

Galveston, July 31st 1863
X. B. Debray
Actg Brig Gen Comd'g

About young Ridge Paschal who has been ordered by the Maj Genl Comd'g to Austin.

Head Qtrs 2nd Brigade
2nd Division, Army of Texas
Galveston July 31st 1863

Capt. E. P. Turner
A. A. G.
Captain

I have the honor to report that in obedience to your communication of the 25 inst., requiring me to send young Paschal and his Companions to his father at Austin to be kept at home, I ordered Capt. Chubb, Chief of the Harbor Police, to proceed to Smith's Point and to bring before me young Paschal and his companion, if any find.

Capt. Chubb reported to me this morning with young Ridge Paschal and his mother, the only person found in the place, who volunteered to accompany him to Galveston.

From the statements of Mrs. Pix, Ridge Paschal's mother, I ascertained that he has been with her these last ten months, having arrived one week before the entrance of the Federals in the Bay, in October last. Mrs. Pix when divorced from her first husband, Judge Paschal, obtained from the Court the guardianship of both her sons, which privilege she is resolved to claim before the Courts, by writ of habeas corpus, should Ridge, who is only Seventeen years of age, be taken from her care.

Ridge Paschal, I ascertained, is Act'g Adjutant of the Col Comd'g the militia of Chambers

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County. Should he have had an inclination to join the enemy, he might have done so without any obstacle whatever when they occupied the Bay, as we had no guard boats between Smith's Point, where he lives, and Galveston.

To avoid entering into a conflict with the Civil authorities, previous to having informed the Maj Genl Comd'g of the facts, and received his further instructions, I have taken upon myself the responsibility of postponing the sending of young Paschal to Austin, until I am acquainted with the pleasure of the Maj Genl Comd'g when he is better informed of the condition in which Paschal has resided, not in Galveston, but about 30 miles in the interior of the Bay, wherein Capt Chubb's opinion, he can hold no intercourse with the enemy, and could not escape to him without running the gauntlet of two lines of guard boats.

I have suffered young Paschal to return home with his mother, upon his promise to return to Galveston whenever called by me. I know him personally, he is truthful, and will comply with the promises.

I request you to inform me of the pleasure of the Major General Comd'g.

I have the honor to be,
Very Respectfully,

Your Ob't Servt
X. B. Debray
Act'g Brig Genl Comd'g

Smith's Point
Chambers' Co
August 3rd 1863

Mrs. Sarah Pix

Related to the arrest of her son (Ridge) & requesting that he be returned to her.

Ridge Paschal

Smith's Point, Chambers Co.
August 3rd, 1863.

Maj. Gen. J. B. Magruder,
Commdg Dist of Texas &c. &c.

Sir:

You are the Master by whose order I and my family are being chastised.
May I humbly ask you the cause? What is our offence? what have any of us
done? That armed men should come to take my sick child out of his bed, march him
three miles through a prairie exposed to the scorching rays of a July sun!

When it is my painful duty to punish one, or any of my slaves, I am always
willing to inform them of the cause of my displeasure. I take it for granted, you are
equally [sic] humane.

We were put on a sail boat & taken—all day long, through a hot sun to Galveston

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& that too without a single charge aledged [sic] against us.

The persons sent to make the arrest knew not the cause, but they were acting
under orders. Ellison said he had orders from Commodore Chubb. He knew not why he
arrested my child.

When we arrived in Galveston, we were handed over to the Commodore until
morning. Chubb said he was acting under the order of Gen. Debray & that he Chubb did
not know why my boy was arrested. At 8 in the morning we were brought before
Debray, whom I thought would surely inform us of my child's offence. But no, he like
the rest, was acting under the orders of his superior. I asked him what crime or crimes he
was charged with. He said not any, that my child was arrested, & brought over, to be sent
to his father in Austin that such were your orders.

Now Sir, in the name of

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common sence [sic], what are your reasons for taking my child from under my roof &
sending it, to his father? Gen. Debray said that his father's was the place for him, & there
he ought to stay. Now this for cool impudence is unequaled this side of Russia. Now do

not for a moment suppose I am reflecting unkindly on any person who was concerned in this arrest except yourself. They all treated us with as much leniency as was consistent with their duty. For they all were like Baxter in the Woman in White, "Tis master's orders, & Baxter's duty."

I would respectfully inform you, as you have condescended in your high military station to interfere in my domestic affairs, that my children by Judge Paschal do not, legally, belong to their father. When the Judge & I were divorced, one of the decrees of the Court that divorced us, gave the children to me, making me their legal guardian. My children all remained with me for six years after I was divorced from their father. Then I married a most estimable young gentleman much

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my junior, at which disparity of ages my oldest son George, took umbrage. Geo. was then old enough to choose his own guardian, But Ridge was not, yet I allowed him to go with George to their father until such time as they chose to return to me. We have all been reconciled to each other. Ridge remaining away most of the time as school.

He returned home to remain with me until the end of the war. He came home some time last summer a little while before Renshaw took possession of Galveston & he has been with me ever since. Gen. Debray finally said your object was to remove Ridge from off the coast. He feared he would follow George, & go over to the Yankees. I said, then, you have heard of George (supposing he had some definite tidings) he answered no. Now I ask you, what right, besides might you have to say, that George is with the Yankees. Time was when a man was presumed to be innocent until the contrary was proved. I have not heard a word from Geo. I did hear, some one had told the Provost Marshal that they had seen Geo. on or near Red River, &

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at another time some one had said that he was in the Cherokee Nation, & lately a returned soldier who had been a prisoner in New Orleans had said he saw George & Ridge, that they both were in New Orleans.

If Ridge had any desire to join the federals he could have done so on almost any day while the Yankees had possession of Galveston. As there was not a guard kept between us & them. Now at this time it is almost next to impossible to pass our guard out to them. You are a stranger to us. We are not important enough to have attracted your attention. Who told you there was such a being as Ridge & that he was likely to run over to the Yankees? It must have been some one, or how else could your brain conjecture his liability one way or the other unless it was prompted.

My son Ridge has been sick for some weeks I was congratulating myself that by the treatment we have adopted in his case we were getting [sic] the upper hand of his disease, until by your order my child was dragged [sic] out of his bed & put on a close boat which greatly

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aggravated his fever. If Gen. Debray had persisted in immediately carrying out your orders concerning him & sent my child to Austin. He could not have stood it, it would in this hot weather have killed him.

I begged the Gen. to permit me to take my child home untill [sic] I could write to you, he did reluctantly, & now I am fortunate enough once more to have my poor sick child under my roof. He is much worse & I have been nearly sick ever since our return. I would have written to you before but I was not able.

I know we are under a military despotism. Yet a despot can be reasonable, if he chooses. It is only reasonable that you permit me to keep my child (if not altogether) at least until his health is restored. I do not believe our enemies would refuse me this. How then can our own rulers. You surely wont have your orders in our case executed. Gen. Debray offered to keep Ridge with him in Galveston until you could be heard from. This proposition was very objectionable to me, as I apprehend yellow fever

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will speedily visit that City. Ridge has not had the yellow fever. Although he was over a year old when I first brought brought [sic] him to Gal. & we have lived through two of those dreadful epidemics.

Who is it that has complained of us & what do they charge us. If they speak truth, they need not fear to be known. Let them come out boldly with their charges & proofs.

Gen. you are not the only one who during this war has perpetrated an outrage on my family. Twice we have been insulted, but the treatment my husband has received from the little Military jackals, who are as much autocratic in their way as yourself. You are probly [sic] in [] you are our equal. They are not. I mean Dan Phillips & Scudder. They are both Yankees. I assure you sir, that there are many who are Yankees by birth, & in heart who hold places of trust & profit in our land. Some of them who are most Yankee at heart feel it incumbent on them to prove their loyalty to the South by grinding their heel on the neck of her sons.

Since the commencement of this

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war my husband has done all in his power to aid his Country & that freely, thus far without pay, neither does he expect any. For more than a year he gave his time, in drilling men for the army. Twice he offered his services to Hebert, twice he was refused. The first time Gen. Hebert said he had enough cavalry, & the next time was just before the conscript law was put in force. Many men wished to go with Mr. Pix & he could have got a company if he had obtained a commission. But Hebert was in an ill humor. He said he has more commissions out than could be filled. Mr. Pix asked this last commission of Gen. Hebert, more to accommodate his friends, for previously, (with out his knowledge) he had been nominated & elected Lieut. Col. of the State troops. This he had accepted and received his commission, when the conscript law passed, he thought of resigning (as he was of conscript age) & of joining some regiment where he would have an oportunity [sic] of rising in rank. His Col. advised him not to resign, as he could be more useful in his present capacity than he would

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be in the army. he was the only man in the regiment, besides his Col., who had a military education. Mr. Pix's health at this time began to suffer. He was finally brought very low with a fever & a felon on his finger, which resulted in the loss of two of his fingers on his

right hand. He was so very low, that I expected he would die. I had him taken to Galveston for medical assistance. I did not then think of packing his commission, I only thought of saveing [sic] his life. His life was Graciously spared & before he was hardly able to walk Dan Phillips conscripted him & kept us in Gal. long after we would have come home. Col. Ford at last fourloughed [sic] Mr. Pix during his time of office. That was last summer. This summer Mr. Pix went to see the Dr. about his left arm. Scudder annoyed him all he could & only let him go because Mr. Pix proved he was in command of a Regmt. of State Troops. Shortly after Scudder sent a force of armed men & took Mr. Pix off in an open boat, his arm in a sling. I could not go with him

[p.10] to dress his arm, & Ridge was sick & I had to nurse him. Scudder has given Mr. Pix a fourlough, until he can here from Ford.

I have been in Texas fifteen years & am well known to many persons in Galveston. I have not told you more than half of our annoyances. But do you not think we have had enough. Therefore in future will you not forbare [sic] to afflict us.

Respectfully,

Sarah Pix.

Smith's Point
Chambers Co. Texas
May 27th 1864

Mrs. Sallie Nix

Requesting that permission be granted Mrs. Pix & daughters to land in Galveston under flag of truce.

Smith's Point Chambers Co. Texas
May 27th 1864

My Dear son,

From Mrs. Dix's letters we infer that she & her Daughters are in need, not having received a remittance from the proper source for more than a year.

If it is in your power & your will to aid them, it will greatly oblige me.

Mrs. Pix has been desirous of returning to Texas ever since the war began. If they were with us, we at least could give them meat & bread.

We would send them money if we we [sic] could get it, but we have not it, neither have we the means of geting [sic] any.

Capt. Storey [?] P. Q. M. at Galveston took forcable [sic] possession of Mr. Pix's Brick buildings, near a year ago, & up to the present time, has not paid any rent, neither do I believe he will pay any thing like an equivalent to the value of the property, for which I do not doubt he is chargeing [sic] our Government a high price. he will get enough, but the owners of the property must suffer. The income from the rest of the property is not worth mentioning.

Mr. Pix senior is in Europe, he left here 2 years ago—his son V. is at school in England—Mrs. Pix &

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his daughters were in Philadelphia when last heard from. You can get their adress [sic] from Maj. John Gould of the War Office Washington City.

My husband & I have been trying to find ways & means to relieve his Mother & sisters, but not untill [sic] lately did it occur to me to try to do it through, or by you, in fact I did not know where you were, or what had become of you, untill [sic] lately, when I heard you had written to Miss C. Robinson (now Mrs. Col. Alston) through Genl Magruder. Rumor had given various conflicting accounts of you, I did not believe any, but hoped you were not drowned. I am sorry you have joined the Federal service. If your principles would not allow you to join the Confederate army, I wish you had kept out of the Army altogether. At the same time, I would not like to have you conscripted & draged [sic] into the Army against your will. As much as I regret the step you have taken, you are my son still. I do not find in myself a jot of that "The Mother's Love" abated towards you.

Ridge is engaged [sic] in gathering beeves for the army.

We are all well, & hope your health has improved.

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I will send this to Head Quarters, and ask if you would be alowed [sic] to land Mrs. Pix & daughters in Galveston, under a flag of truce. If so, could you not ship said ladies direct from some customs part to Galveston.

Surely our authorities would not object to letting his own citizens return home, & yours could not gain any thing by detaining frail & timid ladies. If they come let them bring all the clothing they can, especially 2 or 3 musquitoe [sic] bars.

My table is inocent [sic] of tea & coffee. Many of our people dress well, & have plenty, not only of the comforts but luxuries of life, but we not having speculated, are minus the luxuries. Of such things as we can raise on our farm, we have plenty to eat.

Your sister sends you her love. She says she does not want you to think she is too much of a patriot to love you.

I am as ever, your affectionate

Mother

Sallie Pix