

that there were two of the name, he supposed that I was the person. He entirely condemned all the circumstances of violence except the breaking open the door and taking the oats, as to that he said he had no doubt of his authority to employ force when he saw fit, and he would not say what he should have done had the sergeant returned without the oats; but that not anticipating any difficulty when he sent to me for them, he had certainly not intended to authorize the sergeant to have recourse to violence — still, as the sergeant might have honestly supposed that the order to "get 15 Bushels of oats from Mr. Harmandis" was imperative, and that he was to get them anyhow he could not censure him. As to the privates he would consider what should be done. I endeavored to ascertain the names of the privates but Captain Clayton said he did not know their names, and altho I described them with as much minuteness as I could he could not identify them. He again tendered the receipt, which I took, he endorsing thereon that the sergeant had taken the oats in spite of my protests (I append a copy of the receipt and endorsement) The Captain then bade me good morning and in an hour he and his command had left Bel Air.

Captain Clayton and his men had been for some days quartered at a tavern in Bel Air, and I learn on enquiry that the proprietor had at the time of the said here an ample supply of oats, which he would have furnished if requested. So that in this case the wantonness of the outrage cannot be qualified by even a pretended necessity.

Captain Clayton informed me, that he had been detailed by General Halleck and placed at your disposal for the special service in which he was engaged, and was acting under your directions; — that it was entirely a state affair, and that the expenses were to be paid from funds provided by the state. Hence the propriety Sir, of my application to you, — not for compensation for the property plundered, but for vindication of the outraged laws of the state, and the protection of the citizen; — not for interposition of the state between the citizen and the General Government, but for redress for wrongs perpetrated by men professing to act as your agents and by your directions.

Very Respectfully  
Yours &c

James Harmandis

Copy  
Recd. of James Harmandis 15 Bus. of oats for the use of Public horses in the service of Co "C" Purcell Cavalry

Theodore Clayton  
Capt Comdg. Co "C"

Endorsed

The within amount of oats were taken by the sergeant after Mr. Harmandis had protested against the sergeant taking them

Theodore Clayton  
Capt. Comdg. Co "C" Purcell Cavalry