

Ballardsville, Boone County, Virginia
April 10, 1847

Honorable William Smith
Governor of Virginia, Richmond

Dear Sir, by the mail that brings you this you will receive account of the organization of our New County (Boone) also the recommendation of three justices one of whom to be commissioned as Sheriff of this County for the present year.

You will perceive that only 5 justices were present: myself & another member of this court were by sickness prevented from attending.

The law forming the County required the justices residing within the New County to be commissioned in point of seniority according to the date of time former commissions which was done and according to custom (which is sometimes stronger than law) the first named in the commission is entitled to the recommendation as Sheriff, but strange to say the court took a different course and left out of the recommendation John Hill Esq. the oldest justice who has served the county for 15 years because he had been commissioned as Sheriff of Logan County. Mr. Hill wishes to resign his commission as Sheriff of Logan as he is no longer a citizen of that County and of course renders it inconvenient for him and unacceptable to the people. Having the most implied confidence in your seeing to have this matter set right, and if you think Hill is entitled to the Sheriffety hope you will return the recommendations to the Court for reconsideration immanently, the court permitted Mr. Hill to qualify and take a seat as a member of the court, but refused to recommend him on the ground before stated.

Respectfully your obedient servant
St. Clair Ballard