

Peytona, Boone County, Va.
June 29th 1862

Governor Pierpont

Dear Sir

A project is on foot in this place by what is called the Home Guards to filch a large amount of money from the U. S. Government. The simple fact is Home Guards were formed and about 80 muskets obtained by means of Col. Ruffner, in Charleston, Kanawha County, being the thrown away guns, at the time Henry A. Wise retreated from Charleston. The men were never mustered into service. The Roll was only called twice. There was no training and each man staid about his home and took care of himself for which, the eager party desire the Government to pay them for it. The captain was as big a coward as ever lived. At one time he left the county and went to Kanawha for protection. His men staid here at home. Should the Government pay them when no services were rendered? I think not. There was an alarm one day that the Rebels were coming in. Some 4 or 5 of the Home Guards so called, fired at them from the mountains, at a long distance. The balance of the party took to the mountains. The Rebels retreated. Able influential men are aiding this Home Guard so called to obtain pay for what I consider next to nothing done. It is true the inhabitants went to Boone with Capt. Wheeler and aided him in whipping the Rebels and destroying the town September 1st 1861. This captain of the Home Guards had just been elected County Clerk by promising the voters that he would get pay for them as U. S. Soldiers. There are 8 precincts in this county. Three notices were put up, that there would be an Election in Boone County for County Officers embracing a distance of 40 miles square. Four of the precincts were not noticed, from the very fact of not having the polls opened. One man rode eight miles to see the writer of this and to ask the reason why polls were not opened at his place. The notices that were put up, set forth no time of meeting, consequently, many persons went to vote at the usual time of voting and the polls were closed in the forenoon receiving the known parties vote and kept the honest uninformed voters out. In all elections previously to this one the afternoon was the usual time for commencing. Are republic's ungrateful? Can we not have justice done? Can you not, and will you not give every precinct a chance to have a voice in this distracted government? By desire of many individuals I write to see if another election cannot be had by your order giving every precinct a chance. A general commotion surges through this land the way the election was conducted. One poor sickly man claims pay as a Home guard. Another man claims pay that received a young horse from Col. Guthrie and it is well known that he brought home provisions enough from the army to keep his family. That compensation he received for services, as guide and scout, for different parties, under Col. Guthrie, Enyard, Gilbert &c. This same man has been promised pay as a Home Guard. What inconsistency. I have written to Secretary Stanton to let him know what is going on. I am a Northern Man by birth, having been educated in the New England States. My feelings and sentiments are Union forever, and I have never deviated one iota in all my time, since I came to Virginia, which was April 1860.

I am a Book Keeper by profession and came to this county by solicitation of numerous friends in Philadelphia. Business of all kinds has suspended. I am in want of a situation to relieve the wants of a family and can produce as good a recommendation as there is in the City of Philadelphia.

Yours Respectfully
C. Stratton