

ACK:
J.D.

Coffnville Mississippi
January 13th 1857

Col Jefferson B. Davis.
Secretary of War
Washington City
Dist Columbia

Dear Sir

Please the liberty
I have taken of addressing you, not being personally acquainted with you, but I hope that the object of the letter will prove a sufficient apology. I write you advocating the claims of a young friend of mine a very worthy young man who desires to enter the Military Academy at West Point. His name is George J. Hairston who resides in the vicinity of Coffnville County of Yellowbusha Mississippi in the second Congressional district of said State. He is Eighteen years of age now will be nineteen on the 15th day of the month of 1857 he is over five feet in height and free from any deformity disease or infirmity which would render him unfit for the Military service and from any disorder of an infectious or immoral character. Indeed he is a young man whose physical and mental organization I believe to be perfectly capable of undergoing all the studies labors and duties that may be required of him by the regulations of the Military Academy.

both in his academical course and in the Camp
he is a young man of a high Moral Character
and has a fine sense of honor, he can read
and write well and perform with facility and
accuracy the various operations of the four
ground rules of Arithmetic of reduction
of Simple and Compound proportion and of
 vulgar and decimal Fractions, Indeed I
consider him entirely qualified both phre-
cally and mentally to meet all the require-
ments of the rules of the institution, and as
to his Education he is far in advance of the
acquirements necessary to qualify him for
entering the Military Academy, he is now
a member of the Sophomore Class in ^{the} University
of Mississippi at Oxford and maintains a
high standing in his Class, This is about all
I have to say on the subject of the qualifications
of the young man which I am in hopes you
may find sufficient to induce you to exert
your influence in his behalf, I have also
written to Judge H S Bennett Member of Congress
from this District requesting him to forward the
claims of the young man, I believe that applica-
tion was made on his behalf last year but
owing I fear to the irregularity of the application
I doubt whether his name has been placed on the
register containing the list of names of the Candidates
for appointments as Cadets in the Military Academy
If his name has not been so placed there I would
be glad if you could by making the old application

the basis of it have his name placed upon the register, so as to
give him a chance for the appointment at the next
nominations of Cadets, And if he should not succeed
as the Candidate from this district please endeavor to
get him in as one of the ten appointed for the
Country at large, If he should not succeed in
getting the ~~appointment~~ at the next nomination
please have his name entered upon the register
so as to give him a chance for the appointment
next year or when the next vacancy occurs,
I am anxious that the young man should get the
appointment as he desires it very much, and
I think that he would reflect credit both upon
himself the institution and probably be of ex-
tensive service to the Country, but lest I weary
you I will close this communication hoping that
you may find it both in your power and
consonant to your inclinations to promote the
interest of the young man in his aspirations
after a military education, let me hear from
you at your earliest convenience

Yours Respectfully &c
J. R. Armstrong