

The Trans-Mississippi News

Volume 1, Number 1

Fall 1995

Published Quarterly by the Camp Pope Bookshop P.O. Box 2232, Iowa City, Iowa 52244

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Welcome to the premier issue of The Trans-Mississippi News. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide a forum for all Civil War enthusiasts with a particular interest in the war as it was fought on *this* side of the Mississippi River. Our newsletter will contain articles, news of works in progress and recent publications, requests for information, excerpts from the writings of the soldiers of the Trans-Mississippi (Union and Confederate), book reviews, and other items of interest.

We feel a special affinity for the Trans-Mississippi theater of the Civil War. Our fascination is grounded in a strong sense of place—places fought over and often covered with the blood of valiant men, places where we, their respectful descendants, still live and work. We will not concern ourselves with the better known battlegrounds of the Eastern theater. That aspect of the Civil War has more than its share of scholars poring over it. Now you and I have our own voice, and a special place to discuss what is of interest to *us*.

Your input on this new project is welcome. If you have any ideas about material that should be included, please drop us a line. Do you know of someone working on a manuscript, perhaps the history of an obscure Texas regiment, an account of a little-known campaign in the Ozark Highlands of Arkansas, or tales of guerrilla raids across the Missouri border into southern Iowa? Are you trying to find a particular book that is either out-of-print or just impossible to locate on the shelves of the major Civil War book dealers? Do you have preservation news germane to the Trans-Mississippi? Know about battlefields off the beaten track, or perhaps good ground for relic hunting? With your help, it will all be found here. There is just one rule of thumb: this newsletter will deal only with the Civil War in the Trans-Mississippi. If it didn't happen there, if they didn't fight there, if he or she wasn't from there, you won't find it here!

W. Clark Kenyon

Editor and Publisher

WHAT'S NEW.....

The Camp Pope Bookshop has added a number of new books on the Trans-Miss (and some general titles that I just feel like stocking): Bruce Allardice's *More Generals in Gray* (HB w/dj from LSU) is now available at \$29.95. State House Press has finally published their reprint of Adam Johnson's *Partisan Rangers of the Confederate States Army* at \$32.95. We have a number of new titles on Texas including the following from the Eakin Press: J. J. Bowden *The Exodus of Federal Forces From Texas* (HB w/dj \$14.95); Joseph E. Chance *The Second Texas Infantry: From Shiloh to Vicksburg* (PB \$16.95); and Charles D. Spurlin *The Civil War Diary of Charles A. Leuschner* (HB w/dj \$14.95).

Concerning the CW in the far west, Texas A&M has published a major study by Donald S. Frazier entitled *Blood and Treasure: Confederate Empire in the Southwest* (HB w/dj 29.95). The University of New Mexico Press brings us *Bloody Valverde: A Civil War Battle on the Rio Grande*, by John M. Taylor (HB w/dj \$29.95).

Steve Cottrell has a new book out entitled *Civil War in the Indian Territory* (PB from Pelican Press, \$8.95). Our friend Joanne Eakin keeps adding more and more titles to our shelves: *The Battle of Lexington: From the Confederate Field Reports* (pamphlet, \$5.00); *The Battle of Rock Creek* (pamphlet \$3.00), *Civil War Military Prisoners Sent To Missouri State Penitentiary* (pamphlet \$7.50); and *Missouri Confederate Reports, Narrative Reports of Casualties after the Battles of Cape Girardeau, Carthage, Hartville, Lexington, Marmaduke's Expedition 1862-3, Price's Expedition 1864, Newtonia and Wilson's Creek* (PB \$16.00).

Fortunately for everyone who didn't get a copy of the first edition, Joanne and Don Hale have reissued their massive reference work *Branded as Rebels: A List of Bushwhackers, Guerrillas, Partisan Rangers, Confederates and Southern Sympathizers From Missouri During The War Years*. This second edition is updated with new material and corrections. The format is the same: 8 1/2 x 11" paperback, but the price has increased to \$40.00 (hard cover also available at \$80.00).

A book I've long been looking forward to is finally available: *Sterling Price's Lieutenants* by Richard Peterson (with help from Keith Daleen, Jim McGhee, and Kip Lindberg) is a history of the Missouri State Guard, with an exhaustive table of organization and roster of nearly 3000 Guard officers. The book is being published in a very small edition by Carolyn Bartels's Two Trails Genealogy Shop. If you want a copy better get right on ordering one. The paperback version is \$25.00 and the hardback is \$37.50.

On the subject of what they call the Western Theater (actually Georgia and South Carolina) we have a new paperback edition of Henry Hitchcock's *Marching With Sherman* (Bison Books \$12.95). William Scaife of Atlanta has written the first comprehensive work on the Battle of Allatoona Pass, called *Allatoona Pass: A Needless Effusion Of Blood* (PB \$16.00, HB \$28.00).

We have some new items related to Illinois in the CW: Jim Huffstodt, *Hard Dying Men: The Story of General W. H. L. Wallace, General T. E. G. Ransom and Their "Old Eleventh" Illinois Infantry in the American CW* (PB from Heritage Books, \$24.50); James Pickett Jones, *John A. Logan and Southern Illinois in the CW Era* (SIU Press, PB 12.95, HB w/dj \$29.95); and *The CW Correspondence of Judge Thomas Goldsborough Odell*, ed by Donald Odell Virdin (PB from Heritage Books, \$13.50). Odell was in the 78th Illinois Infantry.

We are now stocking Loren K. Litteer's books on Kansas in the CW era: *Bleeding Kansas: The Border War in Douglas and Adjacent Counties* (pamphlet \$3.00), *The Life and Times of John Brown* (pamphlet \$3.00), and *William Clarke Quantrill: The Man Who Burned Lawrence* (pamphlet \$2.50).

Finally, the new edition of Howard Monnett's *Action Before Westport 1864* (PB from U Pr of Colorado \$19.95) is now available. The book is edited by the author's son and con-

tains text corrections and new illustrations.

WHAT'S COMING.....

I guess I don't have my ear pressed down on the ground as far as I should because when I first went over the new books and reprints coming out in Catalog 23 last July I missed something practically right under my nose. The University of Iowa Press, right here in Iowa City, is publishing *Soldier Boy: The Civil War Letters of Charles O. Musser, 29th Iowa*. The 29th served almost entirely in the Trans-Miss, at Helena, Camden, Prairie d'Ane, Jenkins Ferry, Spanish Fort, and Fort Blakely. The book runs about 236 pages, with illustrations and maps. The price is \$24.95, and it will be available from the Camp Pope Bookshop in November.

New books on Missouri in the Civil War are coming one right after another from Joanne Eakin and Carolyn Bartels: *Tears and Turmoil: Order No. 11 in Missouri* (a collection of first person accounts of this unprecedented depopulating of four Missouri border counties); *Confederate Records From the Files of the United Daughters of the Confederacy* (a multi-volume reference work listing bios for 7500 Missouri Confederate veterans; volume 1 should be ready before the end of the year); *Iowa Union Regiments* and *Kansas Union Regiments* (short, concise listings of battles fought, etc.); *Missouri Home Guards* (a roster of early CW Union militiamen in Missouri); *Pilot Knob: Civil War Days* (civilian recollections of this 1864 battle); *Following Their Footsteps* (a guide to military records in the National Archives); *History of the First Missouri Cavalry, CSA* (including a roster of 1400 names; I am really looking forward to this title!); *Civil War Stories of Missouri*; *Stand Watie and the First Cherokee Regiment*; and several more. Geez, I wish I had the energy of these ladies!

A couple other things to look for this fall are the paperback version of Albert Castel's *Decision in the West: The Atlanta Campaign of 1864; Texas and Texans in the Civil War* (HB w/dj, from Eakin Press); *Dark Days of the Rebellion* by B.F. Booth (re: the 22nd Iowa, HB w/dj from Meyer Publishing). For those who have thought it would be a good idea for someone to reprint A. A. Stuart's *Iowa Colonels and Regiments* (1865), Steve Meyer is planning to do just that. Look for publication sometime next year. Mike Gillespie of Lone Jack, Missouri, is working on a study of the Battle of Lone Jack. T. Michael Parrish (6322 Bon Terra Drive, Austin, TX 78731) is at work on a new bio of P.G.T. Beauregard. He sent us a draft of a very lengthy listing of books and articles on Texas in the Civil War, which we assume he will publish one day. Peter Cozzens is writing a history of the Battle of Iuka (Mississippi). Morningside Bookshop's latest catalog notes that they are planning to publish a book entitled *History of the 9th Arkansas Regiment and Reynolds's Brigade in the Western Theater*, by James Willis. No word on when the book will be available or if it will be on Morningside's trade list (i.e., whether or not they will market it to booksellers). Anyway, the prepublication price is \$29.95, after publication \$39.95, if you want to go ahead and order a copy directly from them (800-648-9710). And let's not forget some upcoming items we noted in our last catalog: *Jim Cummins, The Guerrilla* (from the Hilltop Book Company); Phillip Tucker's "God Have Mercy On Us:" *From Vicksburg to Fort Blakely* (on

the First Missouri Confederate Brigade, from Sgt. Kirkland's Museum); David C. Hinze's study of the Battle of Carthage (from S/W Publishing); and Howard Monnett's *Action Before Westport* (from the University Press of Colorado).

WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO...

Still looking for the major study of Prairie Grove that Broadfoot was going to publish. When I called Broadfoot recently they said it had not gone to press yet, but that it should be available before the end of the year. Maybe. I have heard that this is actually the first volume in a three volume work on the CW in Arkansas. Bill Shea is supposed to be working on a book about Prairie Grove, too.

If you are interested in Iowa and the Civil War, be sure to check out Steve Meyer's newsletter, *Iowa Civil War News*. It contains articles to expand your knowledge of Iowa's role in the war, a calendar of events of interest, a section like our own for readers seeking information, and book reviews. Contact Meyer Publishing P.O. Box 247, Garrison, Iowa 52229 (phone 800-477-5046 or fax 319-477-5042) for more information.

AN EXCERPT FROM MY MEMOIRIES OF THE CIVIL WAR...

This is a memoir written in the 1920s by a W. H. H. Barker, who served in the 3rd Iowa Cavalry. I purchased a xerox of his typescript from a rare book dealer in Maryland several years ago. I don't know how many copies are floating around, but I assume the ms has never been published as a book before. We hope to have the book finished in 1996. The following describes Barker's first action in enemy territory, near Salem, Missouri, where he and a squad of his fellow troopers set out to capture some Missouri State Guardsmen at a country dance:

The night had cleared and was very still, and the moon shone out in all its brightness and splendor. We were now only half a mile from our destination. We halted and made plans for a wild cavalry charge on our intended victims, the rebel soldiers at the ball. Pistols were loaded and sabers flashed in the bright moonlight. Silently, the command "forward" was given and, like a swift storm cloud, we swept on. Within sight of the house three men were seen running away across an open field. A squad gave instant chase, and two were captured, the other one escaping. We quickly surrounded the house and found the door barred. No shots had been fired except at the men trying to escape, but there was a wild uproar all about and much excitement for a short time. A sergeant of company K dismounted at the door and, in doing so, discharged his pistol accidentally, killing his horse, which fell exactly across the threshold. This added much to the general melee. Admittance was soon gained, and the single room of this log house was found to be crowded with thirteen soldiers and seventeen young women. The ladies were screaming wildly and standing crowded together in a bunch on a bed in one corner of the room. They declined to come down off their perch. We rapidly gathered in their gallant escorts and marched them away. We captured seventeen horses all saddled and bridled on which we mounted the prisoners. We had seventeen horses but

only fifteen prisoners. We knew one escaped, but there was still one missing. He had been hidden on the bed where the ladies were standing, and that was the reason they refused to come down off the bed. (This soldier surrendered a few days later of his own free will, fearing that he could not escape us.) After securing our prisoners, we started on the march away. The ladies rushed to the door and imploringly called out in that queer Southern drawl and murder of the English tongue: "Ain't you all goin' to take we'uns home?" It was ungentlemanly of us, but we made no reply. Then the mistress of the house anxiously called from the same open door: "Say, ain't you all goin' to take this dead horse from my doorway?" She likewise got no reply, and we rode away, leaving each to solve her problem as best she could.

I should note that this is the first, last, and only ball I ever attended in all my life, and I will further remark that, if one wants to hunt up the Devil, one can always find him in the ballroom. It is his headquarters, and he is always there ready for business.

MOORE'S MILL

I won't pretend to be your roving correspondent for Civil War reenactments because I go to so few of them that I hardly qualify for the position. There have been several in Iowa and Missouri so far this year, and I've missed them all. Except for Moore's Mill in Callaway County on July 15 and 16. I said in Catalog 23 that I was going to this one because the small battle it commemorates was covered at length by Joseph Mudd in his book about recruiting behind Union lines in northeast Missouri, *With Porter in North Missouri*. As you know, we reprinted this book in 1992, and it has proven to be our best seller so far.

Callaway County is about 6 hours from here, and, with two small children, my wife and I determined that this would have to be a two day trip. We stayed in Columbia on Saturday night, intending to catch the actual reenactment of the Battle of Moore's Mill on Sunday (the battle on Saturday was a generic kind of scenario). The location for the reenactment was on land just east of the original battle site bordering Auxvasse Creek. (The original battleground is in private hands; as I understand it, the owners were not amenable to the idea of having the reenactment on their property.) We got there at about 11:00 AM Sunday, and brother was it ever hot! I am told that the extreme heat of that weekend kept as many as half the expected reenactors away. As it was there was total of about 600 hearty soldiers there, including a considerable number of cavalry.

The event was well-planned by its organizers, The Battle of Moore's Mill Planning Committee (led by Mark White, Alan Conner, and Warren Hollrah) and the Kingdom of Callaway Historical Society. Community sponsors gave generously to make the weekend a success. Some of the local food vendors were a bit disappointed by the low turnout of spectators, esti-

mated at about 5000, but it was dangerously hot and humid. The weather didn't take the planners by surprise. Several "water buffaloes" (mobile water tanks) were placed around the battle site for the refreshment of the reenactors. A local dairy brought in a huge tanker full of water and parked it between the vendors and the reenactors' camps (our kids spent a lot of time with their heads under the spigots). The Callaway Community Hospital provided a large, air conditioned emergency van where 10 to 15 people over the weekend were treated for heat stroke. Some required ivs for severe dehydration, and one individual had to be taken to the hospital.

I ran into several friends there, including Jon Linn and Joanne Eakin of Independence, Carolyn Bartels of Shawnee Mission, and Don Durham of Shawnee, Kansas. Eakin and Bartels, two genealogists with a particular fondness for the Civil War, were set up to sell their books on Missouri. Don Durham had his usual tent full of Civil War books available for sale. Jon is a faithful customer of long standing whom I seem to run into everywhere I go.

We got to the site a bit late to hear the historical lectures given in the main tent, but were privileged to attend the special memorial and cannon salute for the dead of Moore's Mill. All the reenactors North and South were assembled together and an address was given by Warren Hollrah (who portrayed General John B. Henderson for the occasion). There followed a calling of the roll of those who were killed at Moore's Mill. As each name was called, a reenactor would respond "died on the field of honor, sir." (This may be SOP to you veteran reenactment-goers, but I found it effective and quite touching.) After all the names were called, we all sang "Dixie" and "The Star Spangled Banner," and the four or five cannons were fired.

The battle followed about an hour later at 1:30 PM. My wife and daughter stayed in the shade of the big tent enjoying root beer, lemonade, and the music of the Rose of El-A-Noy Minstrels while my son and I made the 1/4 mile hike through the woods and across Auxvasse Creek to the battle site, an enormous open field south of the camps. I was particularly impressed with the performance of the cavalry. This branch of the service I thought was unusually well-represented, and instead of the typical confused milling about 200 yards away from the spectators, these guys were all over the place. At times they were practically on top of us. When we were walking back to the camps and stopped to wade in the creek, the Union cavalry came through for a dip, and they were on top of us. We had to scramble to keep from getting stepped on. Still in character, a trooper asked if I would like to enroll my son in the United States Cavalry. I looked at my six-year-old, then told the soldier that I thought he might be a little young yet.

The reenactment of the Battle of Moore's Mill was hosted by Company A, Erwin's 6th Missouri Infantry and D. H. McIntyre's Callaway Guards. The art of putting on a Civil War

The Battle of Moore's Mill (July 28, 1862) was the only significant clash of arms ever to occur in Callaway County, Missouri. Colonel Joseph C. Porter, an officer of the Missouri State Guard, had been sent back to his home county in northeast Missouri in the spring of 1862 to recruit troops for Sterling Price. By late July, after a six-week recruiting campaign punctuated by small clashes with Union forces, the capture of a town, and lightning-quick marches to and fro around northeast Missouri to throw off pursuers, Porter and about 250 recruits, mostly teenagers, were edging their way toward the Missouri River when they were discovered by Col. Odon Guitar of the 9th Missouri State Militia (MSM). Together with elements of the 3rd Iowa Cavalry, the 3rd Indiana Battery, the 2nd Missouri Cavalry (aka "Merrill Horse"), the 10th MSM, and others, Guitar walked into an ambush along the Saint Charles Road about 1 mile south of Moore's Mill (known today as Calwood) and 1 mile west of Auxvasse Creek. The battle raged for about four hours, and, although Porter had the defensive advantage, he was outnumbered three to one and was forced to withdraw with serious losses.

reenactment had been very carefully investigated by its organizers, and according to Warren Hollrah, it came off as a rousing success. I asked Mr. Hollrah if they intended to make it an annual thing. He laughed and said no, that everyone involved got pretty well worn out by the time it was over. But they hope to repeat Moore's Mill in 1997 for its 135th anniversary. I think I'll be there then, too.

Note: I brought back several copies of the booklet prepared by the organizers of the reenactment. It's full of information on Moore's Mill, Callaway County, and the Civil War in Missouri in general. These are available for \$8.00, plus \$2.50 p/h.

RESEARCH RESOURCES

A lot of people base their interest in the Civil War on the fact that they had an ancestor who fought in it. I know of two in my case, a great-great-grandfather and his son-in-law. But the information I have on them is sketchy at best. And for some reason, I am more intrigued by the places of the Civil War: the rivers or creeks that so often marked a battlefield or were the strategic highways to war; the homes, stately or humble, where this or that general had his headquarters or which were used as hospitals; the town square where the soldiers enlisted, the sites of the camps where they were mustered, the roads they marched down, the fields they camped in, and, of course, the battlefields where they fought. These places are still here, often little-changed, and they can be found all over the country. You may not have a battlefield in your front yard, but if you look around a little you will realize that history is everywhere.

For those who do tend to find a particular ancestor more interesting, let's consider a few resources that are available to those in search of information on Civil War soldiers. A standard work full of useful tips on how to proceed is Bertram H. Groene's *Tracing Your Civil War Ancestor* (Winston-Salem, NC: John F. Blair, 1987). A little closer to home, Steve Meyer of Meyer Publishing has written *Discovering Your Iowa Civil War Ancestry* (available from the Camp Pope Bookshop or directly from the publisher, Meyer Publishing, P.O. Box 247, Garrison, IA 52229, for \$10.00, plus postage). Either of these will lead you on to further resources for researching your ancestors.

I would like to direct your attention to a group of people who can be helpful not only for doing focused research on an individual, but also for information on the Civil War in general, especially the smaller, less traveled areas. I refer here to genealogists, many of whom publish their own guides and data resources. For those interested in Kansas and Missouri, I highly recommend Joanne C. Eakin (12400 East 33rd St., Independence, MO 64055) and Carolyn M. Bartels (7295 Houston St., Shawnee Mission, KS 66227). We carry most of the books they publish that have to do with the Civil War. They have come out with a number of books of their own and are distributors for other authors who write on the subject.

For information on western Missouri, check out the Western Heritage Bookshop in the Archives and Research Library of the Jackson County Historical Society (Room 103, Independence Square Courthouse, Independence, MO 64050).

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They put out a very generous catalog of their own and other publishers' books.

Kathleen Wilham (Rt 1 Box 150, Shelbyville, MO 63469) is less interested in the Civil War per se than the history of northeast Missouri. But I found her to be a godsend when I was researching the elusive Griffin Frost for my reprint of *Camp and Prison Journal*.

There are several publishers around the country who cater to genealogists and who also offer obscure and interesting Civil War books. Heritage Books Inc. (1540-E Pointer Ridge Place, Bowie, MD 20716) publishes a wide range of materials, but their books seem to go out of print rather quickly. Higginson Book Company (P.O. Box 778, Salem, MA 01970) puts out a huge catalog of genealogical books. They have a unique service where for a reasonable price they will xerox and bind a rare out-of-print book for you. Their interests seem to fall heavily on New England, but like all genealogists, they offer material on nearly every state in the union. The Frontier Press (15 Quintana Drive, Galveston, TX 77554) and Ericson Books (1614 Redbud St.,

Nacogdoches, TX 75961) do a thorough job of covering the South without neglecting the rest of the country. Any of these publishers will be happy to send you a catalog of their books.

I know I am leaving out a lot of names and that I have barely scratched the surface of what is available to the person who wants to track down a Civil War soldier. If you want some real help, visit your local county or state historical society. In general, you will find very helpful, patient people who do this sort of detective work for a living. I just wanted to share with you a few of the resources the Camp Pope Bookshop has found useful in our quest to bring you everything there is in print on the Trans-Mississippi in the Civil War.

SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' MONUMENT

There have been some big changes in the situation surrounding the years-old effort to restore the Iowa Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument in Des Moines--and for the better. A little history for you first: in 1991 a school group visited the monument and found that it was turning to crud. This was not actually news, the monument had been falling apart for years. It's just that no one cared. The students started a group to raise funds for a restoration, which led to the formation of the non-profit Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument Restoration Fund. This commission contracted with a company that could do the work and paid them a \$5000 option to keep them lined up to do it. The actual required amount of money (\$250,000) was supposed to have been raised by April of this year, but by then only 1/5 or so had been collected. Fortunately, the commission was able to extend the option until July 1, 1996. Brad McGowan of West Branch, currently vice president of the CWRT of Cedar Rapids, got on this project in a big way. It would take an entire newsletter to list his accomplishments in raising money for the monument. The important thing is that, as of August 1, Brad and some very committed allies are in charge of the project, and now it will get done.

FROM THE "I-WONDER-IF THE-CIVIL-WAR-IS-OVER-YET" DEPARTMENT: Do you like those new Civil War stamps? Ever catch yourself thinking "oops, better not put this stamp on this particular envelope"??

You see, the original commission didn't have a clue of what it was doing. They had raised some money to be sure, but were going nowhere. Then someone decided to call in a professional fund-raiser. This might have gotten the monument restored, but the idea galled Brad. A professional would take the lion's share of the contributions as compensation for his work. Brad wanted every cent raised to go to the monument. He was able to put the kibosh on the professional fund-raiser plan. This and his constant prodding to get the commission off its rear ends probably did not endear him to the commissioners. Brad forced a meeting last July with the chairman of the commission, the head of General Services, the State Architect, and an aide of the governor to find out what, if anything, was going on. At this meeting, the commission chairman threw in the towel, saying that as of August 1, the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument Restoration fund would cease to exist. The way was clear for a new group to be formed, consisting of Brad, Ken Allers (president of the CWRT of Cedar Rapids), R. D. McDonald of the A. Y. McDonald Manufacturing Co. of Dubuque, Iowa (founded by CW vet A. Y. McDonald), and John Brockway, a retired dairy lobbyist in Des Moines (his great uncle James Horton is the cavalryman depicted on the monument). Unfortunately, the new commission (known officially as the Save Iowa's Civil War Monument Foundation) has to start from scratch, filing for incorporation and tax exempt status. But here's the good news. The new group met with the Capitol Planning Commission on August 23. The CPC voted to ask the legislature for a minimum of \$125,000, and it looks like a pretty sure thing that they will get it when the budget is drawn up next May. (For some unknown reason, the previous restoration commission never thought to ask the state for money.)

So it appears that the restoration of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument is finally on the right track. However, even if the legislature approves the \$125,000, we still have to come up with another \$54,000 (\$66,000 has been raised, and the contractor already has \$5000). But considering the energy and single-mindedness of the people now in charge, that should be no problem.

Remember, we still have copies of the reprint of the *Hand Book For Soldiers' And Sailors' Monument* available for \$5.00 plus \$1.50 p/h (all profits go to the restoration fund). And Brad has copies of the limited edition Dennis the Menace print. This was drawn especially for the monument restoration by Hank Ketcham, grandson of the monument's designer, Harriet Ketcham. Brad's address is: 344 S. Maple, West Branch, Iowa 53258 (phone 319-643-2806).

FEATURE ARTICLE: SKIRMISH AT DUG SPRINGS, MISSOURI, AUGUST 2, 1861

By W. Clark Kenyon

Brigadier General Nathaniel Lyon—recently a captain of U. S. regular troops at Fort Scott, Kansas, who had been ordered to St. Louis at the end of January, 1861, to reinforce the garrison at the Federal arsenal there, and who had soon ascended to the command of the Department of the West—declared war on the state of Missouri during a June 11 meeting at a St.

Louis hotel with pro-Confederate Missouri governor Claiborne F. Jackson and Major General Sterling Price, commander of the Missouri State Guard. Fox had been reluctant to leave the safety of Jefferson City for St. Louis. There was, after all, a warrant out for his arrest on charges of treason. But he needed time. He needed to stall the aggressive, anti-secessionist Lyon, to recruit, organize, and train the troops of the Missouri State Guard (MSG). Therefore Fox had agreed to a meeting, which had been arranged by influential citizens of St. Louis hoping to moderate the tensions that had been building day by day since the so-called Camp Jackson Affair (a deadly riot in the streets of St. Louis following Lyon's arrest of Missouri Guardsmen training at Camp Jackson in Lindell Grove).

It was at the Planter's Hotel that Lyon made the famous statement, in reply to Jackson's ideas about demilitarization, that, rather than let a mere state governor order around the Federal government (i.e., Lyon), he would just as soon kill everyone in the whole state of Missouri. He ended this chilling threat with the declaration "this means war."

Price and Jackson did not wait around to see if Lyon was serious. They immediately returned to Jefferson City by train, burning railroad bridges behind them. Once there, Jackson drew up a proclamation calling for 50,000 troops to defend the state from "Federal invasion." Lyon acted just as quickly. Upon receiving a copy of Jackson's proclamation, Lyon developed a plan to capture or disperse the MSG and simultaneously seize and occupy the major travel and communication routes by which secessionist troops could assemble. He commandeered four steamers aboard which to pursue Jackson and Price up the Missouri River to Jefferson City, after which he would cut south overland to Springfield, driving the Guard before him. Simultaneously, a second column under Captain Thomas Sweeny would move southwest, securing the Pacific Railroad between St. Louis and Rolla and continue on through Lebanon to Springfield, establishing an overland supply and communication corridor and providing the left wing of a pincer envelopment. At the last minute, German-born Colonel Franz Sigel was appointed to replace Sweeny who needed to remain in St. Louis to organize the transport of war materiel, supplies, and provisions along this route.

Lyon's forces consisted mainly of a core of regular U. S. troops and several newly mustered regiments of volunteers, mostly pro-Union, St. Louis Germans. Lyon cast about for any other men he could find to join his campaign. Before he left for Jefferson City, Lyon sent a telegram on June 12 to Col. F. R. Smith at Quincy, Illinois, to be conveyed to Samuel R. Curtis, colonel of the 2nd Iowa Infantry in Keokuk, Iowa, directing him "to come at once with all the force you can command" to occupy the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad. Curtis received the telegram at 2:00 AM the next day and prepared to move immediately. He "invited" Col. John F. Bates of the 1st Iowa Infantry to come along with his regiment, but Bates declined, thinking that he should be in command of the expedition since technically he outranked Curtis. As the 2nd Iowa was boarding Mississippi River steamers for transport to Hannibal, Bates attempted to contact Lyon, claiming command of the Iowa regiments and formally offering his services. By this time, Lyon was incommunicado on the Missouri River, however. When, by the afternoon of the 13th, Bates had received no reply, he took it upon him-

self to break camp and follow Curtis to Hannibal. Once there, Bates realized that Curtis had the area fairly well secured, thus on June 14 he issued orders for all but three companies of the 1st Iowa to move to Macon, about 70 miles west on the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad. The next day Bates received orders from Lyon to join his expedition, now reorganizing at Boonville.

On June 18, Lyon telegraphed Major Samuel Sturgis at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to bring his battalion of regular troops and the newly mustered 1st and 2nd Kansas volunteers to rendezvous with Lyon's column at Clinton, MO. Unfortunately for Lyon, on the same day he discovered that he had lost command of the Department of the West, that Missouri had been put under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Ohio, commanded by Major General George B. McClellan. Although Missouri was soon added to a new Western Department, under the command of Major General John C. Fremont, a man Lyon thought would support him in his campaign, Lyon, who could no longer requisition troops on his own authority, would receive no more reinforcements. By the end of July, Fremont faced a serious threat of Confederate action on the Mississippi River, and he determined that Lyon would just have to make do with what he had.

By the time Lyon linked up with Sigel's column in Springfield on July 13 (the latter having recently escaped from a run-in with Jackson and the Missouri State Guard at Carthage), his Army of the West numbered approximately 6000, and consisted of a cosmopolitan mix of Missouri Home Guards, St. Louis Germans, raw volunteers from Kansas and Iowa, and a nucleus of the best troops to be found anywhere, several companies of U.S. infantry, cavalry, and artillery regulars.

Southwest of Springfield, at a place called Cowskin Prairie, Sterling Price was attempting to train and supply a ragtag army of 8000 Missouri State Guardsmen. Lyon had succeeded so far in securing the northern part of Missouri and chasing off the pro-Confederate Guard, but he had not gotten anywhere in his plan of destroying it. Now, in July, Price had procured the cooperation of Brigadier General Ben McCulloch, who commanded a brigade of Confederate troops from Arkansas and Louisiana and one of Arkansas militia under Brigadier General N. Bart Pearce, in all about 5700 soldiers, stationed in Arkansas. Although reluctant to have anything to do with the

unprofessional Missourians and nominally forbidden by the Confederate government from entering Missouri, McCulloch realized the danger of allowing a Federal army to operate in southwest Missouri, and agreed to join Price's forces for an attack on Lyon. The various southern columns set out for a rendezvous at Cassville, Missouri, during the last week of July.

Lyon learned of this movement, and, knowing that such a combination would overwhelm his smaller force (which was shrinking as various volunteer units' enlistments expired), he decided to strike south and engage and defeat Price, McCulloch, and Pearce piecemeal. On the afternoon of August 1, Lyon departed Springfield with his entire army of 5868 men, including 18 pieces of artillery. The major clash of arms that eventually came about at Wilson's Creek on August 10, 1861, may well have occurred earlier, at a place known as Dug Springs, about 23 miles southwest of Springfield on Telegraph Road, the main north-south thoroughfare in the area. Both armies were fully mustered for battle and in search of each other. The Union advance, a battalion of regulars under Captain Frederick Steele, had sighted the enemy several times on August 2, but not in any great numbers, until they had reached the southern end of Dug Springs valley. It was about 9:00 am, and Lyon decided to call a halt. Nearly 2/3 of his army had fallen out of ranks as a result of the unusual heat (temperatures were over 100° F) and a lack of water, preceded by weeks of poor rations. In addition, the terrain was extremely broken up and covered with thick underbrush and scrub timber, thus not particularly conducive to deployment for a general attack. Lyon left Steele's battalion to guard the southern end of the valley while the balance of the army bivouacked at Dug Springs (probably one of the few springs in the area that had not dried up in the searing August heat). The troops Steele had observed milling about before him on the Telegraph Road were the advance guard of McCulloch's 1st Division, six mounted companies of Brigadier General James S. Rains 8th Division, MSG, about 400 men, who had been given this task since most of them came from this area of Missouri. Rains had been instructed, after reporting the presence of the enemy, to hold his position and try to ascertain the strength of his opponent. He deployed two mountain howit-

HOW HOT WAS IT?

Thomas W. Knox, a newspaper correspondent who followed the Army of the West wherever it went, worked for *The New York Herald*. In a book he published at the end of the war, he described Dug Springs: "The beginning of August in southwest Missouri is in the midst of the warm season. The day of the march to Dug Spring was one I shall never forget. In Kansas, before the war, I once had a walk of several miles under a burning sun, in a region where not a drop of water could be found. When I finally reached it, the only water to be found was in a small, stagnant pool, covered with a green scum nearly an inch in thickness. Warm, brackish, and fever-laden as that water was, I had never before tasted anything half so sweet. Again, while crossing the Great Plains in 1860, I underwent a severe and prolonged thirst, only quenching it with the bitter alkali-water of the desert. On neither of these occasions were my sufferings half as great as in the advance to Dug Spring.

"A long ride in that hot atmosphere gave me a thirst of the most terrible character. Making a detour to the left of the road in a vain search for water, I fell behind the column as it marched slowly along. As I moved again to the front, I passed scores of men who had fallen from utter exhaustion. Many were delirious and begged piteously for water in ever so small a quantity. Several died from excessive heat, and others were for a time unfit for duty. Reaching the spring which gave its name to the locality, I was fortunate in finding only the advance of the command. With considerable effort I succeeded in obtaining a pint cupful of water, and thus allayed my immediate thirst.

"According to the custom in that region, the spring was covered with a frame building, about eight feet square...As the main portion of the column came up, the crowd around the spring house became so dense that those once inside could not get out. The building was lifted and thrown away from the spring, but this only served to increase the confusion. Officers found it impossible to maintain discipline. When the men caught sight of the crowd at the spring, the lines were instantly broken. At the spring, officers and men were mingled without regard to rank, all struggling for the same object. A few of the former, who had been fortunate in commencing the day with full canteens, attempted to bring order out of chaos, but found the effort useless. No command was heeded. The officers of the two regiments of 'regulars' had justly boasted of the superior discipline of their men. On this occasion the superiority was not apparent. Volunteers and regulars were equally subject to thirst, and made equal endeavor to quench it.

"Twenty yards below the spring was a shallow pool, where cattle and hogs were allowed to run. Directly above it was a trough containing a few gallons of warm water, which had evidently been there several days. This was speedily taken by the men. Then the hot, scum-covered pool was resorted to. In a very few minutes the trampling of the soldiers' feet had stirred this pool till its substance was more like earth than water. Even from this the men would fill their cups and canteens, and drink with the utmost eagerness. I saw a private soldier emerge from the crowd with a canteen full of this worse than ditch-water. An officer tendered a five dollar gold piece for the contents of the canteen, and found his offer indignantly refused. To such a frenzy were the men driven by their thirst that they tore up handfuls of moist earth and swallowed the few drops of water that could be pressed out.

"In subsequent campaigns I witnessed many scenes of hunger and thirst, but none to equal those of that day at Dug Spring."

From *Campfire and Cottonfield* (1865)

zers on either side of the road, which fired intermittently at the Federals during the afternoon with little affect. Late in the afternoon, Rains thought he was being flanked on his right and decided, despite orders, to attack. He sent a mixed detachment of 150-200 mounted and dismounted troops under Col. Jesse Craven against Steele's left flank, held by Co E, 2nd U.S. under Sgt. G. H. McLaughlin, and deployed along one of the many spurs that ran perpendicular to the road. At the same time, a second column ascended Telegraph Road with the two howitzers. McLaughlin repulsed Craven once, but then was forced to retire upon his reserve, a company of general service recruits under Lt. Warren L. Lothrop. Steele brought up his two remaining companies, Co B, 2nd U.S. and a company of mounted rifle recruits, and, in the words of General Rains "the conflict became severe and hand to hand."

At this point, the Union cavalry (Companies C and D, 1st U.S. Cavalry), under Captain David S. Stanley, came to the rescue. Stanley had been posted on the right and slightly in the rear. When Steele's whole force of 200 men moved to the attack, Stanley advanced to a position on the left to guard Steele's flank. Suddenly, possibly due to a misunderstood bugle call, a portion of Stanley's company, approximately 40 troopers, swooped down upon the Confederates, cutting through their lines and sending them fleeing. Stanley recalled his men, and Steele began a general pursuit. Before he had gotten very far, he was recalled by Lyon, however. This pull-back encouraged Rains to reform and send his entire force against Steele's rear.

Meanwhile, Lyon had formed his main line for battle, deploying a section of Backoff's Missouri artillery and Battery F, 2nd U.S. Artillery under Captain James Totten. Rains's men got to within 600 yards of Lyon's line, "yelling like devils and swarming like droves of buffaloes," in the words of one witness, when Totten opened fire. Rains's men had not been able to see Totten amongst the underbrush and hilly ground, and five or six cannon rounds in quick succession sent the Confederates into a panic. They fled headlong south and did not slow down until they reached McCulloch's main camp at Crane Creek, approximately eight miles away.

Rains's losses had in fact been negligible, and McCulloch reacted to his retreat (referred to derisively by some as "Rains's Scare") with disdain. Rains's Guardsmen had been so unnerved by their experience as to be totally useless to McCulloch thereafter. He already held Sterling Price and the MSG in low regard. The skirmish at Dug Springs only served to increase this antagonism and did nothing to foster the cooperation between the various Southern forces that would be needed if Missouri were to be wrested away from the Union.

Lyon followed up the next day by continuing south to a settlement known as McCulla's Store, where the Federals dispersed a Confederate camp and engaged in some minor skirmishing. Low on rations and concerned about a reported movement of MSG troops to his northwest, Lyon returned to Springfield on August 4. McCulloch, now reluctantly in supreme command of the various Southern forces after an uneasy agreement with a desperate Sterling Price, followed slowly, settling down finally to rest and resupply at a point where the Telegraph Road crosses Wilson's Creek. It was here four days later that the armies clashed again in the Battle of Wilson's Creek.

Franc Wilkie, a correspondent for the *Dubuque Herald* and the *New York Times* who had accompanied the First Iowa Regiment on its only campaign, described Dug Springs valley as a "winding ravine of no great depth, a half a mile or so in width, and covered generally with a dense growth of oak bushes." The place looks the same (one can only assume) as it did 134 years ago, with the exception of the wild vegetation having been cleared for agricultural purposes. The spring still runs from under a concrete block spring house, the original version of which was constructed when the land owner discovered that the well he was digging was fortuitously located over a very abundant spring



THE SPRING HOUSE AT DUG SPRINGS TODAY (For a view of an older version of the spring house, see Fern Angus's *Down the Wire Road*, page 21.

(hence the name "Dug Springs"). I looked for the place four years ago when I was at Wilson's Creek for the 130th anniversary reenactment but ended up just wandering about in the countryside. It didn't occur to me to ask someone where it was. Later a friend told me I could get there by following Inman Street south out of the village of Clever. Inman Street turns into Old Telegraph Road (naturally). This last July, I was there taking pictures of the spring house when a car pulled up, and a nicely dressed man and woman asked me if I was looking for Dug Springs. I said yes, and he told me that I had found it. He pointed out the ridge where, as he understood it, most of the fighting took place. He said that he owned the land and very generously told me to look about as much as I pleased. I am sorry to say that I didn't get his name. Fern Angus, in her book *Down the Wire Road in the Missouri Ozarks* (\$13.45, postpaid, from Fern Angus, PO Box 305, Marionville, MO 65705), says the spring was later known as Hodge Spring, for the Hodge family who owned the surrounding land for many years. (Wilkie reported two or three houses in the "ravine," and General Lyon, in his report on Dug Springs, said the army bivouacked at

"Hayden's" farm.)

SEEKING INFORMATION ON (SIO)

This area is open to anyone seeking any sort of information related to the Trans-Mississippi in the Civil War.

Clark Kenyon is seeking photographs of men of the 3rd Iowa Cavalry for inclusion in a forthcoming book about that outfit. I would be glad to pay for the expense of copying any such photo. Please send xeroxes to P.O. Box 2232, Iowa City, Iowa 52244.

The skirmish at Dug Springs is known mostly for its cavalry actions: Stanley's charge (which was depicted at the time in Harper's Weekly) and "Rains's Scare." One incident not generally recalled today involved a Corporal Kleine of Stanley's command. It was reported by correspondent Wilkie: "Kleine had his sabre lifted over the head of Secessionist who begged for quarter. Kleine granted it, and was turning away, when the cowardly scoundrel shot him through the eye, killing him dead on the spot. It gives me great pleasure to record the fact that scarcely had the fellow lowered his gun ere he was hacked into mince meat by the comrades of the dragoon."

Steve Meyer, of Meyer Publishing, is seeking reports of Union prisoner of war experiences for a projected book on the subject. He is also looking for documentary material on Iowa soldiers engaged in fighting guerrillas in the Trans-Miss for a planned revision of his "Iowa Valor" books. Contact him at P.O. Box 247, Garrison, Iowa 52229, or call 800-477-5046 (Fax 319-477-5042).

Rick Baumgartner of Blue Acorn Press is seeking images of enlisted men who served in the 11th, 13th, 15th and 16th Iowa for inclusion in a new book on the Battle of Atlanta. Send xeroxes to P.O. Box 2684, Huntington, WV 25726.

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