

**Quote #2:**

From a Jan. 13 letter, from a Minute Man to the editors of the *Missouri Republican*, explaining the character and objects of the Minute Men.

*The only difference which I can perceive between the "Minute Men" and the mass of our friends who are not members of that organization, is that the "Minute Men" believe that when war seems almost inevitable, they should await a settlement with arms in their hands; the others are averse to making any preparation for war. . . We are not.*

**Quote #3**

*St. Louis During the War*, by James Broadhead.

*The Minute Men were organized according to Missouri State law and five companies mustered into the state service by Gen. Frost on the 13th of February, formed into a battalion under the command of Capt. Slater and assigned to Frost's Brigade.*

**Editor's Note:**

While the Minute Men "openly proclaimed" their organization and purpose, the only thing they accomplished was to awaken within the St. Louis Unionist community the need to organize if they were going to keep Missouri in the Union. The Minute Men were directly responsible for the organization of the St. Louis Central Union Club and the St. Louis Union Safety Committee. That committee, by using spies to monitor secessionist activities, was able to check many of the governor's secessionist moves, thereby playing a major role in preventing him from carrying Missouri out of the Union. Seven companies of nearly four hundred Minute Men were eventually inducted into the state militia under Gov. Jackson.

However, the Minute Men ceased to exist as an organization when they were captured and paroled as a part of the Camp Jackson surrender of Missouri's secessionist-led militia to U.S. Army Captain Nathaniel Lyon on May 10, 1861.

For a discussion of both the Minute Men and the *St. Louis Bulletin*, a newspaper that supported the Minute Men, see: (FLP: Ser 1MD-Jan#42).