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Title: Letter from William Wilkins to Mahlon Dickerson

Date: July 10, 1834

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Pittsburgh,

July 10th 1834.

Sir,

You will recollect that, when last in conversation with you, I mentioned to you my wish to have two young gentlemen of this place appointed Midshipmen in the Navy. I now beg leave to put this ~~application~~^{request} in writing, to press upon you the applications of my young friends. They are John Conway Shaler, the son of Judge Shaler a highly distinguished gentleman of this place, and Alexander Murray, a grand son of the late Commodore Murray of whose father is a resident also of this city. For the former, I had transmitted to me at Washington, a day or two before my departure a recommendation signed by our friends here. I now cannot lay my hands upon it, and if not to be found in your

department I have mislaid it - In the
case of young Mr. Murray I believe there
has been, for some time, an application
on file - But, in each case, I must
beg you to do me the favor to act upon
my recommendation -

Mr. Shaler is a nephew of the late
Commissioner McDonough - is between 17 and
18 years of age - has been a voyager to
Europe and is a fine, active & spirited
young man - Mr. Murray is about
the same age - say eighteen -

This section of our State has a claim
upon your Department which you cannot
well overlook - and I feel assured that
upon the first occasion, when you make
selections, you will gratify me by sending
warrants to my young friends -

Ever & truly yours &c.

¹³⁷
Hon. Mr. Dickerson.

Wm Wilkins