J. 31 A.G.O.
Dist. of Jackson
Jackson Tenn.
16 A.G.

June 1st 1863

Johnson Hiram
and others
Applecation to have
Money refunded
paid under order
special order No 15
from District com-
mander.

Citizens

Assmt for Damages
to Hendrison Station

5124

Dist Veo Near Officers
Jackson Tenn June 1 1863

Respectfully forwarded
Channing Richards
Capt & D Prother

Jackson Tennessee
June 1st 1863

Captn Channing Richards
District Provost Marshall
Petitioners Hiram Johnson, Stephen M Johnson, D. I. Franklin, Josiah Franklin, Archibald S. Rogers, Caleb McKnight, Hugh McKnight, Francis M Ballad, Jesse N. Swink and Recton M Jones of Madison County Tenn. and James Thomas, Wm P. Walker, Wm H. Bond, T. Y. Maness, Jno S Cawthon, Obed F Hendrick, Wm B. Hall, Nathan T. Buckly, John Tull Elijah Bray, Harrison Trice, Griffith S. Ross, Stephen S Ross, Wm A Brummer, Jno D. Smith, A. B. Crook, Thos McGill, Elisha Bond, Carroll Beavers, Jas Clifford, James Cawthon, A. E. Grider, Silas Grider John M Hart, R. J. Barham, Daniel McCollum, Jeff. Jones, James Hendrix, Ledbetter, Wm Osier, Thos Crook, John West, S. F. Cawthon, Dr Johnson, Allen K Jones, Jeremiah Crook, Willis Arnold, Risd S. Hendrix and Arch. McCorkle of Henderson County Tenn.

Respectfully state that in the latter part of November 1862 the Depot or Freight house and water tank at Henderson Station on the Mobile & Ohio R. Road and embraced in the District of Jackson Tenn. were destroyed by fire, by a battallion of Confederate troops, regularly in the Confederate service, as they have been informed and believe, of Forest's Cavalry commanded by one N. N. Cox, who with a portion of his command has since been captured at Parker's Cross roads on the 31st of Decr. by the Federal soldiers and sent North as Prisoners of war to be exchanged, that at the same time and place a considerable amount

of Cotton was consumed and destroyed, which had been collected at said Station for shipment over said road and which belonged entirely to speculators, who were not in any way or manner connected with the Government service, but were army followers, collecting cotton and running their chances to make fortunes.

Petitioners further state that said parties came to the commander of this ~~post~~ District (Gen. Sullivan) and by some sort of representations, procured a special order to be issued by No. 15. dated Decr. 12th 1862 assessing petitioners the sum of Twenty six thousand Seven Hundred and fifty one 36/100 dollars ($26751.36) to pay the damage done to said R. Road and Government, together with the damage done said Cotton speculators by the loss of their Cotton, which makes up the principle amount of damages so assessed. Said order was sent to Col J. W. Haynie commanding the post at Bethel, who, thereupon issued special order No 87. assessing your petitioners as follows to wit. dated December 14th 1862.

	$	¢		$	¢
Stephen S. Ross	1630	00	Elijah Bonds	360	00
John M Hart	652	00	Jno S. Cauthon	652	00
R. J. Barham	815	00	Wm B. Hall	652	00
W. A. Brummer	1630	00	Carrol Beavers	652	00
Jno D Smith	326	00	Thos. Crook	326	00
A. B. Crook	326	00	John West	815	00
Daniel McCollum	326	00	James Clifford	326	00
Jeff Jones	163	00	O. F. Hendricks	978	00
James Hendrix	195	60	S. F. Cauthon	391	20
Thos. McGill	195	60	James Cauthon	163	00
Sedbetter	195	60	A. E. Grider	163	00
Wm Osier	652	00	Richd Hendricks	391	20

Silas Grider	$163	00	Mills Arnold	$6506.	76
Hiram Johnson	815	00	Arch McCorkle	489	00
Stephen M. Johnson	815	00	Griffin Ross	1630	00
W. J. Franklin	163	00	A. S. Rogers	426	20
Josiah Franklin	195	00	J. M. Ballard	300	00
Nathan T. Buckley	326	00	Isaac M. Swink	550	00
John Tull	391	00	Jas. Thomas	250	00
Elijah Bray	489	00	Wm. H. Bonds	150	00
Dr. Johnson	195	00	Caleb McKnight	250	00
Allen C. Jones	652	00	Hugh McKnight	250	00
Harrison Trice	326	00	Keaton M. Jones	450	00
Jermiah Crook	652	00	Wm. P. Walker	150	00
T. G. Maines	750	00			

Summing up considerable over $30,000.00. Among the parties assessed by order No 87 issued by Col. Hagnie are R. J. Barham, Thos. Crook and Richd. L. Hendrix who were not found, Col Hagnie thereupon issued another order assessing petitioners A. S. Rogers, J. M. Ballard, Jas. Thomas, Wm. H. Bonds Caleb McKnight, Hugh McKnight, Keaton M. Jones Wm. P. Walker and T. G. Maines $3526.20 nearly $2000.00 more than what was assessed against said absentees. as will appear by an inspection of the above names.

Petitioners further state that by said order of Col. Hagnie the money was ordered to be paid to Cap. J. W. Stephenson of the 48th Regt. of Illinois vols. which they did taking his receipt for the same which receipts will be exhibited on an investigation of these matters if required. They state that Henderson Station where said property was destroyed is about thirty miles from the Tennessee River and they have since learned that Cox's battallion crossed the river about sun set the evening before the station was captured and made attack the next morning

about day light, thus making the march from the river to the rail road entirely in the night, when no one could be able to give the alarm to the troops at the Station, there being but one company there, which was taken entirely by surprise, they having no pickets out. Captn Moor, who commanded the Company at said post, had a brother who had a stock of goods there and to enable him to do a good business, the Captn seldom placed out pickets, but gave the citizens full ingress and egress to said post and if any one is to blame for the Capture of the post it is said Captain for his negligence and his said brother and these cotton speculators who were so anxious that the post should be accessible at all times to the citizens for the purpose of trading and speculating with them.

Petitioners further state that they each and all of them had long before that time taken the oath of allegiance to the United States Government, that they each and all had faithfully kept and observed it in all its parts and challenge any one to show any thing to the contrary — that they are farmers, with the exceptions of one or two who are merchants — and were all quietly attending to their legitimate business and had no more knowledge that said raid was going to be made that the Federal authorities had themselves — and the authorities can readily see from the proximity of the Station to the Tennessee River & how easily a raid might be made without the citizens who were closely confined at home, knowing any thing about it — the raiders being able to travel the entire distance easily during a single night, which they did in this particular instance.

Petitioners further state that they understood that the order issued by Gen Grant making citizens liable for damages done to the R. Roads & Gov. property by Guerillas - did not embrace damages done by the regular soldiers in the Confederate Army, but was only to embrace ~~cases~~ damages done by Guerillas and citizens themselves, and any other construction of said order would be an extreme hardship upon noncombatants, unarmed and not able to protect their own property, and they hereby respectfully refer to said order in an investigation of this case.

They further state that said money paid by them as above stated is still in the hands of the Federal authorities and has never been distributed among said Cotton speculators.

The premises considered and that justice may be done in the same, they respectfully insist that they are not liable for the damages done by said raid of Confederate Cavalry without their knowledge and consent as many of them live several miles from the scene of action and heard nothing of it for several days after the raid had been made, and respectfully pray that they may have an investigation of the whole matter in some way to be prescribed by the Federal authorities and if upon an investigation they should show that they had nothing to do with said raid - they ask that an order be made refunding their money to them - or if the authorities should be of opinion that the damages done the Government should be paid for by them, they ask that commissioners may be appointed to assess its value and all of the balance of their funds be refunded to them except the sum required, to pay for the damages to the Government, as many of them ~~have~~ already suffered

by the destruction of their [illegible] by the same authority that destroyed said speculators and against their will and consent.

They ask for such relief in the premises as ~~they~~ may be just and right — all of which is respectfully submitted.

Hiram Johnson
Stephen W. Johnson
Wm B. Hall &
46 others
Petitioners &c