

## "There Will Be a Fight" - Arkansas after the Civil War

#### Introduction

Although the Civil War officially ended in 1865, tensions, conflicts, and fighting were not over for years and even decades afterward. In Arkansas, shortly after the war, Radical Republicans, who advocated voting rights for African American men and restrictions against former Confederates' voting rights, clashed with former Confederates and their sympathizers. The latter group opposed civil rights for African Americans and was determined to protect the racial privileges of white men, especially those who supported the Confederacy.

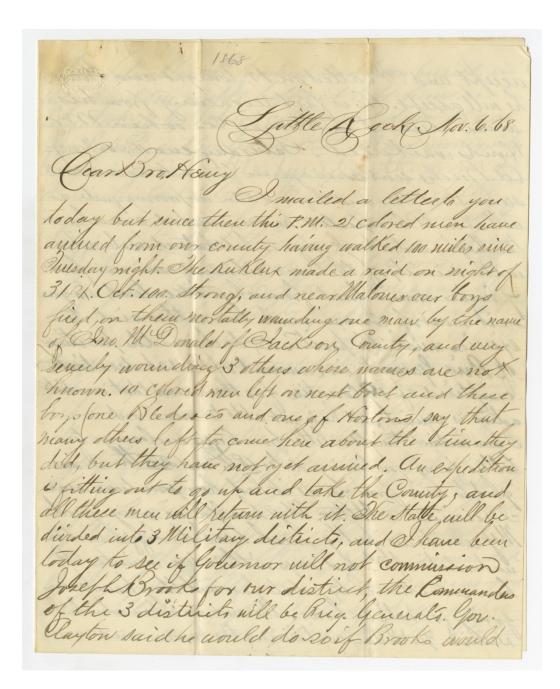
After the new state constitution of 1868 was ratified and Powell Clayton, a former Democrat but now one of the co-founders of the Republican Party in Arkansas, was elected to serve as Arkansas governor, former Confederates and their sympathizers were furious. Among many provisions, the new constitution declared racial discrimination illegal, and Clayton enjoyed the support of Radical Republicans.

In April 1868, only one month after black Arkansas men voted for the first time, the Ku Klux Klan emerged and became active in Arkansas. Across the state, the Klan terrorized black Arkansans and white Republicans. In July 1868, the state legislature approved the creation of a state guard and reserve armed groups. Governor Clayton ordered several counties to create and prepare armed military-style forces. Their task was to stop the Klan and protect the rights of newly freed African Americans as well as the safety of Republicans and their supporters. In several counties, tensions between those local military forces and the Klan got so severe that Governor Clayton declared martial law in those areas and divided the state into four military districts. Historians refer to the conflicts that erupted across the state in the aftermath of the ratification of the 1868 Constitution as Militia Wars of 1868–1869.

Governor Clayton selected Daniel Phillips Upham from Woodroof Country to command the northeast military district. In this activity, you will examine a letter that Upham wrote to his brother Henry between November 6 and November 8, 1868. In it, Upham discusses the ongoing violence against African Americans and white Republicans.

\*Important vocabulary note: The document used in this activity, includes the term "negro" to refer to an African American. Today, this term is considered offensive and disrespectful. Until the 1960s, however, it was used as a descriptive (neutral or non-offensive) term that both black and white Americans used to refer to African Americans. Historical documents often include words that we consider offensive and disrespectful today. It is important that we study how language changes and remember that words, just like actions, are often used to harm or belittle individuals or entire groups. History helps us understand why words matter.





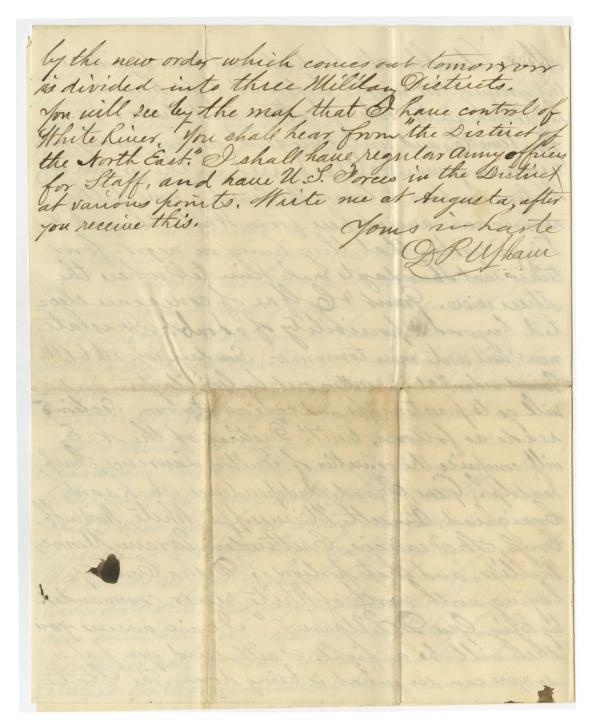
Daniel Phillips Upham to his brother Henry, November 6, [18]68, p.1 (P. Upham Collection, 1865-1883)



Y	
acupt, and I called on B. tonight and think	other Solvable all Subject had been busied in
he will a crept the in Such recovering from his	the around two wights before I left home.
he will accept. He is fast reconcing from his would received in Momor Co. when Mr	Lines took in two toler of cotton and drew 150.00
Kind was killed. Saturday ene 11.30. Nov. 7.	from Penn to, and writes me that all her money, note
	to are in quine bottles buried in the ground,
De him this P.M. and I found him in proving quite as	
well as could be expected, he was wounded sincely in	negroes have arrived here from White Church &
the thigh, and a buck shot or ball entered his back	Lizzie writes that they hung on negro four
in the driving of the lower ribs and came out front	tunes last Sausday to make him tel where the
	other were. Fruit & Colfre of comseauello-
see it most of course make him rather sich to	ted, by and possibility of adoubt. It is late
exercise much. He posetively declines the position	non. will unte more tomonno, Sunday for. 8th 6. P.W.
of King General in command of the last deceliet	will go to press tonight, and come out Enorm. Sections
adion is required and he is not able to more out.	read as follows, tout! District of the A &
I law medied tinight a letter from Liggie enclosing toro	will comprise the counties of Fulton, Lawrence, Shurp,
letter from you hearing dates 18th and 25th. Deas	Paudolph, Grew Fard, Independence, Jackson,
glad to hear from you as it had been sometime since	Craighead, Consett, Misnsippe, While, Modruft,
I received a letter, My health is very good.	Groß, St. Francis, Crittenden, Jarain, Mamoe,
My wounds are pretty much healed. Ligie writes	Willips, and that portion of Desha County
under date of 3, and pays within two mintes	laying north mostly of White river, commanded
have counted forty rebels pass and they have been	by Brig, Gen. D. O. Uphand." I can assure you
going for half an hour. She sent me a box which	their will be a fight. I will send you paper,
recelved gesterday containing the humen and many	so you can see what is being done. The State

Daniel Phillips Upham to his brother Henry, November 6, [18]68, p. 2 (P. Upham Collection, 1865-1883)





Daniel Phillips Upham to his brother Henry, November 6, [18]68, p. 3 (P. Upham Collection, 1865-1883)



### **Questions:**

- 1. Before you analyze this document, see "**Important vocabulary note**" in "Introduction" for additional information on the use of the term "negro" in this primary source.
- 2. Where and when was this letter written? Note that the author's letter wrote this letter over the course of several days, the dates of which he marks in the letter. Who wrote it and to whom is it addressed?
- 3. Read the Encyclopedia of Arkansas article about Daniel Phillips Upham: <a href="https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/daniel-phillips-upham-1790/">https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/daniel-phillips-upham-1790/</a>. Who was he?
- 4. What happened since Upham last wrote to his brother?
- 5. What happened on the night of October 31?
- 6. Upham writes that African American men (at least 10) were leaving the site of the Ku Klux Klan raid to join his forces in Little Rock. Why do you think they did that?
- 7. Upham informs his brother that Arkansas will be divided into three military districts. Upham hopes a man named Col. Brooks becomes one district's commander but Brooks declines to accept the position. Why does he decline? What does Brooks' refusal tell us about the South three years after the formal end of the Civil War?
- 8. What do we learn about Upham's health from this letter? What does this information tell us about what he experienced recently?
- 9. Who are the rebels that Upham learns about from Lizzie's letter? What does Lizzie tell him about them?
- 10. What does Section 5 of Order No. 1 say?
- 11. What are Upham's predictions for the near future?
- 12. What does this letter tell us about Arkansas three years after the end of the Civil War? What post-war issues and challenges does this letter discuss?
- 13. How could Upham's point of view (his beliefs, political views, experience, etc.) shape his understanding of the situation around him? Provide specific examples of his point of view from the letter.