

Order of the County Court of King William
Relative to Slaves for fortifications
December 29, 1862

Virginia, At a Court called and assembled according to an act of the General Assembly passed on the 3rd day of October 1862, entitled "An act to further provide for the public defence" at the Courthouse of King William County, on Monday the 27th day of December 1862.

The Governor of the Commonwealth having made a requisition upon this county for one hundred slaves to complete the works for the defence of the City of Richmond in pursuance of the Act of the General Assembly passed on the 3rd day of October 1812 and all the acting justices of this county having been summoned to meet at the courthouse this day to carry the said requisition into effect, and a large majority being present, and it appearing to the satisfaction of the court that from six to eight hundred slaves of this county have absconded to the Yankees, so that the books of the Commissioners of Revenue would not afford sufficient information as to the number of slaves now owned by the citizens of this county and it further appearing that a number of the citizens of this county have heretofore contributed slave labor upon the call of Officers of the Confederate Government, while a considerable number of the citizens of said county failed to comply with said calls, and it being impossible to do justice between the parties so contributing and those failing to contribute as required by the seventh section of the act aforesaid, without having lists of the slaves furnished under said calls, the court doth order that this court be adjourned to the 15th day of January next, and doth appoint John S. Sweet for district No.1. O. M. Winston for district No.2, Lee A. Dunn for district No.3 and Samuel D. Pilcher for district No. 4 in this county, who are directed to proceed immediately after the first day of January next to take a correct list of the slaves owned by the citizens of this county residing in their respective districts, specifying particularly the able bodied male slaves between the ages of 18 and 45 years, and complete said lists and return the same to the Clerk's Office of this court on or before the 15th day of January next, and they shall be compensated therefore at the rate of three dollars a day for the time they are engaged therein, to be paid out of the next county levy. And the Court doth further order the Sheriff of this county to proceed forthwith to the City of Richmond and procure from the proper officers lists of the slave sent to Yorktown under the regulations of General Magruder, together with the owners names and the number of days they were employed. And the court doth order that a copy of this order be forthwith transmitted by the clerk to the Governor.

Teste, Wm. D. Pollard D.C.

This letter was found at the Library of Virginia, Richmond
Ron Turner