

Pushmataha
Choctaw Co Ala
Apr. 10/64

To the
Governor of
the State of Ala

Dr Sir

When our army was
retreating across the Tombigbee
many persons, in my opinion
improperly authorized by Brig
-adier Col & Captains were following
through this county seizing horses
and mules for Cavalry service
seriously endangering the produc-
tion of the county. I wrote to Genl
Polk on the subject and he prom-
ised to reply to my inquiries
he has not done so. I wish to know
who has a right to order impress-
ments. I cannot learn from

any source within my reach
the laws on this subject. I am
not to be governed by whose authority
instruments are to be made. If
every Col and Captain of Cavalry has
this authority there will be no
end to their oppressions. With the
lights before me I shall arrest
the first persons I find engaged
in the business, without authority
of the Commandr of the Department
and take them to Head Quarters.
I shall arrest them as being
improperly absent from their
commands. Resp. ofly

Jam. Ruffin
Lt. Col. Commandr
Reserves

Saml Ruffin
Comd of Cavalry
- Arkansas