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1868 August 18: Governor Powell Clayton to Major General Robert Buchanan, Request for the distribution of troops into areas of unrest in the state

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Brevet Major Genl Will C. Buchanan

Aug 18

546

Sir.

In view of the high State of Excitement which exists in this State, which threatens in many Counties to culminate in a serious disturbance of the public peace and misgovernment, I respectfully request if agreeable to your orders from higher authority and consistent with your conceptions of duty, that you direct the officer in command of the Troops in this State to distribute his forces among such localities as are at present in the most disturbed and threatening condition and to make such changes from time to time as future emergencies may seem to require. The establishment of one company of troops in each of the following Counties would in my opinion be a most salutary and preventative measure and if promptly done, would prevent serious disturbance of the public peace; namely the Counties of White Bradley, Woodruff, Mississippi, Ashley, Columbia & Darke.

A military force is absolutely demanded; I desire to use the State Militia only in the most urgent cases, when there seems to be no other resort. I believe the moral effect of the presence of U.S. Troops will perhaps in every case, have the desired effect. I forward this through Gen Smith's Head Quarters, that he may put such endorsement on it, as his knowledge of the facts may dictate -
Wm. R. Keiser, Fort Mifflin Gen

Gov Powell Clayton

to

May Gen R Buchanan

Aug 17th