

Danville, Kentucky,

November 25<sup>th</sup> 1861

To his Excellency

Abraham Lincoln, President of the U. S.  
Washington City.



Sir,

The object of this letter is ask you to give to my son Joseph Cabell Breckinridge, a Lieutenant in the Army of the United States. Of course, I should prefer a First Lieutenant - but he would not refuse a second Lieutenant.

He is now acting as Aid de Camp to General Thomas - and has been ever since General Thomas assumed his military command in Kentucky. And will remain with him, as acting Aid de Camp, if he fails to get the Commission I now ask for. And I am authorized by Genl Thomas, to say, and now, with his knowledge, that if you give my son a Commission, he (General Thomas) - designs him to be assigned to his duty, as one of his aids. I may add, that my son went early into Genl Nelson's camp, was taken by him on his staff - did duty as Assistant Adjutant and Inspector General - then as Aid de Camp to General Nelson; on whose recommendation, and without his application, he was appointed Aid de Camp by Genl Thomas. - If it is thought necessary, the written statements of Genl Nelson and Genl Thomas, will be obtained to verify these statements. So far as Genl Thomas is concerned, I make this <sup>best</sup> statement, with his knowledge. - My son is a regularly educated man - and left his professional (Legal) studies, to join the first troops, at Camp Dick Robinson; - and will continue, till the war is triumphantly concluded, or he falls, in the military service of the country. - It does not become me, to urge his claims or wishes.



I have sometimes thought that it was, perhaps, my  
duty, under the peculiar circumstances I have occupied, to offer my  
own services to the Federal Government, in any way it was thought they  
might be of use. Nothing has prevented my doing so - but that I did  
not see, in what way I could do any good - beyond what I have striven  
to do, in my lot, as a private person. - If, in the opinion of your Ex-  
cellency, at any time, I can in any way serve the country more  
effectually than I can do so, as a private citizen, with my voice and  
my pen; I shall be ready to do whatever may be required at my hands.  
I ask nothing - I desire nothing, for myself. But I desire, more than I  
desire any thing earthly, the triumph of my country: and I consider  
your Excellency to be entitled to the zealous support of every loyal man,  
in your endeavours to accomplish that great result.

My respectfully

your friend & sect

Wm. McKimridge



Robt J. McKenney

Danville, Ky. Nov. 25. 1861

Acks for his son Joseph C. B.  
a Lieutenantcy in the Reg. Army