

Quarter Masters Office
Woodville April 20th 1864

Capt W D Douglas }
Chief of Forage & Fuel }
Department Texas } Capt

I am under the painfull necessity of being obliged to make the following Report to you. You are aware that I had stored at McKenney's Ferry in Hardin County nineteen hundred & seven Bushels of corn during the month of Feby last. I issued to Capt Kyser Co. 16 Bushels & soon as you left this place for Houston I engaged Mr. James McKinney to Guard & take care of the same. On or about the 24th of March you ordered me to deliver the same to Capt Lee Quarter Master at Beaumont the Capt sent up some goverment wagons & began hauling the corn away, upon the news of the same, the women of Hardin County became exasperated & expressed a determination to have the corn right or wrong. Some of them, then went up to the cribs with wagons & demanded the corn of Mr McKinney, who refused to deliver it to them & just at that moment a Squad of DeBray's men came along crossed the wagons over the Bayou & drove them up to the cribs & loaded them with the Government Corn then helped themselves with what they wanted & Refused to give any reciept for the same. The news spread like wildfire & in less than two days all the corn was gone. The women not only of Hardin County but of Jefferson came up with droves of wagons & took all that was left in the crib & it was out of any man's power to prevent them. They declared that they were starving & would have it. Mr. McKinney has been kind enough to furnish me the enclosed statement which shows who took a portion of the same, but he says that nothing like a correct account or measurement was kept as they loaded all night & day. The enclosed is a statement of the situation of the same I wish you to be kind enough to present the same to Maj Bloomfield and request him to be kind enough to Report to me how I shall act in the premises so as to get a proper credit for the missing corn. I must also most Respectfully report that the same kind of excitement has been raised in this County and Bands of women has visited the Government cribs at this place & demanded corn & said that they would not leave without it & that if I did not sell them corn that they would burst open the doors and take what they wanted & that there was not men enough in the County to prevent them & that if they were gentlemen they would not prevent them as no gentlemen would prevent starving women & children from helping themselves to government corn when they could not get it elsewhere—I came to the conclusion that mild means were the best so I took the responsibility of selling them small quantities until I could report there wants to the Government, so I now ask for advice how to act with them. I well know that if they broke into the cribs they would have taken three times as much as they needed & that would give license to all to do the same deserters wives & all. So far I have not issued out over one hundred Bushels & have allayed the excitement & all is now calm but it may soon rise again if something is not done. Hoping to recieve orders soon

I remain Respectfully your most
Obt svt

H W Bendy
Q M Agent

[Endorsements on back]

Woodville Apr 20th/64

H. W. Bendy A. M. Agent

Asks for an order authorizing him to sell corn to the suffering population of Jefferson & Hardin Cos.

April 30 1864

Respectfully referred to Maj. B. Bloomfield Chief Q. M. with the remark that I was in Tyler County a few days after this occurred. I can only suggest that the Co Commissioners be ordered to pay Mr. Bendy the schedule price for the corn and he be ordered to sell it.

W D Douglas
Capt & AQM

Office Chief Qrmastr
Dist of Texas
Houston May 4/64

Respectfully referred to Brig Genl Jas E Slaughter Chf of staff for his information & would respectfully request that order be issued to Mr Bendy Qr Master Agt to sell Corn to the starving population of Hardin & Jefferson Co.

B. Bloomfield
Major & Chf
Qrmaster

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Qr Masters Office  
Woodville May 20<sup>th</sup> 1864

To Brig Genl P O Hebert }  
Houston Texas }

Genl

I have just this moment received Copy of Special order 130 XX ordering me to sell Government Corn to the needy Families of Hardin & Jefferson Counties—now my request have been been misunderstood for I think the families of those two counties have been well supplied by the Corn they took from the Government Cribs at McKinneys Ferry I wish an order to sell to the needy families of this Tyler County a limited amt until the new crop is dry enough to gather

Very Respectfully yours

Most ovt svt

H W Bendy  
Qr Mr Agent

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Source: Footnote.com's Confederate Papers collection, originally part of the Citizens and Business File at the National Archives.