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Mississippi Assistant Commissioner, Letters Received, Entered in Volume 5, H–O, Jan. 1868–May 1869, Part 1

Extracted on Apr-18-2024 10:24:09

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Tupelo Miss
Decr 1st 1868

Bvt. Major Jno Tyler
A. A. A. Genl

Major-

I have the honor to submit the following statement for your consideration of a suit now pending in the Circuit Court of this county in which the state charges Henry Duke- colored with an attempt to murder William Evans - white. The facts as shown in the trial last week were as follows Wm Evans is about 19 years old and has a brother Richard Evans about 17 years old both white and the sons of widow Evans who resides about two miles from Tupelo. Saml Billingsly - colored - contracted last spring to work with his family throughout the year upon the plantation of Mrs. Eliza Evans for one third of the crop. Among his family are two step sons Patrick Walker 19 years of age and Henry Duke 15 years old - both black -

On the 18 of Nov. last the oldest Evans boy William - had some difficulty with Saml Billingslys wife relative to the services of the step son Henry (who was at work in the woods) and went from the cabin "breathing threatenings and slaughter" which induced Billingslys wife to start to Tupelo for protection. Patrick who was at home

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