Evidence in the cases of James Peacock and R. Dobignham

Charge - Smuggling
Office of the Chief of Police
Army of the Cumberland

In the case of James Peacock and
C. D. Bingham, who are charged
with attempting to smuggle goods
through to the enemy. The following
evidence was taken before Mr. Freedman
Chief of Army Police
James Peacock

State that he has been staying out on the Hillsboro Pike for the last three months.

A young man by the name of Glover who has a cousin by the name of Henry Smith that is said to be General Andrew Smith. This young man Glover came to me one Wednesday last and brought me two orders. One from his cousin Henry Smith and the other from General Smith. At the same time he brought me three letters. I only recollect that one was addressed to Robert Smith of Nashville. The others was addressed to Memphis and Chicago, the last想想 was addressed to a lady.

The orders from the two Smiths were for goods for their own use. I collected the letters and orders containing 30 % and gave them to a negro boy to give to Mr. Bingham. I sent a letter to Mr. Bingham requesting him to fill the orders at Nashville, at the same time I sent a letter to be mailed to my brother, Reading, Penn., which in here produced and marked A.
Mr. Bingham did not fill the orders. I requested him to send the goods to me to be sent down South. I had previously requested Mr. Bingham to send me a few more small items, as paper and envelopes. This he did. I read Mr. Bingham a letter from some other parties living at Columbus requesting goods. These orders were in part filled. These orders were for certain individuals to get them a coat and trousers, and for other small things, I do not recollect. These are about all the orders that have been in for goods belonging to those who are engaged in the Rebel service or for any one to carry them South. I do not know of Mr. Bingham ever sending or carrying out goods before this. I regarded him as a friend to the Southern Cause. I knew of no one who is in the habit of carrying contraband goods South.

J. Peacock

Office of the Chief of Police
Army of the Cumberland
Nashville, March 10, 1863

Statement of R. L. Bingham
Incident on the Hellabrun Pike
two and one half miles from town.

I know nothing about Mr. James Peacock having anything whatever to do with any smuggling operations excepting as herein stated. I know that Mr. Peacock has been living at Mr. Pryor Smith's for the last two or three months. I have always suspected him to be a Union man, having heard him dispute to that effect. I am informed that he is dependent upon the Odd Fellows and his friends for his support. I think he has no means of his own to operate on in any smuggling operations or any thing else.

Sometimes ago I bought some corn and things from Pryor Smith and my team has been going there pretty regularly for the last four or five miles.

I had bought in letters once or twice for Mr. Smith. I brought in one letter for him to Seig East one directed to Mr. Troux, unsealed which was in relation to bagging and rope - I brought in a letter from Mr. Smith to Mr. Hamilton in the city. The letter was written by Mr. Glass in relation to a negro belonging to him, hired to Mr. Hamilton.
The orders and papers from Peacock's found on me Saturday were brought in to me by the negro boy on Friday evening. There were three sealed letters. The orders were enclosed in an envelope directed to me. I opened the envelope and looked at them and my wife proposed to burn them. I stated that there was no use in that, that I should not buy the things. I placed the orders on the mantle piece. Friday night, they lay there until the next morning when I picked them up and put them in my pocket. I intended to return the orders with the money enclosed, on Monday when my teams were to go back. My teams were to bring what to town on Saturday. The money in the note of Peacock's was a twenty-dollar Chattanooga bill and ten was I think on the bank of Monticello, Va.

Mr. Peacock came to my house one Sunday morning and gave me three dollars to purchase a pair of shoes for his negro boy. I got the shoes.

He has never sent any other orders to me and I have never brought in any other letters for him excepting the three found upon me. I had forgotten that I had those letters with me on Saturday and
Should probably have taken them home with me had I not been arrested. Had forgotten to mail them. I have nothing about the contents of the letters.

I have never had any correspondence with Peacock in relation to smuggling or carrying goods and information through the lines to the enemy. I don't know of Peacock receiving or leaving any other orders or papers relating to carrying goods and information through the lines to the Confederates. I did not intend to attempt to fill those orders or to get them filled. I know nothing either personally or in any other way about Peacock having any connection with any other smuggling operation.

About six months ago Mr. J. P. Smith made a proposition to me concerning the purchase of some negroes in town. He asked me if I could not buy him a likely boy if he would pay me for it. He said he wanted some for his own use. He said his negroes had all attempted to run away, and he had taken them away and hired them out. He said he had taken them where they would
be free by the proclamation of the
President. He did not say anything
about selling any negroes off beside
his own. I don't know of him selling
any beside his own. I know nothing
further about Smith's negro operations.
I did not attempt to buy him any.
He furnished me no money. I told him
likewise that I had never bought a negro
in my life and I could not do it for him.
I know of no others running off negroes
or attempting to do so. I know of no one
planning to do any such thing.

All the orders I have ever received
from Mr. Peacock in relation to goods
or information to go to the Confederates
were fraud upon my person on
Saturday. I have been a Union man
from the beginning. R. L. Pughman

Nashville, March 12th

Statement of S. S. Knight.

After being only seven days in the
and care about four weeks ago I went
from Nashville out to Major Smith's
to carry a letter to him from Mr.
Newcomer, while at Mr. Smith's, a man by name of Bingham came to said Smith. Said he was buying cattle for the U.S. Government. He brought with him and gave to Mr. Smith a lot of old over-shirts (I do not know how many). He also brought with him and gave to a man by the name of Ford (who was at Mr. Smith's) a saddle bag full of something I do not know what was in them. Mr. Ford asked Mr. Bingham if the guard on the road examined the saddle bag, and he said they did not. Bingham also had a bundle hid in the roof of his buggy which looked to me to be a bundle of letters he gave the bundle to Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith remarked to Bingham that Newcomer had six negroes in Nashville ready to bring to him and wanted Bingham's advice. Mr. Bingham advised Smith to buy them, telling him he could make a handsome profit on them by running them south. Mr. Smith and Bingham had a long private conversation which I did not hear.

Siler S. Knight
Office of Chief of Police
Army of the Cumberland
Nashville, March 9/63

Statement of Mrs. J. A. Gordon,
Insular two miles or a little
more from town on the Hillsboro Pike. Mr.
Ralph L. Poughman resided within a hun-
dred yards of our house. I came to town
with him on Saturday. It was convenient
for me to come in with him and he is
using my team and drays. I should not
have come in on Saturday had it not been
that my pass would not be good after
Saturday.

I do not know Mr. Peacock. I have
never received any orders or letters or
other papers from Mr. Peacock to be
delivered to anyone or letters. I knew
nothing about the orders or other papers
found with Mr. Poughman on Saturday
last. I did not hand them to him and
did not know that he had any such
papers in his possession. I have never
received any orders or papers from any
confederate officer or solider asking my
aid or the aid of anyone in conveying to the
Confederate goods or information.

I have never aided in anyway.
I have never aided in conveying good or information to any Confederate officers or soldiers or any other person to be taken to the Confederate army.

I do not know what my negro boy has done in this respect. His letters or papers have been left at my house to be carried by any person to the Confederates. There have been notes left for my neighbor, but they were simply letters to and from friends, not containing information for the army or anything of the kind.

I have not seen anyone who has lived to engage in attempting to convey to the Confederates goods or information.

I have been in town several times lately, but always on my own business. I have sometimes taken newspapers out for Dr. Burns, who lives some three miles beyond me. It was a friend of Dr. Burns who asked me to take them out. I don't know what he may have done with them after he read them. I don't know whether Dr. Burns is for or against the Union. My negro boy has never gone as orders, papers, goods or information against the military regulations with my consent. Mr. Bingham has his own way.
been called a Union man, but has been rather quiet lately—has always been a quiet man, since I have known him.

Sally A. Gordon

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 9th day of March, 1842.

Statement of James Gordon (copy)

I have carried papers from Mr. Peacock to Mr. Bingham three times. Whatever I carried the first two times was in envelopes. The last time, what I took was wrapped in a piece of paper.

The first time I carried papers was not more than ten days ago. I brought the last papers to Mr. Bingham on Friday last. I carried a letter in which I think there was money from Mr. Bingham to Mr. Peacock, either last week or the week before. I carried a package once from Mr. Bingham to Mr. Smith at the house where Mr. Peacock is staying. Mr. Bingham told me there was cambric in the package. I have carried newspapers from Mr. Bingham to Mr. Peacock. I carried the package to Mr. Smith at the time I carried the letter to Mr. Peacock. I have been hauling corn.
for Mr. Bingham from Mr. Smiths when Peacock is staying more or less for the last twenty-five days. I have carried newspapers back and forth between Mr. Bingham and Peacock frequently. I have only carried three letters from Mr. Peacock to Mr. Bingham and one letter from Mr. Bingham to Mr. Peacock. Never anything about any other letters coming to Mr. Bingham.

Mr. Bingham is invited upon as inclined to Unionism.

James Gordon

copies of orders and extracts from letter found on the person of C. P. Bingham.
March 1, 1838.

Mr. B.

1 Pair of Boots No. 7.

such as you got for Dr. Hunter.

No. 1 like Smith No. 7.

1 Silk pocket handkerchief

2 pair of suspenders.

for C. P. Bingham. The bill he will charge to Will.

Young Mr. Bill Bingham is to start on Saturday next to Shelbyville. The thirty dollars sent you will credit on the bills and the balance charge to account of C. P. Smith. The box you sent.
out to-day you put at 5. Decr. them to the party and fixed them at 10. That I think is for them. As you had better charge that for them. It will pay you for your trouble.

J. Q.

Mr. A. I also send you Shetters to be maild.

I deliver Mr. E. A. Roberts. As I understand two ladies will go for goods. Send them out with the rest of the order, as the same party will take them out to Shilohville.

4 yds. double width cadet gray cloth. 3yds. feed. 12 feet. 1 cent five buttons.

This order is for General Preston Smith. brother of our J. R. Smith. Get buttons for both the men. get for Anderson, 1 yds. fine gray cloth. 12 large buttons, 6 small ones.

Trimming place, several yards of it through for the plate, 1 collar, 1 pair of fine shoes. 1 pair cavalry boots. 1 pair of cloth gloves.

1 Muslin pipe small size. 1 rice brown linen shirt. 1 doz. blacking large size. 50 doz.

belong to this bill. Henry N. Smith, at the Camp. If you can get the rest out by the messenger on Saturday next by noon will do so have got the messenger to wait until then.

J. Q.

March 5, 1863.

Please send a letter you will please to put in the
O. O., put a stamp on it and mail it for me.

J.P.

March 6 63.

Set the orders on, send your by mail and send them out. The subject to send them out on the same day.

March 7/63.

Mr. Q.

2 five Combs. Also get a lot of latest paper Louisville, Cincinnati &c. New York and any others if you can charge them to St. Smith's bill. You will please to have each bill put up separate. You will also have the trimming got for each suit of clothes. Get the finest grey cloth you can as it is for the General's aid. Send bills for all.

J.P.

Extract from letter of Jas. Peacocks to his brother W.H. Peacocks, Reading, Pa.

He says that while he was away the 7th Penn Cavalry broke into the house robbed him of all his clothes and papers. He says that the black republican army is composed of the most infernal set of thieves that ever lived in this or any other land. They do nothing but run about the country and break open houses and rob women and children of their clothing &c. into negro cabins
and not the poor negroes of his clothes and what
erich he may have. It would take a
quint of paper to tell all the 'Northern negroes'
stealing army

No has an order for soldiers and guards to face
his stock signed Burnside As Chief Contractor.

Letter from John W. Harris dated Head Quarters
Brigade Smith's Brigade, Shilohville, Tenn. Feb. 28
1863. To Dearest Celie, Chicago Ill. says he is
endeavoring to get to Chicago, but has an arisen
62 making the attempt without the whole
Army to assist him. At the time of the other
operation fight he thought he would shortly
have the pleasure of seeing her, but alas for
human hopes, the army had to fall back,
after obtaining a glorious victory. Hoping
to see the end of this glorious war yet.
provided the North West only acts as they
seem ready to do. Hoping that she is
doin the share to aid them. Believe
she is doing so.

This is ad dressed to Delph Cecilia E.
Le Pailey. 389 West Lake St.

Chicago, Ill.