

CHAPTER VI.

HISTORY OF THE COUNTY DURING 1861.

The Legislature of 1861 — Election of Delegates to the State Convention — The work of the Convention — The Winter of 1861 — After Fort Sumpter — Public Meetings — The First Federal Troops — First Union Military Company — Burning of the Salt River Bridge — The Campaign against Mart Green — The Fight at Shelbina — Fremont's "Annihilation" of Green's Rebels — Miscellaneous Military Matters — Capt. Foreman's Company Visits Shelbyville — Arrest of Hon. John McAfee — Tom. Stacy's Company — Gen. Grant's First Military Services in the Civil War are Performed in Shelby County — Bushwhacking — Missouri Secession — The Gamble Government and Its Oath — Turning Out the "Disloyal" Officers.

THE LEGISLATURE OF 1861.

On the last day of December, 1860, the twenty-first General Assembly of Missouri met at Jefferson City. The retiring Governor, "Bob" M. Stewart, delivered a very conservative message, taking the middle ground between secession and abolitionism, and pleading strenuously for peace and moderation. He declared, among other things, that the people of Missouri "ought not to be frightened from their propriety by the past unfriendly legislation of the North, nor dragooned into secession by the restrictive legislation of the extreme South." He concluded with a thrilling appeal for the maintenance of the Union, depicting the inevitable result of secession, revolution and war. Many of Governor Stewart's predictions were afterward fulfilled with startling and fearful exactness.

The inaugural of the new Governor, Claiborne Fox Jackson, indorsed the doctrine of his famous resolutions of 1849 — that the interests and destiny of the slave-holding States were the same; that the State was in favor of remaining in the Union so long as there was any hope of maintaining the guarantees of the constitution; but that in the event of a failure to reconcile the differences which then threatened the disruption of the Union, it would be the duty of the State "to stand by the South," and that he was utterly opposed to the doctrine of coercion in any event. Gov. Jackson concluded by recommending the immediate call of a State convention, in order that "the will of the people may be ascertained and effectuated."

Upon the organization of the House of Representatives, Hon. John McAfee, of Shelby, Democrat, was chosen Speaker, receiving 77 votes

to 43 for Marcus Boyd, of Greene (Bell-Everett), 4 for Thomas L. Price, of Cole (Douglas-Dunn), and 1 for John Hyer, of Dent. Mr. McAfee was regarded as a representative of the extreme pro-slavery wing of the Democratic party. It was something of a compliment to Shelby county that her representative should be chosen as the presiding officer of the popular branch of the Legislature at such an important and critical period. To Mr. McAfee it was a great honor, and a mark of supreme confidence.

In accordance with the Governor's recommendation, the Legislature, on January 17, passed a bill calling a convention, to be composed of three times as many members as in the aggregate each senatorial district was entitled to State Senators — that is, three delegates from each senatorial district in the State — and appointing February 18, as the day on which they were to be elected, and February 28, the day on which the convention would assemble. The 10th section of this bill was as follows: —

No act, ordinance, or resolution of said convention shall be deemed to be valid to change or dissolve the political relations of this State to the Government of the United States, or any other State, until a majority of the qualified voters of the State, voting upon the question, shall ratify the same.

The author of this section was Hon. Charles H. Hardin, then a Senator from the Boone and Callaway district, and Governor of Missouri in 1874-76. Thus the secession of the State was made an impossibility without the consent of the majority of the voters. After a much disturbed and very turbulent session, the Legislature adjourned March 28.

During the session Mr. McAfee, the member from Shelby, bore a conspicuous part, not only as Speaker of the House, but as a leader of the extreme pro-slavery men and conditional Union men or contingent secessionists. He made no concealment of his views that he favored the secession of Missouri under certain circumstances.

ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO THE STATE CONVENTION.

The Seventh Senatorial District of which Shelby county was a part, was composed of the counties of Macon, Shelby and Adair. As the district was entitled to three delegates to the State convention each county was allowed to name a candidate on the Unconditional Union ticket. The three candidates were: Frederick Rowland, of Macon; John D. Foster, of Adair; and Joseph M. Irwin, of Shelby.

In each county there was a *Conditional* Union candidate, one who

would be willing to vote for secession under certain circumstances possible to occur. That candidate in Shelby county was G. Watts Hillias, a young lawyer of Shelbyville. Mr. Irwin was a substantial citizen, an old settler, and took pains to have it known that he was uncompromisingly opposed to secession, and hostile to the course which had been adopted by the seceded States.

There was but little time for canvassing, but newspaper publication was made of the views of the candidates, and the people voted understandingly. The election came off and Messrs. Rowland, Foster and Irwin were chosen by overwhelming majorities. Shelby county voted almost three to one in favor of the Unconditional Union candidates. This clearly showed the sentiment of the county at that time.

THE WORK OF THE CONVENTION.

The convention assembled at Jefferson City, February 28, 1861. Sterling Price, of Chariton county, afterward the distinguished Confederate general, was chosen president. On the second day it adjourned to meet in St. Louis, where it reconvened March 4th, continued in session until the 22d, when it adjourned to meet on the third Monday in December, subject, however, to a call of a majority of a committee of seven. Before adjourning, a series of resolutions were adopted, two of which were of superior importance, and here proper to be noted: — 1. Containing the explicit declaration that there was no adequate cause to impel Missouri to dissolve her connection with the Federal union. 2. Taking unmistakable ground against the employment of military force by the Federal government to coerce the seceding States, or the employment of military force by the seceding States to assail the government of the United States.

Mr. J. T. Redd, of Marion, and Mr. Harrison Hough, of Mississippi county, of the Committee on Federal Relations, presented a minority report, reciting the wrongs suffered by the slave-holding States at the hands of the North, and calling for a conference of the Southern States then in the Union to meet at Nashville to determine what was best for their interests. This report was rejected — or rather it was not acted upon, as the majority report was adopted by a large majority.

Throughout his term of service, Mr. Irwin, of Shelby, was a Radical Union man. He voted for the test-oaths, for all measures calculated to strengthen the Union cause. July 1, 1863 (the day the convention adjourned *sine die*), he voted for the ordinance emancipat-

ing the slaves, to take effect July 4, 1876, and providing for the payment to every loyal owner of the sum of \$300 for every slave so emancipated. He was generally supported by Foster, of Adair, but his other colleague, Rowland, of Macon, was more conservative, and opposed test-oaths, etc,

THE WINTER OF 1861.

During the months of January, February and March, 1861, there was great interest manifested in public affairs by the people of the county. The prospect of war was fully discussed, and many prepared for it. A large portion openly sympathized with the seceded States, but the majority preferred to take no decided steps to aid either side. Many declared that Missouri had done nothing to bring on a war, and would do nothing to help it along should one break out. "We are neither secessionists nor abolitionists," said they, "and we are neither fanatics nor fire-eaters."

Meantime, and especially in February and March, numerous secret meetings were held in the county by both Union men and secessionists. Every man's politics were known (or were thought to be), by every other man, and invitations were sent out to attend these meetings only to those who were known to be "sound." Each side knew that the other side was meeting secretly, and yet there was no attempt at interference. Both parties met and were friendly. The policy seemed to be that of the "I'll let you alone, if you'll let me alone" kind.

The secessionists met from time to time, and deliberated. Honestly believing that the best interests of Missouri would be served if she should unite her fortunes with those of her sister Southern States, these men worked zealously and faithfully. They met in secret conclave from time to time. They got ready for any emergency that might come.

Very many of this class of our citizens deprecated Civil War, and sincerely hoped that it might be avoided, but resolved that, if come it did, they would bind their fate to that of the Southern cause, allied as they were to that section by ties of kinship, of birthplace, of self-interest, of commonalty of sentiment, of sympathy. It may be that no men were ever more mistaken, but certainly no men were ever more in earnest and more honest in opinion, than were the secessionists of Shelby county in the late winter and early spring of 1861.

The people of the surrounding counties were busy holding public meetings. Marion county declared openly for secession, and Monroe

avored the Crittenden compromise, but hinted remotely at separation if it came to the point. Lewis, Knox, Adair, and Clark declared in numerous public meetings for the Union.

The winter and early spring of 1861 wore away, and the people were restless, uneasy, and feverish. While the Union sentiment of the county predominated, the secessionists were bold, demonstrative, and disposed to be aggressive. They were encouraged by their brethren in Marion, who held public meetings at Emerson, March 16, and at Palmyra, March 30, at both of which secession flags were raised amid great enthusiasm.

The Union men were cool and determined. The majority deprecated war, and earnestly hoped it might be averted. Some declared they would not take up arms at all except to preserve the peace of the county against both factions.

The Shelby County *Weekly*, the newspaper of the county, which had been started at Shelbyville, March 7, was edited by G. Watts Hillias, who had been the conditional Union candidate for delegate to the convention. The paper was for the Union with many "ifs" and "buts" and provisos. It was really in the secession interest.

AFTER FORT SUMPTER.

The firing on Ft. Sumpter by the Confederates, April 12, 1861; the proclamation of President Lincoln calling for 75,000 volunteers; Gov. Jackson's indignant refusal to respond to the requisition on Missouri; the excitement throughout the South; the uprising in the North, — these are incidents in the history of the country, the particulars of which need not be set forth in these pages.

The reception of the news that hostilities had actually begun caused great excitement. Many openly declared for the South and secession, but as many, or more, were strongly for the Union, and in nowise backward about expressing themselves.

April 22, Gov. Jackson ordered the Legislature to convene in extra session May 2, "for the purpose of enacting such laws and adopting such measures as may be deemed necessary and proper for the more perfect organization and equipment of the militia of the State and to raise money enough and such other means as may be required to place the State in proper attitude for defense." The Legislature was in session 12 days. Speaker McAfee was zealous in his support of Gov. Jackson's military bill, and all of the war measures adopted against the Federal government.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

The day after Sumpter was fired on there was a public meeting at Hunnewell, which, however, had been called some days before. Both sides were represented at this meeting, the secessionists by G. Watts Hillias, and the Unionists by Samuel B. Hardy, Esq., of Jackson township. In a communication to the *Weekly*, Mr. Al. McAfee, a secessionist, gave the following report of and comments on this meeting :

I attended the meeting at Hunnewell on Saturday last, and propose to give your readers a few items. * * * In vain we have looked for a peaceful solution of our national trouble. War has begun, and the time is at hand when every man should speak boldly and fearlessly his sentiments. Men can not longer hide their real opinions under high sounding and once loved and much cherished names. It is the high duty of every man to speak and act for which ever side he deems right. I am a Southerner in the full sense of the word. I am proud of the name and, therefore, neither afraid nor ashamed to make the avowal. All my feelings are with the South. I believe they have truth, justice and right on their side, and such being the case, a justice-loving God will aid them in their glorious struggle for independence.

I attended that meeting to hear Hillias make a speech. I wanted to hear a secession speech straight out, but I was mistaken. He is a secessionist on certain conditions. The young man, in a clear, forcible manner, presented the position he occupied in the recent canvass. He was not for immediate secession — wanted a fair and honorable compromise, but, failing in this, was in favor of Missouri uniting her destiny with the South. We understood in this section that he was an immediate secessionist, and that his opponent occupied precisely the position which I find Hillias occupied. Hence your readers can reasonably account for the heavy vote given for the so-called Union ticket. We are not submissionists by any means.

He gave the Black Republicans some lovely blows. He closed his speech, which was able and eloquent, with some just and cutting remarks in regard to the proceedings of our State convention. He spoke thus of the majority. What a horrible imposition this convention affair is !

Judge S. B. Hardy arose to reply ; said he had been requested so to do by some of the leading men of his party in this section. The Judge began by complimenting Abe Lincoln. Said that Lincoln had done all that man could for the welfare of his country ; that the Black Republican party had already given the South more than they asked, and seemed somewhat displeased at Hillias because he was hard on the Black Republicans. Said we must not judge the Black Republican party too hard — must give the devil his due. The Judge, in his anxiety to relieve the Black Republican party from any censure, was

willing to make of Judge Douglass a Black Republican. Now I have no fondness for some of Judge Douglass' views; yet, if he can preach Black Republican doctrine with a more hearty will than did Judge Hardy, he is too black for me.

I venture the assertion that Giddings himself does not more warmly support Abe Lincoln than did Judge Hardy, and yet he would feel himself insulted if I were to call him a Black Republican. For shame! Judge; you and those who act with you—who sustain Lincoln and preach the same doctrines of his party—do have the moral courage to come out at once and say you are Black Republicans. It would be more manly. In fact, we would respect you all more. Why seek to hide under the name of Union, unless you all intend to form a new party composed of Black Republican principles and adopt the name of Union the better to deceive the masses? It is a good name, for you are all “unconditional Union men”—submissionists in the true and full sense of the word. *Southern men with Northern principles don't suit this climate.*

There is no excuse for men to act thus. The Union of our fathers is dead. Black Republicans killed it. We who loved it, and attested that by following its light, now deeply mourn over it. We would gather up the broken fragments, and placing them as they have been placed by our noble brethren of the South, would assist to guard those glorious particles forever. The question for Missourians to decide is whether they will unite their destiny to a white man's Southern Confederacy or with the negro Confederacy of the North.

Again, Judge, as you were the representative of your party, of course they endorse your views, and you said you were opposed to those seceded States being acknowledged independent by the Government at Washington; hence you are in favor of coercion. That was a manly confession of yours. But I had understood your party had backed down from that position. 'Tis the same that your brethren of the North occupy. They are all in favor of coercion. The war has begun.

When the Judge closed a glorious shout went up for the young champion of constitutional rights, and the way he poured hot shot into the Judge and his Black Republican allies would do the soul of any honest man good.

Now, I undertake to say that the people of this township do not endorse any such sentiments as Judge Hardy uttered on Saturday last; nor do they indorse the policy pursued by a majority in the convention. The men are brave and intelligent; they loved the Union while it was one, but they are not base submissionists. Therefore it is useless for men under the garb of the Union to attempt to hide their love for Black Republicanism.

A. McAFEE.

Jackson Township, April 16, 1861.

SECESSION FLAGS.

In May the secessionists met at Shelbyville for the purpose of raising a secession flag and listening to speeches from certain orators. The flag was prepared by the secession ladies of Shelbyville and was identical with that of the Confederate States. Active promoters of the meeting were J. M. Ennis, J. B. Marmaduke, Hon. John McAfee, G. Watts Hillias, John Dickerson.

The speakers were Hon. James S. Green, of Lewis county, and Edward McCabe, of Palmyra. Other speakers had been invited, but they did not come. J. M. Ennis drove in a buggy all the way to Canton for Mr. Green. The speaking was in the court-house. The speeches were not very notable. Mr. Green was for secession, and was very bitter on the Union men of Missouri. It is remembered that he said to them: "If you win the day we will leave the State; if we win you *shall* leave," and this sentiment was applauded. Mr. McCabe was more conservative.

There was considerable enthusiasm, and some very intemperate expressions used by participants in the meeting. The pole stood on the south side of the square near the entrance to the court-house. It is said that the flag was ultimately cut up and made into dresses by some secession ladies of Shelbyville, who took this method of preventing its capture by the Federals.

About this time — perhaps a little earlier — a secession flag was raised near the north-west corner of the county in William Baker's dooryard. The occasion was made a public one, and quite a crowd assembled. Capt. William H. Rollins made a very violent secession speech. Mr. Baker then lived where the present post-office called Cherry Box now is, two miles from the Knox county line — (nw. 15—59—12).

Secession flags were frequent at private houses in Shelbyville, Shelby and elsewhere.

The Union men began to stir themselves. In the eastern part of the county, near Miller's mill, they effected something like an organization, and at Shelbyville Ben McCoy, a jeweler, had a company of men which he was drilling occasionally. The north-eastern portion of the county, and about Bethel, abounded in Union men, who were active, zealous and willing to fight. Some Unionists notified Mr. Griffin Frost, the publisher of the secession *Weekly*, that his room was preferable to his company, and he abandoned the office and fled to Marion county.

THE FIRST FEDERAL TROOPS APPEAR.

When it was certain that Missouri would be one of the States wherein the battles of the Civil War would be fought, the immense importance of preserving and holding the Hannibal and St. Joseph railroad was early realized by the authorities of the Federal government. If it were kept intact, troops could be moved rapidly from one side of the State to the other, supplies and munitions of war sent, and all of North Missouri kept under Federal or Union domination. The great thoroughfare would also be of incalculable service in keeping open communication with the first line of offense adopted by the Union commanders—the Missouri river. It was of the utmost importance, therefore, that the road should be well guarded from the actual and threatened assaults of the secessionists, and kept in running order continually.

On the 13th of June the Second Iowa Infantry, Col. Samuel R. Curtis commanding, passed over the road from Hannibal to St. Joseph, first coming down the Mississippi from Keokuk and disembarking at Hannibal. These were the first Federal troops to enter the county. They took two prisoners and fired on some citizens at Hunnewell.

Quite a number of Union men left this county at this time for St. Joseph to enter the Union service. A battalion of cavalry was contemplated at one time, W. R. Strachan to be major. A company commanded by Capt. Hughes, of Shelbina, was organized. Those who went from this county to St. Joe enlisted in the old Thirteenth Missouri Infantry (afterward the Twenty-fifth), and were captured at Lexington while serving under the gallant Mulligan.

Not long afterward came a detachment of the Sixteenth Illinois Infantry, Col. R. F. Smith, and detachments of this regiment were stationed at Hunnewell, Shelbina and the railroad bridge over Salt river.

In the early summer of 1861 some of the prominent Union men of the county were Alexander McMurtry, John F. Benjamin, Matt Freeman, Joseph H. Forman, Solomon Miller, Robert Eaton, Samuel B. Hardy, Daniel Taylor.

Some of the secessionists were John McAfee, Al. McAfee, J. M. Ennis, John Jacobs, J. B. Marmaduke, John R. Gatewood, Russell W. Moss, John Dickerson, William H. Rollins.

It now began to thunder all around the sky. On the 10th of July occurred the affair at Monroe City mentioned elsewhere. (See History

of Monroe). Near the same time a detachment of the Sixteenth Illinois came out from Macon City to the farm of William Baker, where the secession flag had been raised. Beyond cutting down the butt end of the pole and questioning some citizens pretty sharply, these troops did nothing really, but the entire neighborhood was frightened out of its wits when it was learned they were coming. The troops camped near Ray's bridge over Salt river.

FIRST UNION MILITARY COMPANY.

In the latter part of July, 1861, a Union meeting was held at Miller's mill, in Tiger Fork township, six miles east of Shelbyville. John M. Glover, of Lewis county, and Dr. John L. Taylor, of Knox, were the leading speakers. The Union men of that neighborhood were out in force, and there were also some secessionists present, among them Hon. John McAfee, the speaker of the House.

In his speech, Glover was very severe on the course taken by Mr. McAfee in the Legislature. After he had concluded a controversy arose between him and Mr. McAfee. The latter gave Glover the lie. Instantly Glover assaulted McAfee with fists and feet, and punished him severely.

On this occasion a company of Union Home Guards was organized. It numbered 72 men, and was officered as follows: Captain, Joseph H. Forman; lieutenants, Robert Eaton and Solomon Miller; orderly sergeant (first), Oliver Whitney, and then George Lear. It served as infantry, and being an independent company, was called the Shelby County Home Guards.

It is said that this company had an irregular organization as early as May, but it did not enter the United States service formally until the 23d day of July, when it was sworn in at Shelbina by William Richmond Strachan, then deputy U. S. marshal, by authority of Gen. S. A. Hurlbut, under whose orders the company continued to do duty until August 23, 1861, when it was disbanded.

The services performed by this company consisted of camp duty, two or three scouting expeditions into this county, guarding of government stores in Hannibal, and also guarding trains over the Hannibal and St. Joseph railroad. The latter was often very perilous service, as the secessionists frequently bushwhacked the trains. The company was armed with U. S. muskets, sent up to Shelbina from Hannibal. Upon being mustered out, the most of the members soon after entered the U. S. service in various regiments.

BURNING OF THE SALT RIVER BRIDGE.

On the 10th of July the Hannibal and St. Joe railroad bridge, across Salt river, in this county, two miles west of Hunnewell, was burned by a company of secession troops or Missouri State Guards. From the best information obtainable it is learned that the burning was done by a company from Ralls county, commanded by Capt. Daniel B. West, under direction of Dr. Foster, of Hannibal. Citizens of the neighborhood contributed turpentine and other inflammables to hasten the fire and the spread of the flames. The same day five cars were burned at Hunnewell, and it was with great difficulty the citizens persuaded Foster not to burn the depot at that place.

The bridge was burned while fighting was going on at Mouroe City. The result was greatly damaging to the Federal cause, as it hindered the transportation of troops and supplies for some days. A temporary structure was thrown over by Hurlbut's troops and completed in a few days.

At the time of the burning there was no guard or garrison at the bridge, but afterward a block house was constructed by some Illinois troops, and a strong guard kept for some time.

In July, 1861, Brig.-Gen. John Pope was assigned by the Federal authorities to the command of the military district of North Missouri. He at first made his headquarters at Hannibal, then at Macon, then at Hunnewell, Shelbina and elsewhere. Under Pope, in command of a sub-district, comprising the line of the Hannibal and St. Joseph railroad, was Brig.-Gen. S. A. Hurlbut, who was very active during the summer, being now at Hannibal, now at Palmyra, now at Macon, now at Kirksville, as his presence was needed.

THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST COL. MARTIN E. GREEN.

In the latter part of July a rather strong force of secession troops rendezvoused at the Sugar Camp ford on the Fabius, near Monticello, in Lewis county. This force was commanded by Col. Martin E. Green, of Lewis, and his second in command was Joseph C. Porter, also of Lewis, near Newark. A number of the secessionists of this county made their way into Green's camp and joined him.

On the 4th of August Col. Green broke camp and started northward. On the 5th, early in the morning, he attacked a force of about 400 Missouri Union Home Guards and 100 Iowa Volunteers at Athens, Clarke county, on the Missouri side of the Des Moines river, 20 miles

north-west of Keokuk. The Union forces were commanded by Col. David Moore, of Clarke county. Col. Green had perhaps 1,000 men, including an artillery company commanded by Capt. J. W. Kneisley, of Marion county. Kneisley's battery was composed of the nine-pounder, used at Monroe City, and a six-pounder cast in Hannibal by Cleaver & Mitchell. The Union troops had no cannon. Col. Green was defeated with a loss of 11 killed, and perhaps 25 wounded. The Unionists lost four killed and 18 wounded. Col. Green retreated to his former camp, near Monticello. In a day or two his men were distributed about camps in various parts of Lewis, Knox, and Shelby counties.

In the latter part of August, Gen. Price broke up his camp at Springfield and moved northward toward Lexington, on the Missouri river, his main object being to secure to himself the large forces of State Guards known to be in North Missouri. When at the Osage river, he sent forward a special messenger to Gen. Tom Harris, the commander of the State Guards for this district. Green's command at once prepared to set out to join the advancing army, from which so much was expected. Word was sent to all the other commands, companies, battalions and platoons in this part of the State to repair at once to the Missouri river, at either Glasgow, Brunswick or Arrow Rock, and cross to the south side.

Col. Green had left Lewis county and his forces were concentrated at or near Marshall's mill, on the Fabius, in the north-west part of this county, some six or eight miles from Palmyra.

While in this camp, Green sent a company into this county to arrest some obnoxious Union men. This company, commanded by John L. Owen, of Marion, came into Shelbyville and remained an hour or so, but failing to find the men they had been sent for, returned to camp.

Soon afterward a company commanded by Frisbie McCullough visited the residence of Capt. Joseph Forman, east of Shelbyville, and made him prisoner. Forman had recently been mustered out of the Federal service as captain of the home guard company before mentioned. As they were taking him away he tried to whisper some directions concerning his arms to a hired man named James Gwinn. McCullough noticed this and immediately took Gwinn a prisoner and carried him away into captivity. Forman was not released until Green's command had crossed the Missouri river, and only a few days before the battle at Lexington.

But prior to all this, McCullough's company had visited Shelbyville

and made a prisoner of Hon. John F. Benjamin, whom they carried off into Knox and Lewis counties and kept a close prisoner for some days. Near the same time the same company captured Dr. John L. Taylor, of Newark. At this time Green had two or three camps in the northern and north-eastern portions of this county. He visited Bethel and levied some contributions on the colonists in the way of provisions and other supplies.

From his camp at Marshall's mills, about the first of September, Col. Green proceeded with his entire force to Philadelphia, thence to New Market and on southward to join the army of Gen. Price. He crossed the Hannibal and St. Joseph September 2, near Monroe City, and destroyed the track, culverts, bridges, cut down telegraph poles, etc., for a considerable distance. Then he passed on to the neighborhood of Paris and Florida, where he received reinforcements from Ralls and Monroe, and halted to catch breath and observe the movements of his enemies.

Meantime the Federal military authorities had noted the movements of Col. Green, had learned of the formidable character of his forces — for they numbered perhaps 1,500 men, all told, — and of his whereabouts, and set about breaking him up. Gen. Hurlbut took the field in person. Col. David Moore's North-east Missouri regiment marched across the county from Athens, on the Des Moines river, via Waterloo, Luray, Etna, and Edina, to Bethel, in Shelby county. Here on the second it united with the Sixteenth Illinois, under Col. Smith, which had marched across from Kirksville. It was intended to attack Green, then supposed to be near Philadelphia, but on arriving there and learning that he had moved southward, the united forces, numbering in all perhaps 1,200 men, of whom 400 were mounted, and with four pieces of field artillery and a long train of wagons, marched across to Palmyra, where they arrived on the evening of the 4th. With this command were about 150 Knox and Adair county Home Guards, temporarily commanded by Lieut. James Call, of the Third Iowa.

It was on the 1st of September when Hurlbut's command reached Bethel from Kirksville, coming via Lakeland. The troops were 500 men of the Third Iowa, under Lieut.-Col. John Scott, seven companies of the Sixteenth Illinois, under Col. Smith, the Home Guards above mentioned, and three pieces of artillery.

After he had sent Moore and Smith to Palmyra, Gen. Hurlbut took the Third Iowa, and about 120 sick men of the command, and on the 2d started for Shelbyville. Reaching Shelbyville at about noon, the

command halted for dinner, and here the soldiers were gladly welcomed by the Union citizens of the place. After dinner the command pushed on.

While the main portion of the command tarried in Shelbyville, three soldiers set out on foot, without leave, for Shelbina, taking the direct road. Nearly half a mile north of the crossing of Salt river, as they were walking along unsuspecting of any danger they were bushwhacked, and one of their number instantly killed, another wounded, while the third escaped unhurt. The latter was found nearly a mile eastward from the scene by J. C. Hale, who carried him on horseback to his command, which was met on the high prairie, nearly two miles from Shelbyville.

The shooting was done from behind a large double oak tree on the west side of the road, at about 30 yards distance. The bushwhackers were nine in number, some of whom were John Jacobs, Ray Moss, John Evans, Bent Hightower, and a man named Freeborn. All were from this county. They had learned of the presence of the Federal troops and their destination, and determined to waylay them and kill some stragglers. Their horses were hitched near by and immediately after the shooting they mounted and fled.

The dead soldier was found with a dozen hazel nuts tightly clenched in his hand in a death gripe. The three men had been walking gaily along picking nuts from the bushes by the roadside, laughing, talking and singing. Their officers censured them for being absent from their commands and roundly cursed and abused the survivors for disobeying orders. The dead man was taken to Shelbina and there buried. Ray Moss, a son of Russell W. Moss, became a captain in the Missouri State Guards under Gen. Price, served six months, was mustered out and re-enlisted in the regular Confederate service, and had his head torn to pieces by a grapeshot at the battle of Corinth, Miss., Oct. 4, 1862. John Jacobs became a captain in the Confederate service and was known as a desperate fighter. He settled in Louisiana after the war and died there a few years since.

Hurlbut reached Shelbina at about 7 p. m., in the midst of a terrific rain and wind storm. It was impossible to telegraph for railroad transportation on account of the storm and the men went into quarters for the night. Transportation arrived the next day about noon, and the command was transported to Brookfield.

Moore and Smith left Palmyra on the 5th for Hunnewell in pursuit of Green, leaving 400 men behind to guard the town. The next day this detachment, under Gen. Pope, who had come up and assumed

command, and accompanied by Col. John M. Glover and about 50 men of his new cavalry regiment then being organized in North-east Missouri, set out for the front.

THE FIGHT AT SHELBYNA.

Col. N. G. Williams, of the Third Iowa Infantry, had been ordered by Gen. Pope to take three companies of his command and a company of Linn county mounted Home Guards and proceed from Brookfield to Palmyra, open the road as he went, and then go to Paris and take the specie and funds in the bank at that place and send the same to St. Louis, "to prevent capture by the enemy." On the morning of August 31, he left Brookfield and reached Palmyra at noon. Here he was informed that the train on which he had come would have to go on to Hannibal in order to turn the engine west. At Hannibal, while the Third Iowa were eating dinner, the Second Kansas regiment which had also fought at Wilson's creek, came up on a boat from St. Louis, on their way home for muster out.

Upon invitation the Second Kansas, only about 300 strong, agreed to accompany Col. Williams to Paris and return. The latter had 320 men, including Loring's mounted Home Guards from Linn county — the greater portion of the Third Iowa being then under Lieut.-Col. Scott, in Shelby county. The command went to Shelbina on the train on Sunday, Sept. 1. The same evening they started for Paris, which they reached the following morning, after an all-night march. The cashier of the bank had removed the funds and they could not be obtained. Col. Williams remained in Paris that day and night. On the following day he set out to return to Shelbina, but in the meantime Col. Martin Green had mustered his forces from Florida, and the country was swarming with State Guards and secession troops who were closing in about Williams and his 620 men, and preparing to take them in. The Federals were only able to reach Shelbina by hard marching and by taking a circuitous route to avoid an ambush which Col. Green had laid for them.

Arriving at Shelbina, at night, Col. Williams learned that Gen. Hurlbut, with seven companies of the Third Iowa, had left the place that day for Brookfield. Williams was in a close place. That night his pickets were fired on twice by Green's scouts and one man severely wounded. The next morning, Wednesday, Sept. 4th, he could see that he was surrounded and he barricaded the streets and prepared to fight. The track had not been destroyed, however, and at 11 a. m. a train arrived from the West, sent by Hurlbut to take the command

back to Brookfield. At noon Col. Green sent Col. Williams a note, giving him thirty minutes to remove the women and children and to surrender. Williams ordered the women to leave, but made no reply to the demand for surrender.

From a good position on the prairie south-east of Shelbina, and well out of reach of the Federal muskets, Col. Green then opened upon the beleaguered town, with his two pieces of artillery, Kneisley's Palmyra battery, — the old 9 and 6-pounders. The guns were very well served. Almost every shot was well pointed, either striking a building or falling in the square. Capt. McClure, of the Second Kansas, had his foot shot off while standing in the street south of the railroad and nearly opposite the site of the present railroad depot, and but a short distance from the south-east corner of the park (near the south-west corner of First and Chestnut streets). One or two shots missed the town altogether and the balls were picked up a half a mile north the next day. Two balls went through the hotel building.

The Federals were of course unable to fight back (owing to the fact that Green's troops were out of range), and some of them became much discontented. After about 30 shots had been fired, the Second Kansas declared they would not remain any longer, and under their officers boarded the train. Col. Williams protested but it was useless; the Kansas would not stay and make targets of themselves, when they could not return the enemy's fire. The whole command, except the Linn county cavalry, then boarded the train and moved off unmolested to Hudson. The cavalry also got safely away, going on the north side of the track and keeping the train between them and the secessionists, until a mile or two west of town. Some guns, clothing, knapsacks, four mules, a wagon, etc., fell into the hands of Col. Green's men.

Green then advanced and occupied the place. He now had fully 2,500 men, having been reinforced by some Monroe and Ralls county secession troops or State Guards under Col. Brace. Some Shelby county men here joined him also.

Following was the report of the Federal commander: —

REPORT OF COL. NELSON G. WILLIAMS, THIRD IOWA INFANTRY.

MACON, September 5, 1861.

Sir:— In obedience to your order, I respectfully submit the following statement of facts connected with the Paris expedition and the reasons why I retired from Shelbina:—

Late Friday evening (August 30) I received a telegraphic dispatch from Gen. Pope to take my effective command, together with Lor-

ing's cavalry, proceed to Palmyra, open the road, and then go to Paris and take the specie and funds in the bank and send it to St. Louis. Early Saturday morning I started from Brookfield to execute the order. I arrived at Palmyra about noon, was there informed by the railroad employes that we would have to go to Hannibal in order to turn the engine west, they telling me it would be impossible to back the train. As a further reason for going to Hannibal there was \$150,000 in specie on board, and from instructions I received it would be in some danger of being seized by the rebels.

I arrived at Hannibal, and while feeding my men the Second Kansas Regiment arrived per boat, en route for Kansas to recruit. I immediately invited them to join me in the Paris expedition, as I had learned on my down trip that it would be unsafe with my force (320 men) to go into Monroe county. They consented and we started Sunday morning. Arrived at Shelbina about noon. I pressed into service some wagons to carry provisions and sick men, and started for Paris about 8 o'clock in the evening. My entire force consisted of about 620 men, viz. : 520 infantry and 100 cavalry.

I arrived in Paris at daylight Monday morning, September 2. I immediately proceeded to the bank in company with M. Cassel, Esq., (agent to receive money). We called the directors together. They informed us that the cashier had taken the money to a safe place and that they did not know where he or the money was. We waited during the day, thinking that they would get the money. In the afternoon I learned that the whole country was rising in arms against us. About 5 o'clock I gave the order to prepare for our return march, but a tremendous storm coming up I countermanded the order, and resolved to stay in Paris over night. I quartered my men in the court-house and vacant buildings. About midnight we received an alarm and turned out under arms and remained so during the night. Started on our return at daybreak.

In the meantime I had learned that Green and his forces had got past Gen. Hurlbut and that he had prepared an ambush for me on the straight road to Shelbina. I determined to take the road to Clinton, making a detour of 10 miles. Every step of the way I found evidence that the whole people were in arms. I arrived, however, in Shelbina at night, having escaped the ambush, but had one man wounded (supposed mortally) by the enemy's pickets. When I arrived in Shelbina I found no communication east or west, also learned that Gen. Hurlbut had left that day for Brookfield. During the night had two alarms. In the morning and after the enemy had shown himself in force, a train arrived from the west and brought word that another train was coming to take my command away. In the meantime the enemy was gathering in still greater force, so that I could make out about 3,000 men.

About noon I received a note from the rebel commander, giving me 30 minutes to move the women and children and to surrender. I ordered the women to leave but made no reply to Green. I barricaded the streets and prepared to resist the enemy. After a short

time the enemy opened on us with two pieces of artillery, one nine and one six-pounder (reported to me to be brass by an escaped prisoner¹). Their battery was planted a full mile off. I am satisfied that at this time the enemy numbered full 3,000. With my glass I could discover a strong force under cover of timber to support their artillery. I offered to lead the men out on the plain and offer the enemy battle. Maj. Cloud, of the Second Kansas, objected. I did not insist as I thought the opposing force too great.

During the firing I discovered the enemy some two miles in the west tearing up the track. I immediately ordered one company on the train to run up to them, which was done, and the enemy driven from that point. I observed also a force in the east tearing up track and started a train that way, but the train came back, as the enemy opened upon it with their artillery. The officer in command reported to me that he supposed the engine and train of more value than a little piece of track. I told him he did right.

The enemy fired well. Almost every shot was well pointed, either striking the building or falling in the square. Capt. McClure, of the Second Kansas, had his foot shot off. After receiving some 30 shots, the officers of the Second Kansas held a meeting, and sent Maj. Cloud to me, demanding that I should withdraw the men, saying that they had been in one Springfield fight and did not wish to be in another (meaning fighting against such odds), and also that if I would withdraw and get artillery they would come back with me. He further stated that his men were discontented, and supposed they were going home, and did not like being brought on the expedition; that he, to encourage them, had held out the inducement to them that the money in the bank was to pay them off with; that they only considered themselves in the light of volunteers, etc. I still resisted, and declared I would not mention the subject of retreating to my men, as I had been to them and told them we could hold the place; but finally they insisted so strongly, and fearing there might be a stampede, I consented to call the officers together.

When they met, I said to them I had nothing further to say. After they had decided it to be expedient to retire I told them to wait orders. I delayed giving orders any further than to tell them to go to their companies and prepare to move. After a few minutes I saw the Kansas men starting for the cars. They filled the first train and started. I jumped on the engine and ordered the engineer to move slow, so that the cavalry could keep up with him on the right flank (the enemy was on the south). I then jumped off and started back for my own men (280), but they, seeing the Kansas men off, had got on the second train and started before I got back. In the confusion the Iowa men left some of their coats and knapsacks in the quarters. They did not know at the time we were retiring from the enemy. There was also one transportation wagon and four mules left, all of which might have been brought off had they waited for orders.

¹ They were not brass, but iron, cast in Hannibal. — *Compiler.*

It is proper for me to state that I had but one captain with me at the time and he had been quite sick several days, and was unfit for duty at the time; but he turned out and rendered me valuable assistance. I was extremely short for officers. I had sent three home sick. I then moved the trains to Hudson and reported to you in person.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

N. G. WILLIAMS,
Colonel Third Iowa.

Brig. Gen. S. A. Hurlbut, U. S. A.

REPORT OF LIEUT.-COL. CHARLES W. BLAIR AND MAJ. W. F. CLOUD,
SECOND KANSAS INFANTRY.

HUDSON, MO., September 5, 1861.

SIR:— It is perhaps proper for me to state formally to you a fact or two relative to the evacuation of Shelbina on yesterday.

The enemy numbered, as nearly as we could ascertain, about 3,000, and we had about 600 efficient men. We drove them several times, and held our position until the enemy brought to bear upon us two pieces of artillery, one six and one nine-pounder. We having no artillery, and not being able to reach them otherwise, but being compelled to sit still behind barricades and receive discharges of artillery which would inevitably have destroyed the command, I, after consultation with Major Cloud and the officers of the Second Kansas, insisted upon the men being withdrawn until we could be reinforced by artillery, which, we understood, was at Brookfield. Col. Williams was averse to the withdrawal, but we insisted that it should be done, and he finally yielded a reluctant and unwilling assent; and as we had volunteered to serve in the Paris expedition, he was in courtesy compelled to pay some attention to our wishes in the matter, and consequently he at last yielded. Very respectfully,

CHAS. W. BLAIR,
Lieut.-Col., Comdg. Second Regt. Kansas Vols.

W. F. CLOUD,
Major Second Kansas Vols.

Brig.-Gen. S. A. Hurlbut.

The secession troops remained some hours in Shelbina. Many of them had come up through Hunnewell and across Salt river at the railroad bridge. At Hunnewell they smashed things about the depot, and that evening or the same night they burned the Salt river bridge.

The force sent by Col. Green to tear up the track west of town, and which was dispersed by the company sent up on the train by Col. Williams, was commanded by Col. Blanton, Monroe county, who was shot in the mouth and wounded severely. Another secessionist had his horse killed. The long range muskets of the Iowans gave them a decided advantage over the Missourians with their shot-guns. The

conduct of Green in not sending a sufficient force at a proper distance to destroy the track and prevent the escape of his enemy so nicely bagged, has never been explained. Had he torn up five rods of the railroad and run up one piece of artillery, every Federal would have been taken prisoner.

Green's forces abandoned Shelbina the same night, but the next morning a battalion came back and burned some freight cars that were standing on the track. Except devouring everything edible in the place, they did little or no damage to the citizens. The next morning there were actually not provisions enough in the town for a single family. The Federals had eaten one meal and what they left the secession troops finished. The people had to go to the country to get their breakfasts.

FREMONT'S "ANNIHILATION" OF GREEN.

Upon receipt of the news of the affair at Shelbina, Gen. Pope at once took the field. He resolved to repair to Hunnewell and from that point prepare to move against Green. Accordingly he did so, and September 6, he sent the following dispatch to Gen. Fremont:—

HUNNEWELL, Mo., September 6, 1861.

MAJ.-GEN. FREMONT:— Arrived here this evening. Salt river bridge repaired so as to be passable. Rebel forces retreated from the road to Paris or Florida. Third engine went to Shelbina and saw train from the west, which came within three miles. The road will be clear to-morrow. Please send blankets and tents; Moore's men are without either.

JNO. POPE,

Brigadier-General.

Gen. Fremont was greatly disturbed upon learning that Col. Green had crossed the Hannibal and St. Joe, that he had chased the Federals out of Shelbina, and that he was snapping his fingers in the faces of Pope and Hurlbut, and so he resolved on his "annihilation."

It was a practice with Fremont to remain inactive, or order troops aimlessly around, until the Confederates, taking advantage of his mistakes, gained some important advantage, and then he would flutter about quite frantically for a time. He refused to reinforce Lyon and that officer was defeated and slain; then he hurried troops into Missouri by thousands; he allowed Gen. Price to besiege Mulligan at Lexington for nine days, and then after the gallant Irishman had surrendered he rushed about 25,000 men to that quarter of the State. He allowed Green to take his forces out of North-east Missouri, and immediately afterwards sent enough troops into this section to make a

living wall along the Hannibal and St. Joe from Hannibal to Macon. The horse having been stolen, the stable was to be securely locked.

Fremont instantly planned a brilliant maneuver — nothing less than the capture or total annihilation of Mart. Green and his audacious rebels. On the 6th of September he sent the following telegraphic orders (in cipher) to Gen. Pope, at Hunnewell:—

ST. LOUIS, September 6, 1861.

BRIG.-GEN. POPE:— According to the report received at these headquarters Col. Williams, with his command of 600 men, has been forced to retreat from Shelbina to Macon City (Hudson) by a band of rebels under Green, numbering about 3,000, where he is now cut off from all lines of communication east of his position. In order to arrest the constant depredations of the rebels in Marion, Monroe, Macon, Shelby, and adjoining counties, and to visit on them the whole vigor of martial law, I have resolved upon a combined attack on Green's men and their annihilation.

To effect this object, you will be reinforced by the First Kansas regiment and the Twenty-third Indiana. Brig.-Gen. Sturgis will advance from here on Macon City with the Twenty-seventh Ohio, Col. Fuller, the Thirty-ninth Ohio, Col. Groesbeck, one squadron of the Fremont Hussars, Capt. Blume, and Capt. Schwartz's full battery. You will leave a comparative reserve at Palmyra, and then advance west toward Salt river, and you will, under any circumstances, endeavor to put yourself in communication with the command of Brig.-Gen. Sturgis, who will operate toward the east against Shelbina.

It will be your object not only to disperse the enemy, but to follow him into his hiding places and annihilate him. After having put yourself in communication with Gen. Sturgis, by means of a reliable messenger, and after Gen. Sturgis has advanced east towards Shelbina, you will force the passage of Salt river (should the bridge be destroyed you will find a suitable bridge towards the north or south) and thus make a combined attack on the rebels. * * *

I enclose a copy of the order addressed to Gen. Sturgis.

J. C. FREMONT,
Major-General Comdg.

Gen. Sturgis was furnished a copy of the order to Pope and was particularly instructed to "cut off the enemy from the road leading to Shelbyville, and generally to render impossible the dispersion of his forces by squads, and to annihilate the gang of rebels as a whole."

These preparations of Gen. Fremont for the destruction of Col. Green and his command were reasonably magnificent, and doubtless were satisfactory to both parties. They suited Fremont and Mart. Green cared nothing about them. But unfortunately for Gen. Fre-

mont the unaccommodating "rebels" refused to sit still and be "annihilated." One reason for this was probably that they had not heard that the "Pathfinder" wished them to, but having heard from special messengers that Gen. Price expected them to be in the neighborhood of Lexington by the 12th, they prepared for immediate departure, and on the 7th the advance guard set out.

Shelby county now saw something of the pomp and circumstances of war. The little town of Hunnewell was made the base of what promised to be an important military movement, and hundreds of soldiers, with their numerous equipments and munitions of war, were here assembled. A full-blown brigadier-general and his staff were present to direct matters in person, and the citizens gazed with open mouths at the spectacle before them.

On the morning of the 7th Pope telegraphed Gen. Fremont from Hunnewell:—

Road will be open to-day. Green, from all accounts, encamped near Florida, 20 miles south-east of this place. About 300 men of the regiment at Quincy now occupy Palmyra. Have not yet heard direct from Hurlbut, but shall by morning.

A few hours later he received Fremont's order and answered as follows:—

The road is now open. Train went this afternoon. I will leave 1,500 men here and make a night march against Green with 1,600 men and four pieces of artillery. You will not hear from me before late to-morrow.

But the next morning, the 8th, still at Hunnewell, he dispatched Fremont:—

Did not move last night, because the reinforcements from Hurlbut did not reach here until 10 p. m., too late for the object. I have now force enough to move on Green, and will do so to-night. Your dispatch to make no important movement without further advices received. Please answer and give me authority to move. The road is now open and clear as far west as Platte river. I have heard nothing of the reinforcements [under Sturgis] of which you telegraphed me.

Fremont's plans woefully miscarried. He had ordered Sturgis to proceed with his command from the St. Louis arsenal to Macon City, over the North Missouri, without first learning whether or not transportation could be obtained sufficient to move the entire force at once. Finding out that it could not, he retelegraphed Pope to "make no important movement without further advices." These "further

advices" never came. Sturgis acted promptly, but on the 9th he had only been able to get to Mexico with his infantry, his cavalry being still in St. Louis, "owing to the lack of engines and cars" and the delay in crossing the river at St. Charles, then not bridged. At this time he supposed Green to be "some place in the vicinity of Florida," and he had heard "nothing from Gen. Pope."

But on the 8th, Col. Green, Gen. Harris and all the rest of them, except a small rear guard, broke camp near Florida and swung out to the south-westward, crossing, without molestation, the North Missouri at Renick, on the 9th, and when Sturgis and Fremont supposed them to be still in camp waiting to be "annihilated" they were on the prairies of Randolph and Howard counties, on their way to Gen. Price, with none to molest them or make them afraid.

The commands of Cols. Green, Porter and others, all under Gen. Harris, arrived safely at Glasgow, captured the steamer Sunshine, with Lieut. Rains and 12 men of Mulligan's command, who were on their way to Jefferson City with dispatches calling for reinforcements — made a ferryboat of her and crossed the river on the 12th in entire safety and went into temporary camp in Saline county near Marshall. It was here that Capt. Forman and the other Shelby county pioneers were released, after being duly paroled, not to take up arms till they were exchanged.

Gen. Pope moved from Hunnewell on the evening of the eighth and marched to the vicinity of Green's *former* camp, near Florida, driving away the rear guard and a few belated recruits and capturing a portion of their outfits. But one man was hurt and he was wounded by a pistol shot by Col. Moore, and it is said only two shots were fired. The cavalry followed the train a few miles and returned, reporting that Green must be fifty miles away! Gen. Pope then marched back to Hunnewell and immediately on his arrival there, on the 10th, sent off the following dispatch to Fremont, announcing the result of the "annihilation" scheme: —

HUNNEWELL, September 10, 1861.

I marched on Green at dark, Sunday. Reached his camp at daylight in the morning. As usual he had received notice of our approach, in consequence of night marches, and a few hours before I reached there his force, about 3,000, scattered in every direction, leaving much baggage, provisions and forage, as also the public property captured at Shelbina. The infantry of my command was, of course, unable to pursue after a forced night march of 23 miles. The horsemen followed the train for 10 or 15 miles until it scattered in various directions. The bulk of his force has crossed the North

Missouri road at Renick, and are making for the woods of Chariton. I go west with Sixteenth Illinois and Third Iowa immediately in pursuit.

Moore's forces proceeded by land to Canton, and will there organize. Four hundred of Bussey's cavalry are in North-east Missouri, but I think not doing much. As soon as I can run down Green's force [!] I will go to Keokuk. Please send Col. Tindall back to Brookfield immediately; he went down for arms to St. Louis, and can now be of much service.

Glover and Moore will organize their regiments, I hope, in a few days. Green's force is mounted, and infantry can not do much in overtaking them.

The railroad east of Brookfield is open, and I think no more secession camps will be made within 20 miles.

JOHN POPE,
Brigadier-General.

Major-General Fremont.

MISCELLANEOUS MILITARY MATTERS.

Shortly after its organization, and while at Shelbina, Capt. Forman received orders from Gen. Hurlbut to take his company of Home Guards and proceed to Shelbyville and search certain houses for ammunition and military stores. A detachment of the Sixteenth Illinois was at Shelbina and 10 of the men volunteered to accompany Forman. The command reached Shelbyville early in the morning. The store of J. B. Marmaduke was thoroughly searched for powder and arms, but nothing was found. Fred Boettcher, then a gunsmith, was arrested charged with having put in order several guns and pistols to be used by the secession troops. He was taken to Shelbina and sent from thence to St. Louis. Before leaving town some of Forman's men cut down the secession flag pole then standing on the south side of the square.

About the sixth of August three companies of the Sixteenth Illinois Infantry came to Shelbyville from Macon City and arrested Hon. John McAfee, who was carried to Macon and kept a prisoner for some time.

As Mr. McAfee was a sympathizer with the Confederate cause and had been an active and prominent secessionist, he was especially obnoxious to the Federals, who treated him severely — worse than any of their other prisoners. Gen. Hurlbut forced him to labor hard in the hot sun, engaged in digging "sinks" or privies for the soldiers. A few days afterward he was taken from Macon to Palmyra and the General ordered him to be tied on the top of the cab of the engine to prevent the bushwhackers from firing at the engineer. This was pre-

vented by some of the soldiers and the engineer. The latter said he would not run the engine if Mr. McAfee was mounted upon it in that way; the soldiers delayed executing their orders until the train was ready to start, and then signaled to the engineer to "pull out," which he did.

It was a common saying at that day that three men in North-east Missouri did more to bring about hostilities in that quarter, more to induce other men to array themselves in armed hostility against the United States Government—than a thousand others. These were Hon. James S. Green, of Lewis; Hon. Thomas L. Anderson, of Marion, and Hon. John McAfee, of Shelby. And yet when hostilities came, when war actually broke out, neither of them took up arms, or did aught but lip service for the cause. This was complained of by many among the Confederate partisans, who thought Messrs. Green, Anderson and McAfee ought to fight the way they talked. It is said that Gen. Hurlbut offered McAfee a horse, saddle and bridle, a shotgun, pistols and sword, and safe conduct out of his lines for 24 hours if he would enlist in the Southern army and join Martin Green.

But Mr. McAfee was not the only man in Shelby county who did much to stir up men's passions and bring about war, and then when it came "take to the woods." There were others of this kind in the North as well as in the South.

The success of the Confederate arms at Bull Run, July 21, and at Wilson's Creek, August 10, greatly encouraged the secessionists in Missouri and stimulated recruiting in this quarter for the Southern cause. While no considerable companies were raised in this county, there were many recruits, who went out singly and in squads either to join the Missouri State Guards under Gen. Price, in South-western Missouri, or the forces under Col. Martin E. Green up in Lewis and Knox counties. The Confederate victories really decided the course of many a man who had been "on the fence," and caused him to announce that he would "go with the South."

About the 1st of August a small company was organized in the south-eastern part of the county for service against the Union cause. This company was an irregular organization, never mustered into service, and was composed of men from Shelby, Marion and Monroe counties. Its captain was one Thomas Stacy, a young married man living in Jackson township. He was a brave man, but very rough and savage in his manner of fighting. He did not hesitate to bushwhack trains or straggling parties, to rob Union men, or to murder them. When the fancy took him he would rob a secessionist without hesita-

tion. Stacy wore his hair long and dressed fantastically. He had about 25 men at the start. His camps were in the timber and brush along Salt river and Black creek and he lived off the country.

On the night of the 8th of August Stacy's company made a raid on Palmyra, then unoccupied by the Federal soldiery, secured some arms belonging to citizens, and captured and paroled two citizens. A day or two previously they had assisted in bushwhacking a train. August 16, near Hunnewell, they fired on a train containing some of the Sixteenth Illinois and badly wounded two men.

July 12, the Twenty-first Illinois Infantry, Col. U. S. Grant, and the Fourteenth Illinois, Col. John M. Palmer, were sent to Monroe City to relieve Col. Smith, of the Sixteenth. In a few days they were sent on to Hunnewell and to the Salt river bridge in this county. The latter structure had recently been burned by the secessionists, and Grant and Palmer guarded the workmen engaged in rebuilding it.

A few days after their arrival here Grant was sent with his regiment on an expedition down near Florida, to break up Tom Harris' recruiting camp, but on his arrival at the site of the camp he found that the secessionists had scattered about the time he had left the Salt river bridge. Whereupon, like the king of France, he marched back again. This was the beginning of Gen. Grant's illustrious career during the Civil War, and these were his first services in the field. It is something of a distinction for Shelby county that the great captain of the Union armies — afterwards twice President of the United States — should first begin those services which gave him his distinction and established his fame, within her borders, engaged in guarding bridge builders and the Salt river railroad bridge and in scouting through the country. The following is one letter on this subject from Gen. Grant to the compiler of this volume: —

LONG BRANCH, N. J., August 3, 1864.

DEAR SIR: In July, 1861, I was ordered with my regiment, the Twenty-first Illinois Infantry, to North Missouri, to relieve Col. Smith of the Sixteenth, who was reported surrounded on the Hannibal and St. Joseph road. On arrival at Quincy I found that the regiment (?) had scattered and fled. I then went with my regiment to the junction of the road from Quincy with the one from Hannibal, where I remained for a few days, until relieved by Col. Turchin with another Illinois regiment. From here I was ordered to guard the workmen engaged in rebuilding the Salt river bridge. Col. Palmer was there with his regiment at the same time. When the work was near completion I was ordered to move against Thomas Harris, who was reported to have a regiment or battalion encamped near Florida, Mo. I marched there, some 25 miles from Salt river, but found on arrival that he left about

the time I started. On my return I was ordered to Mexico, Mo., by rail.

Very truly yours,
U. S. GRANT.

R. I. Holcombe, Esq.

Bushwhacking was a favorite diversion of some of the first secession troops raised in this county. The plan of organization of the military forces favored this sort of disreputable warfare. There were no full companies raised and organized in the county, but the men were forced to leave and go elsewhere to enlist, and so went out in squads and couples and joined the Southern army in the field. Many men, impatient to do something against the detested Federal forces, and not belonging to an efficient organization, sought to do something on their own account, and believing that everything was fair in war, counted it no sin to ambush an unsuspecting enemy and shoot him down without mercy and without warning. Had these men been organized into companies, their mode of warfare would have been different. True, Tom Stacy's company made a vocation of bushwhacking, but it numbered but few more than 20 men.

Early in the contest there was a case of bushwhacking two miles south of Shelbyville. Two citizens of the county — Eli Bertram, of Shelbyville, and a German named Betz or Blitz — had left the county and enlisted in a foreign regiment, said to have been the Sixteenth Illinois. Returning to their homes on a brief leave of absence, they were walking from Shelbina to Shelbyville. At the forks of the road, south of the latter place, where the road to Walkerville branches off, Ben. Hightower was in waiting with a double-barreled shot-gun, and fired upon them. Bertram was severely but not dangerously wounded. The charge in the gun was only turkey shot, instead of buck-shot.

It is believed that Hightower was met in Shelbina by Bertram and Blitz, who berated him for being a "d——d traitor," etc. He hurried home, determined on revenge. Catching up his gun, which he supposed was loaded with buck-shot, as he had charged it, he rushed out. Not knowing whether the soldiers would come by way of Walkerville or on the straight road, he repaired to the forks so as not to miss them. It chanced that his brother had fired off the charge of buck-shot and reloaded the gun with turkey shot, or the injury inflicted would have been more serious.

Another citizen of the county, now a prominent merchant of Shelbyville, was accused of bushwhacking Bertram, but proved a complete *alibi*. Not long afterward, however, learning that certain individuals

had sworn to kill him, he "took to the brush," determined to shoot the first Federal he saw. As he lay well concealed in a thicket, along came a Federal soldier, trudging afoot, and leisurely and contentedly munching an apple. The would-be bushwhacker felt his former bloodthirsty disposition vanishing from him at the sight. He lowered his gun, uncocked it, and slipped quietly away, heartily ashamed, and the soldier passed on in peace and safety.

On another occasion two young men hid themselves to bushwhack a train, near Salt river, when one of them remembered that his family had been expecting some relatives from Kentucky on a visit, and he said, "What if they should be on that train?" The murderous scheme was instantly abandoned.

MISSOURI'S SECESSION. (?)

On the 26th of October "Claib. Jackson's Legislature," as it was called, met in the Masonic Hall at Neosho, and on the 28th an ordinance of secession was passed by both Houses. In the Senate the only vote against it was cast by Charles H. Hardin, then Senator from the Boone and Callaway district, and afterwards Governor of the State, and in the House the only member voting "no" was Mr. Shambaugh, of DeKalb. According to the records and to Mr. Shambaugh, there were in the Jackson Legislature at the time but 39 members of the House and 10 members of the Senate, when, by the constitution, a quorum for the transaction of business was required to consist of 17 senators and 67 representatives.

But notwithstanding these facts, the secession ordinance and the act of annexation to the Southern Confederacy were approved by the Confederate Congress at Richmond,¹ recognized by that portion of the people of Missouri who were in favor of cutting loose from the old Union, and Gen. Price fired a salute in honor thereof. And so those Missourians then and afterwards in arms against the Federal flag became entitled to the name of *Confederates*, and will so be denominated in future pages of this history, instead of being called "State Guards," "Secessionists," "Southern troops," etc., as they have hitherto been spoken of.

At this time Shelby county had perhaps 250 troops in the field

¹ A convention held at Richmond, October 31, between Thomas L. Snead and E. C. Cabell, on the part of the Jackson government of Missouri, and R. M. T. Hunter, on the part of the Confederate States, agreed upon the admission of Missouri into the Southern Confederacy, and it was really this agreement which was ratified by the Confederate Congress.

doing battle for the Southern cause. In Gen. Green's division of the Missouri State Guard the third battalion of infantry was commanded by Lieut.-Col. S. A. Rawlings, of Shelby county; and Co. A, Capt. Oliver Sparks, contained a number of men from here.

THE GAMBLE GOVERNMENT AND ITS OATH.

The Missouri Convention having deposed Gov. Jackson, Lieut.-Gov. Reynolds and Secretary Massey appointed in their places Hamilton R. Gamble, Willard P. Hall and Mordecai Oliver, and reconstructed the State government generally, it was made by that body the duty of all the civil officers in the State to take an oath to support the provisional government and also the constitution of the United States "against all enemies and opposers whatsoever."

The county officials of Shelby were: Representative, John McAfee; circuit clerk, William L. Chipley; county clerk, Thomas O. Eskridge; county attorney, John F. Benjamin; sheriff and collector, John Dickerson; deputy sheriff, James L. West; treasurer, C. K. Cotton; public administrator, R. A. Moffett; school commissioner, C. B. Johnson; assessor, M. J. Priest; justices of the county court, James S. Pickett, Perry B. Moore, Daniel Taylor.

Of these officials, Messrs. Dickerson, West, Priest, Johnson, Moore and Pickett refused to take the "Gamble oath," as it was called, and were deposed from office accordingly. The others took the oath and retained their places. Of the disloyal, C. B. Johnson raised a company for the Southern cause, and fought irregularly or as a partisan ranger for several months, or until in the summer of 1862.

There were no sessions of the county court from November 4, 1861, until in May, 1862. The military came in, everything was disorganized, and the county ran itself.

About Christmas Day, 1861, the county judges attempted to hold a court at Shelbyville without first taking the Gamble oath. Capt. Thomas G. Black, of Co. C, Third Missouri Cavalry, Glover's regiment, was sent up to prevent this. It was an offense for any person to *attempt* to exercise official functions without first having taken this oath.

Capt. Black arrested Sheriff Dickerson, James B. Marmaduke, J. M. Ennis, Dr. Coons, Rev. J. P. Noland and Charles Dines, at Shelbyville, and then went to Newark and on the way took Thomas Garrison. All the prisoners were charged with disloyalty. They were taken to Palmyra, then the headquarters of Glover's regiment, and after an imprisonment of seven days were released on taking the Gamble oath.

The following is a copy of this oath : —

I, —, do solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that I will support, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the State of Missouri, against all enemies and opposers, whether domestic or foreign; that I will bear true faith, loyalty and allegiance to the United States, and will not, directly or indirectly, give aid and comfort or countenance to the enemies or opposers thereof, or of the Provisional Government of the State of Missouri, any ordinance, law or resolution of any State Convention or Legislature, or any order or organization, secret or otherwise, to the contrary notwithstanding; and that I do this with a full and honest determination, pledge and purpose, faithfully to keep and perform the same, without any mental reservation or evasion whatever. And I do further solemnly swear (or affirm) that I have not, since the 17th day of December, A. D. 1861, willfully taken up arms or levied war against the United States or against the Provisional Government of the State of Missouri, so help me God.

After a time the "Gamble oath" was supplemented by one more binding, more exacting, harder to take, and still harder to observe. This was called the "iron-clad oath."



History of Monroe and Shelby Counties, Missouri - Link Page

[PREVIOUS...SHELBY V: HISTORY OF THE COUNTY FROM 1850 TO 1861.....680](#)

[NEXT.....SHELBY VII: MISCELLANEOUS HISTORY DURING 1862.....725](#)

[GO BACK TO THE ELECTRONIC INDEX PAGE...](#)