

Capt Charles S. Sherman } Office of Chief Agent of Imprisonment  
Special Agent } Mobile July 11 1864  
Mobile }

Sir

Authentic intelligence received by the Commanding General leaves no doubt of the fact that the enemy intend to attempt to force their way into Mobile Bay within a few days.

The defenses in the lower bay require the immediate presence of a large laboring force to place them in a condition of complete defence, and another force of greater numbers to complete and finish the fortifications around the city. - It is impossible to procure them in time from the various counties in the State in which negroes are now being impressed. -

Under the pressure of this necessity and to protect the city on all sides from the imminent danger of the contemplated attack, which if successful, must give the enemy control of all South Alabama, I am directed by Genl. Maury to order you to proceed to the Salt works in Clark & Washington Counties, and to procure from the owners of slaves there employed one half of the negroes engaged at said points in labor. -

I am satisfied that it is only necessary to apprise the owners of said slaves of the paramount necessity now existing for their labor, in order to the preservation of the city of Mobile and thereby the Southern portion of the State embracing their Salt works, to secure their full united and patriotic Co-operation with you in furnishing the required labor. -

In addition to this negro force, the Commanding General requires Mules, Wagons and other vehicles of transportation, reserving such as may be necessary for the use of the one half left at the works. - You will make known to the proprietors of the

Salt works and others having negroes at work of the over-ruling necessity for the labor of their hands & teams. - It will be obvious to them that if the enemy succeed in capturing our city that not only will their present occupations be destroyed, and the possession of their slaves endangered and that the only course left for them to pursue, consistent with duty and patriotism is to aid readily in all measures which the military authorities deem necessary for the protection and preservation of their property. -

It is proper that they should be assured that the use of their property will be limited by the duration of the necessity which requires it, and that their negroes and teams shall be restored to them as soon as it ceases. - In the meantime as rapidly as the negroes arrive from the country, impeded by the agents of this office in the different Counties, the negroes now directed to be taken shall be returned to their owners. -

I need not remind you of the necessity of exercising a calm and courteous demeanor in the performance of the duties imposed upon you by these orders, and in inviting the cordial and efficient co-operation of the owners of the property now so urgently needed, in making it immediately useful and available to the military authorities charged with the defence of this portion of our State. -

I send with you Col A. B. Wright to aid you in the prompt and rapid execution of these orders. -

I am very Respectfully  
Your obt servant,  
(Signed) F. S. Ploum

copy

Capt Charles W. Sherman }  
Special Agent &c }  
Blount County Ala }

Office of Chief Agent of Imprisonment  
Mobile July 16<sup>th</sup> 1864

Captain

You will not send any negroes from the  
State Salt Works for the defence of Mobile until you receive  
further orders from me. -

Genl Maury at the request of Col B. M.  
Woolsey State Commissioner desires to learn from Govr Watts  
his views on the subject before taking action against the negroes  
in the employment of the State

Very Respectfully &c  
"Signed" F. S. Blount

Col J. S. Lovell  
July 1864

Impressments

Great Relief will  
arrive

Dr. W.

One of July 1864

The Governor will  
write the General in a  
Telegraphic message  
which you to stay

Dr. W.  
1864

copy

Capt John W. Sherman  
Special Agent  
Black Mountain, N.C.

Office of the Department of War  
Mobile, July 1864

Capt Charles E. Sherman } Office of Chief Agent of Impressment  
Special Agent } Mobile July 11 1864  
Mobile }

Sir

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Under the pressure of this necessity and to protect the city on all sides from the imminent danger of the contemplated attack, which if successful, must give the enemy control of all South Alabama, I am directed by Genl. Maury to order you to proceed to the Salt works in Clark & Washington Counties, and to procure from the owners of slaves there employed one half of the negroes engaged at said points in labor.-

I am satisfied that it is only necessary to apprise the owners of said Slaves of the paramount necessity now existing for their labor, in order to the preservation of the city of Mobile and thereby the southern portion of the State embracing their Salt works, to secure their full united and patriotic co-operation with you in furnishing the required labor.-

In addition to this negro force, the Commanding General requires Mules, Wagons and other vehicles of transportation, reserving such as may be necessary for the use of the one half left at the works.-You will make known to the proprietor of the  
(page 2)

Salt works and others having negroes at work of the over-ruling necessity for the labor of their hands & teams.-- It will be obvious to them that if the enemy succeed in capturing our city that not only will their present occupations be destroyed, and the possession of their slaves endangered and that the only course left for them to pursue, consistent with duty and patriotism is to aid readily in all measures which the military authorities deem necessary for the protection and preservation of their property.-

It is proper that they should be assured that the use of their property will be limited by the duration of the necessity which requires it, and that their negroes and teams shall be restored to them so soon as it ceases.-- In the meantime as rapidly as the negroes arrive from the country, impressed by the agents of this office in the different counties, the negroes now directed to be taken shall be returned to their owners.-

I need not remind you of the necessity of exercising a calm and courteous demeanor in the performance of the duties imposed upon you by these orders, and in inviting the cordial and efficient co-operation of the owners of the property now so urgently needed, in making it immediately useful and available to the Military Authorities charged with the defence of this portion of our State.-

I send with you Col A. B. Wright to aid you in the prompt and rapid execution of these orders.-

I am very Respectfully

Your obt. servant,

(Signed)

F. S. Blount

(page 3)  
Copy

Capt Charles E. Sherman } Office of Chief Agent of Impressment  
Special Agent & C } Mobile July 16th 1864  
Clarke County Ala }

Captain

You will not send any negroes from the  
State Salt Works for the defence of Mobile until you receive  
further orders from me.-

Genl Maury at the request of Col B. M.  
Woolsey State Commissioner desires to learn from Govr Watts  
his views on the subject before taking action against the Negroes  
in the employment of the State

Very Respectfully & C  
"Signed" F. S. Blount

On back of letter: Col. F. S. Blount  
July 16/64  
Impressments  
Genl Riggs will answer  
J.H.W  
gov

Ansd July 18th  
The Governors views  
will be found in a  
Telegraphic Message

sent you today  
A. Riggs, Adj. Gen'l