

Fayette County, Virginia
March 1st 1862

To his Excellency Governor Pierpont

The undersigned would respectfully petition, that as peace & reason have returned and disloyalty has been put down in our county (Fayette) that you would take measures to have our county reorganized at an early a day as practicable. There are no officers now in our county except two justices. The southern portion of the county is wholly within the federal lines and a good portion of the northern and before a proclamation can be signed and election held the remaining portion will be within the lines. The portion that is now without is and has always been loyal. The vote in that portion last spring being 70 against & 8 for secession. We are in a perfect state of anarchy at this time, without law & without any proper officers to execute any laws that might remain. The citizens of my portion of the county have requested me to thus petition you and for the common good I hope that steps will be taken soon to put the wheels of government again in motion in Fayette County.

Respectfully your humble servant
James B. Hamilton

P. S. The offices of Commissioner & Sheriff expire this Spring by limitation. Those of surveyor, clerks & magistrates have been vacated by the flight of the incumbents.

J. B. Hamilton

Gov. Pierpont – I hope you will issue writs of elections in the cases required by law for the county of Fayette and enclose to Mr. Hamilton of Charleston care of John Slack of Charleston. He will forward to Mr. Hamilton. The election of justices, clerk, & sheriff is important. The same should be done in other counties of Nicholas, Braxton, Boone, Logan & Wyoming. Perhaps a special messenger would be proper. Mr. Hamilton will attend to Fayette.

Most Respectfully
Benj. H. Smith

I fully concur in the foregoing suggestions of Mr. Hamilton and Col. Smith.

Jno Slack