

Abraham Lincoln papers

From Montgomery Blair to Abraham Lincoln, June 11, 1863

Dear Sir

I send in inclosed a letter from Harrison Blanton¹ of Franklin County Ky The young man referred to is Kinsman of my brothers on his mothers side & of my fathers on his fathers side & as Mr Blanton says must be very young²

1 See Blanton to Montgomery Blair, June 8, 1863.

2 William S. Waller, a captain in the Confederate Army, was captured and sentenced to death for spying. Lincoln looked into Waller's case and agreed to commute his sentence to imprisonment for the duration of the war. Waller was exchanged in 1865. See *Collected Works*, VI, 295-96.

I can not [emagin?] that he would do any thing deserving other punishment than ordinary rebels— But I did not know that he was a rebel— I hope you will order his execution to be suspended till the case can be looked into

Yrs truly

M Blair

June 11. 63