



**July 12, 1861 - Troubles in Morgan, Scott and Fentress Counties; a letter to U. S. Senator Andrew Johnson**

Monticello, Ky. 12th July 1861

Hon. Andrew Johnson, Sen. Tennessee

Dear Sir

Knowing your position & the labors imposed on you it is with reluctance I now for the first time attempt to trouble you[.]

The emmergency of our Condition in Morgan, Scott & Fentress Counties with very precarious condition of East Tennessee generally impels me to call on you for some exertion on your part for our protection [.]

There are about 400 Secession Troop in Morgan & Fentress Counties [.] the first squad of 210 passed through Montgomery peaceably by the Flag that waved over you & Col. Trigg but on Tuesday last (the 9th) a second Squad passed through after having beaten & abused one of our peaceable & unoffending Citizens of Morgan to wit James Jones on account of his Union sentiments came on through Montgomery with their secession Flag halted opposite our Flag & one of their ensigns snatch it down while from three to four of the men stood with fixed [bayonets?] upon each man & child with their muskets in a ready position (our women were excited looking on as he started of with our flag when my wife sprang at him & the first motion took it from him. he then waved his Southern flag over her & told her & all there that soon they should all bow to it-) I was not there but came home shortly afterwards[.]

Our folks would have followed them but for the fact that we had information that upwards of 200 hundred more would pass the next Wednesday the 10th[.] we determined if they insulted us to whip them [.] I was asked to go to Scott County & send men to Montgomery by 11 Oclock which I rode all night to do & sent over 100 & came on to Kentucky Wayne County to meet B. T. Staples & other[s] who started on the 26th of June to Cincinnattii to procure assistance if possible[.] the Reb foes of Morgan & Scott Counties found out [about] that mission North and have instructed the stationed rebels & those in Ky. To intercept all the passes & capture them a victory they shall be deprived of if possible [.]

My greatest object is inform the proper authority they are rushing all the forces they can into the Western portion of East Tenn. & all along the line of Kentucky to prevent or deprives us of all possible assistance in the way of arms or men & coerse us into submission before the August election [.]

All of which I have been and am contending against with scarcely any ammunition or other hopeful means of success and at the same time to prevent the captures of Staples Hall & Duncan<sup>Note 1</sup> & for the restoration of our Government—knowing that they have sworn I shall not live but I hope I will yet be able so see them disappointed[.]





I think if Hon. Maynard was instructed he would give us the news by express if no other way. I would have no hope of getting any thing through the mail from your or Sect. *Cameron*.

In haste your Obt. Servant,

G. W. Keith

*Papers of Andrew Johnson*, Vol. 4, pp., 560-561.

**Note 1:** Morgan County Unionists.

