

Transcript of 1869 March 20: Hamilton Fish, Department of State, Washington, District of Columbia, to Governor Powell Clayton, Regarding investigation of murder of George Parker, British subject, at Augusta, Arkansas, L.C. Gulley collection, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

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Department of State  
Washington 29th March 1869

His Excellency  
Powell Clayton  
Governor of the State of Arkansas  
Little Rock

Sir:

Having in the month of February last received formal complaints from the British minister here concerning the arrest and eventually the death of Captain George Parker of the British Navy, in Arkansas, at the hands, as was alleged, of the militia of that State, this Department called upon the War Department for an investigation of the case, a report of which has

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Recently been received; and a copy of which I have the honor to enclose.

Your attention is invited to the absence of any evidence as to who composed the squad or detachment of men who shot Captain Parker, and to the importance of such a searching inquiry as will elicit the facts in regard to that point, and any other information which it may be possible to attain, as to the cause and manner of his death.

Your attention is also invited to the statement contained in the letter of the 1st instant from Captain John

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H. Rosa to Brigadier General Upham,  
a copy of which accompanies the enclosed  
letter from the Secretary of War, that he,

he, (Captain Rosa,) "arrested Captain  
Parker more to save his life than  
for any other purpose as" his "men had  
heard of his sayings and doings, and  
would have killed him on sight."

Although the evidence which  
has been submitted to this Department  
shows that Captain Parker used violent  
and improper language  
and deported himself in a manner  
which would have warranted the  
imposition of proper restraints, there  
is nothing to indicate that he had  
done anything to justify the sanguinary  
and lawless proceeding of which he  
seems to have been a victim; and  
this Government which expects from  
those of foreign countries protection of

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of the lives and liberty of its citizens travelling  
or residing abroad, is bound by reciprocal  
obligations as well as by the requirements  
of humanity and hospitality, to extend  
to foreigners within our boundaries the  
same measure of protection.

Under these circumstances I have  
the honor to request that your Excellency  
will take such steps as may bring to  
light every fact connected with the  
killing of Captain Parker, and as may  
lead to such punishment of the authors  
of his death as the proper tribunal shall  
award.

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I have the honor to be,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant  
Hamilton Fish

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L.R. 577 (E. C. S. A.)  
Washington D.C.  
Dept of State  
March 29th 1869

Fish Hamilton  
Has forward a copy  
of Report recd. by him  
in reference to the killing  
of Capt Geo. Parker at  
Augusta- invites the  
attention of etc. to the  
absence of evidence as to  
who composed the squad  
that killed him and to  
importance of such a searching  
inquiry as will show this  
as also manner of death  
Invites attention to statement  
of Capt Rosa, that he arrested him  
to save his life and his  
men would have killed  
him- Requests that this  
Governor will use all  
means to bring the guilty  
parties to punishment.