

Headquarters R. I. A.

July 16. 1865

General.

I have just witnessed on my
return from the right the most disgraceful
& unpromising state of things. Much
due to the want of some
drunken & riotous Cavalry who had drawn
their pay to 4 & were entirely unaccountable.
We managed by various means, but
particularly by procuring some Muskets
of the private guard to drive them forward.
A Regt. by his order, has been already
sent to be in face of necessary the
small guard. I stopped and the disorder
in coming down, at the City Hall -
which I was in time to quell. I know
you will permit the suggestion that it would
not be amiss to direct all the male inhabitants
not in the line, to arm themselves with such
weapons as they can procure & report to
Provost Marshal with the view to patrol

the city & keep order - with instructions
to shoot down all refractory rioters, &
those who attempt to break up the
House. I sign it at the bottom of
a greater part of the March.

Hoping that you will pardon
me, Sir, I have the honor
to be most respectfully

Your obd Servt
James Chesnut

I can furnish you three or four hundred
Muskets with Ammunition. You know
I have not a Man under my command
to offer you -

Yours truly
James Chesnut

Genl A. Chesnut's

Feb 16/65

attempted
as to message to
Genl Hampton &
suggesting certain
plans.