



Elyton Nov 22nd 1859

To His Excellency A.B. Moore

Dear Sir

At the fall
Term of the Circuit Court of Blount 1858 E.P. Murphree
pleaded guilty of the charge of Negro Stealing under the following
circumstances viz There was a man of doubtful character
if not an accomplice who would swear against him
some strong circumstances, and under that fear & some
hope being held out, he made some confession which
fixed public sentiment against him. He had been confined
in the jail of Madison County for one or two years
until worn out & was willing to make any exchange
for the jail. He could not get a fair trial or at
least the witnesses who were necessary for his defense
could not be got to Court as they had left the
State. If Murphree was guilty at all he was the
dupe of a band of scoundrels. He was not exceeding
25 or 30 years ^{old} without education. He is an unfortunate
branch of a large & respectable family in Blount.
The testimony was not introduced for the reason
that he pleaded guilty; hence I have to state my impres-
sions, & these are stated with caution, I know ^{no} family
who can & whose circumstances do appeal stronger for

clemency & the return of Mr. Murphree to his
helpless family. I most heartily join Judge Liles
and the petitioners in asking the exercise of
executive pardon

W. J. Earnest

I know nothing of the facts or circum-
stances connected with the commission of
the offence. Murphree plead guilty.

The facts stated by Col. Earnest are no
doubt true. I can make no recom-
mendation in his behalf, because I have
no evidence on which to predicate a
recommendation. An examination
of the petitions & recommendations of others
will doubtless enable you to dispose
of the case properly. The deft. having
plead guilty there was no jury whose
recommendation could be had in his
behalf.

Elyton Nov. 22^d 1859.

Wm. M. D.