

Joseph G. Cox.
Real Estate Agent

Jno. Bellangee Cox
Attorney at Law

Joseph T. Cox & Brother

REAL ESTATE AND LAW OFFICE

Charleston, Kanawha County, West Virginia

Charleston, December 4, 1865

Sir:

Inclosed please find the claim of Samuel B. Koontz, First Lieutenant of volunteers attached to the 142nd Regt. of 27th Brigade, 5th Division of the Virginia Militia.

The said claimant was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant the same Regt. by Gov. Letcher, on the sixth of April, 1860. While still holding this commission, he was commissioned, on the 24th of Feby. 1863, First Lieut: by Gov. Pierpont.

On the sixth of June 1863 he was ordered by Brig. Gen. S. J. Grose, commanding the said Brigade, to muster his regiment and recruit volunteers. He was the only commissioned officer of the said regiment who remained true to the U. S. He entered upon this duty without having been sworn in under his new commission of First Lieutenant, not however from any fault of his own, for he applied to the said Brigadier Gen: Grose, who was also a Justice of the Peace, to have the oath administered to him but the said J. P. would not do so, fearing that if Koontz were captured with his, Gorse's signature about him, it would render Grose liable to arrest and imprisonment by the Rebels, who were very thick in his neighbourhood. Koontz afterwards applied to a J. P. of Fayette Co. to have the oath administered, but was refused here also.

He, however, went on with his recruiting service and while so engaged, was captured by the Rebels and imprisoned until the 22nd of Feby: 1865.

He now presents his claim for pay from W. Va. for service and allowances of every sort due a first lieutenant of Militia from the date of the said order of Genl. Grose dated June 6th 1863 to the date of his release from prison, Feby: 22nd 1865.

He files his own declaration of facts, the affidavit of several witnesses as to his identity, the affidavit of one witness as to his imprisonment, the affidavit of Brig. Genl. Grose as to the facts, his commissions as 1st & 2nd Lieutenants, the order of Genl. Grose of June 6th 1863 and the pass given by Captain Davis at Annapole's All of which papers you will oblige us by preserving with care and returning them with the decision on the case.

N.B. No Inter: Rev: Stamps are required upon the claims of soldiers if this does not apply to Militia in the estimation of the authorities of W. Va. please notify us of the fact, and we will rectify the omission.

Very Respectfully
Joseph G. Cox & Bro:

Adjutant Genl. W.Va
Wheeling