

Stafford C. H. Va Mar 27 1863

General

I have the honor of acknowledging the receipt of your telegram, received yesterday saying that the "Lewis ton Light Infantry" to be ~~recognized~~ - Will General Jackson know to ~~and yourself resign~~ - I confess General I do not comprehend your meaning - I presume for the sake of argument that the Government thinks ~~and~~ decides that the "L L Infantry" is still in the State of Meim. On this point I beg leave to differ and will state my reasons - The L L Infantry, as such ~~and~~ under its own name offered its service to the State of Meim for 2 years its service was accepted. It was permitted to go into the U S service under the officer then holding command - All of the men who went out in the company for 3 months were bona fide members of the company, having been properly proposed, their names submitted to the usual test of the investigating Committee, and under the circumstances were ~~and~~ ~~and~~ members of the company - Special Order No 67 Head Quarters Adjutant General Office August to Aug 31 1861 orders into camp 10 companies - all of which companies were in the first Meim Regt. to serve out the residue of the two years for which the number of said companies were usually enlisted -

At the time Capt. ~~Sturges~~ & Lieut. ~~Knoult~~ and
myself resigned. Capt. ~~Sturges~~ having previously
resigned. This resignation was accepted. Lieut.
~~Knoult~~ was subsequently commissioned Captain
and pursued Buller & Rankin Lieut. They
are still in office and the officers of the 1st
Infantry. Those who joined the company at
Portsmouth who were not in the first Merit did
so under authority from the Government granted
in the same Order above referred to. and as
such were equally members of the 1st Infantry.
The Legislature one year ago virtually acknowledged
this position I have taken when they refused to
pass the Military Bill submitted to them on
the ground that all of the military men and
the old companies were absent from the State.
could you yourself endorse the same
opinion the Minute to me when you hesitated
to pay to me the 10.00 due the company at
Lewiston for the service of its Clerk. I know
that the Government is the commander in chief
and as such is the proper person to consider
the law is doubtful question. but I do hope
for the credit of a State that has done so much
for the military that you will not carry
into execution what is contained in your
dispatch. Why is the matter allowed to rest
till this late day. and now when 23 months
of our 24 have expired and in a few weeks

we hope to be in our own love. It is a proposition coming up for us to resign. How is it with the friends of the "Auburn Artillery" "Porter's Mechanic Blues" "Nancy's Infantry" and other old organizations? Do the friends of these companies wish I have the fact that they are now in the field ignored? I do not believe they do, and I cannot believe any true friend of the "Nancy's Infantry" wishes it to be so in regard to them. If there is another company needed in ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~field~~. Why not organize one. Why seek to gain credit and popularity by striving to elevate themselves on the downfall of the "Nancy's Infantry"? If you wish to join them let them come out here, and they will find a good chance to serve the country. General I fear that there is some selfish design in the matter. Something is to be made out of the old organization, and particularly its office and here you require. I do not for a moment accuse you of any such design but you are using you to pull the nuts from the fire.

I have written this after conferring with Capt Moulton. He fully endorses my views. Genl Jackson I have not seen, but am satisfied from conversation had with him previously that he would concur. Genl Jackson has already resigned. He cannot do so again.

I resign once, and another resignation
 would be foolish. Capt Knowlton declines
 resigning. Yours I have written the
 above with the best of motives. The good
 of the service, and particularly that of
 the L. S. Society I have at heart, and
 believe my ideas, as expressed, the most
 conducive to the best interest of both.

Yours truly

Yours truly

E. M. Shaw

Capt. Co. 10. The 1st

To

John L. Hodson
 A. G. of M.