Jacksonville Calhoun County
Ala August 7th 1869

To his Excellency Wm H Smith

Dear Sir We the undersigned Officers of the County of Calhoun being desirous of making known to your Excellency the true State of affairs in our county – as we know that it is your intention to protect each and every citizen of this State in his rights both civilly and politically; would most respectfully submit to your Excellency the following facts

1st There are but few White Males in our county belonging to the Republican party – and those few are ostracised and cursed and their lives threatened and in some instances their houses have been surrounded by disguised hands in the night time – threatening their lives if they do not ~~persist~~ desist in their political course and in one instance an officer of the court was taken from his house in the night time a rope tied around his neck and his life threatened and told if he did not cease to support the present administration or leave the country that they would take his life.

2nd Colored men are not allowed any chance they are beaten and run off from their homes and told if they vote with the Radicals that they shall be deprived of their homes and their crops taken away from them. Only a few days ago a colored man was beaten nearly to death and told if he did not leave his home and his crop that on their next visit they would kill him – which of course he did or no doubt they would have killed him another was run off from his home only a few days ago by an armed mob and was compelled to seek refuge in a neighboring county – to save his life

not more than one half of the voters of our county at least of the colored voters of our county from threats and intimidations did not offer to go to the Polls at all we allude to those belonging to the Republican party And through fear the parties that are thus threatened and intimidated will not disclose the names of the guilty parties, Believing as we do that it is our duty to communicate these facts to your excellency in order that you may take such steps as you in your wisdom may think best - all of which we most respectfully submit

John A. DeArman Judge of oo Cor.
W. P. Crook Clerk Circuit Court
J B Broughton. T A.

P.S. It is no use to bring these matters before our juries as they will not take any effect

John A DeArman Judge Co Co
W. P. Crook Clk Cir Court
J B Broughton. T A

ALL DEPT. ARCHIVES & HISTORY CA

John A. DeArman, and others of Calhoun County, Lawlessness.

Answered Aug 12. 1869

File