

Name:

Date:

Class/Period:

Reconstruction: The Challenges of Reunification Extension Lesson

Primary Source Analysis: General Griffin's Letter to Governor Throckmorton

Instructions: With a partner, examine the primary source excerpts below and answer the questions that follow.

Read General Charles Griffin's letter to Governor Throckmorton in April 1867

Headquarters, District of Texas
Galveston, Texas, April 26th 1867.
His Excellency Hon. J.W. Throckmorton
Governor of Texas,
Austin, Texas.

Sir:

I have the honor to call your attention to the enclosed statement, which has just been received at these Head Quarters signed by about sixty "loyal citizens" of Parker and Jack Counties in this state.

The Petitioners affirm, with explicitness and detail, that the Courts of Justice in those counties are wrested from their original intent, and made the machinery for despoiling and oppressing peaceable Union inhabitants, that those whose hands are red with the blood of loyal men, range at large untouched by Justice; while Union men for acts of self-defense are placed on trial for their lives, before tribunals of disloyal, vindictive, and violent men.

The County Judge and Commissioners of Parker County are spoken of as being members, during the war, of a "vigilance committee," guilty of cruel and atrocious deeds, and cherishing now in their official acts, the same bad spirit of partisanship; while the Presiding District Judge, is described as a "Rebel General." Animated by a kindred feeling of hate towards the suffering loyalists of these Counties.

The Petitioners furthermore aver that Union men, who have already been examined and discharged by a loyal jury, as guilty of no crime, under the administration of Governor Hamilton,

are held to answer at the next term of the District Cou., on the charge of murder in the first degree, and that they have no hope of an equitable trial.

Such grave charges of maladministration, if false, should be disproved without delay; if true the remedy must be swift and effectual. If the statement in the petition with reference to the Thompson Brothers is true, I request of your Excellency to protect them, in person and property, from all attack.

Please let me know your action at the earliest moment.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Very Respectfully, your obedt.

Chas. Griffin

Bvt. Maj. Genl. U.S.A.

Comdg.

General Charles Griffin to Throckmorton, April 26, 1867, Records of James Webb Throckmorton, Texas Office of the Governor, Archives and Information Services Division, Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/governors/war/throck-griffin-1.html>

Analysis Questions

1. What was General Griffin's overall tone in this letter?
2. Who is General Griffin referring to as "loyal citizens"?

3. Based on this excerpt, what is General Griffin explaining or “calling attention” to for Governor Throckmorton?
4. What can you infer from General Griffin’s request to Governor Throckmorton?