

is prevent the execution, but as this place is situated immediately upon the line of the Rail Road between two great cities & within two or three miles ride of each, it is apprehended that many disorderly persons will be here from those cities & it is feared that they will create some serious disturbance in our town, as is generally the case when any large body of persons from the large cities visit a small country place. If this should occur we are entirely without the means of quelling such disturbance or of arresting the offenders for we have no arms fit for use, & it would be useless to attempt to arrest the offenders or quell the riot made by those people from the cities, who always go on an excursion such as this armed with revolvers and Bowie knives. If no additional force is to be sent here, I would ask your Excellency, to send us a hundred stand of arms, (muskets & cartridges) for without them, we should be totally unable to put down any riot which may possibly take place. If we are to have the arms they should be sent up immediately so that we may make some preparation for their distribution among the men to be summoned to attend at the execution.

I am Very Respectfully  
 Your Friend & Obedt. Servant  
 Rich<sup>d</sup> Grason

The Sheriff requests me to say that if the arms are sent up to him, they shall be returned to the Armory at Annapolis in good order immediately after the execution.  
 R. G.

State of Maryland  
 Executive Department  
 Annapolis April 4<sup>th</sup> 1855

Dear Sir:  
 Yours of yesterday is just received. In consequence of the numerous applications for arms, to supply regiments in various portions of the State, there are now left but eighty stand of arms in the State Armory.

These shall be forwarded at once, to the Sheriff of your County, under the care of Mr. James Russell or Clerk in this Department. They will be boxed up & sent to Baltimore, to-morrow, & will probably reach Elkton on Friday morning.

It is expected that these arms will be carefully put up & returned to the Armory here, immediately after the execution of Swift.

Very Respectfully,  
 J. Watson Ligon

Richard Grason  
 State Atty for Cecil Co  
 Elkton