Nashville May 4th 1863.

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Houston Russell.

The horses & mules owned by Woods, Lewis, & Co. & Woods, Gatman & Co. not so large as Mr Las. Woods had supposed, nor the loss so great. the number taken is 91 and the number left about 70 - it is necessary for the support of his negroes, that he be permitted to retain the 70 to cultivate the farms - the farm furnished the Union army with a large amt. of hay and corn last year - ask protection for the farms and premises -

Citizens,

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Rec'd H. Q. Gen. D.C. May 6/63

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file

Whatever can be done to secure to the loyal partic payment for what the Government has taken will be done or approved the rules taken will be a just claim against the Government paid for according to law

W. S. Rosenstein
Nay Lee

Nashville May 4th 1863.

Maj Genl Rosecrans.

It is due to you as well as to myself that I should say, the number of mules and horses owned by Woods, Lewis & Co, and Woods, Gatman & Co was not so large as Mr James Woods had supposed, nor has the loss been so great as he had understood at the date of my letter of the 25th ult. The proportion taken by the Military Authorities, as compared with the number owned by the parties is not unusual in these times. The number taken is ninty one, & the number left on hand is about seventy—

It is necessary for the support of his negroes, that he be permitted to retain the seventy to cultivate the farms. The firm, last year, furnished the Union Army with a large amount of corn, and hay; and it may be possible that the same thing can be done to some extent this year, in addition to

to supplying the slaves with the necessaries of life. He asks therefore, a protection for the James, and premises, and for the mules, and horses on hand. As for those taken by the Authorities he will look to the Government, in the usual way for compensation.

Woods, Leves & Co, and Woods Gatman & Co, are composed of the same persons — and the members are James Woods Sr of this City, John Bell & Wife, Henry C Gatman, Geo. T. Lewis, and James Woods jr. James Woods Sr owns absolutely one third of the assets, John Bell & Wife nominally, one third, Henry C Gatman one sixth, Geo T Lewis one twelfth, and James Woods jr one twelfth.

James Woods Sr holds a mortgage on the interest of Bell & Wife to secure the payment of a debt of one hundred thousand dollars, due him, from them and of five or six years standing, which when foreclosed will probably extinguish their entire interest, making

him the owner virtually of two thirds of the property. Bell and wife are also debtors to the firm directly, and as endorsers for them in the sum of near seventy thousand dollars, so that in point of fact their interest is merely nominal. It would not pay these liabilities. I learn these facts of Mr James Woods Sr — and I regard them as strictly true.

As stated to you in my former letter I think him thoroughly loyal, and he informed me that Mr Lewis and his son James Woods Jr are also loyal — and I credit his statement — although not personally cognizant of the fact. Henry C Seatman is in the Southern Army, and is of course disloyal — and the position of Mr Bell is probably known to you.

Very respectfully

Russell Houston