

cits

11896. S. 6387 E-343-1868

Vicksburg Miss.

12th Sept 1863.

Tennessee Dept of.
John A Rawlins
Brig Gen U.S.A. A.G.

(see enclosure)

Refers the case of Mansfield & Jennings (Druggists) to Maj Gen Hurlbut command
Wth Al. to whom this subject
has been previously before,
and states the manner in
which these parties have
persisted in trying to
evade the just penalty
inflicted on them for
violation of law and the
means employed by their
agent in proposing to
tribe an office in the
discharge of his duty,

Rec'd R. & G. 16 A. C. 20 J. 1863

only tends to establish the
justice of Genl. Sherman's
acts.

Oct 6 / M 0482 863

Vicksburg Miss
8th Aug 1863

Massfield S. & Co

State that their Drug store was confiscated by the Army of the United States about a year ago by order of Gen. Sherman. Represent that they have suffered great losses and request that they be reinstated in the possession of said store and the amount in possession of the Govt. returned for the express purpose of liquidating their Eastern debts.

Rec'd 16th A. G. 2^d S. P. 1863

W. S. A. 13 Oct 2^d 1863.

Headquarters, Dept. of the N.
Vicksburg Miss. Aug. 5th 1863.

Respectfully refer
to Maj. Gen. Harlbut
Comdg. 16th Army Corps
who will please examine
into the merits of A.
Mansefield & Co. Com
and report to their
H^o Ms. whether the
Company shd. be
restored in whole, in
part or not at all
to what they ask.

J. J. Grant
Maj. G.
(Ewing 352)

Vicksburg Miss Augt 8th 1863

May Gen W. T. Grant

Your petitioners would respectively beg your Clemency in their Case as per the Order of Gen^r Sherman Made Sept 30th 1862 wherein their Drug Store was Consecrated to the uses of the United States. They have now been out of Business for nearly Twelve Months and have suffered great pecuniary loss, they now desire to return to our lawful Business presents and become re-instated in ~~their~~ Business Again in the City of Memphis - They hope to be able to Show you that they Merit Clemency and desire that you will re-instate them to the following effect viz
Have their Drug Store returned to them
Have the Am't now in the hands of the Quartermaster which has been paid over by the Agent ^{when receipt held} returned to them for the express purpose of paying their Eastern Debts now in the hands of S B McAllister & others - Have them paid at regular rates for the Goods taken out of the

Said Store - by requisition, both prior
& subsequent to Said Service -
and your offices will ever pray &c

J. Mansfield Jr.

The Store & contents of Mansfield & Co
were confiscated by my order in Memphis
about one year ago ^{then} for being engaged in
attempting to run any ^{for} smuggling beyond
the Lines. The case was designed to
be soon sent ^{by} express to check a
pernicious system introduced to the Conven-
tional interests of the United States.

I am willing to admit that the
change which time and circumstances
have wrought in Memphis warrant
a remission in part or whole.

It that Mr. Mansfield is permitted
to retain possession of his Store & business
which was personally left to the manage-
ment of one of his favorite Clerks.

But that he be permitted to ~~use~~
~~the proceeds in~~ Cash now in the hands
of the Quartermaster arising from sales
of Drugs etc to be applied to the payment
of debts justly chargeable to the Stock

of good than on hand & in store.

3rd. That he make up a Bill of the
Motions, demands on the orders of the
Military Director & Provosts of the Army
and submit it for adjustment to the
Judge Advocate of the Army, and to a
Board to be assembled in Memphis to
hear and determine the merits of the
Case.

Camp. 15 Army Corps. W. T. Sherman
May 8th 1883. Major E. Clegg.

W.S.G.
1862

To Major Gen. U.S. Grant,
Commanding Dept. of the Tenn.

The petition of Samuel Mansfield and Daniel Jennings, residents of the city of Memphis, and loyal citizens of the United States of America, humbly sheweth.

That your petitioners were engaged in the drug business under the style of Mansfield & Co in the city of Memphis, in accordance with the new regulations imposed by the United States,

That on the 27th day of Sept 1862, your petitioners were arrested by order of Major General Sherman, put into prison, and their store taken possession of, and a government agent put in, who still controls the establishment;

That the cause of the arrest was for selling a bill of drugs, in value less than \$1000. in violation of trade regulations, though as stated by two members of the Board of Trade, those regulations were new, and not well understood by merchants.

That your petitioners were sent to Altm. Ill. but the sentence was generously modified by Gen Sherman at a later period, and we were permitted to return to our families,

Your petitioners desire to draw your attention to the letters accompanying this document from the two acting members of the Board of Trade, also to the Exhibit of our business, from June the 6th 1862, after Memphis was taken by the United States army, until Sept the 27th inclusive, and up to the day of our arrest, wherein it will be seen, that the whole amount of sales (from a stock of \$60,000) for nearly four months, was but \$12 228. all of which is made a part of this petition;

If it is not held by your petitioners that the sentence and course of Gen Sherman was not dictated by pure motives, a lofty patriotism, and a disinterested zeal in behalf of the United States Government, nor do your petitioners claim exemption for any infraction of a military or a Treasury regulation, if not understood and obeyed, it is our fault, and we must suffer the penalty attached,

But we, your petitioners claim that they have been shamefully misrepresented, by malignant and vigilante enemies, the public ear has been abused, Every act has been wilfully distorted, Every report magnified into actual transgression, fabulous sales, and fortunes, it is said, were made by us, which never had an existence but in the brain of the malicious inventor,

We had taken the oath of allegiance to the United States Government, hence the bitterness, hatred and persecution from the secesh, the real source and fountain, of every report and every measure, designed to poison the public mind, and through it, the military,

Those reports which are zealously kept afloat, in our opinion, prejudiced the military authorities very much against us, our Exhibits, which our books show is strictly correct, must convince any unprejudiced man, that our sales were small indeed, considering the stock, And we hereby solemnly affirm in the presence of Almighty God, that we never sold a diminutive worth of goods knowing they were designated for the rebels;

We trust from doing business in this city, for twenty years amounting annually to from \$350,000 to \$600,000, and with a credit & cash good at any time for \$200,000, that we have some character left, and a reputation to maintain undiminished,

The goods we sold, if is true, were in violation of trade regulations, but the purchaser said he lived in Chelsea, a suburb, of Memphis, and that he bought them on speculation, as the goods were daily raising in value, which occurred daily with every merchant.

merchants ~~dead~~ for the past year in this City.

It is a common practice, among all jobbers, and speculators, and is what all persons engaged in trade, suppose they have a clear right to do;

Our petitioners most respectfully call your attention to other cases similar to their own, To wit. Messrs. Ward & McCelland Druggists, in the same business, sold as large a bill of drugs as we, did, were arrested the same day, and sent away with us. Yet they are now and have been for six months in possession of their store with out a loss of more than \$500.

Lorenstein Bros, with three immense stores worth in the aggregate of least \$200,000, were convicted about two months ago, of selling a large bill of assorted goods to a rebel, and he was fined \$2500, and continued his business.

J. B. Hasson, druggist, with a large stock, was convicted of selling a bill of drugs. \$1000. to a rebel, whom he intended not trade with until he showed his commission as rebel surgeon; yet he was fined \$2000, and continued his business without interruption.

These cases are not referred to, in a spirit of complaint, nor do we find fault, or murmur over what is believed to be a just punishment for a grave offense.

But we cannot but feel, in consideration of what others have suffered for precisely the same crime, that we have been sufficiently punished.

It is now nine months since our arrest, a part of the time we spent in Alton, and during this long period the store has been in charge of a Government agent, who could not possibly attend to the varied stock on hand, it of course is depreciating in value as it deteriorates in quality, which is constant; Every thing about the store is going to waste and destruction. The agent unaided, being utterly incapable of looking after so large a stock,

If your petitioners were reinstated to day, and every request granted we could not by the strictest economy and the most skilful financial management escape a loss of less than \$20,000. to say nothing of our injured credit, derangement of business, and destruction of our chemical manufacturing apparatus, the joint product of a life of incessant toil,

We owe \$35,600. to good and loyal men in New York and Phil.^{ia}. on which interest is accumulating, they are in need of their money, and we wish to pay them, and the only available assets we have are in the store now held by the Government, and the money paid over to the Quartermaster from the cash sales of the agent.

Your petitioners beg most respectfully to refer you to the letter from the Secretary of War, inclosed with this petition, referring the case for final adjustment to you.

Trusting in the justice of the petition, and your high sense of right, that you will receive it graciously, and afford us the relief we ask, we humbly pray.

- 1st: That you will reinstate us in our store.
- 2^d: That you will order the quartermaster to pay over the money paid him by the agent, and arising from the sale of our goods,
- 3rd: That you will order payment for the goods taken on Requisition from our store prior and subsequent to seizure, for the use of the United States army.
- 4th: That they may be relieved of the rent of the house for the time it has been held by the Government.

By granting the request of your petitioners, you will place them in a position to save the balance of their stock, and to pay those to whom they are justly indebted, Hoping it will meet your approbation your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

(Signed)

Samuel Mansfield
Daniel Jennings

Catalogue of the
Business done.

from June 6th.

1862, until Sept 27th

1862, inclusive.

A

Cash Sales from June 6th to Sept 27th 1862
inclusive

June	from 6 to the 30 th	3600.00
July	including \$16,833 $\frac{15}{16}$ Collected in the South for Goods Seized by Rebel Authorities &c	23337.10
Aug.		12,244.30
Sept.	to the 27.	6770.42

B

Sales of Specific Articles & other Goods
accounting for the above Sales

100 Bbls Spts Suspended Cheese	\$75. 7500.
100 " Rosin	" \$10. 2000.
40 " Molasses	" \$16. 640.
30 Hhds Fine Sugar	" \$125. 3750.
40 Boxes Fine Tobacco	" \$75. 3000.

Am't Collected & entered in July 16833 15

all other Sales of Assorted Goods, such
as Drugs, Medicines, Paint Oil, Glop
Honey Goods, Wines & Liquors, Brushes
Prescriptions &c from the 6th day
of June to Sept 27th inclusive 12,228 67

45951.82 45951.82

(C)

Goods bought by permit after the arrival of the
Army - The most of which were in the Store at
the time it was taken & prepared of
Service from Wilson & Peter Louisville about 4600.
Do Do Do 2200.
Do from King & others remanaging 2000.
\$ 8,800.00

Explanation over

\$16,833.

The amount collected from the Rebel authorities was for goods seized by them just before they evacuated Memphis,

or such bills where we expected payment soon from any one, they were not put in our regular Books, but entered on a memorandum book, and when paid, entered in Cash Sales.

The collections from the Memorandum Book, and the sales of the Specific Articles in [73] is the reason why our Sales show large, The sales occurring months before the entry, in some cases — The total stores alone sent North after the U. S. army occupied Memphis, amounted to \$16,890.15

Yet because our Cash Book showed this entry of \$16,890.15 it was deemed sufficient evidence of smuggling, or gave to Col. Anthony good grounds for suspicion;

This was equally true with the \$16,833, collected from the rebels for goods taken as above, the money was paid Mr. Plummer (our Bookkeeper) but the Cash entry was not made until in July. 1862, Yet this was another cause for suspicion, when one moment's reflection, or inspection of the Books, by any business man, would convince any person of the utter fallacy of the charge,

The two sums \$16,890.15 and \$16,833.

Cannot of course, be included in the account of sales from June 6th until Sept 27th inclusive. The whole amount during this interval amounted to \$12,228.67.

This explanation it is hoped will prove perfectly satisfactory and clear,

70846 T. S. 343, 1863

Letter

from G. P. Ware

Member of the Board of
Trade in Oct 1862 +

(Copy)

Rec'd HQ 16" A.M. 20" Sept 1863.

Memphis, Feb 5th 1863

This certifies that I was acting as one of
the Board of Trade at the time the store
of S. Mansfield & Co. was seized and
closed by order of Gen. Sherman,

And from my knowledge of the said
firm, their high standing and good character,
and history of their business, I am firm and
unshaken in the belief, that they did not intend
to violate the laws of Trade, but were induced
to sell larger bills than the regulations permitted,

These Regulations it must be remembered
were new, and not well understood by many
dealers. I believe the statements of Mansfield
and Jennings to be true, so wif: that they did
not know the goods which they sold, and which
caused their arrest, were intended for the rebels; nor
were they, a detective being the purchaser, and
he represented himself a resident of Memphis,

Nor do I believe either one of the

fim of Mansfield & Co. would knowingly
violate any existing law of trade, nor
in the remalest degree aid or abet the rebels,

They are both Union men, Mr
Mansfield being among the first to take
the oath on the occupation of the city by the
United States forces.

G. P. Ware.

Member Board of Trade
in Oct. 1862,

Memphis, July 14th 1863

Major Gen. U. S. Grant

Dr. Sir. Enclosed with this you will receive the petition of Mansfield & Denning's praying to be restored to their property, which was taken from them as the petition sets forth.

Mansfield has been to Washington to see Secretary Stanton, who referred him back to you for final adjustment.

There is not a person in the city of Memphis, unless he be a personal enemy, but what would gladly see Mansfield placed in possession of his stone. His offense is by no means so great as has been reported by his enemies.

Every body thinks in Memphis that he has been punished enough for what he did. And General Sherman, who arrested ^{him}, said that clemency could be extended to him at any ^{time} when it was deemed advisable. No man in this city has suffered so much from falsehoods as Mansfield. Since he took the oath, he has been pursued

by the secesh, with untiring vengeance, nothing has escaped their venom and animosity. And as General Sherman is a very impulsive, though a most excellent man, and a high toned patriot & soldier, he may have been slightly influenced by the reports against Mansfield, and adjudged him harshly.

Considering his offence, which is truthfully stated in his petition, and what others have done in the face of old and well understood regulations, his punishment and this, I really think he deserves all he prays for,

Mansfield and Jennings have always borne a very high character, as honest, reliable business men, with an unlimited credit with those with whom they have dealt for twenty years; their word and honor would never be questioned by any one who knows them,

And they affirm most solemnly that they never sold a dime without knowing if was to go to the rebels. All men are liable to err, however pure their intentions, and more especially are they liable when beset by a set of jackalls, that are striving for the destruction of a victim,

The damage they must sustain by the arrest and loss of the management of their own store, is loss of \$20,000, but they did wrong in selling goods in violation of Trade Regulations, and of course deserved punishment, which they have endured without a murmur.

The cases they refer to in the petition to us, Mrs Hara & Co. McClellan, Graenstein & Bro. and J. B. Hasson, are all familiar to me.

Hara and McClellan's case was precisely like their own; The latter two were far worse, as it was clearly established in both cases that they knew to whom they were selling, and had been following it up, yet they are in their stores.

In the plenitude of your power, and zenith of your fame, you can afford to be magnanimous, at least to the deserving. It is safe to lean to the side of mercy, especially after the culprit has been thoroughly punished, and with still better grace, when by doing so, honest, loyal, good men, will get their dues,

They owe a large debt cash, which they wish to pay, and their creditors want the money.

10896. S. 343 1863
But they cannot pay them, unless restored to
their property.

Daniel Jennings is a native of New
York city and always was a good union man,
and Mansfield has taken the oath and is
loyal and true.

Their restoration will relieve their
present wants and gladden their crushed
hearts, and I hope most earnestly that you
will send me an order granting the
Petition, and place item under lasting
obligations of gratitude.

Anything you may feel disposed to
grant please address me, as Mansfield & Jennings
are both sick and incapable at present of
attending to any business.

The North is all ablaze over the
fall of Richburg. May Heaven protect & shield
you for fresh glory and still greater, and
more, if possible, magnificent achievements.

Respectfully

Asst W.C. 16th A.C. 20th Sept 1863

A.J. Park

Address.

Dr. A. J. Park.

Memphis.

M. 585. B (D.Y) 1863.

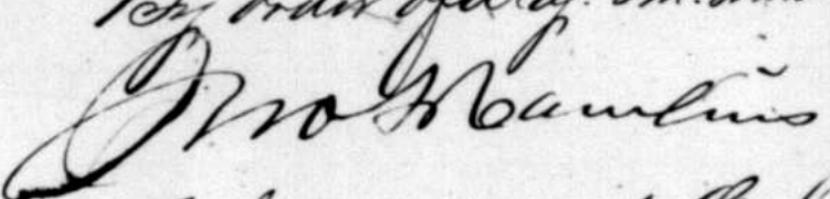
10896, S. E.

343

M. Head Cr. Dept. Fm.
Wiscasset Me. Sept. 12/63

Respectfully referred to Maj.
Genl. S. A. Hartbut, Comdy. 10th
Army Corps, to whom this subject
has been previously referred.

The manner in which these
parties have persisted in trying
to evade the just penalty inflicted
on them for violation of law, and
the means employed by their agent
in proposing to bribe an officer
in the discharge of his duty, only
tends to establish the justness of
Genl. Sherman's acts.

By order of Maj. Genl. Grant

D. W. Canfield
Ass't Adj't. Genl.

Aug 29/63
Rec'd H.Q. 16th AC 2005 Oct 1863

10896. S. E. 243. 1868,

Ric H.Q. 20 Sept 1868

Letter from the
Hon. B. D. Talbot,
Member of the Board
of Trade —
(Copy)

Memphis, April 20th 1863

I was a member of the Board of Trade in this City in connection with Messrs. Ware, and Nough, at the time S. Mansfield & Co's Drug Store was taken possession of by order of Gen. Sherman.

At that time, the laws of trade were new, and imperfectly understood by the merchants & people, every one was liable to violate, unless they did not fully comprehend, And the permit system for goods to go to the interior was for a period entirely abolished by Gen Sherman, his pickets being the sole judges of the goods that was proper to pass beyond the lines,

Messrs Mansfield & Jennings have always been regarded as gentlemen of unquestionable integrity and spotless character in this community, Mr Jennings is a native of New York City, and was always a devoted Union man, and Mansfield was among the first to take the oath when the U.S. army took Memphis;

B.D. Nators

Member of the Board of Trade
Oct 1862.

11896, J. E. 343 1868

Ric 442 16 AB 20 Sept 1963

War Department

Washington City D.C.

May 2^o 1863

W. F. Mansfield.

Sir

In regard to your claim
that a quantity of Drugs,
Medicines &c. seized by Genl
Sherman, should be re-
turned. I have to say that
the Secretary of War declines
to interfere in the matter.
I refer you to the Comman-
der of the Department of
the Mississippi.

Respectfully
William Whiting
Secretary of the War Dep'