

interference in their behalf -

I am thus particular that the friends of these parties may understand that they run little or no risk in bailing them out of prison, and that I am satisfied will be on every account the most advisable means of effecting their immediate release - I have kept the papers you sent that I may have copies of them made and will immediately return them.

I have the honor to

Most respectfully

Your obt. servt.

A. W. Bradford

State of Maryland

Executive Department

Annapolis July 27 1864

R. H. Edelin Esq.

States Atty. for Charles Co.

Dear Sir:

The visit of Genl. Tyler to your jail some weeks since, the circumstances of which you recently called to my attention, and my subsequent interview with Genl. Wallace on that subject brought to my knowledge the fact which I afterwards mentioned to you, that the circumstances of that visit were connected with an application then pending wherein the Government was asked to interfere for the release from imprisonment in that jail of a certain George A. Moody and William Jones and two colored men who with them were sometime since arrested and there imprisoned, as it was alleged unlawfully -

I received last night from Genl. Wallace a communication on that subject together with all the papers connected with that application - The application seems to have proceeded from the friends of the imprisoned parties - one of them writing to the Secretary of State on the subject - and was referred to Genl. Tyler and a Detective officer of the Government for investigation and report -

Their Reports seem to dwell upon the fact that if these men committed an offence against the laws of the State, it was ignorantly done - that they were all very ignorant men, did, without concealment and in open day whatever they did, and were impressed with the notion that the Pass of the Provost Marshal with which they were provided was a sufficient guarantee for their proceeding - Particular stress is put too on the fact that they are now held in custody in your jail without legal authority, and if there is the color of any proper authority for their detention it is only from a Justice of the Peace of Prince Georges County who has certainly no authority to order the imprisonment of parties in Charles County.