

Hon. J. L. Watts

Sir:

The Militia Law takes from me my overseers, knowing it impossible to have them exempted I appeal to you as Chief Commander of the State of Alabama to examine my case and have them detached.

I have two plantations in this State and am compelled to have overseers, as I am a soldier and have no one to assist me in attending to my business. The men I have overseeing are not men who have taken up that occupation to escape going to the Army, one of them has overseed in this country of ^{Mississippi} for thirteen years, the other, overseed for one in ^{Mississippi} for four years. Both are good men and excellent overseers, without them I would be completely broken up, Indeed in the rebellious state my negroes are in, I consider it unsafe to be without some one to control them, and without some one will have to sell them, When I brought my negroes to Ala from Mississippi, I could do nothing else with them but divide the number and put them on my plantations here, although I disliked very much to do so, as they were anxious to go to the Gunken and I was afraid they would corrupt my other negroes. They needed very strict

control, but at that time I had but one overseer
and he a miserable, worthless creature, has done
more mischief than can be soon undone, he
has left them demoralized and I consider they
need the strictest control

I send this letter by Miss Mayhew, any questions
you may wish to know she can answer

Hoping you will consider my case and have
my business detailed I remain

Very respectfully
Mrs S. B. Mathews

Camden Walcott County

Nov 28th / 63.

Walcott
County
Mrs Mathews
Overseer