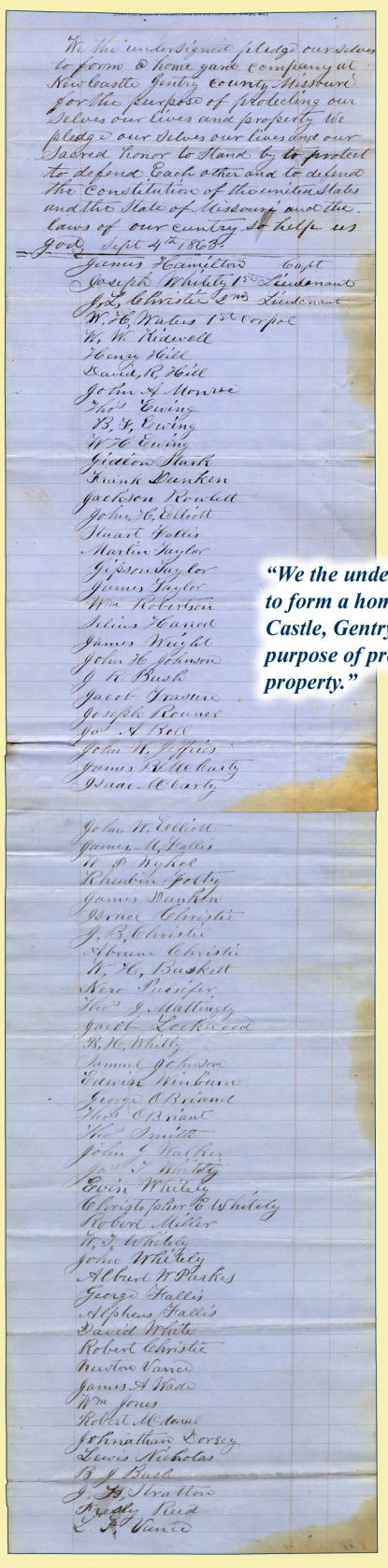
DIVIDED LOYALTIES
CIVIL WAR DOCUMENTS FROM THE
MISSOURI STATE ARCHIVES

# GUERRILLA WARFARE



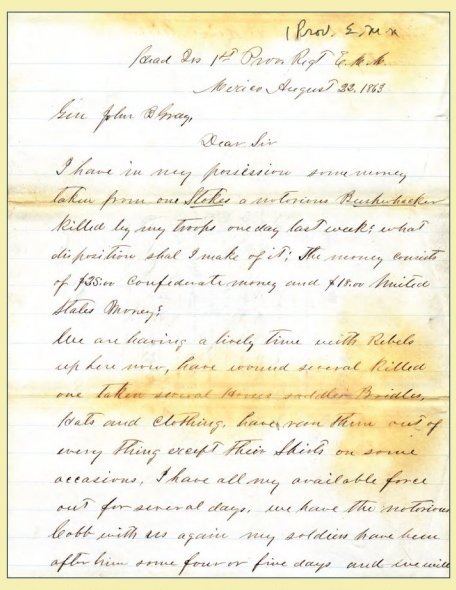
*"We the undersigned pledge ourselves to form a home guard company at New Castle, Gentry County, Missouri, for the purpose of protecting ourselves and property."*

Resolution from the citizens of Gentry County, Missouri, September 4, 1863.
*Missouri State Archives*

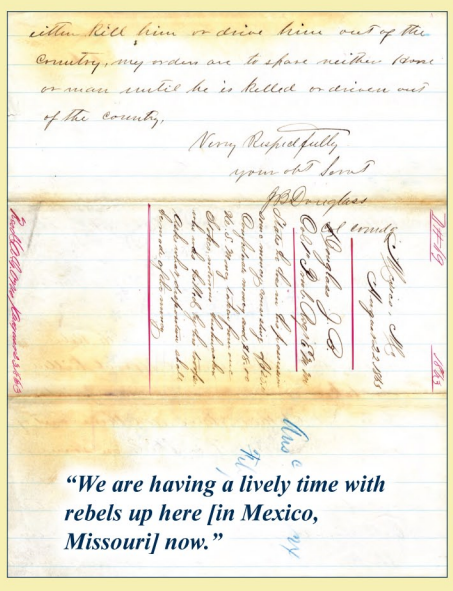
GUERRILLA DEPREDATIONS—SEIZING HORSES.—SKETCHED BY W. D. MAYBURGH.—[SEE PAGE 822.]

*Harper's Weekly*

Not all Civil War violence took place on the battlefield. As distrust between Union loyalists and those who supported the South intensified, Missouri citizens were harassed and imprisoned, sometimes on the basis of little more than rumors and hearsay. Bands of Union and Confederate sympathizers roamed the country, intent on intimidating anyone who might be on the opposite side of the conflict. Over time, many of these bands became gangs of outlaws that used the excuse of war to rob, plunder and kill. Citizens feared for their lives and many petitioned the government for permission to form armed light guard units for protection.

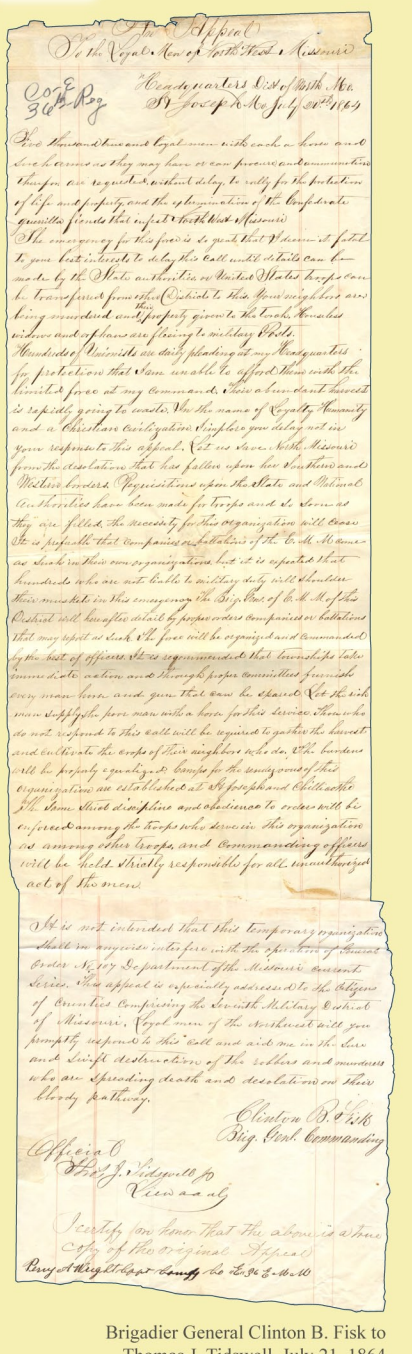


Colonel J. B. Douglas to Adjutant General John Gray, August 22, 1863.
*Missouri State Archives*



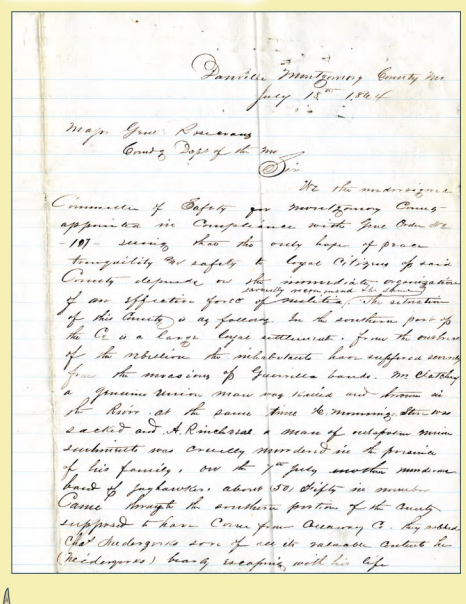
*"We are having a lively time with rebels up here [in Mexico, Missouri] now."*

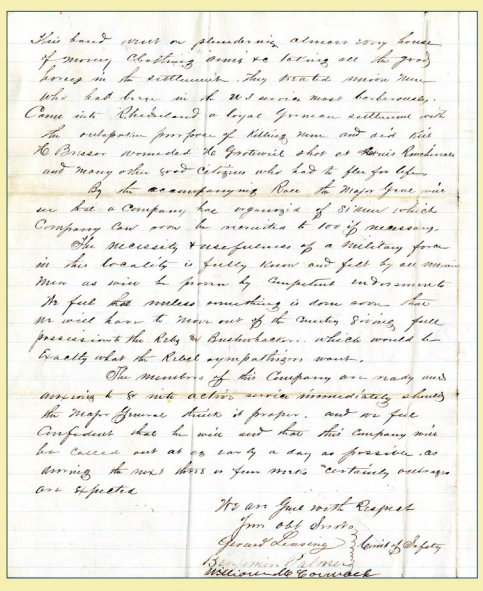
*"Two thousand true and loyal men . . . are requested, without delay, to rally for the protection of life and property, and the extermination of the Confederate guerrilla fiends that infest Northwest Missouri."*



Brigadier General Clinton B. Fisk to Thomas J. Tidswell, July 21, 1864.
*Missouri State Archives*

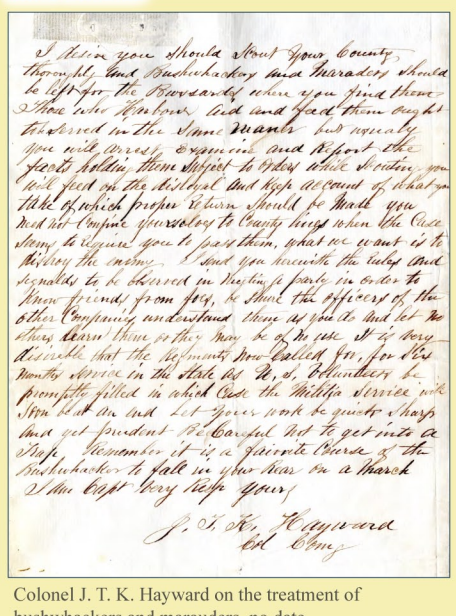
*"This band went on plundering almost every house of money, clothing, arms and taking all the good honey in the settlement. They treated Union men who had been in the U. S. service most barbarously."*





Montgomery County Commission of Safety to Major General William S. Rosecrans, July 18, 1864.
*Missouri State Archives*

*"I desire you should scout your county thoroughly and Bushwhackers and Marauders should be left for the Buzzards where you find them. Those who harbor, aid, and feed them ought to be served in the same manner."*



Colonel J. T. K. Hayward on the treatment of bushwhackers and marauders, no date.
*Missouri State Archives*

Guerrilla Depredations
*Harper's Weekly*

1861 - 1865