



# CIVIL WAR FORT PROTECTED THE CITY OF ROLLA

Troops of the Federal Army came to Rolla during the Civil War. According to Goodspeed's history of Phelps County, many of the old residents with southern inclinations went away.

A transient business population came in with the Army to trade while 20,000 troops were here for the winter. All sorts of temporary buildings were made by both private and

government interests to supply the soldiers' needs.

The general military headquarters were in the old two-story log engineer's house, on the vacant lots west of the Rolla Mills. The place was fortified by a series of trenches and earthworks, almost surrounding the city, and especially strong to the southwest, covering a radius of about a mile.

The courthouse was fortified by rifle-pits. Two massive forts covered the city on the south and north. Fort Wyman, on the south hill, about a mile distant, still revealed ruins in 1889. It was a great structure, over 400 feet square with its outer works beyond the moat made of slanting timbers to make cannon balls glance off and upward.

The center of the stockade

was sheltered and a fine flowing well was driven. The fort, which was on the site east of the school of mines, was a picturesque ruin in 1889, but described as a powerfully built fortress in the form of a greek cross, with its two pairs of arms measuring over 300 feet and all covered with double packed timbered enclosures rising several feet above the roof.

In the center of the cross was a circular elevation, on which heavy cannons were placed. The timbered walls were guarded by a ditch and trenches beyond them. The hills were dotted with camps for miles around. The use for the ground and timbers almost mowed down the old forest for a radius of over three miles.

The drill ground was on James' and the Mill Ad-

ditions, which were cleared clean, and four or five wells were sunk. Bishop's Second Addition was covered with military shops. Bishop's First Addition was used as a corral for the herds of Army mules and horses.

The government storehouses were built in a solid line from the present depot site to the east cut.

## Ozark Superstitions!

In time of drought, if a snake is killed, it should be hung with its belly up to bring rain.

Once a turtle bites, it will not let go until thunder is heard.

A whistling girl and a crowing hen will always come to some bad end.

If pigs create an unusual disturbance, running about with sticks in their mouths, a storm with cold weather is coming.

If you see a perched cardinal, make a wish before it flies and your wish will come true.



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When a screech owl is heard, a child under seven in the family, is going to die.

If a young lady wishes to make sure that her absent lover will think of her, she must turn his picture upside down.

If you tell a lie, white spots will appear on your fingernails.

Mothers should bite off their babies nails because if they are cut with scissors, the children will become thieves.

A dirty sock tied around the neck before going to bed will cure a sore throat or bad cold.

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