Galveston Jany. 24/54

Wm McSwisher
Auditor.

Enclosed please find a document belonging to the heirs of Wm A. Smith, which is the foundation of a claim v the State for services. The time of Smith's service was six months. His papers were placed in the hands of an agent & lost, or the like. He had a regular discharge. I do not know by whom it was signed. Please inform me what sort of proof is required of services like this, where there was no muster roll — I mean in the Civil department. He was employed as master of the vessel, and I presume the books of some one of the departments would show what he was entitled to per month.

I do not much understand the routine of the preparation of claims of this sort & my object is to get information from you upon the subject.

Very Respectfully
Your friend & serv't
O. C. Hartley