

“The violation of this parole means death.”

This past summer a document surfaced that links two eras in the Old Stagecoach Stop's history. A gentleman brought the Civil War parole of Lewis Black into the Lost in the Woods Antique & Collectibles store, located in Waynesville. **Dave Hasik**, owner, recognized the connection of the document to the Old Stagecoach Stop. Dave generously donated the 7x10 inch parole paper to the Foundation (opposite page).

As most readers know, the *Old Settlers Gazette* is published by the Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation. The Foundation owns and maintains the Old Stagecoach Stop Museum on the east side of the square in Waynesville, Missouri. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, primarily by virtue of its having been a hospital during the Civil War.

For the past 40 years, the Foundation has researched the owners and occupants of the building, utilizing a wide variety of sources. Trips to the National Archives revealed details of activity during the Civil War. Much has been learned but much more remains unknown.

The Old Stagecoach Stop, then known as the Johnson House, was purchased in 1894 by Lewis (1822-1899) and Eliza Black (1839-1930), who renamed it the Black Hotel. The appearance of Lewis's parole spurred another look at the antebellum situation of the Black family.

Both Lewis Black and Eliza Arnold were born in Greene County in eastern Tennessee. Their families moved to

eastern Old Pulaski in the 1840s. Lewis had a brief marriage to Mary Jane Sally, fathering two boys. It is not clear what terminated the marriage but they were estranged by the 1850 census. In 1860, the two boys born to that marriage, George and William, were living with Lewis and Eliza.

Lewis and Eliza were married in 1859 and settled in Dent County, the nearest post office being Montauk. Lewis's occupation on the 1860 Census was listed as blacksmith, a desired trade near a mill or lumbering operations. One of the near neighbors of the Blacks was William Jenkins from South Carolina, identified on the census as a miller. The other six families in the neighborhood using the Montauk post office, including the Blacks, had head-of-households from Tennessee.

Clues as to the circumstances that led to the arrest, detention, and paroling of Lewis by Union troops required sifting through the *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (1880), often referred to as the OR. As a result of reading military dispatches sent from Rolla by the newly installed officer commanding the fort at that place, Colonel Grenville Meller Dodge of the 4th Iowa Infantry, and the letters of a soldier of the 4th Iowa, known only as “Occasional,” to his home town newspaper *Nonpareil* of Council Bluffs, Iowa, a possible scenario has developed. An excerpt from a letter of November 7, 1861, to the *Nonpareil* from “Occasional” sets the stage.

Col. Dodge, of our regiment, is commandant of the post. Our regiment is all on extra duty now. One detachment of 250 is in full chase of the rebels under Freeman [Thomas R. Freeman, a former Phelps County Judge], now 60 miles south...

Colonel Dodge, in a subsequent dispatch on November 9, provides more detail about the expedition against Freeman's forces.

CAPTAIN: Having obtained reliable information of Freeman and his forces, on Friday, November 11, I sent a detachment, consisting of 250 of Fourth Iowa, 180 of Thirty-sixth Illinois, and Wood's Kansas Rangers, 60 strong, under command of Colonel Grensel, Thirty-sixth Illinois, with instructions to fight Freeman or drive him and forces out of the country; and, after doing this, to divide the forces, sending the cavalry home by way of Salem, leaving the infantry, under command of Maj. W. R. English, Fourth Iowa, to capture all the property belonging to rebels in



Colonel Grenville M. Dodge was promoted to Brigadier General after being wounded at the Battle of Pea Ridge in 1862. Library of Congress.

Freeman's army, and report to these headquarters.

The infantry arrived tonight, bringing in a large amount of property, stock, and several prominent rebel prisoners. They drove Freeman from Texas County, and Captain Wood, in command of cavalry, is still in pursuit of him. The amount of stock and property will amount to several thousand dollars, all of it good.

The expedition has proved a success, and I think has rid this section of a thieving, murdering rebel force.

I did not telegraph in relation to expedition, not considering it of that character that required speedy information to headquarters of department.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,


G. M. Dodge,

Colonel, Commanding Post.

Capt. C. McKeever, Assistant Adjutant-General.

As for the success of the expedition that swept south of Salem and west to Licking, an “Occasional” letter of November 10 noted that “They didn't catch Freeman, didn't see him, didn't get near him as they knew of, but they confiscated a large number of cattle and horses belonging to rebels in arms,” along with several prisoners. One of those prisoners might have been Lewis Black, suspected of giving aid and information to the enemy. The circumstances and the time frame allows for the possibility.

The only other mention of Lewis Black during the war is a claim in the Provost Marshal Records by Lewis on December 3, 1863, that the 11th Missouri Cavalry took his horse.



JUDGE COLIN LONG

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Head Qurs Post
 Rolla Mo Nov 14th 1861
 Lewis Black is released on his parole
 of honor not to go outside the line
 of pickets at the Post of Rolla Mo
 nor in any manner to give aid or
 information to the enemy
 The violation of this Parole will
 be death
 The said Lewis Black will report
 himself to these Head Qurs one
 in three days
 Lewis Black

All Soldiers and Citizens will respect
 the rights and privileges of this
 Parole

By order of
 G M Dodge
 Col Comdg Post
 J A Williamson
 A A A General

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 Lewis Black is permitted to go
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 Mo and remain there until order
 ed to report himself here by the
 Commander of this Post
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 Col Comdg
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Furlough of
 Lewis Black

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This 1861 Civil War document, donated by Dave Hasik of Lost in the Woods Antiques & Collectibles, is on display in the Civil War Room at the Old Stagecoach Stop House Museum.