

CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION: GETTING READY



An excerpt from a Van Buren Frontier Guards record and minute book, January 3, [18]61 (Arkansas Small Manuscripts Collection)

TRANSCRIPTION

We the undersigned citizens of the County of Crawford & State of Arkansas do agree to form ourselves into a Volunteer Military Company to be known as the "Van Buren Frontier Guards" for the purpose of instructing ourselves in the Art of War and if necessary for our domestic defense; and we hereby bind ourselves to submit to the laws and regulations of this Company as administered by the proper officers, to be prompt[?] in our attendance on duty and do every thing in our power to promote the prosperity of the Company and maintain its permanent organization

[Signed by dozens of individuals]