

# County Braces For Civil War



CAMP OF THE 5<sup>TH</sup> (formerly 13<sup>th</sup>) REGIMENT CAVALRY M.S.M.

Albert C. G. ... Jacob ... Ennstain ... Lt. Colonel ... John R. ... Major ...

house on the Gasconade, and is reported as now in the hands of Col. Glover, commanding Rolla District.

Small rebel forces are hovering around Houston under Captains Curry and Spellman.

I have the honor to inform you finally that I, with the assistance of some of our dismounted men, have constructed a field work at this post, which is nearly completed. It is large enough to hold five or six companies and strong enough to resist even 6-pounder balls. It was constructed with a view to the military importance of Springfield, and may perhaps be of use at no distant time.

I remain, Colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant, Albert Sigel, Colonel Commanding Thirteenth Cavalry and Post. To Col. C.W. Marsh, Assistant adjutant-General.

Hdqs. 13th Regt. Cav., Mo. S.M., Waynesville, Mo., Oct. 18, 1862.

Colonel: In compliance with your dispatch, received last evening, that 200 rebels had crossed the Missouri at Portland the night before and tried to make their way south, I thought it best to let them come near our post, so as to be able to intercept them whenever they tried to cross our line. I therefore ordered Captain Murphy, after midnight, with portions of four companies, numbering 75 men, toward the Gasconade, while I had another force of about 100 men ready to throw on them whenever I could get in.

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## "War of the Rebellion"

### Official Documents of Union And Confederate

Headquarters Army of the Frontier, Rolla, Mo., May 1, 1863. Maj. Gen. Samuel R. Curtis, St. Louis, Mo.:

Major Miller, of the Second Wisconsin Cavalry, has just returned from an extended scout south of Salem and Houston. He reports no enemy in that direction, except Colonel Freeman's band, some 200 strong. I send a party after them tomorrow. The stage, with mails, has been robbed twice within the past week between this place and Waynesville, but as yet nothing has been done by the commanding officer of this district toward looking up the thieves. A stirring up from headquarters would be of some avail.

F.J. Herron, Major-General, Commanding.

Headquarters Army of the Frontier, Rolla, Mo., May 1, 1863. Citizens of Pulaski County, Missouri.

The stage on the route from Rolla to Springfield having been robbed three times within the past week, at or near the California House, and the mails abstracted therefrom, the undersigned hereby gives notice that he will hold the citizens along the route responsible for these acts. 1st. That in future, any horse stolen will be replaced at

once by stock taken from citizens in the vicinity.

2nd. That any and every one captured who has been connected with these robberies will be shot without ceremony.

Without the citizens take measures to rid their neighborhood of these thieves, a very summary mode will be adopted to correct this matter.

F.J. Herron, Major-General.

August 29 to September 1862. Expeditions from Waynesville, Mo., skirmish at California House. "War of the Rebellion" Headquarters Thirteenth Cavalry Mo. S.M. Waynesville, September 12, 1862.

Colonel: I have the honor to send you the following report:

Having learned on the 29th of August, late in the afternoon, that a large body of rebels, about 300 strong, were moving through Texas and the southern part of Pulaski Counties in a northern direction toward our line between Lebanon and this post, and a train of 65 wagons being at that time encamped 13 miles south of this post, where the Gasconade crosses the Springfield road, with an escort of 30 men, under Captain Smith, Company H of this regiment, I immediately ordered Lt. Col. Eppstein, with nearly all the

mounted men of this command, to the assistance of Captain Smith. I also directed Lt. Col. Eppstein to leave a picket at the California House, which is situated 7 miles from this post. I further placed small pickets along the road to keep open communication with the said detachment, presuming that the enemy would either attack our train or waylay it along the road.

The report of an approaching rebel force was this time, as not in many cases true. The rebels crossed the road at midnight near the California House, and were fired on by Lt. Col. Epstein's and my pickets, which unexpected firing caused them to scatter in a northern and southern direction, whilst the larger part, under Col. Lawther, fled in a northern direction. As the distance was too far for Lt. Col. Eppstein to reach them, I immediately ordered Captain Murphy, Company B, with the last mounted men in camp, to pursue the main force, which latter fell in with an enrolled Militia, Company under Captain Long, and a part of Enrolled Militia, Company A, Pulaski County, who killed 7 of the rebels and wounded a number more, losing 3 wounded and 1 killed of their own. Captain Murphy soon came up and followed the fleeing rebels for 18 miles, forcing a part of them,

Captain Peabody, of Jefferson City, with 28 men, to surrender to a militia company of Osage County, and scattering the balance of the rebels 25 miles below Jefferson City, where they intended to cross the Missouri River. He also sent 9 prisoners to Jefferson City

and destroyed all the skiffs at the McKerk landing—a favorite crossing place of the rebels. Our pickets brought in 2 prisoners, 9 horses, and several guns, which the rebels left at their nightly skedaddle near the California House. Col. Lawther was left sick in a

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## Civil War

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formation where they intended to cross.

At about 10:00 this morning I received a report that Captain Murphy had not only found their trace, but was in hot pursuit of them. It was also reported that they had turned southwest, and it was now certain to me that they would cross our line 7 miles west from here near the California House. I immediately started there with the force already mentioned, and we were scarcely ten minutes near the California House, when they drove in our advance guard, under Lt. Muller, of Company A, who fell back and brought them into the line of Lt. Brown, of Company F, whose men were dismounted. We now pitched into them from all sides, and in a few minutes they ran for their lives. Captain Murphy was also nearly up at that time, and drove a portion of them before him, scattering them in all directions.

The estimate of the rebels killed is 20, among them Lt. Tipton, and as many are wounded. We captured a secesh flag, 2 roll books, some horses, and some shot-guns and Austrain rifles; made 3 prisoners, and liberated 2 Union men, whom they had prisoners. We had only 1 man slightly wounded. I ordered the secesh population of the neighborhood to bury the dead and to care for the wounded rebels.

The rebels were well armed and equipped and 250 to 300 strong. They were commanded by Capt. Ely, Capt. Brooks, and two captains both with the name of Creggs, and were a part of Col. Porter's command, who did not cross the Missouri with them, but promised to follow them with a larger force.

All our officers and men behaved well. Capt. Smith (Co. H) has not yet, as 8:30 a.m. come back from pursuing the rebels.

I remain, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant, Albert Sigel, Col. Comdg. Thirteenth Regiment Cavalry, Mo., S.M. Colonel Glover, Commanding District, Rolla, Mo.

Waynesville, Mo., August 25, 1863.

An escort of 14 men, coming back from Lebanon, was attacked 4 miles from here by 25 rebels. They killed one of our men and wounded one; both are here. I have sent 35 men, under Captain Muller, in the direction of the California House, and 14 men in another direction. Mr. McCain brought in the wounded men and the killed.

W. Fischer, Major, Commanding. Brigadier-

General Davies.

Headquarters Post of Houston, Mo., September 14, 1863.

Captain: I have the honor to make the following report to you, for the information of the general commanding:

At midnight, September 11, information was brought to me that 6 guerrillas, with 5 horses, had just passed a house 10 miles south of me. I immediately sent Capt. Richardson, with 10 men of Co. B. and 10 of Co. D., in pursuit, who, on arriving at the place where the rebels were seen, found that they had got supper and gone south. Captain Richardson followed them for 57 miles without stopping, and ascertained that one of the rebels (Martin Dodds), had left the party and gone to Thomasville, and another had lost the way the night before, but that the remaining four were in the woods until morning, when he pushed forward, and found the rebels asleep in the woods who, on their approach, awoke and ran. Three, in the attempt to escape, were killed on the spot. Their names are William Lingo, of Waynesville, Lt. Obe Moss of Pulaski County, and Jacob Bottom. The remaining man, Oscar D. Blount, of St. Louis, was shot through both thighs, and is now in the hospital at this post. With these men were captured 11 horses, 2 of which are stage horses, and 3 taken from a wagon on the road near Rolla; 7 citizens saddles and

3 bridles, 1 of them belonging to the stage company; 32 pairs of men's shoes, 17 pairs of women's shoes, 2 bolts of domestic, 3 sacks of coffee, 1 United States newspaper bag, and 1 set of stage lines. This is the most important capture made in this country, and too much credit cannot be awarded Capt. Richardson and these men for their perseverance in the pursuit of these outlaws.

I inclose a letter found on the body of Lt. Moss, and written by Col. Baodie Hull to his wife in Arkansas. This letter was given Moss for delivery.

I have gained some valuable information from the wounded man Blount. He gave me the names of those that harbor and feed them. Among these are Andy Hall, living close to Judge Yorks, and Purcell, close to Licking. I also found that William Lingo had 13 horses and a great variety of other stolen property at the house of John King, close to the Arkansas line; and Lee Tilly, son of Tilly near Waynesville, has also a number of horses and other articles secreted in that vicinity. If I could get permission to take a scout down there, I think it would be profitable; but my horses are completely worn out from the amount of duty to perform, and with 25 of Co. G taken away for the two howitzers, and 8 more of the same company under arrest at Rolla for mutiny, my available force is very much reduced; and if the general should approve of this anticipated scout, I would

request that he send me about 50 men, with fresh horses; and these, with what I can mount here, would make a force amply sufficient for this enterprise.

The horses and other property taken in this scout I will send to Rolla by next train, and by mail I will send you a complete statement of the wounded man Blount.

Believing this will receive your careful attention, I have the honor to remain,

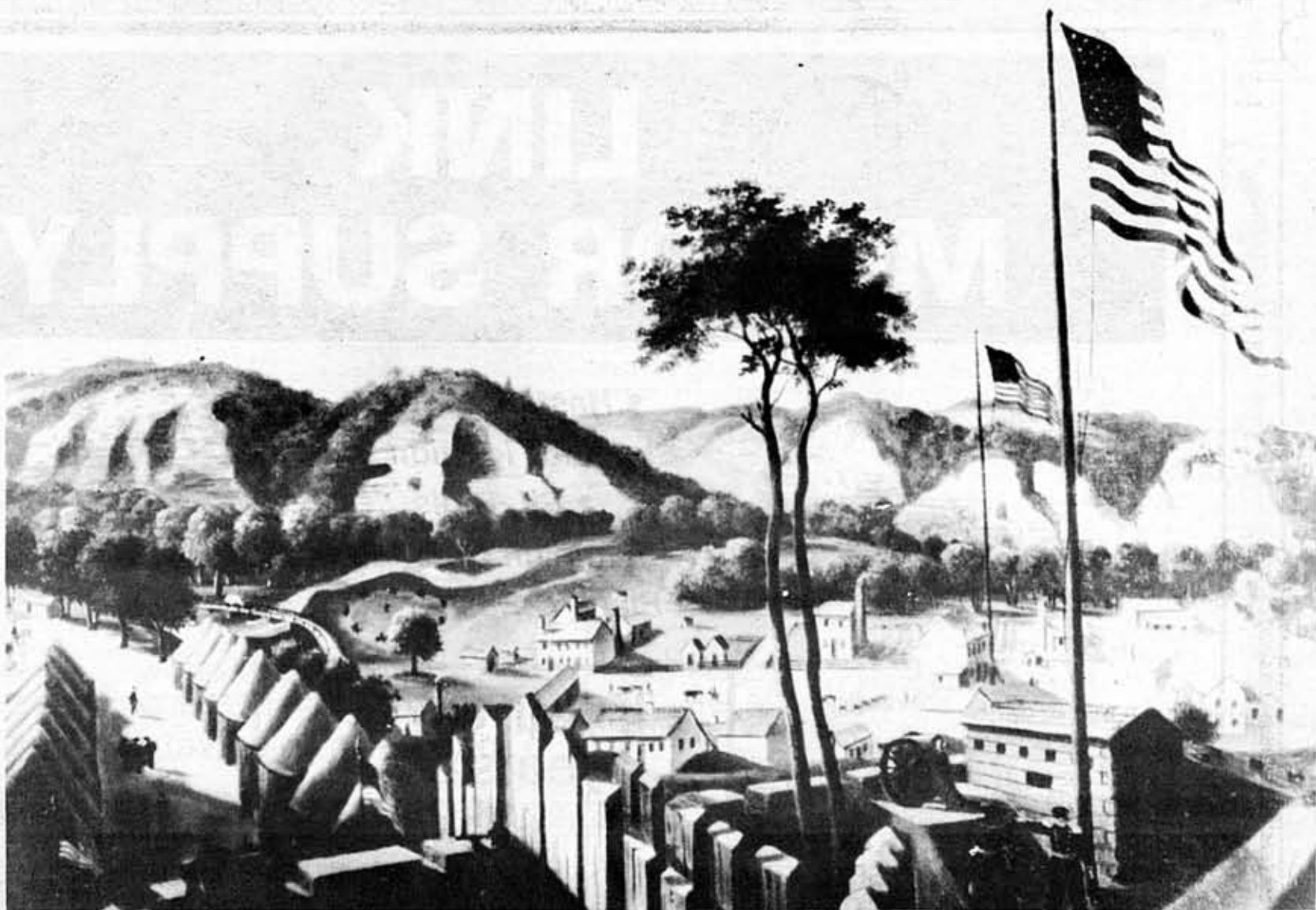
very respectfully, your obedient servant, Richard Murphy, Captain Commanding Post, J. Lovell, Assistant adjutant-General, District of Rolla.

Hdqrs. Thirteenth Cavalry Mo., State Militia, Waynesville, Mo., July 9, 1862.

Colonel: In pursuance of Special Orders, No. 12, from these headquarters, dated Waynesville, July 6, 1862, I

started with 30 men of Companies B and F under Lts. Ellington and Brown, to Waynan's Mill, on Spring Creek, 12 miles from here, where I was informed that a company of Coleman's men were encamped, about 20 miles from that place on the Big Piney. I immediately left in that direction, and on my way learned that Coleman had taken possession the day before and was running

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Union Fort overlooking Waynesville.

## MALLOWS MARKET

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## Civil War

(Continued From Page 19)

north toward the Springfield road, a statement which I disbelieve.

Reports of the whereabouts and strength (from 100 to 400) of the company above mentioned was so contradictory, that I did not know how to operate until I came to Johnson's Mills, about 30 miles from this place, on the Big Piney, where I succeeded in arresting one of Coleman's men, who told me that he had left camp an hour previous and was on his way home. His father, who is also a rebel and belongs to the gang, lives about 10 miles farther on. I compelled him by threats to go with me as guide to the camp, which I certainly could not have found without his assistance.

I started from Johnson's Mill at sundown on the 7th instant, and at 8:30 p.m. arrived at another mill, where I ordered my men to dismount, leaving the horses in charge of 10 men as guards. From that place I marched with the balance of my force (20 men, with officers) about a quarter of a mile up the road, thence through a dry creek, following the same for about 300 yards. Half an hour was lost in trying to ascertain the exact whereabouts of the camp, until I suddenly was hailed to halt. I made no reply to their sentinel, but pushed slowly forward until I found myself obstructed by a deep, stagnant creek, which could not be forded. I ordered my men to follow me around until I came to a hollower place; we crossed.

On climbing up the rock on the other side we found the enemy alarmed and formed in line 12 yards in front of us. I ordered them to surrender, but was greeted by several volleys of musketry. It was only then that my men commenced firing, having previously been instructed by me to save their ammunition, and after a few rounds I ordered them to Charge Bayonets, which was immediately and gallantly executed. The enemy could not stand the charge, and broke in every direction in their shirt-tails, leaving behind them coats, pants, boots, and hats. Owing to the darkness of the night and the thickness of the brush I could not pursue them, and hearing of the proximity of another force of Coleman's men, was apprehensive of the safety of my little force, and returned after having reconnoitered the ground. I found 4 dead bodies, 1 wounded man, several horses killed, and alot of clothing and camp equipage strewn in every direction. Considering the proximity of firing. I judge that many more rebels were wounded, but succeeded in escaping.

Bradford, the prisoner and guide, tried to escape during



The Tie Industry was important in Pulaski County.

our charge, but was run through with a bayonet. He was left wounded on the field, but I ordered a neighbor to his assistance. But one of our men was slightly wounded by a buckshot, as the volleys of the enemy went over our heads.

I captured 3 prisoners, 10 horses, 8 saddles, and 5 guns. The camp equipage was destroyed, as we had no means to take it along. The names of the prisoners are William Hamilton, George Logan, and James Ormsby, all of Company A, Coleman's battalion.

One of the prisoners stated that Coleman had left Arkansas with about 600 men, but that he had recruited his force since that time to about 800 men in the adjoining counties; a statement which I fully believe.

Very respectfully yours, Joseph A. Eppstein, Lt. Col., Thirteenth Cavalry, Missouri State Militia. Col. Albert Sigel, Thirteenth Cavalry, Missouri State Militia, commanding Post, Waynesville, Mo.

Waynesville, September 30, 1864.

Sir: I attacked twenty guerrillas today in Waynesville; killed 1, said by citizens to be Bill Anderson, and wounded 2 others, who made their escape; killed 2 horses and captured a third. Also captured a revolver and some clothing dropped by the rebels in their flight. Our loss, 2 horses wounded. They burned stabling of one company and set fire to the magazine in the fort, but it did not burn. No other damage done to property. They robbed the county clerk of \$100 and secured a small amount of clothing from

citizens.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant, Thos. B. Wright 1st, Lieut. Co. B, Fifth Regt. Cav., Missouri S.M. Lieutenant-Colonel Eppstein, Rolla, Mo.

October 1, 1864. Sir: Since writing I have learned that this band were under command of a man named Burkhardt, formerly of Texas County, Mo., who represented that he belonged to Shelby's command, but several of his men were recognized here and are known to be bushwhackers. I do not think they have any connection with the army invading the State. I learned today that they had collected and gone in southern direction.

T.B. Wright, Lieutenant-Colonel Eppstein, Rolla, Mo.

November 1, 1864. Sir: In compliance with orders I performed the duty near the mouth of the Big Piney, at old man Black's, I found four bushwhackers and attacked them and wounded 2 and took one prisoner. Started and the prisoner tried to escape, and the guard halted twice and then fired and killed him. I took 2 horses.

D.W. Cantrell, 2nd Lieut. Company G, 34th Enrolled Mo. Militia.

Waynesville, Mo., June 28, 1863. Major: Of the two late scouts made by your orders, I have the honor to report that on Saturday evening, the 19th, when about 6 miles out of camp, I came across a gang of 26 bushwhackers. With my squad of 8, I pitched into them, and scattered them in all directions. It was in a short time a general running free fight, in which one of the men was taken prisoner, his horses and

equipment taken, and he turned loose, on parole of a man signing himself S.S. Tucker, but whose real name is Benson Woods.

The parole is, of course, not valid. Night coming on, we returned to camp, bringing only one pair of saddle-bags filled with provisions (as trophies).

Leaving camp again on the morning of the 20th, we scouted the country between Roubidoux and Gasconade to near the line of Laclede County. On the 21st, discovered signs of a band. On the 22nd, struck their trail; but previous to this I had joined Lt. Twyford, of my company, with a squad of

men, now making our number up to 27. About noon we came across the band grazing their horses; but they discovered us about the same time we did them, but we were on to them so quick that only 2 of them, succeeded in mounting, 1 of whom we caught, after a chase of nearly 2 miles; also 4 loose horses. Of those that we left afoot, 2 escaped, but their leader, a noted stage robber by the name of Casey, was killed. And here allow me to mention the noteworthy conduct of William Wilson, a citizen of this place, who evinced true courage and determination in chasing up and capturing

these outlaws, having his horse shot under him, but never faltering as long as anything was to be done. On the 23rd, we struck the trail of the two who had escaped on foot. After trailing them about 25 miles, we came upon them as they ran from their old den, which is in Wright County, 10 miles southwest of Mountain Store, and am sorry to say that circumstances were such that we were forced to take these two villains as prisoners. We had now four out of the five first routed.

We captured in all 3 bushwhackers, killed 1, captured 7 head of horses, 1 Government mule, 4 saddles, 1 Austrain rifle, 2 revolvers, 1 musketoon, and a quantity of clothing and boots and shoes, which they said they had taken from the store of Mr. Stith, near Lebanon.

Allow me to say that during all the scouts and the two little skirmishes the men under me behaved nobly, and though a great many shots were fired at them, no one was hurt. I will also state that I have ascertained the whereabouts of a camp of 64 men near the Arkansas line, and entirely unsupported; this I had from Casey just before he died; also from the prisoners we now have. One of this gang, by the name of Frick, killed a man on the Gasconade last week, by the name of Sherwood, which information I also got from Casey as he was dying.

I close by saying that if we had the men here to work with, we could effectually break up this bushwhacking business, as we now know the country nearly as well as they.

I am, major, very respectfully, your obedient servant. J.C. Smith, Capt. Co. H, Fifth Missouri State Militia Cav. Major Fischer.

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