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Letter, Peleg Clarke Jr. to Montgomery C. Meigs, December 15, 1862

Peleg Clarke Jr.

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A. W. C. 16th & Brown St Philadel

~~Washington~~ D. C. Dec the 15th 1862

General Meigs G. M. U. States Army

Dear Sir

Inclosed please find bills of Property Materials &c furnished for use of Army in the vicinity of Fredericksburg & Rappahannock River for which no receipts were given Except in the case of General J. S. Stephens to Henry D. Genther which was by said Genther turned over to me as so much money as he had nothing to pay Except Confederate Money and I prepared the receipt amounting to \$250. see file Marked **A. and B.**

Bill of Ox Wagon and 2 Carts taken by Capt ~~Bar~~ Barstow as he tells me for Hauling timber &c for Rail Road Bridges which he thinks fell into Rebels Hands for which no receipt was given see file C. amounting to \$140.00

Bill of two large White Pine bread troughs were ordered by Lieut H. P. Clinton and made for the Falmouth Army Bakery the same as 2 similar ones first made for which I paid me 20. in Gold for see Bill in file Marked **D.**

Bill for Lumber for Rail Road water tanks this bill was delivered by my self to a Corporal or a private on a written order from Major Wood or Bright as near as I remember but the order contained things that I had not therefore it was not left but the bearer promised

he would bring me a receipt which is the last I
ever heard of him. See bill on file marked Ex. \$48.92

Bill of Wash. taken ~~as I am informed~~
for the Cannall Boat Bridge by an order of General
King of Whome E. C. Sneed had charge of a gang of
Men Detailed for that ^{Special} Job. ^{as I am told} The lumber was taken
~~in my absence and the bill made out by the Party~~
~~who obtained the Lumber. who told ^{me} the said man~~
~~to tell me to take the bill to Gen King and he~~
~~would order it paid. He I dare about the 1st of~~
~~August but Gen King knew nothing about it and~~
~~said it must come through the Party who had charge~~
~~of the work or I must bring his receipt of Lumber.~~
I told Gen King to give me the name of the Party
who had charge of that Bridge and I would get
his receipt for same. Gen King said he did not
recollect who it was then. I asked him if he could not
find out he said he supposed he could by Enquiring
but I might as well do that as for him to and
I have Enquired and am today told by an Engineer
that he thinks one is quite shure that it was Sneed
as stated above where he is whether dead or living
I know not. The last item on bill is Estimated at
79 per foot the price which I have for 4 years sold
that Quality of White pine at it was generally about
2 feet wide and perfect and had been 2 years in hand
I have changed that to 59 instead of 79 although my Man
remonstrates against his taking it for such uses but

He said it was a military necessity and it made
no difference what the price or quality was the plank
he must have as there was no other to be had and
made Bill accordingly this was the statement of my
yard man on my return about the middle of July
the bill on file marked **E**?

Bill of Materials & Labour for General
Hospital the Bill made up and approved by Dr Green
Surgeon in Charge this bill was made in my absence and
the entire account kept by Dr Green who promised to pay
me as soon as I returned from the north I saw him
and he told me that he had not money enough to him
to pay the Bill gave me the bill saying Genl King would
sign it and I could get the money on it at Washington
I some few days after called on General King at his
head Quarters in relation to it he told me to come there
& bring Dr Green and it could be arranged I on the 18th
or 2^d day ^{after} called to the Hospital with my Buzz, to take
Dr Green over to Genl King's head Quarters and learned
from Dr Weston that Dr Green had been ordered to re-
port at Warrenton and left the day I was at Genl King
Head Quarters Bills being marked **C + H**. Both amounts
1841/16.0/3

Bill for Portable Steam Saw Mill
taken by as I was told Genl Mc Douells Order
for the purpose of ~~cutting~~ sawing timber to rebuild
the bridges on R. Road it consisted of a 35 horse
Engine & Locomotive Boiler with a 54 in Circular

and was capable of sawing from the log 20,000 feet
of 2 in plank ^{day} the mill cost 3 years ago when new
with a 46 in saw \$2750.00 the mill I had moved
in from the county on a part the engine & boiler when
all the wood work track frame and carriage was des-
ignedly set on fire and destroyed all this I had
made new and made the establishment worth about
as much as ever when I loaded the vessel that
brought my planing mill machinery engine &c.
called on the machinist W. W. Wright, ^{on my way} then at
the machine shop to let me take the saw mill and
bring it off in vessel Mr Wright told me he was
going to Alexandria in a few days and would
than see ^{send to} Major Wood who had the intire charge
of those things and get his decision to my request
which he did and told me that Major Wood said
that he could not consent to have it taken away
as they might on might not want to put it to work
very soon it was accordingly left and fell into the
hands of the Rebels and was ~~by them~~ I am informed
been carried off it was taken possession of in May
as follows 3 or 4 officers came to my office and asked
me if there was a ^{Porter's} Steam Saw mill at that place
I answered in the affirmative they asked me to show
it to them which I did they examined it and
left leaving no orders and I asked no questions in
an hour or two some 20 or more men came drove into
my lumber yard with 2 teams and carried it off
without asking any questions or giving receipt
See Bill on file marked K. \$2500.00

So fair as the Corn furnished the Government
forces by me I have previously given you I believe
all the facts Except there is parties now in this City
that knew the Corn belonged to My Self and no
Other parties or persons had any interest in or to it
to the value of anything. I wish here General to Ex-
plain My Exact situation as regards property in Virginia
and what this Rebellion has cost me as things now look
in the first place I do not know that I am indebted
to to any man South to the value of anything
I have removed to Philadelphia My Manufacturing
Machinery & which cost about \$8,500.00 I have left
Buildings & land which cost me 5,700.00 I have left
Deeds of Trust Bonds and notes due me including deposits
in Banks ~~most~~ of all of which will be stolen but called
Sequestered although I left them with a Lawyer to
have what he could but I fear it will be little that
I shall ever receive amount between \$11,000.00 and 12,000.00
in addition to this and my own business I was re-
ceiving \$2000. per year as President of the Fredericksburg
Paper Mill Co and as Sect of a private Co My Negro
Engineer before the Rebellion commenced was worth 1200 to
1300 Dollars he was about 20 years old, which has
left me without business and had it not been for some
interest or rents from my northern property I should have
almost been dependent on my friends for support of

My Family which consists of 5 females and my
self - I do not mention all this supposing it will
make any difference in your official decisions but
that you may see my situation and see the necessity
for my own Comfort and convenience of getting
My Just dues from all within my reach I think
I have asked for nothing more but may be selfish
Hoping you will excuse me for having intruded on your
time to of relate that which does not come within
your official Jurisdiction. I am very Respect your

Obdt Servant
Pelez Clarke Sr