

From Thornton Grimsley to Robert M. Stewart

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St. Louis

the 23rd Nov[.] 1860

To his Excelency

R[.]M[.] Stewart

Governor of Missouri

Sir

The Douglas civil guards[,] a political organization which was under my command during the presidential contest has been disbanded--Some ten days since and have reorganized under the name of the constitutional guards. The present organization was made mainly to opperate for our City election in april next and is composed as before of ten Companies[,] one in each ward of the City. The enrolment of numbers is fully two thousand men and are commanded by a Col[.], Lieut Col[.], and a Majr with three staff officers[,] same as on a military establishment[.]

The companies are officerd just as the provissions of military law require so that while we claim to be and are in fact a political organization we can at once adopt the military costume[,] sholder arms and [whole?] in to line as soldiers of

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of our common country. Having given you the history of the organization of the Constitutional guards and the intuition of those who were instrumental in bringing them into existance[,] which is to wipe out black republicanism from this Congressional district[,] I have an other pleasing duty to perform.

Which is to offer you the services of seven hundred to one thousand of the guards for any military service which as the Governor of the state you may command them to perform. The men are now, under regular military drill which, will be kept up while the distracted state of the country lasts or until [favortisism?] supplants good government or is driven not only from Kansas but from our beloved and now distracted, country. I have the honor [to] be

Your fellow citizen and obt[.] servant

Thornton Grimsley

Col. constitutional Guards