

RESOLUTIONS

OF

A NUMBER OF CITIZENS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY,  
ARKANSAS,

*In relation to the defence of the western frontier.*

APRIL 5, 1838.

Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

FAYETTEVILLE C. H., ——— — 1838.

Pursuant to previous notice, a large and respectable number of the citizens of Washington county having assembled at the court house, in the town of Fayetteville, for the purpose of taking into consideration the most efficient and eligible mode proper to be adopted for the defence and protection of our western frontier :

On motion of S. G. Sneed, Esq., the meeting was organized by calling Major O. Evans to the chair, and appointing I. Murphy, Esq., secretary. At the request of the chair, the honorable J. M. Hoge rose and explained the objects of the meeting. He described, in a brief and forcible manner, the dangerous position in which the border settlers are placed by the policy of the Government; the moral and political obligation imposed on the Government to extend speedily such protection as would render the property and life of the frontier settler entirely safe from the dangers created by her own policy. He concluded by moving that a committee be appointed by the chair, to draught resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting on the subject under consideration; which motion being decided in the affirmative, the chair appointed the following gentlemen to compose said committee: J. W. Walker, S. G. Sneed, M. Leeper, Reiding Putman, J. M. Hoge, M. Wright, T. Duckworth, A. B. Anthony, James McKisick, M. H. Clark, B. H. Smithson, C. W. Deane, George H. Jefferson, John Rutherford, James Marrs, Thomas Smith; who having retired a short time, presented the following preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted :

Whereas by [our local situation in the far west, on the extreme frontier of the United States, in the neighborhood of the untamed savage of the prairies, we are entitled, on principles of humanity, to the efficient protection of our Government. But when our property and lives are endangered by the acts of that Government to whom we look for protection, sheer justice would say that no effort should be left untried, no expense spared or deemed extrayagant, to render that protection ample and complete; and we do confidently anticipate the speedy adoption of a liberal and enlightened policy in regard to a matter so important. Notwithstanding our confidence

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in the authorities of our General and State Governments, for the defence of our western frontier, yet, as there is found to exist a diversity of opinion on the part of those whose province it more particularly is to devise appropriate means for the attainment of that end, we, a portion of those residing on the frontier, after due consideration of the modes of defence vindicated by the honorable the Secretary of War, in a late report to the Senate of the United States, and also the defensive project of the honorable the Chief Engineer thereto appended, have adopted the following resolutions, to wit:

1st. *Resolved*, That as the maintenance of friendly relations with the Indian tribes is indispensably necessary for the preservation of the property and lives of the inhabitants of the border counties, the respectful expression of our opinion at this time to our Senators and Representative in Congress, on the momentous subject of the defence of our western frontier, cannot be deemed either presuming or unreasonable.

2d. *Resolved*, As the opinion of this meeting, that the exposition and reasoning of the honorable the Secretary of War, in said report, is clear and conclusive as to the insufficiency of a single line or border of posts for the protection of the inhabitants of the border counties; that their defence, in periods of danger and alarm, require the establishment of two lines or ranges of posts, as near as may be north and south; the exterior range about thirty or forty miles west of the Indian boundary; the interior range about the same distance east of said boundary. The posts to be located at the most convenient central points, and no post to be more than from thirty to fifty miles from the next post in the same range, north or south.

3d. *Resolved*, As the opinion of this meeting, that roads should be made and established between the corresponding interior and exterior posts, so that an easy, safe, and speedy communication can at all times be kept up between them.

4th. *Resolved*, As the opinion of this meeting, that the interior posts should be sufficiently spacious to admit within them a large portion of the population of the surrounding country; that they should be well constructed for defence; that there should be attached to each at least one artillery company, with all necessary artillery munitions; that the posts should be kept at all times ready for the reception of the inhabitants, and for the repulsion of any enemy that might attack them.

5th. *Resolved*, As the opinion of this meeting, that the organization of an efficient volunteer force of mounted gunmen, in each of the border counties, or as near thereto as can be procured, engaged to serve, when called on, for a certain term of time, under officers appointed according to the State laws, would greatly tend to the security of the frontier.

6th. *Resolved*, As the opinion of this meeting, that the judicious and liberal expenditure of the nation's money, for defensive purposes along our western border, whilst it will, most probably, preserve the lives of thousands, will ultimately be found to be the best economy.

7th. *Resolved*, That the foregoing preamble and resolutions be signed by the chairman secretary of this meeting, and forthwith forwarded, by mail, to our Senators and Representative in Congress.

On motion of Mr. B. H. Smithson, Esq.,

*Resolved*, That the public newspapers of Arkansas be requested to publish the proceedings of this meeting in their respective journals.

O. EVANS, *Chairman.*

ISAAC MURPHY, *Secretary.*