

Fort Jessup La
July 10th 1838

Dear Sir

During your absence in Florida I made application to Dr King Acting Surg Genl for a change of station to Fort Melling. I had never mentioned to him my reasons for being so urgent in my application they being of a private nature which should not as I considered interfere with my public duties, at the desire of Surg Genl I have come to the conclusion of stating them to you candidly hoping they may be to you a sufficient apology for troubling the department and procuring from you the change of post I solicit. While stationed at Fort Armstrong (Ills) I entered considerable of land on the east side of the Mississippi and purchased a claim of ~~or~~ 640 acres on the west side of said river in the immediate vicinity of Rock Island which lands have become very valuable since my arrival at this post suit has been commenced against me for the purpose of getting possession of my place by persons who can have no claim against me they have filed a bill

in Chancery against me for land I entered three
years ago in Galena thinking I could not defend
myself until they obtained a decree of Court
putting them in possession of my place, an
agent whom I appointed to attend to my
business sold a valuable farm of mine for
half its value even one of my negroes in
Saint Louis has sued me for his freedom
If you would have me ordered to some port on
the Upper Mississippi even for a short time
I should feel extremely thankful I could or
would be nearer to attend to my private
Concerns If I could get ordered either to Fort
Crawford or Snelling I would be much pleased
and will promise not to trouble you again
When I left Fort Snelling last October I had
to come down the River three Hundred Miles
in a Canoe and was consequently compelled
to leave every thing after me at that port
I am even without my books and other things
necessary. let me again entreat you if my request
can be complied with to have me ordered to
either of the above named ports I have done
my duty faithfully and punctually since
I have been attached to the Medical Staff
and hope and trust you will not deny me

the request I now make. If I could get to either
of the ports I could settle my private affairs
and attend to my public duties.

Very Respectfully I remain
Dr Sir your obt servant
John Emerson

Doct Thos Lawson
Surgeon General }
U S Army }

Ass^t Surg