General,

This note will be handed you by W.W. McKay, Esq. of Cumberland whose family by a recent order of Yours has been sent South. Mr. McKay was formerly a citizen of Ohio with whom I have been well acquainted for many years and have never known any act of disloyalty attributed to him. He feels much grief at the removal of his family and his threatened banishment. I have advised him to go directly to you and make such explanations as he may have to offer respecting any charge or imputation against him or his family that may have reached you. I have given him of a safe conduct going & returning and that you will give him a fair and kind hearing and that you will, unless having clear proof of guilt, modify your order upon such terms as you may deem just. You will please give him such hearing and act as you shall after his explanations think proper in respect to his family and permit him to go home a return to Washington. 

Yours truly, 
Edwin M. Stanton Sec. War.
1. (ABRAHAM LINCOLN). STANTON. (EDWIN M.). Sec. of War. A.L.S. 1 VERY FULL PAGE, 4TO. War Dept., Wash., July 21, 1864, to "GENERAL." Very important letter:

A note will be handed to you by W. W. McKING, whose family by a recent order of yours has been sent south. Mr. McKing was formerly a resident of Ohio with whom I have been acquainted for many years and have never known any act of disloyalty attributed to him. He feels much grief at the removal of his family and his threatened banishment. . . .

Stanton goes deeply into the case in succeeding lines of the letter. An item of very unusual interest indeed.

$15.00
General.

This note will be handed you by W.W. McRae of Cumberland whose family by a recent order of yours has been sent South. W.W. McRae was formerly a citizen of Ohio with whom I have been well acquainted for many years and have never known any act of disloyalty attributed to him. He feels much grief at the removal of his family and his circumstances. I have advised him to go directly to you and make such explanation as he may have to offer respecting any charges or imputations against him or his family that may have reached you. I have advised him of a safe conduct going & returning and that you will give him a fair and kind hearing and that you will, after hearing clean proof of guilt, modify your orders upon such terms as you may deem just. You will please give him such hearing and act as you shall, after his explanations, think proper in respect to his family and permit him to go home a return to Washington.

Yours truly, 

Edward M. Stanton, Sec.