January the 2nd AD 1875

Gen John S Bayles Dear friend I received
your note of Dec the 27th AD 1874 stating that
the record showed that I had received a dona
tion for services to the country in 1842 as a me
mber of capt Eastlands company as to that
I know nothing about that some time in fifty
two or three I do not recollect which I was liv
ing in Washington county and James Gaither
came to my house and told me that the legisla
ture either had or was about to pass an act to pay
the Boys for their services in forty two that he
heard the Boys say that I was a Sailors Friend and
that he was buying their claims at twenty five
Dollars a piece that he would give me that for
mine and I should be at no further trouble a
bout it that he was a Notary Public of Fayett
county and would git the proof that it would
be a great deal of trouble but as he was buying
a good many claims he thought he could make
something by it therefore I sold him my claim for
twenty five Dollars and have never seen him sin
ce that I recollect of I do not know whether he
got any thing or not nor who he got for proof
nor what company he proved me in as I was
more than thirty miles from where he made the proof
and me not being there at the time that he
made the proof to explain how it was were not
knowing the circumstance would naturally suppose
that I had belonged all the time to Eastlands
company I think that I have made proof
to show that I was a member of Lawson company
in the Plum creek expedition in 1840 that I
belonged to Lawsons company in the road fare