

Head Quarters U.S. Forces
Lancaster Penn March 16th 1864

Col. Thompson

Dear Sir.

I am informed that the two deserters from my regiment of whom I wrote you last winter viz. Leander Trinkle and William H. Allen private of Captain Puckett's Co(K.) were in the neighborhood of Captain Puckett's house with his knowledge several days last winter after I notified you of their desertion.

No one did not check them. And I want to know whether he had any notice from you or otherwise to your knowledge of their desertion. And whether or not he gave you notice of their being in his neighborhood.

I don't want to do Captain P. injustice, but there seems to have been to say the least of it, some strange neglect on his part in this matter.

He claims some his return to have induced two deserters from his company viz Michael Horne and John Miller to voluntarily start onto New Regiment and that you had them arrested. (Or one of your men) while on their road voluntarily returning and put them in irons. As these men will be court martialled it will be important for me to know the truth of this statement. Please inform me about it.

Recent developments made on the trial of the

desertion from Captain Starks Co (C) before Court martial
show that Captain S. encouraged and aided his men
to desert at Danville Ky. Some sixteen months since
Tucker's men mostly deserted at the same time
And while I don't think he encouraged them still as
he and Stark were very intimate, personally, held the
same political sentiments, and were both reported
to have been dissatisfied with the President's
Emancipation proclamation, it might be well
Enough to look into matters closely

Few few desertions occurred in Companies, whose officers
were all satisfied with the Presidents policy, Captain
P. went home from Danville Ky and joined the
Regiment at Cranberry, and I now learn that
several men from his & Starks Co were at home
at the time and he took no steps to recruit ^{them and} it is stated
that he saw and conversed with some of them
at that time, This joined with the statements made
by private soldiers of his conduct while a prisoner
& his Butternut Speech last summer, followed by
his utter failure to recruit in consequence of his speech
would seem sufficient to authorize a trial in his case
But in ^{consideration} consequence of his wound and my old friendship
for him, I dislike to proceed to extremes unless
there is no doubt of his double dealing

I have written this more fully than I intended when
I commenced. And request that you regard it private
& Confidential - We are all well and doing well. Have a
better day to day than ever. Hope you may ever have any

Owing to the sickness of us, Crane has returned to the regt
and I am commanding the Brigade temporarily

Respectfully

Your

M Waud