

Factory Feb 14th 1865.

To His Excellency

Governor Magrath,

Sir,

Though I fear I may weary by my importunity, I cannot refrain from making another appeal to you, for an exemption for my son from militia service. At such a time as this, with the enemy in our state, I should not dare to make such a request, if I did not know that his presence at home enables him to render far greater service to the country, than he can in the field. This portion of the state will probably be the last overrun by the enemy, and my son is one of the largest planters, and best managers (as all his neighbors would tell you) in it. He directs & controls about 600 negroes, with the aid of two overseers

One of them this last call will take.
There is no one to take my son's place
when he goes, and no one could fill it.
The recent destructive frosts have
made his personal superintendence
absolutely necessary on the plantations
to make the coming crop. He is no
speculator - sells all to the Government
or needy people and has never invested
one cent in anything but Gov^{ts} bonds. Tho'
my only son - my only earthly stay I dare
not appeal in that case - he is alas, only
as many thousands others - but for the
sake of the many whom he will make
bread for, I hope & trust that you may
see fit to detain him especially to remain.
That you may think proper to do so,
is the humble petition, and earnest
prayer, Sir, of

Yours respectfully
W. Williams.