

[7 Jan. 1860]

Ord. Department,
OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

H. Maynard
Capt. Colonel of Ordnance.

Mr. M. H. Wright
Huntingdon, Carroll Co.
Tenn.

13 Aug. 1859

Ordnance Department,
OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

Recd. Aug. 18th
Ans'd. Aug. 22nd

H. Maynard
Capt. Colonel of Ordnance.

Mr. M. H. Wright
Huntington,
Tennessee.

War Department,
Adjutant General's Office,
Washington, January 7. 1860.

Special Order,
No. 4. }

3... The leave of absence recently
granted to Meret Second Lieutenant M. H. Wright,
Ordinance Department, by the commander of
Watervliet Arsenal, is extended until the 31st inst.

By order of the Secretary of War:

E. D. Townsend
Asst. Adjutant General.

Lt. Wright.

Ins. Ord. Dept.

Will Capt you please admit
Mr. Spore -

M. H. Wright

Received St. Louis Arsenal, Mo. April 24th 1861, of
Br. D. Lind. Co. H. Wright of Ordnance, Eleven thousand
and forty eight $\frac{2}{100}$ dollars, for which I am accountable
to the ^{States} Treasurer of the United States under the following
Ordnance appropriations, viz:

" Ordnance Service	\$ 455,72¢
" Arming the Militia	" 1185,88
" Arsenal	" 1,99
" St. Louis Arsenal	" 759,32
" Ordnance Stores & Supplies	" 7802,92
" Purchase of horses for Light B. & 3 rd Art.	" 843,14
	<u>\$ 11048,27</u>

"Duplicate"

F. Hallender
Capt. Dr. & U.S. A.

Receipt for funds turned
over to Capt. F. D. Calender
April 24th 1861.

Filson Historical Society

St Louis Arsenal Mo,
May 8th 1861

Orders }
No 12 }

Leave of absence is hereby
granted Lieut. M. H. Wright Ord
Sept for seven days

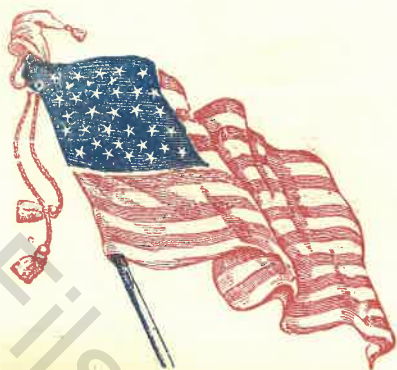
By Order of
Capt. A. Lyon
W. L. Lathrop
Lieut. 4th Regt.
Post Adjt

Executive Department

May 15TH 1861.

I hereby Nominate for the Confirmation
of the General assembly ~~Mr~~ H. Wright
of the County of Carroll a Captain
in the Ordnance Department of
the Provisional Army of Tennessee,

Wm Harris
Gov. &c



St. Louis Arsenal,
May 19, 1861.

Dr Sir,

You will see by the return of your resignation, that we are unwilling to part with you, and feeling sure that senseless, secession impot-
nation could not command your sympathies I would in-
vocate you to reconsider your action and drop all un-
necessary delicacy of defer-
ence towards the erroneous action of your State and re-
turn to us again, a welcome as you are a worthy friend.

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J. St. Wright.

Yours truly, Lyon.

St. Louis, Mo.
May 21st 1861.

Lieut. W. H. Wright

It is with feelings of unmingled satisfaction, that we have just learned, that the Secretary of War, has asked You to reconsider Your resignation, which must be regarded as highly complimentary to Yourself and to the high character which You have always sustained as a faithful & valuable officer and a conscientious high toned gentleman.

We still hope for a renewal of our former associations and that You will return to the position which You have hitherto filled, and to the duties which You have performed with so much credit to Yourself as an Officer and so much satisfaction to us, who have been associated with You.

F. D. Callender
Capt. ord. U.S.A.

Rufus Saxton
Capt. U.S.A.

Wm S. Hamy, Brig Gen
U.S. Army
W. L. Lathrop
Lieut. U.S.A.

J. Williams.
Bat. Major.

Lt. Col. & Genl

J. McWhistery
M. Major & Asst.

Th. Totten
Capt. 2^d Art.

J. P. Andrews
D. P. M. G.
U. S. Army.

H. Armstrong.
Lt. 2^d Regt. Cavalry
U. S. A.

J. D. O'Connell
A 2^d Regt.

St Louis Mo,
May 22, 1861

My Dear Wright—

I enclose, herewith, a
letter, signed by several of your friends,
& I assure you, that the
Sentiments expressed in it, are
true & sincere. Please acknowledge
them as such.

In haste &

Yours truly

W. L. Lathrop

To
Mr. H. Wright

[27 May 1861]

Your resignation not yet re-
ceived agreeably to your report
of being returned to me.
St. Louis Arsenal. } S. P. Lyon.
May 29. 1861.

8
only for a moment - for the proud consciousness of having done my duty - to our God, to you & the Cause of justice sustained me -

I could not fight against my native State - In your grandsons Alphon the the last mortal Remains of a good Father or Mother - in defence of that sacred spot, I will die - if die I must -

I saw no hope of reconciliation - I then had no hope for the Union -

In the war against the South, I saw no justice - I could not get my own consent to act as an agent there -

In the Revolution in the South I recognize the will & right of the people - I felt bound to cast the my lot with my State & with all those most dear to me, than her fate -

For these seasons I am again with you, & for you -

I am Sir -

Very Respy. Yrs.

M. A. Wright -

1
Huntingdon,
June 3^d 1861.

Editor of The Patriot:
Sir;

Having resigned my Commission as an officer of the Federal Army, owing to the present sad condition of ^{our} National Affairs, I feel it to be my duty to state, in a ~~concise~~ ~~manner~~ to my Fellow Citizens of Carroll, the reasons which have prompted me to take such a course, & I have the honor to request a space in your Columns for that purpose -

No more painful or solemn duty has ever devolved upon me than the one which I now venture to perform -

No act of my life has ever given me half the concern, or caused such a agony of mind, as that of resigning my Commission - days & nights before the 8th day of May, were to me, days & nights of the deepest anxiety & deepest distress - for who could look upon the dark Cloud, hovering over our blessed Country, growing thicker & darker, as

in Summer

6 But what course are we to take? This is the question now troubling hundreds of noble true & sincere hearts - We have not been to blame - are we to suffer - True, we have fought against this great evil - but it has now been with the determination, that we would have justice - A Union of Equality has been our motto - How have we been treated - How long since we gave 40000 majority for the Union - how long was it after ^{that} patriotic action of the people, that vessels were stopped & searched, their cargoes confiscated, when on their way to our State? What is the conclusion - None other than that the people of Tennessee were not to be treated that act told us what we might look for -

As for a neutral position - It is an untenable one - It is a rebellious one - ~~like that of Maryland & one~~ that will only result in our being situated as Missouri & Maryland are to-day ^{some say}.

But we wish to throw the responsibility upon the Administration - In other words, you wish ~~to~~ be bound down in chains, & then with truly Christian humility exclaim, it is not my fault

5

states

The Rebellion of a State^{or} - between the two there is a vast difference - The Constitution authorizes him to call out the Militia of a State to put down a Rebellion in that State - or if needed, the Militia of States convenient, & necessary for the purpose - The same Authority is

granted in case of Invasion from foreign powers - No such thing has occurred - no such thing is contemplated as an Invasion of any State not choosing to side with us - if it were, according to the doctrine of the Administration, it could not be from a foreign power -

Again - was there any end of this action? Will the object of the Constitution be obtained? viz: the peace & happiness &c. of the people? Certainly not - If our brothers differ in opinion from us - if they are in their judgment, is it the proper course to pursue in order to gain them to the right to convince them of their error, to wage war against them, to shoot them down - to destroy their wives & children? Surely no such teachings are found in the doctrines of Christianity -

Had not a little pride & ambition been sacrificed than to resort to such a extremity?

2
it approached, without his heart growing
sick - & when Tennessee ^{one of the} brightest
stars of the Southern Constellation faded
from my sight, my heart failed me,
for then I was convinced, that all
hope was gone - that we were indeed
in the midst of evil times -

It is needless for me to say, how
I loved our once glorious Union - How
I venerated the Stars & Stripes - with
what an aching heart I felt com-
pelled to bid them adieu - ~~How~~
~~from no disloyalty to them that I left.~~

I will only say as stated in my
letter of Resignation, that, "However much
my motives may be impugned, I ^{have} felt
a full consciousness of having done
my duty" - That - having the facts all
before me, I formed my conclusion -
if in my judgment I was wrong, it
remains to be settled between my God
& myself, for in the Great Ruler of Nations
& the Universe I recognize alone, an impar-
tial judge -

I held my position as long
as I could ~~get~~ feel that I was doing
right - I fully appreciated the obliga-
tions resting upon me - & frankly con-
fess that I did not endorse the action

3
of many of our Southern Sister States -
I had hoped that the Border
States, standing as a barrier between
the two contending powers, would
preserve peace & prevent bloodshed -
that standing in the breach, in either
hand, ~~extended~~ to the North & South, the
Olive branch, they might be constrained
to accept the offering & once more
strike hands in fellowship - but all
their efforts prove ^{to be} vain - The
wild fanaticism of adverse political
parties, as well as refusal to let the peo-
ple listen to reason - A fanatical Re-
ligious press added fuel to the flame,
& we now find ourselves in the
midst of a most terrible Civil war -
God grant that we may yet be spared
the horrors of so sad a calamity -

This is no time to discuss in detail
the causes which have produced the state
of things now existing in our country - but
be they what they may, that we have on
our side but one course to pursue seems
clear - viz: a united action, in defence of our
rights & our homes, - ~~for~~

~~No one finds fault with the Chief
Magistrate, for pro~~

It is not the Government, with which we find fault - it is the manner in which it is being administered - The Constitution is no cause of complaint, it is only because it is not respected & observed that we have become discontented -

The Constitution was adopted in order to form a more perfect Union, to secure the peace & happiness &c. of the people - If in this it fails, whether from the changes of circumstances, whether it secures these ends or not, is for the people to say - When it fails to secure them, the people have the right to change it - but when it fails because of its violation on the part of the Authorities in power, there is no escape, except by Revolution -

The Cotton States demand that their rights are not secured - They secede, by the action of ~~them~~ their connection with the Federal Government -

The President assumes the power to call out the Militia - for what? To put down a rebellion in a state? No - But to put down

That you've got me -

I'll omit this, among other I have many friends, because of the kindly remembrances of my Father, if not from personal attachment, I would have you consider carefully, this subject - I would have you realize the danger that is upon us - I would have you arouse yourselves to action -

Lay aside all party prejudices - The association around the Stars & Stripes are many hallowed associations - for the Old Union the strongest sympathies my heart - & no one doubts the sincerity of every one who clings to the fragments - but our peace - our happiness our all, depends upon the united action of our people -

With much reluctance I gave up my Commission - with feelings of bitter regret & sadness, I bade farewell to my kind friends & associates in the Army - but when I took a last long look at the Stars & Stripes as they waved in the breeze from the noble flagstaff ~~upon~~ which I had been accustomed to see it float more than a year at my last station, with the bold, piercing strains of martial music the voice of music breathing devotion to that Banner, my spirit well might fail me - but 'twas

Engr. Office Fort Gaines
March 13th 1862

My very dear Friend.

I received with great pleasure your letter, on yesterday and hasten to reply to congratulate you on your escape from the clutches of the Yankees, and at the same time to condole with you for the very hard lot you have had to undergo. It must have made your heart sick to see the results of so much labor, your own included, so completely destroyed at one fell swoop. Ever since the evacuation of Nashville I have been very uneasy in regard to your safety, and am sincerely glad to hear of your escape.

I was in hopes you would give me some account of the recent transactions in your state so that I could judge somewhat of their necessity. Now all the information yet made public it is utterly impossible for me to conceive why so important a place as Nashville should have been given up without a struggle. I should have thought that every man in your state would have rallied around the

Samuel McLoockery Esq.
M. A. Wright

March 13th 1862

grave of the great Jackson and the Capital of his state, to dispute the possession to the last drop of their hearts' blood with the ruthless invader. But still I don't profess to be able to judge the merits of the case. Circumstances might have been such as to make a stand impossible, and I suppose they were. We are collecting a vast army up on our northern borders now, and I hope this stain will soon be wiped out. Nearly all the troops have been withdrawn from these parts, and Pensacola and hurried up to reinforce Johnson & Beauregard.

We are here relying on the militia for our own defence. We have been for some time expecting a trial of our strength, but thus far have been allowed to pass on our way rejoicing, without a visitation from our ubiquitous enemy. We are daily adding to our strength, and even now I think our Bay and City are pretty well prepared to defend themselves.

Melie and my little baby are in the city and both were well at last accounts. If nothing particular happens to prevent I shall go up to see them tomorrow. Melie wrote

me a most excellent letter a few days ago, saying that she had made up her mind to join the church and wanted me to come up and join with her. I am most sincerely glad that she has concluded to take this very important step, and I hope soon to follow her example. I am not yet prepared to do so, but shall strive and pray, and with God's help, and my dear little wife's influence I hope soon to be in the right way. You will no doubt be glad to hear this and will join with us in our intercessions to the throne of Grace.

Our little baby is now running all about, and talks a little, and is very smart and sprightly. I do wish you could see her, and we could all meet in peace and happiness once more after the manner of the olden time. Hoping that this wish may not be long in reaching a fulfilment.

I am my dear friend

Yrs most truly

Saml. H. Locketh
Capt &c

Direct to Mobile

This branch of the Service, it does but seem
just to me, that we should be placed on an
equal footing with those who were
on an equal footing in the old Army -
much less absolutely below than who have had
not half the experience -

My reasoning is just this -

1. Without cause, why

1. If our services are needed in any one branch of
the Service, there is no just reason why being in
that branch should place us under disadvan-
tages compared with our equals & even
inferiors -

2 - If my experience in my particular branch is worth
anything to the Government, why should I not get
the advantage of it - Not a single man ap-
pointed from Civil life in charge of an Arsenal
has lower grade than Captain - within my knowledge -
I suppose they are older (& I believe that is trouble)
If I do my duty well, & have had the experience,
am I not as well prepared as they?

3 - If my experience is of no advantage, why not give
me a change with other young men in the field?

I am perfectly willing to do the best I can & meet
for the Government - & believe I can do more in the Ordnance
than anywhere else - but I do most think that I am entitled to
the position of Captain - My Responsibilities on my part -

Atlanta, Ga.
March, 20. 1862.

Hon. J. D. C. Atkins,
M.C. Tenn. Del^r -
Richmond, Va -

Sir:

You will please pardon me for
trespassing upon your ^{patient} time, in these times,
when matters of such great moment must
press heavily upon your mind - but I
trust ^{that the Government} it will be explained satisfactorily upon
making these lines, & the explanation ^{you} grant
a notice to my claims -

I spoke to you of my situation
when last in your room, & will now
simply make a plain statement of facts
& leave the matter with you -

As you will know, I was appointed
as a Cadet at the U.S.M.A. from the 9th
District of ^{the} graduates at that Institution, at
West Point, in 1839 - After graduation, I
was appointed in the Ordnance Department
of the U.S.A. which position I held, until
Harrison died - when I came home at
once, & tendered my services to His Excellency,
Gov. Harris - & recd. from him the app^t
of Lieut. Col. & Chief of Ordnance of the State -

which position I held until the transfer of the State Troops to the Confederate States Government - how I filled the place - & what I accomplished, is not for me to say - I can only refer you to the Governor, the Military Board & the records -

At the transfer I recd. the appt. of Ordnance Officer on Genl. Johnston's Staff, & was assigned to duty at Nashville with the rank of 1st Lieutenant - which position I now hold -

Again, what I have done, & how I filled the position I held in Nashville, with what success I have conducted the business of the Western Dept - in my Branch of the Service is not for me to say - & respectfully, again refer you to those my Superiors in Rank, for whom & with whom I served - but I feel gratified ^{in being} able to say - that never yet has I heard a complaint, & in no instance has the Army suffered from want of Com. & action in my post -

To have succeeded, so well, & been so kindly treated by those in Authority, were the objects of my pride - & in laboring to do so, was but to do my duty - & I am thankful for having been able to do my Country a little service -

But of some things I have a right to speak - & will by your attention & moment -

I allude to the great responsibilities placed upon me - & the disadvantages under which I have labored, & still continue to labor - as regards, or rather in comparison with the other young men around me -

I am on ordnance duty - with the rank of 1st Lieutenant - time & again have I been tendered the position of Captain of Light Battery, the Companies of the first young men of Nashville - & even higher position in Infantry Regiment - but I was not allowed to accept - I was told that they could not spare me - was kept at work in the Ordnance Dept - In the mean time, the young man, under me (who graduated last Spring) receives a commission as Major of Cavalry - but is still kept on ord. duty - young men who were just entering the Academy when I left have their Companies & even Regiments - & still I am kept here - & every one of them out rank me -

Now I am no stickler for rank - when I am on a equal footing with my Equals - but I cannot see the justice of keeping some of us on ordnance duty, promoting no position from entering the field & still say, you shall do it at a sacrifice - If our services are wanted in

[20 March 1862]

I am responsible for hundreds of thousands of
dollars - & have worked for twelve months
hard, night & day, trying to do my duty - &
can refer you to any number of names, if
necessary to vouch for what I say - ~~if thought~~
~~necessary~~

But I will trouble & weary you no
further - Simply requesting, that if an oppor-
tunity offers, you will not forget me & my claims -
& that you will do the best you can for me -

If I can get nothing done, I would respect-
fully beg that the Authorities may send some one
to whom they will give position to try my place awhile.

My present rank is what I would have held if
regular promotion in the old Army, at the date of the
acceptance of my resignation - altho when I tendered
my resignation I was only 2^d Lieutenant -

I am Sir,

With great respect

Go obt. Svt

M. A. Wright

1st. & 2nd. Offr. Cfa.

[21 March 1864]

Recd. of Col. M. H. Wright - Atlanta, Ga.

One Pair English Army Shoes - No. 8 - 80.00

One wool Hat no 7 1/4 - - - 20.00

One Pair Pants (Leans Brown) - - - 138.00

\$ 238.00

at above cost - being actual cost paid
for same of him -

Robert F. Herron

Dalton, Ga -

March - 21st 1864

85219

War Department,

[22 June 1865]

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands,

OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

Col M H Wright

Madison
Georgia.

85219

Private

Confederate States of America,
WAR DEPARTMENT,
ORDNANCE OFFICE,

Richmond, July 1 1862

J M Benmar
to
Shm H H H H H
July 1

Capt. Wright
(Dear Sir)

I must thank you
very kindly for the very handsome way
in which you introduced me to Cal
Jorgas, and beg to assure you that I
have always felt pleasure in having so com-
-petent an officer as yourself to transact busi-
-ness, especially a business so new to me and of
so arduous a character, it is gratifying
to find when we use our best exertions that
our efforts are duly appreciated, in the
proper quarter, and in this connection
permit me to say to you, that before I
received your package enclosing letter of
introduction, I had taken occasion, without
consulting yourself to speak freely to Cal
J. about you & what you had accomplished
by your indefatigable industry & intelligence

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I did not know how my teaching such
a subject to him in the multitude of his
business engagements would be received, but
I felt it a duty I owed you for the many
favors & courtesies I experienced at your hands
& knowing that you were prevented, from the
exigencies of the service, to come here and
press your own claims

I have the pleasure to inform you
that the Col listened attentively to me and
and simply said that he would "take care
of you", that ^{he} was satisfied of the amount of
labor you performed, & that he did, not intend
your interests should be neglected

I trust that at an early day you
may be advised of your promotion &
wishing you much success

Yours Dear Sir

Very truly yours
J. M. Breiman

War Department,
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands,

Washington D.C. June 22nd, 1865.

My dear friend,

Your kind letter has just come to hand. I have always entertained for you the greatest affection and feel exceedingly sorry that you and such as you did not see it clearly your duty to stick by the Government.

But now it is past. I cannot tell what will be the decision in your case. I would be glad to communicate any information I should get.

I congratulate you heartily upon your private good fortune. A wife who sympathizes with you, I know, must be good and the little "olive branch" is surely tender and precious. I lost my right arm at Fair Oaks but have not been seriously injured since.

God bless you! Sincerely yours
Mrs Howard is in Maine.

W. V. Howard
Major Genl.

Madison, Ga.

July 24th 1863

To His Excellency,
Wm. Brownlow,

Governor of Tennessee.

Sir:

I have the honor, most respectfully,
to forward herewith, my application
for a Special Pardon, to His Excellency,
the President of the United States, & would
beg of you a favorable consideration of
this ~~case~~ when submitted for your
~~consideration~~ — action.

The application sets forth all the
facts ^{in the case} that ~~would enable~~ ^{may} you to act advis-
ably ~~in the matter~~ & desiring most earnestly
to ^{return to my native state} resume my former allegiance to ~~my~~ ^{the}
~~native state~~ ^{Genl. Govt.} it is not without hope, that
I would ask your approval of the same.

I am, Sir,

Most Respectfully,

Wm. O. S. S.

M. H. Wright

Unofficial.

[20 July 1865]

Maj: Genl. O. O. Howard
U. S. Army
Washington City
D. C.

Madison, Ga. July 25th 1865

My Dear friend:

Your kind favor came duly to hand, for which with its generous sentiments, please accept my most grateful acknowledgments -

My Father-in-law visits Washington on business, & I have placed in his hands some papers referring to my case - & under existing circumstances, & from your knowledge of my character & general wishes, I do not think that I would be asking too much & placing you in an embarrassing position, to request you to be his Confidential Adviser in the matter - If so, I by you will speak plainly with him & tell him so - He will show you my Application, which please read - & if you should feel authorized make any statement you think ought aid him on it - Of course I don't expect, & would not for the world, have you to compromise yourself in any way - & I know you will understand me -

If you think, that there is likely to be a change in the line of policy adopted by the Administration which would render the formal Application unnecessary, I don't hesitate to say, Confidentially, that I would prefer not making it - but if it is to be rigidly enforced as laid down in the proclamation, of course there can be no alternative -

If you discover any informality, or error
that might be prejudicial to me, in the application,
I would be glad to have it pointed out, if it would
likely cause great delay in the consideration
thereof —

I write the above, fully believing that if
I have erred in judgment, you fully appreciating
my wishes & desires, will pardon it all —

With my best wishes for your affluence,

I am, truly —

Yr. friend

J. H. Wright

My. Genl. O. O. Howard,
Washington City,
D. C.

ms. A. 1. 1.

Appointments

C. S. A.