped my mind.

At this time and place it is impossible for me to give you the exact date when my name was changed, but presume if you will call upon Mr. L. B. Harding, the register in the Navy Department he can give you exact time.

I think merely sign my name to the certificate and you can put in the date.

I am Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Delany A. Forest

Commodore E. W. Moore
National Hotel
Washington