

Letter to Maj. Gen. Wade Hampton from James Davis Trezevant February 9th, 1865

Branchville Feby 9th 1865

Dear General.

I have got around to this place at last after some very hard marching. No fighting and not much appearance of any here. I now apply to you in behalf of the dismounted men in my charge. They are willing and all but two or three of them able to remount themselves provided they could get horses to do so. Repeated applications have been made to get them off. But they have either been [illegible] or no notice taken of it. Major Nisbett writes me word that there will be no facilities allowed them if they return to the Regt dismounted. Can you and will you get them relieved and ordered to report to Columbia. I guarantee that they will remount themselves and report promptly with those who have horses at the mounting camp and those who have none. I received an order just now for fourteen whose horses are at the [illegible] to be sent there. The application was for me and the whole command. Or if they could not be shared for me and the mounted men. I do not care about returning now as there are but sixteen men of my company there. Black has cut up and scattered the companies as much as possible in order that he may remain on the island in a soft place. And he has no idea of leaving it. I have Washington Taylor a son of my sister just 16 yrs old. I expect to send him to Columbia in a few days. Will you have him detailed and keep him with you while I rejoin my company or give him a

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furlough for a fortnight or three weeks. I have mounted him and will have him equipped in about a week more. But his horse is at my place. I do not wish him to join the Regt or Co until I go there. I will look upon this as an especial favor as the little fellow is bare footed and I cannot provide him shoes for love or money. Everything is quiet here. But I can hear nothing. The bridges are all burned and the Yankees have it all their own way on the other side of the river. No scouting except by Wheelers men and they are not at all reliable. They are of no account. They are a lawless undisciplined set and are stealing all the horses around. Officers are with them who say that they have orders from Genl. Wheeler to impress. But no one looks at their orders or notices what they are doing. I could have

gotten 40 Or 50 good horses before had I had the authority to do or could I have taken care of them. There are still horses to be got and good horses in Barnwell ahead of Sherman. As the people would as soon let the Yankees have them as Wheeler could they present it. And there would be no difficulty in getting them. I understand were an officer sent over or it would be better to [illegible] three or four to get the horses and [illegible] them. It is a life and death case with horses between Wheeler and Sherman of the two the latter is the best. Believe me always

Yours truly

James D. Trezevant

To

Mag. Genl. Wade Hampton

with those who have horses at the [illegible] [illegible] and those who have none. I received an