

H^d 2nd Army N Va
16th Aug: 1864

General Braxton Bragg
Comd^r Armies C.S.
Richmond,
General,

I have the honor
to enclose a copy of an extract from a letter
received by me from Gen Echols Comd^r Dept
& Tennessee^{1540 Va} to which I invite your attention
in connection with my letter of this date on
the subject of conscription.

I beg that you will cause steps to be taken
without delay to reform the conscript service
in the district referred to, and to have the
law more energetically enforced. I think this
is one of the cases in which the importance
of putting officers not natives of the country
in charge of the work, and confining them
to the single duty of sending men to the
field, is most apparent. I call your attention
to my remarks on the inexpediency of combi-
ning the duties of conscription with those of
detail and exemption.

Very respectfully
Your ob^t serv^t
R E Lee
Gen^l

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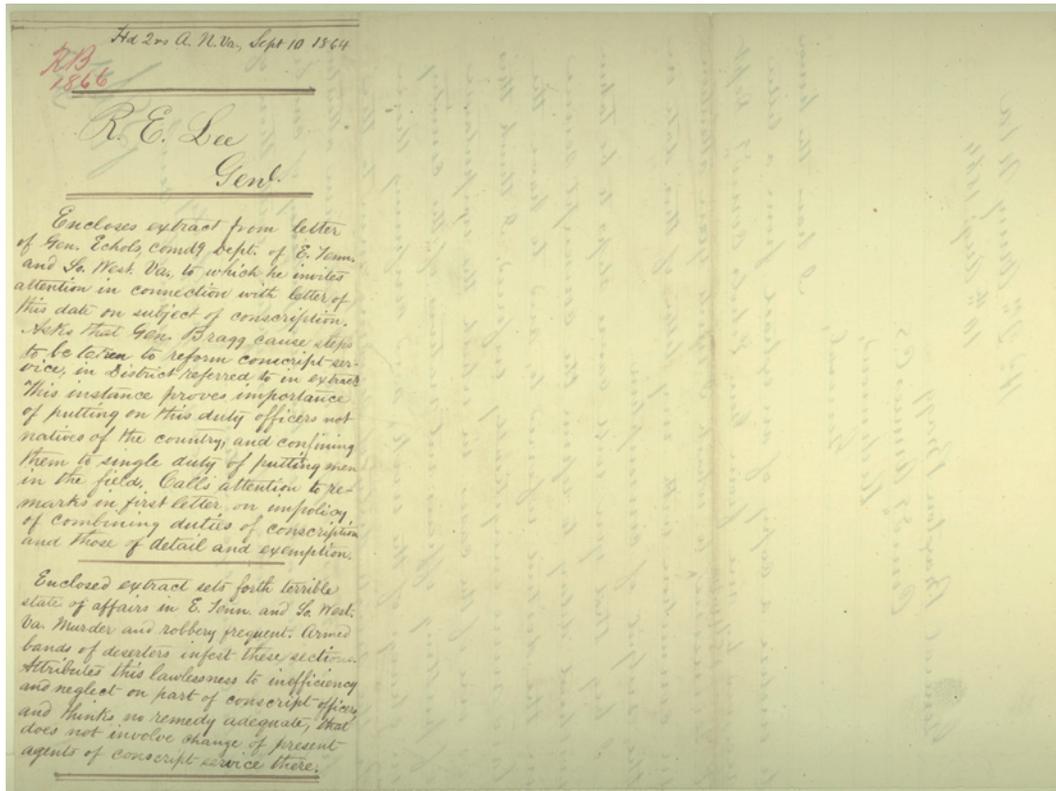
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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society
(Coll. 420, Box 39/26)
Date: Aug. 16, 1864
Description: Letter from Robert E. Lee to Gen. Braxton Bragg

Hd Qrs A. N. Va., Sept 10 1864

R. E. Lee
Genl.



Encloses extract from letter of Gen. Echols, comd^s dept. of E. Tenn. and So. West Va. to which he invites attention in connection with letter of this date on subject of conscription. Asks that Gen. Bragg cause steps to be taken to reform conscript-service, in District referred to in extract. This instance proves importance of putting on this duty officers not natives of the country, and confining them to single duty of putting men in the field. Calls attention to remarks in first letter on impolicy of combining duties of conscription and those of detail and exemption.

Enclosed extract sets forth terrible state of affairs in E. Tenn. and So. West. Va. Murder and robbery frequent. Armed bands of deserters infest these sections. Attributes this lawlessness to inefficiency and neglect on part of conscript officers and thinks no remedy adequate, that does not involve change of present agents of conscript service there.
