

Head Quarters Forks Cole River
Raleigh County West Virginia
Sept. 1st 1864

To His Excellency A. I. Boreman, Gov.

Dear Sir.

I have the honor to communicate to you again in regard to my proceedings, success &c. Since I wrote you last I have been using my best endeavors & efforts to keep my county cleared of guerrillas & have been quite successful indeed.

I have held all my men together and have kept scouting parties out in different parts of the county all the time and picked up every scouting rebel that has dared to show himself in the county.

Since the first day of August I have captured and sent in to the United States Troops at Camp Piatt four (4) prisoners of war less notorious fellows & have killed one. On the 9th inst. I sent out a scout of six (6) men in charge of Pemberton Cook, of my Co. for the purpose of waylaying and killing a notorious guerilla by the name of Andrew Guanoe, formerly a lieutenant in the rebel army but had left his command and employs his time in seeking the lives and property of unoffending Union Citizens, he has murdered not less than four (4) peaceable citizens in my knowing and in the last year stole and destroyed at least five thousand dollars worth of property. So on the 14th of August Mr. Cook & squad came in upon Guanoe at surprise & shot seven balls through his breast. All honor is due Mr. Cook for this noble act that avenged so many mournful bitter lamentable wrongs. All the loyal people of the border unite in praising Mr. Cook & the boys for ridding the country of the pest who was universally dreaded where his name was known &c

I have sent in to Camp Piatt during the month of August twenty nine (29) deserters from the rebel army. And have administered the oath of allegiance to quite a number of citizens. So by the time of the presidential election this fall, the County of Raleigh will give old uncle Abraham a unanimous vote where he received not one four (4) years ago. There is quite a unity of sentiment and loyal feeling exist among a majority of the Raleigh people at the present time &c

The farmers of my County have better crops growing than has been raised for the last 7 years more than has been raised since the War began all just together prior to this season my Co has been given ample protection to the citizens and kept them entirely out of a portion of county where they have remained unmolested until this year. Protection from us has put a new face on the county altogether. The loyal people all unite in saying that my Co. has been worth more to the border than all the U. S. Troops has been or called in and thank us for these fine crops. My station is at the forks of Cole River in Raleigh Co. forty (40) miles from Kanawha Valley outside the lines of the U. S. Troops. As I informed you heretofore I have a strong fort built that the rebels have not dared to face since I have occupied it with my company. And by proper management I feel quite confident that I can still hold my position. At all events I will be found using my best endeavors to that end &c

I have made off my pay rolls up to Sept. 4th for four months pay on the 4th that muster my Co for pay and forward them to you immediately by mail or in care of Hon. Mr. Dunbar my boys all need their money badly. The families of several are in needful & destitute circumstances and if soldiers have ever earned their pay it has surely been my boys at the hardest we would be glad to have it immediately.

Yesterday I drew my supplies for the month of Sept. and the commissariat failed to issue to my Co. full rations. I drew less bacon & pork by 3 hundred lbs. than for a month previously, flour less by 2 blbs. & infact a deduction in proportion of all the articles I drew. The reason signed me was this, that it was a late order from the war department to deduct soldiers rations for the reason that wages had raised to 16 dollars per month to private soldiers in lieu of 13. If this be the case and my rations have to be deducted under that consideration I shall of course expect the wages for my Co. to money corresponding with that of regular soldiers. Let it come on this payment and I will be content with my scant supplies of provisions &c

I have been interrupted and used by recruiting officers lately endeavoring to induce my boys to quit their post of honor and duty in my Co. & go into the U. S. Service, under the head of obtaining large bonuses &c. I have used my efforts to hold my men together for the purpose of protecting our Border Country knowing well as I do that the entire reliance for protection is my company they succeeded in getting too of my boys in the U.S. Service as will be shown on my muster & payroll. But I still have a total of fifty one men myself included &c

I would be glad to have you inform me whither my Co. is subject to draft before the term for which it is made up expires. If so I would be gratified to have you use your influence with the war department to have the state companies exempt or mine at all events.

For I am warranted in saying that my Co. could not be placed in no other attitude and render the same amount of service to the public. I desire to be fully informed in regard to the above immediately for the reason I have used every exertion in my power in the cause of my county since the war began have been dangerously wounded & physically disabled forever on the bloody field of Cross Keys. On the 8th of June, 1862, was honorably discharged the service. And so soon as I became able to do anything I took it in hand to raise and organize a Co. under the State Organization and have underwent a great deal of hardship to recruit & get my Co. have done the country good service & have a splendid Co. of stout brave fearless men.

All I wish is to be exempt from draft and harassed by recruiting officers. I desire to retain my organization my time. But, Gov. Boseman, I have to do it or our border county will be eventually ruined. I wish to be heard and the services of myself and company appreciated by the public & executive department. I want my commission. I have the Honor to be very Respectfully

Your obedient servant

William Turner, Capt. Commanding

Raleigh Co. Scouts, W.Va. State Troops