

(1)

Greenboro July 13 1864

Y. His Excellency  
Thos H. Watts

Dear Sir

Your favor respecting the impounding of hands for Mobile from this County is at hand

I have met with greater difficulties in executing the last order for hands - than I have ever met with before

This side of the river (East Green) has been called upon to do more than her share of the work - having furnished

nearly half of the number of Slaves waggons & tools - that was called for from the County - with about one third less population -

I have until very recently been acting as Impounding Agent for East Green - but now for the whole County - and will in future

endeavour to make it <sup>(2)</sup> more equal

When the last order was received there was not hands enough left on this side of the river subject to Imprisonment to fill the order. Consequently I postponed the call until the first day of July - On which day - (Cold as it was) I sent off forty eight hands with provisions to last for seventy days

One of the difficulties that I met with in getting hands - Many of the Planters are engaged in Working Nitre. & Barrels for the Government and claim exemption <sup>upon</sup> of this ground. I have been instructed by the department at Mobile not exempt any such unless they have been impressed by Gen Johnston Polk or Gordon

The law will now to be enforced against these men as they have refused to send - after having been repeatedly called upon to do so.

Your Excellency will please instruct me how to execute the Confederate Act of Imprisonment upon

those who refuse to send. <sup>(3)</sup> If I was executing a slave law I would call upon the Sheriff to assist me. which I did on only one occasion.

I find that it is almost impossible for the owners to procure clothing & shoes for their slaves - and they to be forced off without shoes. I have very little doubt but many of them that I sent off on the 1st of Jan. will be made sick from exposure. I could not procure houses for them at Newbern when they were required to remain all night under a shelter with but little fire as I could not procure it for them on any terms. I sent off sixteen more hands on last Monday & will send the balance from East Greene on Monday next. The weather was so bad last Monday that very few were willing to expose their hands out.

I mention the above facts that your Excellency may know why I have been so tardy in the execution of the last order.



Your favor, was very acceptable to me at this present time as it ~~will~~ <sup>may</sup> enable me to procure the honors called <sup>without coercion</sup> fair, & have put it in the Beacon, that it may be read by all who are interested - our Citizens need some thing to Stimulate them. If your Excellency, could spare the time a visit from you at this place & return would result in much good. If you will send me an appointment for each place I will take great pleasure in securing you an audience. I rec<sup>d</sup> a letter from Judge Goldthwaite respecting the payment of State Troops who served at Gairville covering a correspondence on the Subject.

It requires, that if the members of the different Companies can not appear at the pay table - that Powers of Attorneys must be presented, to en

till the Captain, or others, to receive the  
pay due -

Now this is impossible some  
of the men on dead end nearly  
all of the balance on in the army  
I therefore deem it impracticable  
to make any appointment on  
the subject. The Captains, have  
presented their rolls to the Pay  
Master once or twice - and  
could not get the pay for the  
men because they did not  
have their power of Attorney to  
receive their pay - and the diffic-  
culty would be presented again -

The Officers draw their pay &  
very few are willing to incur  
the expense of a trip to Meridian  
on an uncertainty. Your Excellency  
may be able to obviate the difficulty  
if so - and it may be necessary to  
run me in any way. You may  
Command me

I have about three hundred  
double barreled Guns & Ammunition in  
This

place belonging to the State. If your  
Excellency have any orders respecting  
it, I will be most happy to comply  
with any. That you may have

I regret to inform your  
Excellency, that our very worthy  
Citizen Col. Garner L. Crawford  
has declined the Office of County  
Commodant of the first Class or  
County reserves. Your Excellency  
will please direct how the Office  
can be filled, by Election or Appoint-  
ment. I have made my re-  
turn as Aid de Camp. and I  
suppose that the power vested in  
me as such departed with my  
repost.

I will be greatly obliged  
to your Excellency. If you will  
inform me what duties are  
required of the County Com-  
modants of either Class under  
the Law. Will the second Class or  
State Troops be called out by the State  
Respectfully  
Yours

Mr. Kerr  
Jan'y 13/64  
Refer to  
last mail -

J. A. W.

Ans<sup>d</sup> Jan'y 18/64  
In case of resistance  
apply to Genl. Maury  
For shoes apply to B.  
Ft Blount Chap, Disprop  
-ment - Let arms remain  
vacancy Co. Comdt  
to be filled by elect  
-ion ordered by Probate  
Judge, also write to  
Blount same day as  
to Clothes and shoes