

Waldrons Creek Feby 13, 1851

Dear Sir:

Yours of Dec. 11, was rec'd and so soon as I could I saw our mutual friend Brownlow, who very cheerfully assured me that he would write to Bell & Watkins on the subject, and urge your claims. I showed him your letter, and he said he would attend to the business by the next mail. I also mentioned the subject to your Brother Mitchell in confidence; and requested him to write to Judge Boyd respecting your application which he said he would do. The Judge was absent at Maryville Court, when I was at Knoxville. I think your friends in this country are status quo. The Sevierville Folks have been much alarmed of late by attempt to burn the town: on the night of the 17<sup>ult.</sup> about 1 o'clock the old courthouse was fired and blazing through the roof before discovered. The wind blew a strong breeze in the direction of Henry Thomas's and by getting on the opposite side of the roof of Mitchell's house, spreading wet blankets on the roof, and throwing water over it was saved. The next night 18 Mr. Davis's stable was set on fire a little after dark. The wind a smart breeze blew in the direction of Nunnally's (?) stable, but by great exertion with wet blankets and throwing water they kept it from burning though the hay was once or twice in a blaze and also the eve of the jail. But while they were working at the stable, fire was put in the rags in Harris's counting room loft, the door of the counting room being left open when the alarm first raised. The fire in the rags was in a smart blaze when Mrs. Lanning discovered it and hollered, when John ran and smothered the blaze with an armful of rags and carried the burning rags down into the back yard. Suspicion soon fixed on a man some time since from Dandridge- Gillashma or some such name, and Sally Harden, against whom some of the citizens swore the peace, and they not giving security are both in jail, I suppose until circuit court. Very sincerely yours &c

Hal Cumming

Capt. George W. McCown, Little Rock, Ark.