



Leonidas Horney

**His Life and Times
1817-1863**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Early Life of Leonidas Horney

The Beginning: Family Heritage
Journey from North Carolina to Illinois
Marking time in St. Clair County, Illinois

Growing Up in Schuyler County

Settling a New Country
Hardships and Challenges
Marriage

Off to Mexico

Prologue to War
Daybook of Pvt. Leonidas Horney
Marching across Texas to Mexico
Battle of Buena Vista

Years of Fulfillment

Home Again
Working as Surveyor
Land Purchases
Family Happenings

Politics

Schuyler County Democrats
Lincoln and the Republican Party
Spiraling Down Hill to War

The 10th Missouri Volunteer Infantry

Enlistment
Protecting Missouri
Moving into the South
Farmington and the Siege of Corinth
Battles of Iuka and Corinth

On to Vicksburg

Down the Yazoo Pass
By-passing Vicksburg
Crossing the Mississippi River

Deep into Dixie

Invasion of Mississippi
Battle of Raymond
On to Jackson, the Capital
Battle of Champion Hill

Meeting with Destiny

10th Missouri Joins the Battle
Col. Horney Killed
News Reaches Schuyler County
Funeral

Addenda

Jane Crawford Horney
Children of Jane and Leonidas Horney
Domain Land Tract Sales
Township Designations
“Old Abe”



The Early Life
of
Leonidas Horney

- The Beginning: Family Heritage
- Journey from North Carolina to Illinois
- Marking time in St. Clair County, Illinois



*“No story sits by itself.
Sometimes stories meet at corners and sometimes they
cover one another completely like stones beneath a river.”*

—Mitch Albom

The Five People You Meet in Heaven

Ancestors of Leonidas Horney¹

The roots of Leonidas Horney can be found deep in the soil of the Eastern seaboard, having been transplanted there from Europe early in the 1600's. Those resolute men and women coming to the America were brave enough to endure untold hardships in their search for freedom. Generation by generation their desire for independence corresponded with that of the ever-growing nation. They were willing to proudly fight for liberty and to resolutely protect the rights of the citizens. Every opportunity to better their situation in life was embraced, even if it meant saying good-bye to loved ones and moving on to a new location miles and miles away. Leonidas continued this lineage of strong individuals, determinedly working for the betterment of his county, state and nation.

Guilford County, located in west-central North Carolina, saw an influx of settlers prior to and following the Revolutionary War. While a goodly number came as individuals, many migrated in clusters that represented their common beliefs. Different denominations such as the Moravians and the Presbyterians provided support, often purchasing land, for those members desiring to relocate to the Piedmont. Another group, the Society of Friends (commonly known as Quakers), was influenced by the glowing reports of their leaders and was enticed by the promise of fertile soil, clear sparkling streams and a mild climate. Self-sufficient communities were formed, focusing around various Meeting Houses.

In 1783 Phillip and Sarah Manlove Horney, the paternal grandparents of Leonidas Horney, left their home along the tidal rivers in the low coastal plains of Maryland and set out on the long and arduous trail to North Carolina. Phillip chose a location for their home in the neighborhood of the Deep River Meeting, and after a few years, in 1786, he purchased 260 acres. Though evidence exists that Phillip and Sarah did not follow the doctrines of the Quakers, they nevertheless were closely intertwined; relatives of both the Horney and Manlove families were strong believers of that faith. A few years later the maternal ancestors of Leonidas, the Charles family, migrated from Maryland to establish their homes in the same general area of Guilford County.

By the time Samuel B. Horney, the third son of Phillip and Sarah Manlove Horney, was born in 1788, his parents had become well-established in their new surroundings. Samuel grew to manhood along Bull Run, a tributary of Deep River, where his father's farm was located. Samuel received a good education, most likely in a school taught by the Quakers at the Deep River Meeting House.² This sect established schools to promote the belief that their children should be provided with a practical education. The schooling Samuel received was satisfactory enough to allow him to later follow the teaching profession.

¹ Sneed, W. Ruth. *Legacy of the Past, Ancestors of Leonidas Horney*, Chapt. V. "Samuel and Emilia Charles Horney." Carthage, MO: Self-published. 2008.

² Pegg, William Wesley, Sr. *Something of the Story of Deep River*. Greensboro, NC: The Guilford County Genealogical Society, 1999. 9.

When Samuel was twenty-five years old, the fledgling United States was being challenged by Great Britain on the high seas. In support of his country, Samuel went to Richmond, Virginia, and volunteered for the duration of the war. He was in command of a rendezvous and was a recruiting sergeant until Virginia's Sixth Regiment was ordered to Norfolk, where the British army was threatening. At the close of the War of 1812, he retraced his steps and returned to his native Guilford County, North Carolina.

Upon his return, Samuel resumed his teaching career, most likely in a typical one-room school built of rough logs. Though there was general indifference to the education of girls, they were often admitted to the schools founded by the different religious denominations. When one of his pupils, Emilia Charles, was absent a number of days, Samuel became concerned and went to her home. He found the father of the family gone, and the eleven-year-old student and her mother without food or fuel. The schoolmaster took them home with him, expecting to hear shortly from Elijah Charles. This evidently did not happen, and on August 11, 1816, when Emilia turned fourteen years, two days old, Samuel married her.³

Samuel Horney, a well-read man, must have been familiar with the heroic tales of Leonidas, a Spartan king who lost his life when he led a small force of 300 Greeks against the large Persian army of Xerxes during the Persian Wars. Leonidas, meaning "lion's son," was the name Samuel gave to his son when he was born on September 4, 1817. Unknowingly, this child would follow a parallel life to that of the earlier Leonidas as both honored their country with uncompromising determination and both valiantly met death on the battle field.

In payment for their service, those who fought in the War of 1812 were given bounty land in an undeveloped region designated as the Illinois Military Tract. When surveying of this large expanse was completed in the fall of 1817, it was opened to those holding warrants. While the majority of the former soldiers sold their land rights to speculators for small amounts of ready cash, Samuel chose differently and determined to move to Illinois to claim his property. After careful deliberation and many serious discussions, a final decision was made and preparations began for the impending move. Samuel, Emilia, and Leonidas left Guilford County in July of 1818, along with several relatives and neighbors.⁴ From day to day, unsure of what the next day would bring, they made their way westward.

³ One wonders if perhaps Emilia's mother had died about this time; any information, even her name, has passed into oblivion.

⁴ Besides Samuel Horney, the 1820 Census of Turkey Hill Township, St. Clair County, Illinois, lists Elijah Charles, and Elijah Charles, Jr. (Emilia's uncle and cousin). Many other friends and relatives from Guilford County, NC, migrated to Schuyler County over a span of the next several years.

Biding Awhile in St. Clair County, Illinois

[Though many events of Leonidas' childhood are open to pure conjecture, a good number can be reconstructed. Through the study of histories of Illinois, the reading of reminiscences of old-timers, and the perusal of public records, one can get a glimpse into those years.]

Leonidas began his travels at an early age, being almost a year old when leaving North Carolina. Perhaps, after departing from their old home, he and his family toiled through a pass in the Alleghany Mountains and continued until reaching a tributary of the Ohio River. After reaching the Ohio, they may have located a flatboat to use in traveling down this river "highway," joining the Mississippi at a point just below St. Louis.⁵ Upon arrival in the trading post of St. Louis, Samuel found that there were no inhabitants - other than the red man - in the wilds of the Military Tract where his property was located. Surveyors had worked diligently in this undeveloped region getting it prepared for settlement by laying a grid of geographical boundaries, marked by gashes on tree trunks. However, since Samuel was no farmer or woodsman, he dared go no further. Biding his time, the next seven years were spent in St. Clair County, just across the Mississippi River from St. Louis. The Mississippi, known as the Father of Waters, would continue to be the back drop for numerous events throughout the lifetime of his son, Leonidas.

It was here in Turkey Hill Township of St. Clair County that Leonidas learned to walk and talk. He may have begun learning his numbers and the letters of the alphabet as he and his father sat before the fire during days of blustery, wintry weather. Gradually becoming aware of the world around him, he gained knowledge about the various creatures of the wild that inhabited the woods around Turkey Hill. Bear, wild cat, panther, wolf, and buffalo all roamed the rolling hills surrounding his home. Emilia must have cautioned her only child to not wander too far from the rude cabin and to especially beware of dangers from not only the predatory animals, but also the poisonous snakes – rattlesnakes, prairie rattlers, copperheads, and adders- that frequented the area. Under the watchful eyes of his parents, Leonidas grew into an independent youngster.

In St. Clair County in 1818, two cultures existed side by side. On one side of the river was the French city of St. Louis whose inhabitants numbered 2,500.⁶ Close by, opposite the growing commercial settlement, were the peaceful Tamaroas Indians, who lived in long houses made of bark mats stretched over wooden frames. In the spring the squaws would plant subsistence crops of maize, pumpkins, and squash. As the seasons changed, the tribe would leave for hunting grounds further away. The central Illinois plains provided them with deer and bison, while seasonal



⁵Horney, Ward (great-grandson of Leonidas). "History of Samuel Letter. Industry, IL. 30 Dec 1967.

⁶ Bateman, Newton and Paul Selby, eds. *Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois*, vol. 1. Chicago: Munsell Pub. Co., 1906. 286.

expeditions to the north and west furnished more large game. Perhaps the eyes of the toddler Leonidas grew large when he heard the beat of the drums as the Indians returned to their Turkey Hill camping grounds near the ancient mounds of Cahokia. Perhaps he watched with wonder from the tall bluffs above the Mississippi River as the Indians fished in their huge fifty-foot pirogues, or dugout canoes. By the time Leonidas reached three years of age, the Tamaroas had journeyed on to less crowded regions.

Through numerous treaties the Illinois hunting grounds of the Indians, the forests and grasslands, were ceded, parcel by parcel, to the government. In return they received token payments of money, gaudy wares, blankets and other merchandise. Soon the tribes retreated across the Mississippi, and emigrants from the east arrived to claim land on the frontier. By 1818, numbers were sufficient for the territory of Illinois to become a new state, and in 1821 Missouri joined its neighbor in becoming a part of the union.

As the developing expanse of additional territory in both Illinois and Missouri opened up for settlers, Samuel was able to earn some income by surveying property. Ward Horney, a great-grandson, passed on this family story: “Samuel and a party of surveyors in Missouri came to a bridge over a small creek that the Indians had built. The party used the bridge but did not pay the Indians. The next morning they found two of their horses had been stolen. They went back to recover their horses. While talking to the chief, the Indians surrounded them. Grandfather asked the chief for the peace pipe and then paid the Indians. The next morning their horses were returned.”⁷

Both family tradition and a county history record that Samuel also taught school while living in St. Clair County. At the outset, in this newly settled region, there were only subscription schools that taught the bare rudiments of education. These few early schools had terms of short duration, usually of four months, and utilized whatever structure was available. Books were a rarity. St. Clair County’s official organization of schools and their requisite buildings weren’t provided until 1830 as the tide of immigration continued to increase; by that time the Horney family, like the Tamaroas, had moved on.



Turkey Hill Township gave unsparingly of her bounty to Samuel and his family. Food was plentiful as there were countless herds of deer and flocks of wild turkeys to be had for the taking; the close proximity of the river supplied abundant water fowl and plenty of large, fresh fish. Emilia and Leonidas may have helped do their part in seeing the family was well-fed by cultivating small plots of hardy Indian corn with its blue, red, yellow, and white kernels. Tilled ground between the corn stalks often was doubly utilized by planting hills of beans, squash, or pumpkins. After harvesting, the squash and pumpkins were usually cut into chunks, strung on cords, dried, and stored for the leaner months ahead. Irish potatoes reportedly grew well in the soil of St. Clair County and could be kept for future use. Each season

⁷ Horney, Ward. Letter.

brought its delights; springtime and the harvesting of tender poke greens meant a change in the bland winter diet. Welcome treats of wild blackberries, clusters of small fox grapes, and tart wild plums grew profusely in the summer woods, though a young boy had to be wary of bears that were after the same juicy delicacies! With the coming of cool fall days, persimmons began to ripen, and nuts began to fall. Young Leonidas would have been quick enough to chase off the scampering squirrels to get his share of various kinds of nuts. Hazelnuts, walnuts, or hickory nuts often were harvested and hoarded to crack on frosty winter days. The golden-hued wild prairie grass, tall as a man, was cut, dried, and stored as hay for horses or other stock. Those willing to put forth a little effort to harvest these bounties were well-rewarded.

Growing Up in Schuyler County

- Settling a New Country
- Hardship and Challenges
 - Marriage



*I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence;
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I,
I took the one less traveled by -
And that has made all the difference.*

From "The Road not Taken"

-Robert Frost

"First-Comers" Settle Military Tract

While Samuel, Emilia, and Leonidas were patiently waiting, a few hardy pioneers began making their way into the uninhabited country that would later become known as Schuyler County. When the "first-comers" made their way across the Illinois River, they found Indian trails, rich prairie soil, stately trees, plentiful wildlife, wild bees and a profusion of rattlesnakes. Bee hunters were initially the first to explore the area. Shortly thereafter entrepreneurs came with a herd of three hundred hogs that fed on the mast from the oak trees. The first permanent settlers followed in their wake. Soon the sound of the axe biting into the bark of the big trees and the crashing of the huge boles as they fell to the ground echoed through the woods. Lean-tos, with logs on three sides and open to the elements on the other, were quickly constructed for immediate shelter. Land was laboriously cleared, the first crops were planted among the stumps, and sturdy cabins were erected. By 1823 there were thirty inhabitants in Schuyler County.⁸

In September 1824 Samuel mounted his horse and with his cousin, Jonathan D. Manlove, made an excursion northward to locate and examine their property and to check out the conditions in Schuyler County. Crossing the Illinois River on a little ferry near the roughly built trading post of Thomas Beard, they were pleased to find a few brave settlers already in Schuyler County. By locating the blazed trees that surveyors had marked to indicate the corners at every mile in each section, they were able to find their designated acres. Jonathan remained in Schuyler County,⁹ but Samuel returned to St. Clair County for his family. He wisely waited until springtime before again confronting the rigors of the trail.



Not many possessions could be taken along. Samuel set aside the belongings that would be necessary for the journey and to build their new home. Of prime importance were a gun, bar lead, powder, a bullet mold and a well-sharpened knife. These were of crucial importance - both to ward off danger and to obtain wild game. Since there would be no metal tools available in the unsettled area, also of extreme importance was an axe, used to clear the land, cut fuel, build a cabin, and construct needed furniture for the dwelling. Other useful items such as a sharp-bladed adze to smooth rough surfaces or an iron froe, a wedge-shaped implement used to rive, or split, shingles may have been included. A tinder box with its flint and steel did not take up much space and was indispensable for igniting a fire. Clothing and bedding, possibly including a bear skin or buffalo robe, could be rolled into a bundle. And not to be

⁸ Dyson, Howard. ed. *Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois and History of Schuyler County*. vol. II. 1908. Astoria, Illinois: Stevens Publishing Company, 1970. 641.

⁹ *Combined history of Schuyler and Brown Counties, Illinois*. 1882. Astoria, IL: Stevens Pub. Co. Re-printed. 59.

forgotten, since civilization would be left behind, were seeds to do the spring planting of corn and vegetables. A deerskin bag filled with coarsely ground corn known as Indian meal, the food supply commonly carried by travelers, was probably included. Other provisions such as deer jerky or pounded hominy might have been carried in one or two iron cooking pots, but most of their sustenance would come from the woods or streams as they traveled. Samuel owned at least one horse, possibly two, on which their possessions could be packed.

Since Samuel and his brother, Manlove Horney, arrived in Schuyler County at the same time,¹⁰ they may have traveled from St. Clair County together, quite possibly with others who were heading in the same direction. Leonidas, like most seven-year-old boys, surely jumped with excitement as preparations were made to leave. Eager to help, he hoped his father would let him carry the long, flintlock musket, if just for a little way. Samuel checked to be sure his land warrant was in a safe, secure place and, perhaps at the last minute, he found a place to stash a treasured book or two. When all was ready, the hearth fire was extinguished. Samuel put his powder horn around his neck and Emilia put on her bonnet. They took a last look around, and left the leather latchkey hanging outside for the next weary traveler. With trepidation, the little group set out on their journey northward, a distance of about 150 miles as the crow flies.

What route was followed? The *History of Schuler County* states that there were only two ways to get to that region its very early days. One was by means of the overland trail which wound its way from Terre Haute to Springfield, continuing westward to the Illinois River which flowed along the eastern side of the future Schuyler County. The other was to start where the Illinois River flowed into the Mississippi and, by use of canoe, rafts, flat boats, or keel boats, travel upstream.¹¹ Two frequently used guidebooks for emigrants, published in 1817¹² and 1819, gave specific routes and fairly accurate accounts and mileages for those traveling in portions of Illinois. Samuel may have had access to one of these to determine the best course through the trackless forests and prairies.

Scattered throughout the wilderness were narrow trails made by animals and deep ones made by Indians running in single file, neither type yet widened by man's continual use. Occasionally early frontiersmen marked their passages by hacking blazes, or cuts, into trees for the benefit of those who followed after them and had little knowledge of the territory. One blaze indicated a foot path, and two blazes designated "bridle paths" upon

¹⁰Dyson, Howard. ed. "Buena Vista Township." *Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois and History of Schuyler County*, 1908. Astoria, Illinois: Stevens Publishing Company, 1970. 697. (Another history states Manlove Horney came to Schuyler County in the summer of 1825. *History of Schuyler and Brown Counties*. 61.)

¹¹ Dyson. 654-55.

¹² Brown, Samuel R. *The Western Gazetteer or Emigrant's Directory*. Auburn, NY: n.p. 1817. Web, 8 Aug 09.

which a horse and rider could pass.¹³ In this section of Illinois, the marked traces were few and far between as there had been little or no exploration by the white man. No roads or bridges had been built at this time, though in 1822 one traveler reported the opening of a public road between Vandalia and Springfield.¹⁴



The gentle, slow-moving Illinois River meandered along twenty-five miles of the eastern boundary of Schuyler County and then flowed southward to join the Mississippi River at a point fourteen miles north of St. Louis. To get to Schuyler County from the south, small river vessels had to go against the current by means of oars or poles. A rough path must have existed alongside the river as it is recorded that men pulling a keel boat made their way up stream to Beardstown in 1821. Using the course of the Illinois River as a guide when traveling by land would give one a sense of direction. While canoes could not be used to transport horses, the other alternative route, striking out across the prairies, was to be avoided if at all possible. The endless sea of coarse bluestem grass, rank and tall, could hide a man on horseback, and there were no landmarks of trees or man-built structures to give a person his bearings.¹⁵

The wisest decision would have been to go by land, following alongside the river, especially since Samuel had the safety of his family to consider. This is likely the route that Samuel chose with little or no hesitation.

Traveling in Central Illinois 1821

Elijah Iles,¹⁶ an early pioneer, left Kentucky in 1818, his goal to purchase land in Missouri. After living there a few years, in 1821 he made a short visit to Kentucky. On the return trip, he passed through Central Illinois. There were no roads then, and his only guide from Vincennes to Vandalia was surveyors' stakes. Sangamon Valley seemed the ideal location to him, so he went back to Missouri to sell his land. He crossed the Mississippi River at the site of the present town of Louisiana, swam his horse across the Illinois River, proceeded to Carrolton, and thence to Diamond Grove, near where Jacksonville now stands. Going on to Springfield, he boarded with a family. His hosts provided a well-supplied table of venison, wild turkey, prairie chicken, squirrel, and fresh fish. Bread was an old-fashioned hoe cake served with milk and honey.

Mr. Iles built a large, sixteen-foot-square, log cabin for a store. Supplies, over \$1,500 worth, were purchased at St. Louis, a French settlement of 2,500 people. The wrought iron, pot metal, dry goods, and groceries were loaded on a

¹³ "The Prairie Historian." vol. 2, No. 2, June 1972. Web. 5 Aug 2009.

¹⁴ Boggess, Arthur Clinton. *The Settlement of Illinois, 1778-1830*. Chicago: Chicago Hist. Soc., 1908.

¹⁵ "Native Flora." Missouri Department of Conservation. Web. 6 Oct 2009.

¹⁶ Power, John Carroll and Sarah A. *History of the Early Settlers of Sangamon County, Illinois*. Springfield, IL: Edwin A. Wilson, & Co., 1876. 396-98. (Elijah Iles later became an Illinois State Senator.)

keel boat and towed up the Illinois River by six strong men pulling a rope and walking along the shore. In passing through Alton, one house was observed [plus the ferry house], and the same at the mouth of the Illinois. Traveling up-river, at the site of the future Beardstown, he found the empty cabin of Mr. Beard. Here the goods were unloaded and the keelboat and men went back down stream, \$75 richer, leaving Mr. Iles alone in the wilderness.

Mr. Iles spent the next month taking the goods over land to Springfield where he opened the first store in July 1821. Indians and white people in equal numbers were customers. The Indians paid with fur and undressed deer skins, the whites in silver coin, homemade jeans, cotton or linen cloth, beeswax, or honey.

The journey through uncharted territory took many days. At sundown, the travelers made a rudimentary camp, and kindled an open fire to cook their meals. The open flames warded off the cooling night breezes that still carried a sharp reminder of winter. A close eye was kept out for any lurking Indians or hungry prairie wolves that might have a hankering for horse flesh. Fallen leaves were piled up and served to soften the hard ground when the little party rested their weary bones each night. With the coming of darkness, the yelping of the countless prairie wolves, or large coyotes, could be heard in the distance and, on occasion, the caterwauling of cougars. Just before falling into slumber, Leonidas would have been mindful of the rustling of small woodland creatures and the forlorn hoot of the owl. One can guess, as he heard the sounds of the forest that he snuggled closer to his parents for reassurance. Each day brought its challenges. Small streams and sloughs must be forded. Spring rains, and the resulting mud and swollen creeks, often required a circuitous route, making the trip more difficult. Finally, arriving at Beard's Ferry in March of 1825, their destination was close at hand. Just across the river lay the locality where the Horney family would live the rest of their lives.

Beardstown Ferry

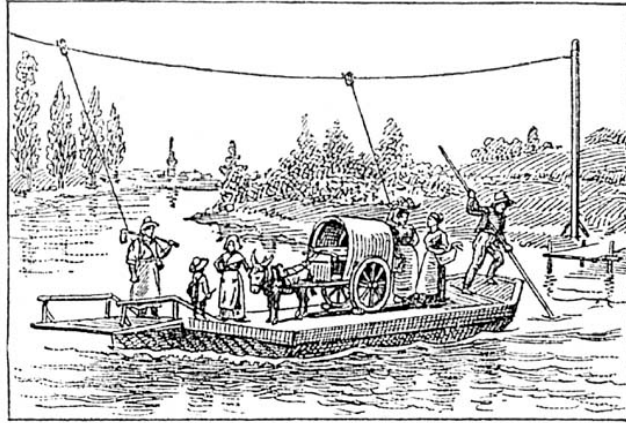
Thomas Beard erected a log cabin at the edge of the Illinois River in 1819. He traded with the Indians and ran a ferry. There were no roads into Schuyler County at that time. Mr. Beard managed the ferry himself by using a pole to propel it. It was so small that only one wagon and a team of horses could be accommodated at one time, leaving little room for passengers. In 1826 Mr. Beard paid six dollars to Schuyler County for a license to operate the ferry.¹⁷ The following fees were charged:

Wagon and four horses or oxen - \$.75	Wagon and two horses - .50
Wagon or cart and horse - .37 1/2	Man and horse - .12 1/2
Loose horse - .06 1/4	Footman - .06 1/4
Cattle, per head - .05	Sheep, Hogs and Goats - .02 ¹⁸

Known as Beard's Ferry until 1831, the growing settlement's name was then changed to Beardstown.

¹⁷ Perrin, William Henry. *History of Cass County, Illinois*. 1882. 20. Web. 1 Sept 2009.

¹⁸ Dyson. 680.



Life in the Early Days of Schuyler County

The ferryboat, loaded with all the worldly goods of the travelers, was poled across the Illinois River by the strong muscles of Mr. Beard. After Leonidas and his parents successfully made the crossing, they alighted in the newly-formed county of Schuyler and ascended the high bluff.¹⁹ A rudimentary trail, made earlier by the Hobart family, directed their path for a only short distance, for it was not until the next year that a marked pathway was made from the ferry to Rushville, the prospective county seat.

Checking for the blazed witness trees that indicated his property, Samuel soon located his designated land in the eastern part of Buena Vista Township. This time, as darkness fell, the evening campfire was kindled on Samuel's own property. There must have been a profound feeling of satisfaction in reaching this long-awaited objective. Optimism ran high with future plans and expectations of prosperity. However, the blank pages of the future were yet to be written, and many difficulties and adversities lay ahead, unrevealed to the optimistic little group.



In building the home for his family, Samuel found much-needed support from both his older brother, Manlove Horney, and their cousin, Jonathan D. Manlove. One history relates that upon the arrival of Samuel in the spring, Jonathan made his home with Samuel and together they improved the southwest quarter of section eighteen in Buena Vista township.²⁰ Jonathan evidently remained part of the household of Emilia and Samuel for several years as he related in his writings that he began housekeeping in 1828 by bringing skillets, pots, and pans in a linen sack from Jacksonville.²¹ Another history states, "Samuel and Manlove Horney settled on Section 14."²² An adjoining quarter would later become Manlove's homestead.²³ The three men must have worked together, pooling their strength and resources in building each of their homes and

¹⁹ Schuyler County formed on January 13, 1825.

²⁰ *Combined History of Schuyler and Brown Counties, Illinois*. 1882; Astoria, IL: Stevens Pub.Co.. Reprinted. 59-60.

²¹ Dyson, Howard F. "J. D. Manlove Recalls the Early Days." 1918. Web. 9 Oct. 2009.

²² Dyson. *Hist. Encyclopedia of IL and History of Schuyler Co.* 698.

²³ Manlove Horney (m. Lydia Smith) purchased property in 1831, but died shortly after on 25 Oct 1832.

out buildings. The preparation of the virgin soil for planting of crops would also have been accomplished through cooperative effort.

A shelter of some kind was of first priority. Perhaps Jonathan Manlove, having preceded the arrival of the Horney family, had foreseen this and had begun laying the groundwork for the homestead. Otherwise, a temporary three-sided structure had to be thrown up as protection until a more substantial dwelling could be built. So many things to do, they required the labor of every individual, even that of Leonidas, for children were part of a family's workforce. The men concentrated on the heavy work, wielding their axes with great strength, while women and children worked on small trees and underbrush, piling them for burning. When enough large logs of the same size and length were accumulated for a cabin or other buildings, they were notched out to fit together snugly since nails were not available. An opening was cut for a window and a wooden door fashioned from cut logs. There were no frills; windows had no glass panes, and doors had no metal hinges or locks. A fireplace was built at one end of the structure and the cracks between the logs were chinked with small twigs and mud. The very early homes had dirt floors only, for those made of timber flattened on one side, called puncheon, were a luxury that would come later as time permitted. Leonidas' first home in Schuyler County was soon ready for occupation.

Of foremost importance was the preparation of the earth so the first crops could be planted. As soon as some of the land was cleared of trees and the last frost was out of the ground, the sod was turned over and kernels of corn were planted in the furrows of the deep, black soil of Schuyler County. In later years Jonathan wrote that in the spring of 1825 some fourteen acres of ground were planted.²⁴ The first year's crop in the newly tilled ground, known appropriately as "sod corn," would only produce a token amount, compared with future yields. The planting of corn was supplemented with vegetable crops such as cabbage, turnips, squash, beans, and pumpkins. Most of these hardy vegetables could either be dried or stored in a root cellar for future use. As spring arrived, delicious wild strawberries were found in great numbers.²⁵ The forest would bountifully provide wild honey, mushrooms, berries, wild plums, paw-paws, persimmons, wild grapes and nuts, each in its own season. The gleanings from the woodlands, the garden vegetables, and abundant wild game would sustain the family as they struggled to establish their home this first year. As much as possible was stored away for the cold and bleak months of the winter that would follow.

Leonidas soon became acquainted with the native Kickapoo tribes and their customs, differing somewhat from the ones encountered previously in St. Clair County. Though the tribes had, by treaty, migrated across the Mississippi, for several years they still had the privilege of hunting in the Military Tract. The Indians in Schuyler County were peaceful

²⁴ Dyson, 635.

²⁵ Dyson, 775.

during the first years, but later became extremely annoying. Indians and their dogs caused some trouble, running the wild hogs as they would any other game. About the beginning of 1826, nineteen of the boys – and that was about all there were in the county – went to the Indian camp on Crooked Creek and ordered them off, giving them a certain time to do so, under a penalty of having their goods (ammunition and whisky) “wet with the Illinois River.” An incident or two resulted in several of the dogs being shot. The Indians left soon afterwards and reportedly never came back.²⁶ If Leonidas was not with his father during this confrontation, he surely must have heard the tale frequently retold whenever the “boys” would gather.



Youngsters participated along with their elders in finding bee trees filled with treasure troves of honey. A most rewarding form of recreation, worker bees would be watched as they took on their load of pollen and nectar from bright-colored blossoms and then fly off in a “bee-line”²⁷ for their home, usually high up in a hollow tree. The sharp-eyed observers followed closely in pursuit through the woods. After the laden bees had shown the way, the hive in which the honey had been made and stowed would be marked in some manner, ready for retrieval and harvest in the fall. Once the tree was cut down, the golden honey was quickly and carefully captured so not a drop would fall to the ground. Several gallons could be harvested from each tree, yielding more than enough to feed a family for a year. Many barrels of the sweet liquid were sent down the Illinois River to St. Louis, where it was bartered for needed goods.

Neighbors looked to neighbors for support in establishing their residences, for help in any difficulty, and also for enjoyment of primitive, simple pleasures. Getting together to help a neighbor build a cabin or barn was a major social event. Whenever a group of men or boys gathered together, pleasure was derived from the challenge of foot races or other physical competitions. However, the chief form of entertainment for the male population was the excitement found in the pursuit of various species of wild animals. Often times, the hunters only took their “clubs and dogs.” This may have been primarily for safety, but may also indicate a lack (or saving) of ammunition. Leonidas, while still a young lad, unquestionably tagged along at his father’s heels in several, maybe even all, of these escapades, learning useful lessons of survival.

“At [one] time while a party of hunters was out taking their sport they discovered the tracks of a deer, which they concluded to capture if possible. They had not gone very far before they discovered a very strange looking track made by some animal that was evidently in pursuit of the deer. It was examined closely and found to be that of a panther. The hunters pursued on with anticipations of having a good time, and in this they were not disappointed. They soon came upon the

²⁶ Jonathan D. Manlove, quoted by Dyson, 643.

²⁷ Close to a hundred years later, W. B. Scott, a great-grandson of Leonidas, unknowingly revealed his Illinois heritage when he named a horse “ole Bee-line.” Whenever loose, this mare had the habit of running in a “bee-line” back into the barn –whether or not the door was open.

“king of the feline tribe,” who had caught the deer, and having finished his dinner was lying down close by. They attacked him fiercely with clubs and dogs, when he ran up a tree near at hand. They then held a counsel to determine what to do, having no gun—nothing but dogs and clubs. They finally decided to draw cuts as to who should climb the tree, which duty fell on a young man by the name of Thompson. With some difficulty he got to the lower branches, when the fierce monster turned on him, with fiery eyes and terrible screams, ran down near him and tore the bark with his huge claws. Thompson used his club with great vigor and soon forced him to jump. In a moment the panther was covered with dogs, which he dispatched with dexterity, some of them being literally disemboweled, but the men soon killed him with their clubs.”²⁸

Though there is no record of anyone dying of snake bite, the early pioneers did not care to co-exist with the copious numbers of rattlesnakes. When a group of old settlers met in December of 1859, tales of their past experiences in the raw, new country flew thick and fast. J. D. Manlove told of the many rattlesnakes and the efforts to eradicate them.



“ . . . in the spring of 1825, Samuel Horney, Esq. and myself put in, near where Mr. Tharp lives, about fourteen acres of ground, and during that time we killed some 17 or 18 rattlesnakes, most of them on said field. In 3N. 4W. near Brummell Sapp’s residence (Round Prairie)²⁹, the first settlers one spring, left the grass unburnt, for about a half mile around a snake den, and when they had come out pretty thick, set fire round the out edges, and followed the fire armed for the contest. And I think I am right in saying that that day they destroyed well on to a THOUSAND.” He continued, “My father once, about a half mile from this location [Rushville] went to bed with a rattlesnake of four feet in length. It was in the bed between the sheets and blankets . . .”³⁰ Jonathan described the inside of the snake dens, stating that there were “grooves worn in the sand rock there of truly serpentine courses, from a quarter to half an inch thick, showing this to be an ancient den, perhaps as old as the pyramids of Egypt.”³¹

²⁸ “A Young Pioneer.” Letter. *Rushville Times* . 4 Mar 1874. Reprinted in *The Schuylerite*. vol. VIII. Spring 1979.

²⁹ Round Prairie, surrounded by timber, was in the northeast part of Schuyler County. It had frequently been burnt off by the Indians so the prairie grasses would grow.

³⁰ “Reminiscences of Early Life in Schuyler County.” *Schuyler Citizen*, 25 Jan 1860.

³¹ Dyson. 635.

Levin Green, the first preacher in Schuyler County, described the venomous snakes as being “so plenty as to clog the plow.”³² Another account tells of the abundance of rattlesnakes that hibernated in dens situated in cliffs of rocks and were “almost impregnable to human force.”

“The snake dens were discovered by observing the snakes entering them in the fall and exiting them in the spring. . . . a day in the middle of the winter having been agreed upon, and due notice given every man and boy in the neighborhood, they assembled at Rocky Den armed with such mining tools as the county afforded, and very deliberately went to work mining for snakes. After several hours of hard and persevering labor, the mining party succeeded in forcing an entry to the rock chambers where the reptiles lay, all twined together in a hideous mass, but in that state of torpor in which they invariably spend the winter season. Rattlesnakes, black snakes, copperheads, and every variety of snakes all mixed together indiscriminately, but by far the largest number being rattlesnakes. . . . [Since] the entry had only been made to the ante-room, as it were, and the main hall was entirely inaccessible by any means within reach, by far the larger part of this frightful community of reptiles escaped destruction. However, something over five hundred of the creatures were dragged from their winter quarters and destroyed – most of them rattlesnakes, and some of them as much as six feet long and as thick as a man’s leg. They were all thrown into one vast pile, and for many years their bleaching bones sufficiently marked the spot.

A few days afterwards a similar attempt was made at another den . . . resulting in the destruction of two or three hundred of the reptiles. Another mode of destroying them was adopted by the settlers, who watched the dens on the first warm days of spring when the snakes began to revive from their torpor and killed them as they emerged from the den . . . Many hundred snakes were destroyed in this way . . . As the country became more populated, the reptiles were destroyed by hogs, a natural enemy of the same, and by their peculiar physiological structure were protected from injury by the reptiles.”³³



Until the county became more populated, bears and their signs were frequently seen. A bear often stood on hind legs and sharpened its claws in the bark of trees, the height of the long scratches giving an indication of the size of the beast. Once bagged by the hunter, they were of great value, for bearskins not only provided a toasty covering during cold nights, but could also be used as protection from the elements when travel was a necessity. Any surplus skins could easily be bartered for essential hunting supplies. Juicy bear steaks were a great delicacy, while the resulting bear grease (rather odoriferous) was used for shortening, medicinal ointments, and even to tame unruly hair.

³² *Combined history of Schuyler and Brown Counties, Illinois.* 76.

³³ Dyson. 635.

Billy Wilson, another early resident who shared his experiences at the Old Settlers of Schuyler County Convention in 1859, related the following bear story:

“At a very early period of the settlement of Schuyler, probably about the year 1828, Samuel Horney, Esq., who now resides in Littleton Twshp., and who has served as a Representative of this county in the State Legislature, and been otherwise honored by the people of Schuyler with numerous offices of trust and honor, then resided near where Mrs. Tharpe now lives, about one and a half miles north of Rushville. A young man by the name of Jonathan D. Manlove was at that time boarding with Mr. Horney, and being of a romantic turn of mind, he had captured and made a pet of a young bear, which was a great favorite among all hands.

“On a certain occasion as was the custom of the early pioneers, Messrs. Horney and Manlove made preparations, and started out into the wild unbroken forests around them on a hunting expedition of some weeks continuance, leaving Mrs. Horney at home alone with her young family.

“During the absence of the hunters, a couple of buxom lasses living in the neighborhood, very kindly came over and spent the evenings and nights with Mrs. Horney. These girls were Susan Spoonamore and Martha Ritchie. By some means or other they conceived a mortal dislike to Bruin, but they, nevertheless, bore with his rough pranks and bearish manners with commendable patience until one evening he was unusually outrageous, when our heroines decided between themselves that he must be got rid of some way or other. So they proposed to Mrs. Horney that the bear should be killed. She, as a matter of course, objected, and no amount of persuasion could induce her to consent to it. But Susan and Martha were not the girls to yield a point so readily when they had once set their heads to it—that’s the way with the girls; --so they set their wits to work and a plan was soon concocted. They took Leonidas to one side—then a little shaver about ten or more years of age, now our popular county surveyor—and gave him to understand what they wanted. They let him know that they intended to propose to his mother to take a vote on killing the bear, and readily got his consent (probably with a lump of maple sugar) to vote on their side.

“Being thus fortified they again laid the matter before Mrs. H.; she still would not consent. So they proposed that the family form themselves into a committee of the whole on the state of the union, and take a vote on the subject. The majority of course to rule. She thought over the proposition a moment and assented, reasoning naturally enough that the little sprout would as a matter of course vote along with the maternal stem. But, she ‘Reckoned this time without her host.’—the girls had been too sharp for her, and so when the vote was taken behold it stood: (3-1).

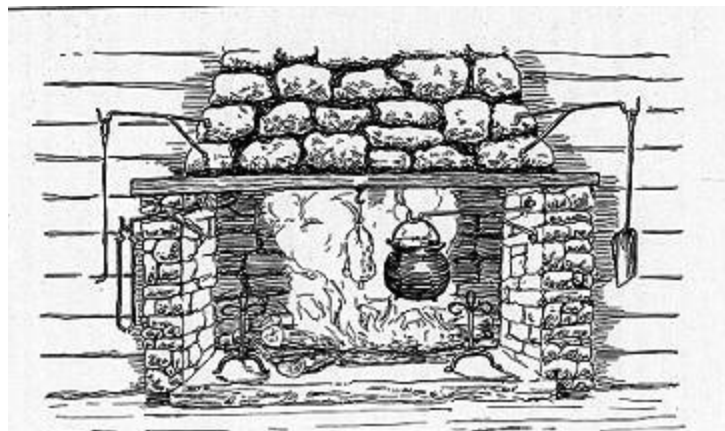
“So the resolution was adopted notwithstanding the oft repeated reiterations that Jonathan would be offended on coming back to find his pet pickled away in the tub.

“Now came the last net in the drama. There was no gun about the premises; they could not get at him with an axe, so they sharpened up the butcher knife, called up the dogs, and at it they went. Think of this, you young Misses, of now-a-days. The dogs soon got Bruin down when Martha rushed up and caught him by his two hind legs, while Susan, seizing him by the shaggy coat of his neck, with two or three sudden and well-delivered blows, severed his jugular vein, and it was soon all over with poor Bruin—In the act Miss Spoonamore nearly severed her little finger from her hand.

“We now pass by all that occurred when the hunters returned & c., & c.”³⁴

Another slightly different version of the story relates that the large pet bear had become so ferocious that it had to be kept chained. When Mrs. Horney and the two girls attempted to give it food, it broke its fastenings and chased them into the house. “Attempting to get in at the aperture left for a window, they soon decided to wind up the career of bruin. Knowing his fondness for milk, a crock of that liquid was procured and held out to the bear;” while the bear was drinking, one of the girls slipped up with a rope and . . . it was not long before his life blood stained the ground after having its throat cut with a knife.³⁵

Hard work, interspersed with exciting experiences, was the rule as Leonidas grew into a strong youth. A constant companion of his father, he grew up in a world dominated by men, but must have provided invaluable help for his mother, no doubt keeping her well-supplied with wood for the fireplace as well as buckets of water for cleaning and cooking. Being the only child, he was indisputably the apple of his mother’s eye. In 1830 he celebrated his thirteenth birthday.



³⁴ “Reminiscences of Early Life in Schuyler County.” *Schuyler Citizen*. 21 March 1860.

³⁵ *Combined History of Schuyler and Brown Counties*. 1882. 64.

Pioneers Ferociously Assaulted by Nature

This, the winter of 1830 and 1831, was forever known as “the Winter of the Deep Snow,” when nature went on an unprecedented rampage. The weather during the fall had been dry and mild until late in the winter, then came the longest and most severe winter ever seen in Illinois. By this time, the older residents had productive fields and well-built (or at the least, improved) cabins as well as sheds and pens for the animals. Their situations were in contrast to that of the new-comers, who were just beginning to get a toe-hold. All were totally unprepared for the harsh and cruel winter that was to come. This was an unexpected catastrophe to be borne with fortitude - for there was no other choice.

A cold rain mixed with intermittent sleet and snow started in December of 1830, but on the night of the twenty-ninth, large flakes of snow began falling in earnest and continued without stopping for three days. The accumulation of snow was followed by a furious gale and more storms in rapid succession, leaving snow piled up to three feet or more. Then came a rain that froze as it fell, forming a crust that was strong enough to bear the



weight of a team of oxen pulling a heavy sled. Over this fell even more snow. Not until the middle of February did the skies clear and the blizzards cease. The whole of central and northern Illinois was covered with ice and snow to a depth of four feet on the level; in places there were drifts twenty to twenty-five feet high. Mother Nature was not through, for the wind came unceasingly from the northwest with extraordinary ferocity, day and

night. For several weeks the temperature hovered below zero, rarely reaching above twelve degrees.³⁶ Focus was on survival for both man and beast.

Travelers were forced to remain wherever they happened to be when the blizzard began, some perishing when unable to make it to shelter. Everyone was snowbound, virtually buried in the drifts. During the dark, gloomy days even the luxury of candlelight was absent with the only light provided by the flames from the fireplace. Huddled in drafty cabins, little could be done except venturing out to care for the livestock, pounding corn into meal, and seeing that there was enough wood to keep the fires blazing. Six to seven-foot tall stumps of trees stood for years, testifying to the depth of the snow as the trees had been cut at the top of the deep drifts whenever fuel was needed.³⁷ The difficult winter left an indelible impression on all who endured the hardships.

³⁶ (1) Jon Musgrave. “The Winter of the Deep Snow.” *The Illinois Intelligencer*, 28 Jan 1968.
(2) Dyson. 759.

³⁷ *Combined History of Schuyler and Brown Counties*. 67.

This must have been an extremely difficult year for a growing teenager. Besides the physical hardships, there was the complete lack of social activities with young people, the extreme weather conditions cutting off any communication with the outside world. Roads and trails were completely blocked, while all staked-and-double-rider fences were completely covered by the great depth of snow. The men were able to pass over the top of the fences when compelled to leave their cabins. Tunneling through the deep drifts allowed some to reach the farm sheds and care for the animals. Exposure to the extreme cold, along with shortage of food, caused the loss of a countless number of cattle, sheep, swine, and fowl, adding to the settlers' woes. Time must have moved slowly for Leonidas, one dreary day following another with the unceasing snowfall and bitter cold.

Corn had been shocked, but had not been brought from the fields to the homesteads. Dire necessity required the retrieval of the buried corn. The men and larger boys were obliged to fasten boards to their feet so they could get to the corn and dig it out of the snow, supplying feed for both humans and animals. Every day possible, workers would go to the field, see the tip of a stalk of corn standing above the snow, reach down until they came to the ear, pull it off, and collect enough for that day. After getting all they could in one place, a pathway was broken to the next shock. As the meager stock of provisions ran out, neighbors helped neighbors, unselfishly supplying needed fuel or food, though each was expected to contribute labor to gather the gift of corn.

Suffering was intense among the animals. At first the wild game, overcoming their fear of man due to hunger, provided food for those holed up in the cabins, but many of the unfortunate creatures froze to death. Immense numbers of beleaguered wildlife such as deer, prairie chickens, and quail were found frozen in their tracks. One man reported killing fourteen deer that were foundering, unable to move, because their hooves had broken through the crust of ice. The battle to subsist was fought by all species. The few buffalo that had previously inhabited the big snow. The wolves, which any other of the wild animals, became havoc with the settlers' domesticated the nights wore on the nerves of those with this over-abundance of wolves, hunts were frequently organized.³⁸



In 1874 a “Young Pioneer” of Littleton recalled memories during the Deep Snow and followed with an account of a neighborhood wolf hunt.

“The snow was so very deep, and the country so sparsely settled, there being but few houses even in Rushville, and the long distance that some had to go to mill, they suffered great hardships and were compelled to live on “hog and hominy” for months. . . .” The previous winter the wild game was very abundant, scores of deer being sometime seen in a herd, and wild turkies were more numerous than prairie chickens are now; the wolves howled and roamed around, seeking whom they might devour. During the month of February they would frequently collect

³⁸ Sneed. 218-21.

in gangs and make raids on sheep, pigs, geese, and in fact a man was not safe out at night unless he was well armed. But the severity of this winter greatly diminished all kinds of game, a large number being frozen to death. The game that survived the storm was easily captured, deer and turkey frequently coming around the barn yards and exposing themselves to the mercy of cruel man.”

“Notwithstanding the hardships experienced by the early settlers, there seemed to be a bright side. The men sometimes enjoyed rare sport in chasing and killing wolves. They would meet on appointed days, all on horseback, armed with clubs and followed by their dogs. At one time some six or more men started a gang of wolves at Pilot’s grove (now called Parrott’s grove), and struck out in an eastern direction. The men went whooping, dogs yelping, and the snow flying. They ran past a field where **Mr. Samuel Horney and his little boy Leonidas** was gathering corn, who stripped their horses of their harness, mounted them and joined in the chase. The snow was drifted so much that some steep hollows were made level. Mr. Horney made an attempt to head the wolves, forgetting a deep ravine that was near where William Prices’ house now stands. He was running his horse at full speed, whooping at the top of his voice, when he plunged headlong and turned a summersault into the ditch. It was with considerable difficulty that he extricated himself, and the worst of all, he got behind in the chase.”³⁹



Throughout the state the protracted, brutal winter was followed, not with the welcoming promise of spring, but with killing frosts well into the month of May. There was, of course, an excess of moisture when the snow began to melt. Corn, a major staple, could not be planted. Troubles continued on into the fall as the growing season was cut short by an unprecedented killing frost on September 10. Such grim happenings had never before been experienced by the emigrants who had come from eastern states. The consequences of the vicious weather fluctuations lasted long past 1831 as the pioneers struggled to overcome the major setbacks caused by the errant weather.

Leonidas, already having faced more difficulties than most young people, now had to shoulder the care of the Horney homestead when his father volunteered in the Black Hawk war- not once, but twice. Bands of Indians, also hard hit by the severe winter, made their way back into Illinois. Though the Sac and the Fox had ceded the land east of the Mississippi River “forever,” Black Hawk, a Sac chief, disputed the validity of the treaty and resisted the removal to the west. In May of 1831, Black Hawk, nursing his wrath, crossed the Mississippi, bent on mischief. Hearing rumors that the Indians, bedecked in war paint, were on the move, the isolated Schuyler County residents living on the edge of the frontier were startled by the news and began to panic, fearing for their homes and their lives. After a series of minor battles and skirmishes, the governor called for volunteers to



³⁹ “A Young Pioneer.” Letter to *Rushville Times*. 4 Mar 1874. *The Schuylerite*. vol. VIII. Spring 1979.

counter this threat. Among those who went on this first expedition to protect their homes was Samuel Horney. The men found the Indian villages deserted and so returned home after being gone around thirty days.

In April of 1832, breaking the treaty of the previous summer, Black Hawk again returned to the area with 400 braves and their families, attempting to incite an uprising of other tribes. The Governor of Illinois issued a second call to repulse this threat, and once more volunteers left their spring farm work, rendezvousing at Beardstown. The 1,200 men furnished their own mounts and firearms. Samuel, elected quartermaster of the 4th Illinois Regiment, was gone until the end of June. Again, Leonidas and his mother were left at home to carry on the farming duties the best they could.

Following on the heels of all the hard times the pioneers had endured, a meteoric episode now struck mortal fear into their hearts. On November 13, 1833, the inhabitants of Schuyler County, as well as people throughout the entire United States, rushed out of doors in a panic believing that the world was coming to an end and that



the Day of Judgment had come as foretold in Mark 13:24-36.⁴⁰ Men, women and children were afraid for their lives. Streaking across what had been a clear, cloudless night sky was a sight never before seen. Brilliantly lighting up the sky, a blaze of meteors, thick as snow, was falling from the heavens. The magnificent fiery display lasted from midnight until daylight.⁴¹ In years to come, just as “the Winter of the Deep

⁴⁰ “The sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the **stars of heaven shall fall**, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.”

⁴¹ Rowe, Caroline Jackson. “Record of the Jackson Family.” 1912. (Caroline Jackson Rowe was the granddaughter of a Scott ancestor, Joseph Jackson.) She wrote, “. . . [My father came] to Schuyler County . . . here is where my brother Joseph was born, the fourth child of the family, the night of the Shooting Stars. The time was in the early morning of the 13th of November 1833. It was in this way, my father [George K. Jackson] had been to the mill as was the custom in those days to take grain enough to do for bread for the winter, and had to wait till a late hour for his grist. The stars were all out – shining in their ordinary course and brightness. The night was perfect, all, everything seemed to be at peace and rest as father was jogging homeward along the lonely road. Suddenly there appeared before him in the Sky. A ray of brilliant light, or ball of fire shot across the Sky. In an instant there came another more dazzling than the first, then there began to rush forth as if from every quarter of the sky a myriad of flaming stars, all seemed as if there were to fall upon the earth a shower of fire. Swift, darting, swirling, bursting and blazing the multitudinous stream of light swept through the Sky, in wild superb splendor, A little rumbling Sound was all that could be heard, in all that majestic splendor. Such was the scene briefly told as my father saw and described the night of the shooting stars.”

Snow” was used as a point of reference in designating the time particular events happened, “the Night the Stars Fell” now became an additional benchmark.

Believing the tribulations of past years were over, the socially-starved citizens of Schuyler County excitedly planned a big patriotic celebration for the Fourth of July in 1834. Under the sponsorship of the First United Methodist Church, the whole countryside was invited to participate in the merry-making. The ladies spent the day before the Fourth cooking and baking goodies, and those, who had been selected to be in charge, finalized arrangements for the program and the activities that would follow. However, the eagerly anticipated day of festivities soon turned to one filled with terror, followed by profound sorrow, when a dreaded outbreak of cholera⁴² struck down one after another. The graveyards with their small number of occupants begin filling up as a number of people died suddenly that day. More followed in the days to come, until the total victims reached twenty-seven. Instead of a day of great rejoicing, it became one of fear for loved ones and deep mourning for those stricken.⁴³

On the Fourth, one can imagine that Samuel, Emilia, and sixteen-year-old Leonidas had awakened with the sun, looking forward to visiting with friends and neighbors. Emilia most likely killed and fried a chicken and packed up other food, while Samuel and Leonidas completed the daily farm chores and curried the horses. They may have already hitched up the horses and loaded the wagon when the appalling news of the plague reached their horrified ears. Perhaps they may have even reached Rushville before being informed of the harvest of the grim reaper. Under those circumstances, they must have hurriedly applied the whip to their horses and retreated in panic to the safety of their home.

Two years later, in 1836, the citizens again planned a big celebration on the Fourth of July, this time proceeding as planned. The Horney family, without a doubt, took advantage of the welcome opportunity to visit with friends and neighbors, Samuel eager to talk politics and agriculture with other men while the Emilia and the ladies caught up on all the news. Leonidas most assuredly enjoyed the festivities, taking part in games and sports. Meeting at the Cumberland Presbyterian church, prayer was offered and subsequently followed by the reading of the Declaration of Independence. After a couple of orations, the patriotic Schuylerites progressed from the church to a grove west of town. The Rushville rifle company led the way; followed by the new American flag sporting its twenty-fifth star, hastily sewn on, for the state of Arkansas. Others proceeded in this order: the elderly Revolutionary War soldiers, clergy and orators of the day, the ladies,

⁴² Cholera was a disease caused when contaminated food or drink, usually water, was swallowed. From India, it spread to Europe, and soon found its way to America. Brought to Illinois by federal soldiers recruited for the Black Hawk War, the dreaded disease then stalked from one town to another. The pestilence struck young and old, the strong and the weak. Without warning, victims seldom lasted more than twelve hours, most dying within three hours. A formidable and deadly foe, it emphasized human mortality.

⁴³ Scripps, Rev. John. *Schuyler Citizen*. Quoted by Dyson. 761-62.

and the remaining citizens. After arriving at the chosen picnic spot, the ladies spread out quantities of food for a bounteous repast.⁴⁴ Many toasts were given in celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Misfortune, lurking in the shadows, again raised its ugly head when the winter of 1836 became the “winter of the sudden freeze.” In December, “a sudden cold wave suddenly swept down on central Illinois and caught the settlers unaware. Although in mid-winter, it was unseasonably warm that day and a drizzling rain had soaked the ground. It cleared up about noon and farmers were going about their outdoor work when about two o’clock it began to grow dark and a strong wind sprang up from the northwest. It was a cold, bitter wind and the temperature plunged downward with a rush. Within a very short time everything was frozen solid and chickens, pigs, and other small animals were frozen in the muddy ground before their sharp instinct promoted them to seek a place of shelter.”⁴⁵ In a few short hours, ice was frozen in the streams, variously reported as being from six inches to a foot in thickness. Those unlucky individuals, who were caught without shelter, perished.

During those trying times of establishing a home on the unsettled frontier and battling the forces of nature, Leonidas and his parents still lived close to Rushville, though evidently moving as property was bought and sold. Samuel was given 80 acres in Buena Vista Township for his service in the War of 1812, as well as 160 acres in Littleton Township for participation in the Black Hawk War. In addition to these, he acquired numerous tracts of land, but did not keep them for any length of time.⁴⁶ Some time between 1832 and 1834, the property close to Rushville was sold, and the family moved to Oregon Township. Re-named Littleton Township in 1854, it was known as the “prairie

⁴⁴ Dyson, Howard F. “First Fourth of July Celebration.” 1918.

⁴⁵ Kuhn, Viola. “Frederick Township History”. 24 Mar 1937.

⁴⁶ Property owned by Samuel Horney:

1826 - Buena Vista Twp, NE 1/4 of section 24, purchased from Samuel Horney by Wm. Owens, \$200.

1836 – Littleton Twp, ½ of NE ¼ section 18,

March 18, 1837 – Section 18 in Rushville Twp., 77.37 acres

Public Domain land purchases:

March 13, 1827 Fractional part of section 20 in Rushville Twp, 51.63 acres

March 21, 1831 Section 18, Rushville Twp, 77.38 acres. Pre-emption

May 24, 1831 Section 11, Camden Twp, 80 acres. Pre-emption

February 5, 1832, Section 9, Littleton Twp, 40 acres

The inventory of Samuel’s estate in 1874 designates his property as being “Southwest of Southwest of Sec. Twenty, 3 N 2 N, [on which he lived at the time of his decease] and Bond for a deed Northwest of Southeast of [Section] Twenty Four, 3 N 3 N, good title on North 30,” total value listed as \$1,800.

township.”⁴⁷ According to an 1836 advertisement that offered a parcel of land for sale, the family was living in Section 18 of Oregon Township.⁴⁸

⁴⁷ Accounts differ on the time of the move to Littleton Township. Samuel’s biography (written for the 1876 Centennial Celebration) gives it as after the Black Hawk War, or 1832. According to the *History of Schuyler and Brown Counties, Illinois*, page 60, 1834 is noted as the time of removal to Littleton Township

⁴⁸ Advertisement of land for sale in Section 18 stated ““see subscribers residing on the property.” This was shortly sold on July 20, 1836, to Richard Daugherty for \$612.

The Education of Leonidas

Leonidas became a well-educated man, receiving his education in the common schools of Schuyler County.⁴⁹ In the beginning years of the county, the education of young people was sporadic, with no particular plan or structure. In the summer of 1825 one of the first small subscription schools was taught by Jonathan Manlove in his cabin. (Since Jonathan lived with the Horney family, was eight-year-old Leonidas a student or just an interested “on-looker?”)⁵⁰ Those teaching the subscription schools were given pay for the number of days a child attended; they agreed to teach spelling, reading, writing, and arithmetic as far as “the rule of three.”⁵¹

When living in the Rushville vicinity, opportunities for schooling were intermittently available for Leonidas to acquire knowledge beyond the basics. Schools were held whenever possible in any facility that could be found. As the early settlers built better homes to replace their first rude shelters, the original structures were left empty and open to the elements, and small creatures of the woods frequently took up residence in them. Often times these abandoned log cabins were revamped and used for educational purposes. The early one-room log schools seldom had desks; instead a puncheon board was attached at a slant to the outer walls, making a writing surface while rough benches served as seating. Once a wooden bucket, or piggin, was in place to be used as a vessel for drinking water and a gourd located for a community dipper, all was ready for the boys and girls. In such a makeshift building in 1835, the first school in Littleton Township (southwest part of Section 21) was taught by Thomas Bronaugh. Among his twenty scholars were Jane, Eliza, Ann, [rather, Elizabeth Ann] and Tolbert, the children of William H. Crawford.⁵² Leonidas is not listed as being among the students as this was most likely prior to the family’s move to Section 20.

Penmanship in all schools was strongly emphasized, and Leonidas wrote a “good hand.” He must have chased down many an old goose to harvest its feathers for quills. Ink was made from the soot of burnt lamp oil which was stabilized and dried. When needed, the powder was mixed with water, making quite satisfactory ink. Students would write maxims over and over to improve their handwriting; however, the major emphasis of education was placed on spelling and phonics, both of which provided a solid basis for learning to read.

The few books available were treasured and used again and again for all children in the family. The oldest child was usually given the duty of seeing that the hard to come by books arrived at school without any damage. Often times a well-worn Bible was the only book found in the household, though some families may have owned a copy of the Blue-

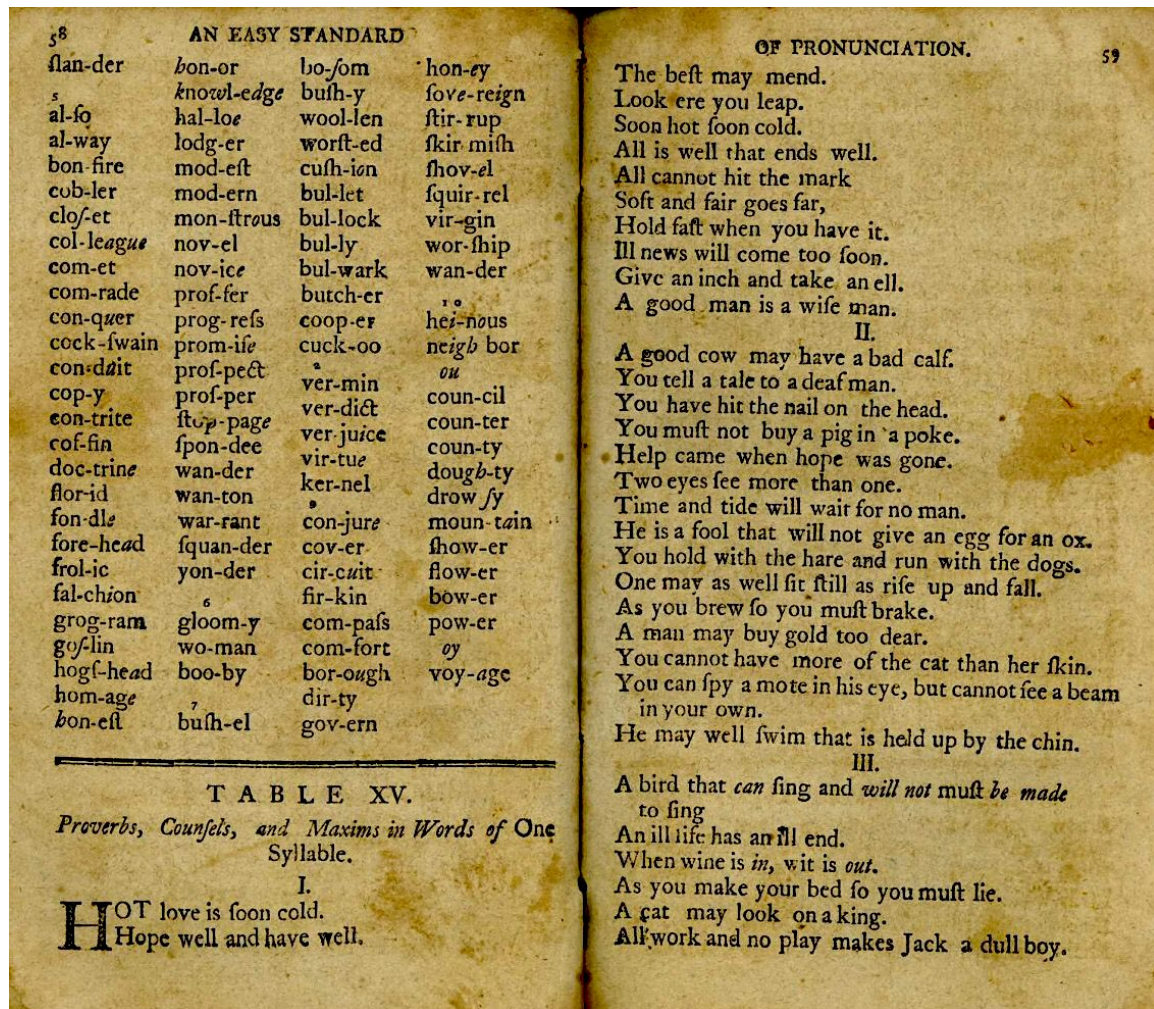
⁴⁹ “Old Settlers of Schuyler County, IL.” *Atlas Map of Schuyler County, Illinois*. 1872.

⁵⁰ *Combined History of Schuyler and Brown Counties, Illinois*. Philadelphia: W. R. Brink & Co. 1882. 60.

⁵¹ “Rule of Three” is the mathematical study of direct and inverse proportion; beginning algebra.

⁵² (1) *Combined History of Schuyler and Brown Counties, Illinois*. 196.
(2) Dyson. 715.

backed Speller. This basic textbook used throughout the United States, *The American Spelling Book* was more familiarly known as Webster's "Blue-backed Speller. First published in 1783, it served education for well over one-hundred years. Not only did it teach the youth how to read and spell, it also presented proverbs and moral catechisms to guide boys and girls throughout the rest of their lives. Exercises were arranged according to their degree of difficulty, and pupils progressed individually as each step was mastered. As his later writings demonstrate, Leonidas learned his lessons well and knew the contents of the "Blue-backed Speller" from cover to cover.

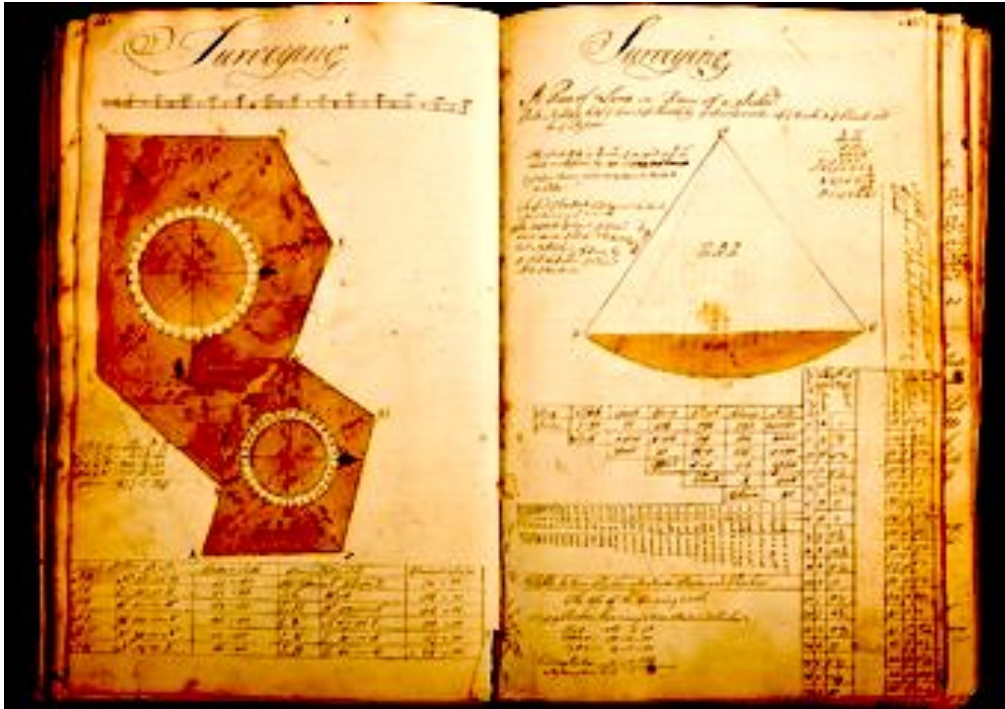


53 Sample pages from Webster's "Blue-backed" speller

From another basic text, Pike's Arithmetic, young scholars learned the basic processes of mathematics to the "rule of 3" and more. Also included within its 576 pages were the

⁵³ Webster, Noah. *The American Spelling Book*. Wilmington: Bonsal & Niles. c. 1800. Web. 2009.

fundamental principles of geometry and algebra, as well as much-used common measurements, computation for the exchange of foreign money, and even a smattering of science. Pike's was the first mathematics book published in America and was universally used until around 1850. The tome, costing a prohibitive \$2.50, was generally owned only by the schoolmaster.⁵⁴ (In comparison, keep in mind that an acre of land cost \$1.25.) Lincoln, a contemporary of Leonidas, wrote it was from this book that he learned to cipher. This must have been the comprehensive text from which Leonidas learned his mathematical skills, or ciphering, progressing page by page. Because he had an educated father who ensured nothing was lacking, he had the best education available.



Pike's Arithmetic – (Handwritten copy ready to be sent to the printer)

Leonidas finalized his education at the age of twenty-one, when his father - who had begun teaching his son in front of the fireplace - became his last instructor in the classroom. In January 1839 Samuel became the teacher in a newly-built log cabin.⁵⁵ This was the first building erected solely for instructional purposes in Littleton Township. The three-month school was an important beginning toward improvement of the township's educational system. Students covered a broad spectrum of ability and age, ranging from little ones like six-year-old William C. Thompson to older students like Leonidas. Samuel Horney kept a detailed record of the attendance of his fifty students, who came whenever possible, dependent upon duties at home. Leonidas was present seventeen days. Jane Crawford, the oldest of the Crawford children, attended this new school briefly – coming

⁵⁴ Fitzpatrick. *The Educational Views and Influence of de Witt Clinton*. New York City: Teachers College, Columbia University. 1911.

⁵⁵ *Combined History of Schuyler and Brown Counties, Illinois*. Astoria, IL: Stevens Pub. Co., 1882. 196.

only ten days, though her brothers and sisters came more often. Jane had arrived in the Littleton Township in 1833 when she was close to nine years old. Her parents, Malinda Thompson and William H. Crawford, had migrated from Breckinridge County, Kentucky, settling on the southeast quarter of section 20 in Littleton Township.⁵⁶

SCHOOL SCHEDULE

I certify that the within schedule is a correct statement of the school kept by me in the Township number three North Range number two West of the 4th Principal Meridian and that each scholar resided in said county and attended school the number of days stated in the abstract. Given under my hand this 23rd day of March A D 1839.

Commencing January 2d, 1839 - 1828 days		Samuel Horney		
Matilda Matheny	10	Cyrus Horney	5	1
Harriet Matheny	11	Leonidas Horney	17	
Morgan Matheny	59	James Sellars	3	8
Andrew Sellers	44	John J. Sellers	48	
William Sellers	15	H. M. Sellers	2	8
John T. Wyckoffe	48	William Fowler	4	4
Jacob M. Wyckoffe	45	William Deweese	4	6
James A. Wyckoffe	41	Daniel Williams	5	9
Lucinda Wyckoffe	10	Elijah Williams	5	9
Elisha Fowler	55	Martha E. Spivey	4	7
Jesse Fowler	53	James Vanwinkle	3	7
Isaac Fowler	53	Harrison Weaver	5	5
Thomas Fowler	48	Elizabeth J. Weaver	3	6
Francis A. Monk	40	Peter Weaver	5	0
Louisa J. Monk	34	Letitia Causey	1	6
Mahala D. Monk	54	Sarah Causey	2	4
Minerva A. Monk	48	Nancy Causey	16	Laura M.
Justus	13	Philip Wheeler	15	Polly C.
Justus	41	Joseph Stanley	20	Seth L
Justus	41	R. F. Wilson	2	2
Elizabeth A. Crawford	17	Joseph S. Wilson	1	9
Tolbert Crawford	56	William J. S. Wilson	1	2
Louisa Crawford	57	Samuel Price	2	3
William C. Thompson	52	Jane Crawford	1	0
Elvira Horney	46	Juliann Legg	14	

We certify that as Trustees of a school kept by Samuel Horney, teacher, we have attended said school from time to time and superintending the same – that we have examined the within schedule and abstract and verily believe the same to be correct. Given under our hands and seals this 23rd day of March A. D. 1839. We further certify that there is due the said teacher on account of tuition on the within schedule the sum of seventy-six dollars and sixteen cents.

Trustees of the School Thomas J. Fowler, John Justus, William H. Crawford. ⁵⁷

⁵⁶ Dyson. 704.

⁵⁷ "The Schuylerite," Vol VI, No. 3 Fall, 1977.



Muster Day for the Militia

The early pioneers who lived in the border-states at the edge of the ever-expanding frontier of the United States had no protection from marauding Indian tribes. To counteract this and any other threat, the militia act of 1792 was instituted by the United States Congress.⁵⁸ Every able-bodied male between the ages of eighteen and forty-five became a member of the militia and was trained for military service. On an annually set day, called Muster Day, newly qualified members were enrolled, roll call was taken, and practice drills were held.

Muster day became a significant social event in each county with Schuyler County being no exception. The militiamen with their wives and children, as well as the rest of the community, arrived in wagons, on horseback, or by “shank’s mare,” eager to break the monotony of daily labor. The men descended on the appointed locale to fulfill their martial obligations, while family members eagerly anticipated having a grand time.

In Schuyler County, Illinois, the groups of men assembled on the prairie near Rushville. The militia officers of each company, highly visible on horseback, were clad in the bright hues of full military dress. They took charge of the day, marshalling the rough settlers into a semblance of martial order by authoritatively delivering firm commands. The various companies, which were designated by colorful, carefully chosen names, spent time drilling and practicing maneuvers. The unskilled participants became accustomed to the drum signals and learned to obey the orders signified by them. After a period of time, the military units grouped together for regimental drills.

⁵⁸ The Militia Act of 1792. Passed May 8, 1792, by Congress.

Muster Day Gingerbread

1/3 cup lard
1/2 cup packed brown sugar
1/2 cup molasses
1 egg
2 cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoon baking soda
3/4 teaspoon ground ginger
3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
1/2 cup boiling water

Cream lard and sugar till light.
Add molasses and egg, beat well.
Stir together flour, soda, spices, and
1/2 teaspoon salt. Add to creamed mixture
alternately with boiling water; beat
after each addition. Pour into greased
and floured loaf pan. Bake at 350
degrees till done, about 50 minutes. Cool
10 minutes. Remove from pan; cool.
Wrap; store overnight.

Each housewife packed an overflowing basket of tempting provisions to be enjoyed under the cool shade of trees during the day's festivities. Vendors took advantage of the large gathering to sell whiskey, cider, apples, and ginger cakes. The latter offering was so common that gingerbread became known as "muster cake." There was plenty to satisfy the heartiest appetites.

With the first drum-roll, the eagerly-awaited day began, filled not only with the training of the militia, but also with the hustle and bustle of other "goings-on." Barter and trade were common activities, with many horses, dogs, guns, or pocket knives exchanging ownership. While the men were busy dickering and making their deals, the women traded as well – recipes, quilt patterns, and household hints. They passed along tidbits of gossip and caught up with the latest happenings in the neighborhood. Small girls peeked demurely from under their sunbonnets or from behind their mothers' skirts as they gradually became re-acquainted with their little friends. Young boys ran helter-skelter, challenging one another and inventing their own amusements. The older youth, such as Jane and Leonidas, took advantage of the rare opportunity to socialize. Entertainment for all was provided by numerous foot races, wrestling matches, and other contests of skill or strength. The spectators urged on their favorites as the strong, muscular young men competed with one another. As the sun began its decline toward the west, the thought of chores waiting at home caused the adults to round up their family members and hitch up the horses for the return trip. Another Muster Day soon became history.

The cooperation of the men had been ensured by the promise of the commanders to provide alcoholic beverages. As muster day progressed, so did the consumption of more alcohol, resulting in numerous muddled heads and drunken brawls. This over-indulgence with its consequential debauchery caused the eventual disbandment of the militia's

Muster Day. After having been locally observed for about ten years, the last county-wide assemblage in Schuyler County was observed in the fall of 1840.⁵⁹

Samuel Horney was among those citizens of the militia who were activated in 1832 by the perceived threat of the Indian chief, Black Hawk. In later years, old-timers recalled that Capt. Leonidas Horney served as an officer, though it was not recorded in what year.⁶⁰ The organization of the militia and its muster days certainly were an integral part of the teenage years of Leonidas and later must have played an influence in his decision to participate in the Mexican War.

Becoming an Adult

In 1835 when government policies opened the entire military tract up to the public for the low government price of \$1.25 an acre, a land boom occurred as many took advantage of the favorable conditions to become land owners. Among those seeking land rights, was Leonidas. On June 10, 1835, though not yet having celebrated his eighteenth birthday, he purchased his first property - forty acres in section 26 of Brooklyn Township, just to the west of Littleton Township.⁶¹

In addition to investing in land at a nominal cost, Leonidas made another acquisition. At some time prior to 1838, he became the owner of his own horse. (This can be compared to today's rite of passage when young adults buy their first car.) In the tax roll of 1838, a tax of \$.50 was paid on this animal whose value was listed as \$100. The ownership of both the horse and land were first steps in becoming an independent adult. By the time the 1840 census was taken, Leonidas was living by himself in Oregon Township, Precinct One, while his parents were listed as residing in Precinct Three.⁶² He must have been looking ahead, possibly preparing a home for his future bride.

Jane Crawford, the young neighbor girl, had caught the eye of Leonidas. She, in turn, had surely been impressed by the handsome, up-and-coming young man. With the summer harvest over and with just a hint of fall in the air, on Monday, August 30, 1841, they made their way to Rushville to get a marriage license. On Thursday, September 2, the couple was married by Adam Dunlap,⁶³ Justice of the Peace. It was recorded as license number 818 in Book A, page 94, of the Marriage Records of Schuyler County. The bride would celebrate her seventeenth birthday the next month while the groom was twenty-four years old.

⁵⁹ Dyson. 725.

⁶⁰ Dyson. 725. It is more likely that Leonidas served during a later period of time, probably after his return from the Mexican War.

⁶¹ Illinois Public Domain Records.

⁶² 1840 Schuyler Co., IL Census.

⁶³ Adam Dunlap, sometimes referred to as "Dr. Dunlap," served as the Probate Justice of the Peace for Schuyler County. In 1847 he served as Captain in the Mexican War.

With his marriage to Jane, Leonidas became a welcome member of her extended Crawford and Thompson families. Because of his dependability and trustworthiness, he soon became a mentor for the affairs of the entire clan whenever difficulties arose.

Jane's parents were Malinda Thompson and William H. Crawford, Jr. Malinda's brother, James Thompson, married Catherine Crawford, sister of William H. Crawford, Jr. This made the children of the two couples double-first cousins. These two close knit families, along with William Crawford, Sr., had migrated to Illinois from Kentucky. James Thompson came first in a pirogue in 1826 and purchased 160 acres in Section 21. After building a new cabin, he returned to Kentucky and married Catherine Crawford; they arrived in Schuyler County in May of 1832, making the journey on the steamboat *Water Witch*.⁶⁴ Soon after, the William H. Crawford family made their arrival. All prospered and things were going well until the death of James Thompson in 1843. A plot was selected on his farm, and he became one of the first to be buried in the Thompson Cemetery. Leonidas was appointed as a guardian for the son of James, eleven-year-old William C. Thompson, cousin of Jane. Leonidas made sure the farm that William inherited as oldest son was farmed out properly and gave advice and support when needed.

Leonidas and Jane soon had a growing family. Their first child, Celeste Elizabeth, arrived in 1842 and was followed in 1844 by the birth of Samuel Madison Horney. Tragedy struck when baby Malinda, born in October 1845, only lived two months. She was buried in the Thompson Cemetery not far from her great-grandfather, William Crawford, who had died a few months earlier in July of 1845.

According to one account, after leaving formal schooling, Leonidas taught school for a few years before becoming "engaged in agricultural pursuits and stock raising."⁶⁵

⁶⁴ *History of Schuyler and Br*

⁶⁵ "Old Settlers Biography," (Dec 2009).



Off to Mexico

- **Prologue to War**
- **Daybook of Pvt. Leonidas Horney**
- **Marching across Texas to Mexico**
- **Battle of Buena Vista**



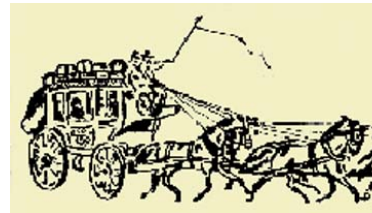
*If your descent is from heroic sires,
show in your life a remnant of their fires.*

– Nicholas Boileau

A Brewing Storm

The decade between 1830 and 1840 was a period of growth and development for those who lived in Schuyler County. While most efforts concentrated on survival and the improving of homesteads, residents diligently worked with pride to see that their local county grew and flourished. From the county's inception, however, the self-sufficient populace of the Illinois frontier had been isolated from other regions due to the lack of communication.

National news was almost as hard to come by as hen's teeth. Reports of any happenings from across the nation were often months old by the time they were finally received, mainly because the methods needed to acquire up-to-date information were slow in developing. Stage coach routes, non-existent during the very early years, gradually became established with the first ones providing service by Troy coaches pulled by four horses. As they expanded, contracts were awarded to individual companies for mail delivery. The post routes tied together many smaller stations with the larger towns of Springfield, Peoria, Jacksonville, Quincy, and Macomb.¹ Not until 1849 did Samuel F. B. Morse's new invention, the telegraph, extend westward to the Illinois frontier, and the railroads would not reach Rushville for yet another twenty years.² The general public looked forward with great interest on the sporadic arrival of any printed word that provided information from the outside world.



The latest newspapers were intermittently brought up the Illinois River from St. Louis by steamboats, vessels still in the beginning stages of development. Even this fragile link would be severed during the winter when traffic on the river would come to a standstill as the watercourse became blocked by ice, or during times of drought when low water kept navigation limited. Found close to Rushville were the fledgling newspapers of Quincy to the west and Alton to the south. Attempts for locally printed publications in Schuyler County were short-lived, however. Historian Howard Dyson reported, "In nine years Rushville had seven different papers with double that number of editors." Then, for four years, there were no newspapers published until the *Prairie Telegraph* began printing in 1848.³

Though any printed material reaching the citizens during the 1830's was sparse, every bit was digested, and the pros and cons of all items were dissected and analyzed as the papers passed from hand to hand. Whenever several neighbors met at social functions or in business places, they would share opinions on recent developments. One can assume that Leonidas, even while still a youth, was to be found at the center of any debate, either absorbing the conversations or offering his own viewpoint. Both Leonidas and his father

¹ Dyson. 680.

² --- 682.

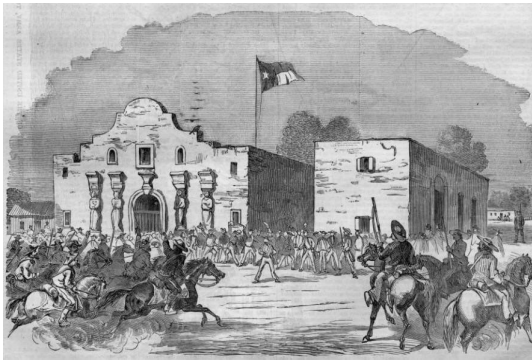
³ --- 719.

Samuel knew the importance of keeping abreast of all developing news. Even after Samuel was elderly and his eyesight was diminishing, he still subscribed to the local newspaper.⁴

Since everyone knew all that happened in the county by word of mouth, little column space was given to local happenings in the early papers. World and national news filled the greatest portion of the newspaper columns. Conversely, in 1834 *The Illinois Patriot* of Jacksonville gave an account of the cholera epidemic, while in 1836 *The Rushville Journal* listed those running for political offices.⁵ During the early months of 1836, the major news events concerning the Texas Revolution were covered in great detail. As printed matter became available, the reports of these latest developments were read closely by Schuylerites. Sympathy was felt for their neighbors to the south as their own time of setting up a government in a raw, unsettled region was not that far in the past.

Attracted by the rich cotton and ranch lands, immigrants from the United States and Germany had poured into the wide open territory of Texas in increasing numbers. At first welcomed by the Mexicans under the General Colonization Law of 1824, things began to change. The leaders in Mexico City became worried about the huge influx of Anglo-Americans and instituted tyrannical and oppressive policies. Unhappy with these latest restrictive laws, unrest began to build and finally reached a climax in open rebellion.

The villainous Santa Anna, who had seized power in Mexico and ruled as president, sent a body of soldiers northward to enforce the law. Becoming angry when his army troops



were ingloriously driven away at San Antonio, he sent a huge armed force across the Rio Grande to suppress the defiant colonists. Bearing a red flag, a token that no quarter would be given, the 7,500-man army advanced to the Alamo. Church bells rang giving warning, and the brave Texans took shelter in the well-fortified Alamo, an old Spanish mission. The little band of less than two hundred defenders inside the Alamo could not prevail against the overwhelming numbers of

their opponent. After withstanding a siege of thirteen days, all Anglo-Texan defenders were killed. Included were several Americans who supported Texas in their fight for freedom, notably Jim Bowie and Davy Crockett. A mother and child were released to carry the catastrophic news of the battle to the rest of Texas. “Remember the Alamo!” was a cry spread throughout Texas and the United States – and Illinois.

⁴ On January 17, 1874, the *Rushville Time* reported, “Samuel Horney, an old and respected citizen of this township, says in a letter to the editor of the *Times*, ‘I am nearly blind but am still able to pay you \$1.50 for your excellent paper.’”

⁵ “Schuyler County.” “Newspapers Abstracts Finding Our Ancestors in the News!” Web. 16 May 2010.

On March 2, 1836, while the hopeless defense of the Alamo was transpiring, Texas seceded from the Mexican confederacy and organized a provisional government with General Samuel Houston being appointed commander-in-chief. The legislature was dispersed, and the Republic of Texas was formed. However, the Mexican government stubbornly refused to recognize the new Republic of Texas and continued to lay claim to Texas.

Santa Anna moved with haste in an attempt to put down the revolution. Just a three short weeks after the establishment of the Republic of Texas, the Mexican army surrounded Col. James W. Fannin's command, a force of over four hundred Texas soldiers, on the open prairie near the town of Goliad. Heavily outnumbered, without water, and with only meager supplies, the Texans

waved the white flag of surrender. They believed, after parleying with the enemy, that they would be taken captive and eventually released. This was a ruse, for the treacherous dictator, Santa Anna, ignored the terms of surrender and refused clemency,



ordering that the prisoners be put to death. Three hundred forty-two were horribly executed at dawn in what would become known as the Goliad Massacre. This aroused fury among Texans and Americans alike, and "Slaughter at Goliad!" became another rallying cry.

In April, confrontation at the Battle of San Jacinto resulted in a decisive victory and established Texas as a free republic. Led by General Sam Houston, the rebel army sought revenge when it caught the Mexicans by complete surprise. Fueled by the war cries of "Remember the Alamo!" and "Remember Goliad!" the highly motivated Texans suddenly overwhelmed and defeated Santa Anna's forces in a short 18-minute battle. Around 700 Mexicans were killed and 730 were captured. Only nine Texans were killed. Of greater significance, however, the malevolent Santa Anna was taken captive and, in return for his life, signed peace treaties guaranteeing Texas independence and agreeing that the Mexican army would evacuate the region and pass to the other side of the Rio Grande.

The Lone Star Republic continued to grow as more people, hungry for land, made their way into the region. With increasing clamor, they called for annexation to the United States. Both President Van Buren and President Tyler, in an effort to avoid a war with Mexico, refused to listen to the voices of the newly established republic. By 1844 annexation had become the major issue in the presidential election when it was favored by the Democrats and opposed by the Whigs. After James K. Polk was elected over Henry Clay, he immediately proposed that Texas be admitted to the Union. Since popular opinion desired annexation, a new star was soon added to the Stars and Stripes when Texas became the twenty-eighth state on July 4, 1845. After the new citizens petitioned

the United States for protection, General Zachary Taylor was ordered to move into Texas, keep a close eye on the Mexicans, and defend the Rio Grande.

This did not set well with Mexican authorities; they broke off diplomatic relations with the United States as affairs became more strained. There were other bones of contention besides annexation, though that issue was the final crisis. There existed a difference of opinion on the location of the border between Mexico and Texas. Was it the Rio Grande as the United States believed, or was it the Nueces River as Mexico claimed? The Americans were also unhappy because the Mexican commissioners had agreed to pay for past depredations of piracy on the high seas. It was not forthcoming, and the interference with trade continued. These issues were confronted by sending an envoy to work them out peacefully, but the propositions made by the United States were scornfully refused. When the overtures did not work, President Polk ordered General Taylor and his 3,000 men to advance to the Rio Grande.

As the armies of the two nations squared off on each side of the disputed border between the two countries, war became inevitable. A Mexican unit of soldiers forded the river and surrounded a small body of American cavalry, killing ten and taking the rest captive. This was looked upon as an invasion of the territory of the United States and brought forth the declaration of war on May 13, 1846.

President Polk called for each state to send volunteers to serve a twelve-month enlistment. The apportionment for Illinois was three regiments, or 3,000 volunteers.⁶ The people of that state had favored annexation and now gave whole-hearted support to the Mexican War, furnishing over and above the requisite number, with the quota being met in ten days. Men, raised on the stories of their fathers who had fought in the War of 1812 or in frontier skirmishes, were eager for excitement and glory. Caught up in the patriotism of the moment, they answered the call to arms, giving little consideration to the personal challenges they would face in the months to come.

Since the local militia in most counties was disorganized, the governor ordered that the sheriffs convene any militia regiments or old battalions and enroll such volunteers as would come forward. In Schuyler County the sheriff and his deputy posted notices for the enlistment of those willing to serve. William Richardson, a local lawyer, held a “rousing meeting in the old court house yard, where animating strains of martial music were wafted upon the air inspiring the soldierly impulse in the men assembled. Mr. Richardson mounted a box on the west side of the courthouse and read the Governor’s proclamation, following it up with a spirited, patriotic and effective appeal for volunteers. ‘I propose to go to Mexico to the relief of Gen. Taylor . . . and would ask that all the men who will go with me move to the west part of the court house yard.’ There was instant response to this call for volunteers and the men were there formed in line and marched past the south door of the court house.”⁷ The eighty-four men counted in line were

⁶ McCartney, Samuel Bigger. “The Mexican War.” *Illinois State Register*. Northwestern University, 1939.

⁷ Dyson. 732.

instructed to meet the following Saturday to drill. However, several who had been swept away by the oratory were persuaded by those opposed to the war, changed their minds and withdrew their names with only fifty reporting for drill. The remaining number needed for the company was filled in by men from neighboring Brown County.

Decision Time

Leonidas surely must have discussed the issue with his father. If he joined the volunteers, his parents, as well as Jane's, would have to provide assistance to his wife in "holding down the fort" while he was gone. Did Samuel give his consent and say, "If only I were younger . . .?" Without any doubt, Leonidas Horney was in attendance at the public rally in Rushville. Was Jane there also, listening with a sinking heart, knowing what Leonidas would do? Or did he now have to make his way home and inform her of his final decision? Either way, she certainly must have had grave misgivings about her husband leaving for the twelve-month commitment. Many concerns and worries must have run rampant through her head, for the children were so small: Celeste was only four years old and Samuel Madison was but two. Jane, not yet twenty-two years old, may even have had suspicions that she was again pregnant. Could a dependable hired hand be found? Overseeing the farm would require experience in making day-to-day decisions. Though the small grains would soon be in the bin, the corn would continue to need cultivating. The livestock would need constant, daily care. Regardless, Leonidas forged ahead, trying to foresee any future problems and working diligently to leave things in good order.

Leonidas attended the regular drills that were held on the prairie to the south and west of town. "Most of the men had been members of the local militia and knew something of the manual of arms, and they entered heartily into the drills, as they wished to make a good appearance when mustered in with the other troops from Illinois at Alton." While on this drill ground, the names of the Schuyler volunteers were written down. A sheet of paper was placed on the head of a big bass drum, and about fifty-three names were listed as the men marched past.⁸ "The pay of the volunteers would be \$8.00 per month and commutations, amounting in all to \$15.50; the time of service one year; the men to furnish their own uniforms, for which they would be remunerated."⁹

Throughout many counties in Illinois, the same scenario was unfolding. In Morgan County, General John Hardin of the First regiment in Jacksonville led the call for volunteers at a rally in Springfield. "Let us not say Taylor and his brave men can whip Mexico without our aid. This is not the language of brave men. Let us have a hand in whipping her. Let our people answer "Aye" in one universal and glorious response."¹⁰



⁸ Dyson. 732.

⁹ *History of Schuyler and Brown Counties, Illinois*. 1882. Astoria, IL: Stevens Publishing Co. 164.

¹⁰ *Illinois State Register*. 29 May 1846. Note: John J. Hardin, a lawyer from Jacksonville, was a distant cousin of Jane Crawford Horney whose grandmother was Malinda Hardin Crawford. The daughter of John J. Hardin, Ellen Hardin Walworth, was one of the founders of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The Daybook – Down the Mississippi and On to San Antonio

As he traveled from Schuyler County, Illinois, to San Antonio, Leonidas Horney kept a diary of the first months he served as a Mexican War private. Scenes along the Mississippi River may have stirred vague childhood memories of the time he lived in St. Clair County, across from St. Louis. However, after migrating to Schuyler County in 1825, he had not ventured far outside its boundaries. This expedition into territory never before seen would be an adventure filled with unaccustomed experiences and dangerous excitement. He made notes of the changing locale as the 1st Regiment passed on its way southward. Each day his observations were set down, describing the strange places, the indigenous inhabitants, and the unusual flora and fauna. Grapevines, for example, were examined and commented on for their extraordinary size. Often his prior experience in surveying furnished practical knowledge whenever measurements of land or bodies of water were observed and their size estimated. Many of the myriad and unexpected sights were recorded daily in his thin little Daybook.¹¹

Wednesday June 24 1846 Started this day as Volunteer in the war with Mexico from home took steam boat passage at Fredrickville on the Ill river Reached Alton the 26th¹²

When the 53 volunteers from Rushville reached Alton, Illinois, the place of rendezvous, it was attached to the First Regiment Illinois Volunteers and was designated as Company E. ¹³ Gen. John J. Hardin was elected Colonel of the 1st Regiment by an almost unanimous vote.¹⁴

On Friday early in the morning quartered mustered into the service this day that evening in the Old foundry in Lower Alton where we staid until the 3d when we moved up to Middletown I was taken very sick on the day we moved up but It only lasted 3 or 4 days. Cramp Colick I got very tir[ed] of this place as It was very hot and dusty all the time we were here we were all glad to leave though going from home instead of toward It their were more disgusted with a soldier's life while here than at any other place we have been. I add this at San Antonio Bexar Texas.

¹¹ The small blue-covered book was found in 1995 by an ancestor, David Johnson, as he was demolishing a home that had belonged to Francis Horney, a granddaughter of Jane and Leonidas. Perhaps there was another Daybook that recorded the remainder of his trek through Texas and his participation in the Battle of Buena Vista; if so, it has become lost over the years or, possibly, has not yet been located.

¹² Horney, Leonidas. Daybook. In possession of David Johnson, Findlay, Illinois. [Entries from the Daybook are identified by the use of italics.]

¹³ Dyson. 733.

¹⁴ *The Missouri Republican*. St. Louis, MO. 2 July 1846.



On July 18, 1846, the troops left Alton on three steamboats, headed down the Mississippi River to New Orleans.¹⁵ The volunteers were on two steamers, the *Hannibal* and the *Big Missouri*, while Gen. John Wool and his staff traveled aboard the *Convoy*. Gen. Wool was in command of the two volunteer Illinois infantry regiments, a six-gun artillery battery, five battalions of dragoons, and one of infantry from the regular army.¹⁶

*Sunday morning July 19 1846 embarked on board the Hanibal at Alton
for N. O. [New Orleans] 10 Oclock AM*

12 oclok anchored in the Mississippi opposite St Louis

One hour passed Jefferson Barracks

2 P.M. arrived at Chester a small village in Ill

just at dark laid by through the night

10 oclock Monday 20th passed the grand Tower and the Devils Bake Oven

The Grand Tower was a huge squat pillar of rock that stands up out of the water on the Missouri side about a hundred miles south of St. Louis. A short distance from Grand Tower is the Devil's Backbone, a large rocky ridge about one-half mile long that leans out toward the river. Just south of the Devil's Backbone is the Devil's Bake Oven, another distinctive feature. The huge rocky hill rises to a height of nearly one hundred feet. These southern Illinois landmarks on the Mississippi River were used by river pilots to mark a shallow spot on the river for over 300 years.

The Grand Tower



*saw the first pine trees here the Mississippi appears to have cut through
passed cape Geradaugh [Cape Girardeau] a projecting point or rocky Ridge*

*2 oclock P.M. passed Cairo at the Junction of the Mississippi and Ohio here the
banks of the Mississippi sit in low rocky bluffs disappear*

¹⁵ Dyson. 733.

¹⁶Wright, Kevin. "Captain Jacob W. Zabriskie: Sesquicentennial Remembrance of the Mexican War." Web. 6 Nov 2010.

4 o'clock P M passed New Madrid a Very Insignificant place low situated
8 PM landed on the Tennessee shore laid by for the night rested well all night so
far the weather Cool and pleasant

Tuesday 21st

10

AM passed a little place called Randolph in Tennessee first bluffs below Cairo
composed of clay red and Quick sand as well as I could judge about 60 ft in
height 4 mile long

1 o'clock PM reached Memphis in Tennessee this town is a beautiful situation
being about fifty feet above low water mark from appearance from the River on a
level table land the houses mostly of Brick Just opposite Memphis we saw the
Tennessee Mounted Volunteers under the command of General Butler bound for
Santifée at this place we only laid to for half hour so far we have been cheered at
every town wood yard cornfield and house we passed by every one women and
children the women waving their handkerchiefs even the little Negroes half naked
screaming on the shore this morning we passed the first cane breaks we have
seen on the Tennessee shore two bears were seen

Immediately below Memphis the banks became low and appear as though they
were annually inundated while at Memphis one of ___ D Comp was drummed
ashore

5 AM landed to wood all went shore there the boat went off and left five of our
Regiment who went to farm from the boat, the boat kept on all night past Arkansas
river

Wednesday 22nd to day the shore presents a different aspect some cypress
beautiful farms with neatly painted and white washed houses even for the Negroes
on both shores especially in the state of Miss the banks are still low and sandy
today appointed

passed Vicksburg 10 p.m. run all night

Thursday 23rd passed the Chickasaw bluffs 8 AM these are very high bluffs of
sand extending about 1 ½ miles there base washed by the main Channel here I
saw a few stunted live Oaks People pulling and stacking fodder & Melons in
abundance some of the Negro quarters on the Louisiana shore are Superior in
appearance to many of the Villages here to for seen I contained 19 handsome
white painted frame houses in two parallel rows and two other quarters in a short
distance gave it the appearance of a town

Passed Natches [Natchez] seen nothing of the Town Only a few dirty Old frame
under the hill. The upper town being hid by the bluff passed Bayou Sarah¹⁷ late
in the evening Baton Rouge in the night

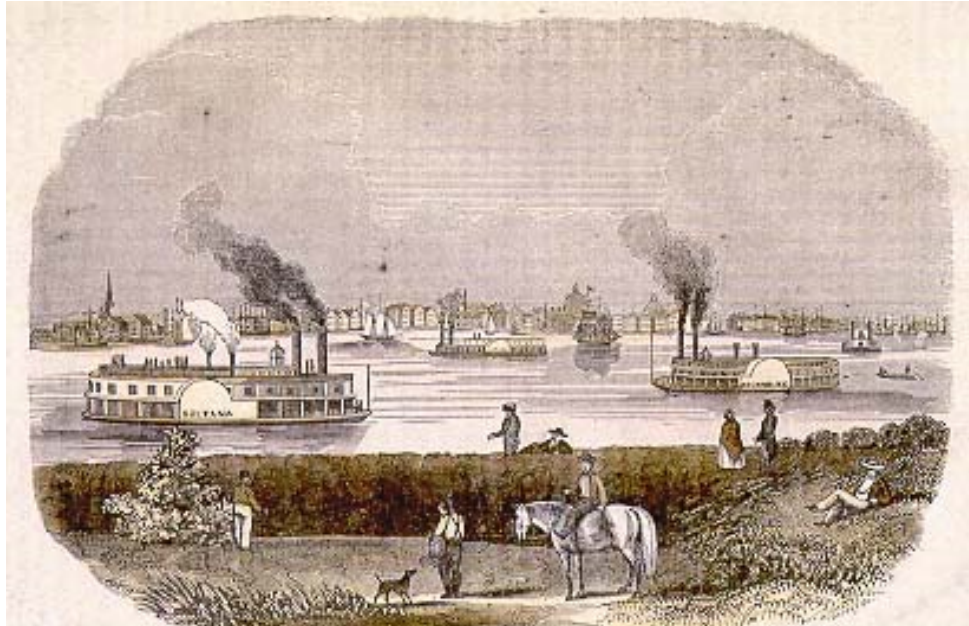
24th this morning the shore is lined on both sides with well cultivated farms and
the Splendid private residences with their beautiful Ornamental shade trees and

¹⁷ Located in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana.

the neat Negro quarters give it the appearance of a town together with the large Sugar houses a little distance from the shore

Friday 24th July 1846

Landed at New Orleans 9 A M



Saw but little of the Town only what I could see from the River and then only the buildings fronting the River the ground appearing to descend as it recedes from the River the upper wharf for two miles was crowded two deep with Ships of all classes the balance of the wharf for three miles lined with river and Ocean steamers

at 11 A M we landed and pitched our tents on the Battleground within one hundred yards of the Old live Oak under which Pakenham died our encampment being in the open field we were soon crowded with Negro women with lemons lemonades cakes oranges limes apples Bananas pies beer? I_e? milk and every thing



Thirty-some years before, during the War of 1812, General Andrew Jackson had soundly and decisively defeated the British on the Chalmette Battleground. The battlefield was eight miles below New Orleans; close by were a double line of live oak trees. It was under one of these trees that the British general, Edward Pakenham, breathed his last.¹⁸

Saturday 25th got aboard the Steamer James I. Day late in the evening got Up Steam and puffed of down the stream for the Gulf run all Night lacked 12 or 15 miles reaching the gulf by day light the banks of the river here are mostly under water their presence only indicated by the rushes and tall flaggs¹⁹ which line it and now and then willow

Some of the men had second thoughts about proceeding further as their first burst of enthusiasm began to wane. The *St. Louis Republican* on August 5, 1846, gave the details. “FLARE-UP AMONG THE ILLINOIS VOLUNTEERS We hear from New Orleans that it was exceedingly difficult to keep down the spirit of insubordination among the volunteers under Col. Hardin. This was manifested to some extent on board the *Hannibal*, but was still more apparent when they were about to be shipped to the point of destination. One steamer and three or four transport schooners had been appointed to receive them. Lots were drawn, and it fell to the Chicago company, under the command of Captain Mower, to go on board a very small transport vessel. To this the Captain and all his company demurred. They were called out, paraded, and he made a speech to them. They determined then to march to town and thence to proceed home. At this juncture Colonel Hardin appeared with four companies of men. The mutineers were ordered on board, put there, and the Captain placed under arrest. This prompt movement put an end to any further attempt at insubordination.” This happening, however, was not mentioned by Leonidas in his writings.

¹⁸ During Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the Chalmette Battleground was inundated with water and the town virtually destroyed. Evidently the bent and twisted old tree survived as recent information states that the Pakenham Oak is being cared for by men from a nearby prison.

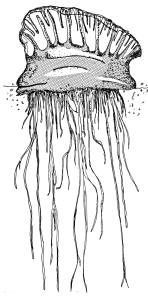
¹⁹ A common name for iris; one species is adapted to marshy areas.

At 8 A M Sunday 25th July 1845 we entered the gulf three ships were anchored in the mouth of the river Immediately after we entered the gulf we could see ships in every direction to the number of 10 or 12 we soon passed or left all of them they being all sail ships but one the Jefferson tow Boat

About 11 A M we came in sight of eight sail of different classes only one sloop sailing our course which was one point S of S W the balance heading S E we soon left them out of sight but hardly ever out of sight of some craft we saw what we supposed to be a boat with men in it and boar up pon It. It turned out to be An Old log covered with white gulls we were all a good deal astonished when we first entered the Gulf at the porpoises playing and rolling Over in the water In the forepart of the day it was nearly a-Calim but about 3 P M we were welcomed by a good stiff bresee

Monday 27th saw nothing all day but sky and water 3 Oclock at night, set in a gale

Tuesday 28th 4 AM saw land officers of the Vesel considerable bothered to find the Entrence to Matagorda Bay 8 A M laid to and sent the boat ashore after Pilot who soon brought ___ to the entrance to the bay and over the bar into the splendedest sheet of water that I ever beheld the boys had fine amusement trying to dip up some little Portuguese Men of war which the tide was carrying out to sea by millions with the ship buckets but all efforts were in vain and they had to give over without one Port Cabello²⁰ Stands at the foot of the bay where we got another Pilot and proceded for P[ort] Labaca when in about six miles of that place our ship ran Aground and we had to take another boat. Just as we dropped off the mate of the Day fired a canon before we were clear loaded with Okum²¹ which struck B Morris tore all the flesh of one side of his arm we landed got our tents pitched by dark this is a small place handsome by situation but No timberline within 12 miles and They haul their water with mules yet they are healthy in appearance boats are not able to come nigher than one hundred yards of this shore the people have large stocks of the finest cattle I ever saw



Wednesday 29th went out hunting on the bayou saw about five hundred fine Deer but the prairie being level was unable to get within reach this night got out of water

Thursday 30th 7 A M took up our line of March for a spring 12 miles distance On Placedris Creek On Our route met the wagons with water half way and soon emptied the casks reached Camp the spring about 11 A M where we found good

²⁰ An early coastal community on the western end of Matagorda Peninsula; now known as Decros Point.

²¹ Oakum is loosely twisted hemp or jute fiber impregnated with tar and used in caulking seams (as in wooden ships) and in packing.

water and any quantities of Muskadines grapes the Creek here has a strip of timber on its margin 100 yd width principlly Live Oak some few pecan some post Oak water Elm trees the large wide spreading live oak evry branch completely covered with the Vines black with delicious muskadine grapes and the moss 10 feet long hanging from evry branch

Sunday 2 August 1845 I and Curtis went hunting East of encampment on Matagordo Bay at 6 miles is a _fel_ us on a considerable Creek after some trouble we got across by wading soon come among flocks of Dear in the Open prairie some continually standing guard saw fifty Dear On Our return we got into a difficulty the tide had come up the Creek and we had to go up the Creek some distance at last I striped of and wade it up to the mouth the opisite bank was Quick Sand and I came near myring²² but we got across just at dark

Tuesday 4th the balance of Our Regiment arrived at camp this day L__? And Bery joined ___ the 2d Regiment Joined us and encamped in our vicinity on Saturday

Friday 7th 2d Regiment encamped with us and came under the command of Col. Hardin

Saturday 8th we have been met by General Wooll [General John E. Wool] got a good weting in fact it has rained evry day since we encamped here

Sunday 9th August 1846 this morning the Creek is very full back water 3 feet over our spring evry thing wet and mud in abundance no rain to day

A letter from Col. Hardin, printed in the *Alton Telegraph* and written on the 9th of August, stated that Gen. Wool had assigned to him the command of the Illinois brigade made up of the 1st and 2nd regiments. He said that the troops were impatient to advance, but that transportation for provisions and baggage could not be had according to the necessities of the service. All provisions, except from beef, had to be sent with them or before them. They were expecting mules from New Orleans to haul such provisions as they might require. Agents of the Quartermaster were only buying up all the oxen to be had. This delay is owing to the fact that the Quartermaster here received no orders to make up a train from San. Wool was making every effort to overcome these difficulties. Col. Hardin added, "We hear from San Antonio that Col. Harney took all the provisions forwarded to that place, and has gone to the Rio Grande. News also reaches us from Monterrey, that that place is fortified, but that the Mexicans have fallen back."²³

Tuesday 11th 1846 Aug took up our lines of march for Victory [Victoria] crossed the Placedres 2 miles above Camp Irwin at 4 miles entered water ½ leg deep which continued to within 1 miles of Victory Co halted for the night in the Edge of the town where we had to lye on the damp ground without tents or blankets

²² Mire- to stick or sink in heavy, often deep, mud or slush

²³ *The Missouri Republican*. 31 Aug 1846.

Our baggage wagon only got 6 miles where some 30 or 40 had give out from sickness 18 miles from Victory to Camp Irwin

Camp Irwin was also called Camp Placedo, located on Placedo Creek, 12 miles west of Port Lavaca in what is now Victoria County. It served as a rendezvous for troops assigned to Gen. Wool. "A low, swampy ground where disease was common and conditions barely tolerable," it was a temporary military supply depot used by Col. John J. Hardin's 1st Regiment of Illinois Volunteers.²⁴

While the damp, marshy conditions predisposed the men to certain illnesses, the Illinois farm boys, unused to living among a large number of fellow soldiers, found themselves prone to the catching and spreading of communicable diseases. Newspaper reports of that time stated that malaria, measles, mumps, and some scurvy were common in the volunteer units. Diarrhea and dysentery caused more problems than any other diseases. The following newspaper item was originally printed in the *Niles Register*:²⁵ "ILLINOIS VOLUNTEERS. About 20 sick volunteers returned to this city on furlough on the *Corinne*. They are sad specimens of the effects of disease, and some of them will scarcely survive . . . One of those men informs us that when he left the regiment they were twelve miles from Victoria in Texas, and on that day 260 of the Illinois volunteers were reported to be sick in camp, and unable to travel. Such are some of the practical results of war. A few heroes are made, but the mass of those who fill the armies suffer from privations and disease. We fear that many brave fellows will fall under the hand of inglorious disease during the present fall."²⁶

*this day old clothes and run? Our Men grunted? a good deal?
Wednesday 12th got my breakfast in Victory at the tavern for 37 ½ moved our
encampment 1 miles on to the Gaudaloupe a navigable Stream 70 yards in
width with timber bottoms 1 mile ½ in width Victory situated on the Guadalupe
contains 3 or 4 hundred inhabitants place of Considerable business houses
indiferant from evry appearans Sickly site of battles of Texas War saw an 18
pounder lying in the old fortification 13th ferried the Guadalupe late in the
evening encamped on the west bank*

*Friday 14th 1846 Started by sun up on Our march 2 miles rise the bluff where the
prairie looked very handsome 8 miles farther entered timber mostly Post and
Jack Oak entirely full of undergrowth the land beautifully rolling with handsome
glades of prairie measured one grape Vine 28 in sircumference spreading
intirely Over a live Oak at the end of 9 miles came o Hardin's incampment*

²⁴ Spurlin, Charles D. "Camp Irwin." *Handbook of Texas Online*. Web. 30 Oct 2010.

²⁵ *St. Louis New Era*. 19 Sept 1846.

²⁶ McCormick, Rodney V. "Illinois in the Mexican-American War." Web. 6 Oct 2010
Illinois contributed a total of 6, 123 men between June 1, 1846, and January 1, 1848. Eighty-six of these were killed in action, twelve died of wounds, 160 were wounded and 683 died of illnesses.

which he had left 3 hours before, this is on the Coletto Creek waded it up to the waste very rapid stoped under shade about 1 hour 3 P.M. 3 miles passed the ground where Fanin surrendered to the Mexicans

Passing by and observing this site must have been quite sobering to the men who were heading to battle. This was the location of the battle of Coletto Creek where Col. James W. Fannin, Jr. surrendered during the Texas Revolution. On March 27, 1836, Santa Anna cruelly ordered Fannin's men and other prisoners, numbering over 400, to be executed.

We traveled 25 miles to day and till twelve in the night to reach the balance of the Regiment encampment on to Menaway Creek on the west bank is Fanins 1st battleground.

Saturday 15th rested to day and deer hunted killed 20 or 30 fine Deer Col. Hardin nocked in the heads of 2 bbl[barrels] whiskey soil here very sandy with a great number of mounds Post and Jack oak saw the San Antonio River a very deep and raped Stream 2 miles from Camp 70 yd width



Sunday 16th marched 20 miles passed Goliad 11 AM on our left 2 miles late in the evening passed two farms saw a field of first rate Corn Cotton and potatoes encamped on a small Creek Cam__



Peter Lott, an Illinois volunteer,²⁷ corresponded with those back home and described the town of Goliad. “. . . On the 14th as our long train was moving through the entirely unsettled country bordering on the San Antonio river, most unexpectedly, our attention was attracted to some venerable looking ruins in the distance which proved to be the bare black walls of the now desolate and doomed city of Goliad. This stands on the west bank of the river, in a bend, the shape of a crescent. The town site is elevated and commanding so as to give to the ruins a venerable appearance through the surrounding campaign country. The immediate cause of its abandonment and desolation is to be found in the history of the Texan revolution. The inhuman murder of Fannin and his men at this place by Urrea, under the order of Santa Anna, made it necessary for the inhabitants and Mexican army at Goliad to fly in terror before the avengers, and on a dark and terrible night, they fled in despair, expecting never again to be able to stand before the Texan forces at this point. They applied the torch to their own dwellings and left a heap of smoldering ruins where their once beautiful town had so long stood . . . They snatched the gold and silver from their altars and bid adieu to the holy church . . .”²⁸

Monday 17th Marched 30 miles I was on the rear Guard about 200 hundred [sic] of the men give out to day from sickness and over [exertion] marching through the hot Sun a great many were just taking the measles mumps etc. we had great difficulty keeping them up for the want of wagon and were only able to

²⁷ Captain in Company E, 2nd Illinois

²⁸ Lott, Peter. (Letter) *The Missouri Republican*. 29 August 1846. Lott was a captain in Col. Bissell's 2nd Regiment of Illinois Volunteers.

get within 7 miles of the main body that night where the baggage wagon also halted

Tuesday 18th reached the Encampment where we rested the balance of the day at Camp 2 here we left all the sick and worn out 10 out of our Company

Keep in mind that this is in the summer heat of middle Texas in August!

Wednesday 19th Marched 12 miles encamped on the San Antonio River here about 40 yds wide very deep water cool and good for river water the banks very steep with rapid Current here we saw considerable bear sine I went out and killed a deer they were running in all directions persons shooting on ever side the boolets whistling past me evry minute



Thursday 20th Marched 12 miles this morning I Seperated from the main army after some deer and got across a beautiful Creek called Buffalo Creek upon returning I got entangled in Chaparall [dense impenetrable thicket of shrubs or dwarf trees] and like never to have got out scratching myself al to pieces with thorns of the Chaparall an prickly pear [cactus] Camped on Buffalo or Invillan? Creek here we found a Mexican Rancho as small field of first rate Corn and large flocks of Cattle sheep and goats some tolerable timber So far the soil has been rather sandy from Gauderloupe [Guadalupe] to this place Timber mostly muskeeet wood about the size of large Peach trees and about the same distance apart with frequently groves of scattering Post Oak and live oak but no tall timber the river and Creek water here is better than the same kind in Illinois

Friday 21st marched 6 miles here I shot a red wolf _____

Saturday 22 Marched 12 miles encamped on the San Antonio at a Mexican Ranch

Sunday 23 Marched 14 miles Encamped on the San Antonio at a Mexican Ranch here we found 200 Le Pans Indians encamped several of whom Visited Us they were large intelligent looking fellows well mounted on Mustangs and mules asking from \$10 to 25 dollars for their horses and \$35 for Mules sold several to Our officers here the Mexicans had large farms on both sides of the San Antonio

The “Le Pans,” or Lipans, Indians were of the Apache tribe. They were nomadic bison hunters who had not adapted well to mission living. Seemingly friendly at this time, they perpetrated the last Indian raid in Southwest Texas in 1881.²⁹

Another letter from Peter Lott continued, giving additional information upon the arrival of the two Illinois regiments at their encampment a few miles below the city of San Antonio. “Our march from Port Lavaca, the point at which we landed in Lavaca Bay, has been one hundred and fifty good long Spanish miles, through a country of remarkable fertility, presenting to the eye of a northern man many striking features. While I write the

²⁹ Real County Historical Museum. Web. 29 Oct 2010

sun is just hiding his face in the forest of the Lapan and the Tonkawas and around me the soldier is singing 'Home Sweet Home' while he drives his tent pins after a faithful eighteen miles for a day's march. The laugh, the song, the joke, the hurra, and merry talk, among seventeen hundred men seem to indicate an absence of all care and the enjoyment of good health and high spirits. . . "30

Monday 24th August started at daylight Marched 15 miles to day encamped on the St F __ 3 miles below the town of San Antonio at an old Missionarie Station

Now in ruins date on the building 1754 two of the towers are still tolerable perfect the Crosses on the top still perfect this has once been a handsome Edifice



The front of the some of the are entirely sound pencillings still and the Latin Incriptions over the door still entire the walls around the enclosure are entirely in ruins probly been taken down for building purposes

Chapel is still entire window sills and joists the paintings and perfect in many places

The Mission Concepcion³¹ was finished in 1754 and was dedicated on December 8, 1755. The first major engagement of the Texas Revolution, though only lasting 30 minutes, was fought here in 1835 between the Mexicans and the Texian insurgents led by Jim Bowie and James Fannin.

Tuesday 25th Entered the town of San Antonio after 14 days hard marching we were al very sore and worn out only resting 4 days on the route encamped on the River 3 miles above the town at camp Crocket on the River here there is an old dam across the Stream and a race cut out evidently for the purpose of Wattering the town in its Colny [colony] days when under the Dominion of Old Spain here is stream I



the San Antonio the beautifulest ever saw 7 feet

³⁰ Lott. *The Missouri* Oct 1846. #71.118-71

³¹ Today, it is the olde Church services are h

gister. Baltimore, 24

s finished in 2010.

deep some places 15 ft and as clear as crystal you can see the smallest pebbles and almost as cold as our water in Ill as we came through the town we were halted permitted to view the Alamo where David Croket was killed it is now in ruins the walls of the ancient Chapel are still standing and portions of the outer walls but a great portion has been torn down for building materials it covered at the time of its Capture at least 3 Acres of ground and must have been a very strong place if properly Maned but would require at least one Thousand men to Man it properly the walls were about 4 feet thick but mostly strong Sement only having thin sand stone this Cement I afterwards found to be earth abounding on the Outer surface of walls these buildings are vaunted and arched all wood of the Alamo is burnt

Thursday 27th two companies of Dragoons and two com of the 6th Infantry joined from fort Gibson

Friday 28th I Visited San Antonio Be Bexar the largest portion of the town is on the west bank of the River the Town is nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of mile E & W $\frac{1}{2}$ N & S it has a public Square of 2 acres or near the houses are mostly built of sun dried bricks of Earth as white as lime and of the exact appearance of Lime being mixed with gravel the roofs mostly flat composed of the same kind of Earth coted with gravel on top some few of these roofs have been replaced with shingles the houses of the poorer Class are built of Muskete poles set uprite plastered inside with this Natural lime Covered with flags or a species of long grass the brick houses are Mostly plastered and whitewashed outside and in and some penciled of giving it the appearance of Stone Very frequently large Prickly Pears are growing on the tops of the flat Roofs the floors are universally of Bricks or Earth of all Classes I saw no Buildings more than one story high except the Roman Chapel It is built of the same Materials as Above to all appearance it is quite a rough looking concern of Very Ancient Appearance as are the buildings of most of the town Some almost in Ruins the signs of the battles are still visable building on each side of the Square are all in One wall as they are on most of the Streets being but few allys The streets are very narrow and almost blocked up with stones and filth in the subberbs The town is watered by Various Cuts from the San Antonio River the greater part of the inhabitants are of Spanish And Indian decent Some few of the Mexican girls are very handsome but are Mostly the

rechedest [wretchedest] things that could be Immagined many especially old ones the town is full of Indians evry day those there on this day were the Le Pans the same ones we saw before the Delawars who were dressed in hickory shirts & cotton Trowsers with wool hats and good Rifles all Mounted on Mustangs and Mules some of the Le Pans had rifles and some armed with Bows several squas among them I met a man the name of Giasle? Who formerly lived in Schuyler a blacksmith to day the Texas Volunteers arrived to day from the Rio Grand together with some Dragoons all under the command of Col. Harney they had crossed the Rio Grande and took a little Mexican Town without opposition but was ordered back by General Wool Col. Harney having Marched there without orders they were armed with backwoods rifles

News of this filtered back to the States by way of the steamers and was printed close to a month later in the *Niles National Register*.³² The army under General Wool was nearly ready to commence the march for the Mexican province of Chihuahua. Col. William S. Harney “with his mounted dragoons, returned from his excursion into Mexico, without surprising Monterey, as some seemed to apprehend that he had done or might do, and without, so far as we can perceive, having achieved anything from which laurels can be culled. Three of his men were killed by the Mexicans on their route back. This corps will probably form the advance of Gen. Wool’s division. . .”³³

Every thing sells very high here Corn \$1.00 per bu Soap 25 cts per bb ___ 15 cts for comon bu__ 25 cts for a small apple pie whisky 10 cts per drink Molasses \$1.00 per gallon evry thing according The San Antonio here is 20 yds in width though it heads 12 miles from here It is fed by springs & entirely the water is so cold that a man can stay in it only a few minutes without being chilled they were gathering corn the 28th August

25th September I saw young grass where the prairie has only been burnt a few days 4 inches in length On the 16 Sept we had a general review of the two Ill Regiments the Regular Infantry Dragoons and Flying Artillery the Artillery made a splendid appearance having six pieces all the men with red hair plumes We caught abundance of fine fish at this place

Saturday the 26 of Sept 1846 The Regular infantry 3 comp 1 com ___ Vol 2 Com Ill Vol Infant 2 com of Ill rifle men Capt Morgan & Prentiss 1st Regiment Woble and . . . of the Dragoons Artillery and Ariansas Troops took up their line of March for the Rio Grande for a night or two past it the wind has been very Cool from the North which seems to Infuse a New spirit in the men generally

Saturday 29th Lieut Myers and 11 of our sick left behind at Camp Irwin Arived at Camp Croket and on the Route all of them Recovered and in good Spirits having left 5 sick on the route During our Stay hear I went out huntin several times on

³² Lott. 3 Oct 1846. NNR #71.129

³³ Correspondent. *Boston Courier*: 2 Oct. 1846.

the Salado Creek a beautiful little stream with beautiful rich bottoms and the best looking timber I have seen I saw considerable bear sign one of Regiment killed one on this creek this stream as also the San Antonio heads in a chain of very high bald hills this stream has very dense Chaparrall on its margin turkeys are very plenty here from time we first entered Texas the prairies were burning all most every day in spots after burning the grass immediately springs up as though it was spring of the year

29th the nights have been very cold some days cool all day to day I visited a large spring which is 15 or 20 ft dep the boil being 8 ft across and affording sufficient water to turn two run of stones running of with a rapid current 30 ft wide and 2 ft deep It is shaded by large pecan and other trees I measured a grape vine growing on its margin which was 2 ft 4 inches in circumference Sept 29th 1846

Once again, Peter Lott corresponded with the newspaper concerning the 1st and 2nd Illinois Volunteers, “They are all on parade today for muster and inspection by Col. Churchill, who will have to wash his hands with good castile soap, after touching some volunteer guns. Our troops are all well-provisioned and in good health and spirits. The spot on which we are encamped is a most delightful near the clear springs which form in part the source of the San Antonio River. We expect to remain some days here.”³⁴ Lott commented that the society there was composed of illiterate Mexicans and a few intelligent Americans. While in San Antonio de Bexar, one of the chief forms of entertainment was the fandango. ““The boys’ would pay a dime a dance for a few rounds in the waltz, quadrille or reel, with some olive signorita.”³⁵ Adolph Engelmann wrote that San Antonio was a town filled with saloons and billiard halls, with many ways for a man to lose his money.

While at San Antonio, Leonidas added a lengthy description of the area:

The Country around San Antonio is as beautiful a part of the world as I ever saw the soil rich rolling and dry this country is a very high country ascending gradually from the Gulf all the way. No stagnant water no ponds or lakes the streams entirely fed by springs the bottoms of the streams are generally from a mile to ½ mile in width entirely above high watter the soil losse [loess] black and considerably mixed with sand Some places gravly two horses would be sufficient to plow any of it where there is no gravel there are no bluffs generally to the streams the ground rising gradually back to the ridges the roads from Victory to Bexar is almost devoid of any that would be called hills even in Illinois this country is well adapted to corn sweet potatoes and cotton and probable rice in the bottom land the bottoms of the San Antonio at this place have evidently once been in a high state of cultivation as the numerous races of water Cut out

³⁴ Lott. 31 August 1846.

³⁵ Lott. 10 Oct 1846.

of the River at some former time as also the ruins of an ancient building and Damns go to prove as well, as the tradition of the present inhabitants _____



[After the Day Book of Leonidas Horney ends, his journey from San Antonio on into Mexico can be traced by reading in detail other first-person writings and by following the existing records of the 1st Illinois Regiment, Col. John J. Hardin, Gen. John E. Wool, and Gen. Zachary Taylor. By using the same method, participation of Leonidas in the Battle of Buena Vista can also be reconstructed. If there was another Daybook, it would most likely contain similar descriptions of these events.]



On the March: Through Texas and into Mexico

Strategy in fighting the Mexican War involved the invasion of Mexico by using a three-pronged attack. Gen. Winfield Scott and Gen. Zachary Taylor were in charge overall, specifically in eastern Texas and Mexico where they fought with their “Army of Invasion.” Col. S. W. Kearney’s “Army of the North” occupied Santa Fe and went on into California, where Fremont had already been victorious. The highly efficient Gen. John E. Wool led the “Army of the Center,” also known for a period of time as the “Army of Chihuahua.”

Gen. Wool, a War of 1812 hero and a strict disciplinarian,³⁶ was directed by Congress to muster and prepare for service the rapidly gathering volunteers at San Antonio. Nine thousand men were sent to reinforce Gen. Taylor’s army; those remaining, including the 1st Illinois, were trained in preparation for invading Chihuahua, a rich Mexican province and important trade center. Time was needed for these remaining troops to acquire the skills necessary to meet the disciplined enemy they would face. General Wool, up early and late, soon brought the regiments into fighting form, ready to provide the middle prong of the campaign. There was also a delay of a few weeks as provisions had not yet arrived.

A letter from a correspondent of the *Boston Courier*,³⁷ dated October 2, told of the wagons filled with stores and equipment, filtering in slowly, fifteen to twenty-one a day. “It is almost impossible to imagine the difficulties encountered by the quartermasters department towards fitting out and preparing the trains for transporting supplies. In the first place the mules have to be broken to work in harness. There is a scarcity of teamsters. Inefficient wagon-masters are sent from New Orleans, where they are picked

³⁶ Frazier, Bill. “Mexican War.” *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. Web. 20 Oct 2010

³⁷ NNR #71.129

up and sent out upon their representing that they are first-rate teamsters – the greater part of whom scarcely know how to harness a mule, not to speak of their driving a five-mule team.”

After a month’s stay in San Antonio, provisions had arrived and the soldiers were deemed ready to proceed into Mexico. The line of march was taken up in three separate columns. Leaving on September 26, the first and principal column, formed chiefly of regulars, marched out under the leadership of Col. Harney. Gen. Wool with a portion of his staff, and escorted by two companies of the first dragoons, left to overtake the advance on the 29th. On October 2 the 1st Illinois Regiment under Col. Hardin departed, under the command of Col. J. J. Hardin, with a train of twenty-four wagons and two pieces of cannon.³⁸ The third and last column, made up of the 2nd Illinois and a portion of the Arkansas cavalry, set out on October 14 under Col. Churchill.³⁹ These 2,000 troops, under the command of Brigadier-General Wool, left San Antonio with orders to proceed to Chihuahua. General Wool chose to follow an old smuggling road, the Woll Road,⁴⁰ which provided an easier route of travel for both his wagons and his foot soldiers. His army was led by a regiment of dragoons, mounted troops trained in the art of war, from Fort Scott, Kansas.⁴¹ Bringing up the rear was an immense train of wagons, numbering over two hundred and fifty.⁴²

Captain Wyatt B. Stapp described the conditions soldiers experienced in a letter home, “Each has a tin cup, a tin plate and a spoon, a table, and a bread board to sit on. A cup of gruel, toast, rice pudding, and goats milk. On the march we simply lie down on the ground with one blanket above and one below.”⁴³

The following account of the journey was written by a correspondent who sent it to the *Missouri Republican*: “Twenty seven miles from San Antonio we passed through a German settlement called Castroville, which is quite flourishing. This is the most

³⁸ “Army of the Centre – Gen. Wool.” NNR #71.129.

³⁹ Correspondent “Illinois,” “From Mexico,” *Missouri Republican*. 3 Mar 1847.

⁴⁰ Gunn, Jack W. “Mexican Invasions of 1842.” *Handbook of Texas Online*. Web. 31 Oct 2010. A French soldier of fortune hired by Mexico, General Adrian Woll, followed the old trail that had been used to transport contraband when he made his surprise attack on San Antonio in 1842. Also used for his return journey, the 1,200 soldiers and over a thousand horses and mules so tramped it that for years after, the Woll Road remained the main route from San Antonio to Eagle Pass. It is today the San Antonio-Uvalde Highway.

⁴¹ “A Hearty Grip: Fort Scott Soldiers in the Mexican War.” Fort Scott National Historic Site. Web. 31 Oct 2010. This light cavalry unit was Company A, 1st Dragoons.

⁴² “Mexican-American War,” NNR. Sept. 1846-Feb. 1847. # 71.263.

⁴³ Samuel Bigger McCartney, “Illinois in the Mexican War,” Northwestern University, 1939. Qtd. in “Illinois in the Mexican American War,” Illinois National Guard Bureau. Web. 31 Oct 2010

westwardly settlement in Texas. From thence to the Neuces⁴⁴ we crossed numerous streams of pure water – the Rio Frio, Leona, and other – all running from the mountains, which were perceptible to the north of the road, to swell the tumult of the Neuces.

“Each morning reveille was sounded sometimes before day and at daylight the line of march was resumed – thus making the troops complete the day’s march by noon. Before noon of the 7th October, having completed our march for the day, we encamped on the banks of the Seco, a fine bold stream of transparent water. In a few minutes after the word ‘halt’ was given, the camp was marked out, and the companies were marched to their campground and dismissed. It was a beautiful day, and the soldiers seemed entirely free from fatigue. All were busy in a moment. Some pitched the tents, others seized the axes and scampered off to be the first to get the dry wood near the camp – others went for water to make the coffee, the indispensable beverage of the soldier and traveler- [the] train was unpacked, and horses and mules laryeated out to graze. The smoke curled up from a hundred camp fires, and in less time than it takes a city cook to make a fire, dinner was cooked. . .

“Dinner disposed of, the men betook themselves to various occupations; some went to bathe, others to wash their clothes, others fitted up their fishing tackle and started off for a certain mess of fine fish; not a few applied for leave to go hunting. As permission had not been given for this purpose since we left San Antonio, and there was ample time, leave was granted to a few men from each company. The hunters had not left camp many minutes before the air resounded with the reports of rifles and musket. For an hour it was fairly ‘file firing.’ Turkeys had been found by the hundred, and several gangs of Mexican wild hogs or Pecaries,⁴⁵ had been discovered and had afforded abundant amusement to the hunters. . . . Before sundown turkeys were brought in by the dozen – every mess had an abundance – several wild hogs were also brought in, and their meat found to be quite good. It was quite a feast day in our encampment.



“At retreat it was ascertained that two men were absent. . . . Guns were fired to help them find their way back to camp. All were worried as predatory bands of Indians were known to be in the vicinity, and wolves and panthers were numerous.” A detachment was sent to search for them, and the men were found six miles from camp.

⁴⁴ Nueces River

⁴⁵ These wild hogs, or peccaries, were described as weighing about 75 pounds, were of a gray color, and had bristles approximating porcupine quills. They had a scent bag on their backs and were exceedingly fierce and vicious.

“After crossing the Nueces, the face of the country changed very much for the worse. The soil is a mixture of sand and clay – timber is not found – water is scarce and of a bad quality, and prickly pears abound to a most annoying degree. Within 25 miles of the Rio Grande, the land is better, but is destitute of timber and water.”⁴⁶

One can imagine the surroundings that Leonidas Horney would have observed as the army moved through South Texas into northern Mexico. The plant life changed from that of hickory and oak trees to chaparral, thorny mesquite trees, and numerous kinds of cacti. Great flocks of sand hill cranes, mourning doves, and many varieties of migrating birds frequented the area. The unusual amount of noise and dust from the huge caravan of horses, men, and wagons would have startled turkeys, javelinas, and white-tailed deer. Many wild hogs, mountain lions (panthers), and black bears would also have been sighted when they became alarmed by the intrusion. Perhaps Leonidas even beheld a scene similar to that of Ulysses S. Grant, who recorded in his memoirs the sighting of a herd of wild mustangs that ranged between the Nueces and Rio Grande rivers. Grant described the herd as being “as large as the state of Delaware,” extending as far as the eye could see.

The exercise of daily marching, plus a simple diet, kept the men reasonably healthy, except for ever-present blisters on their tired and achy feet. At first, these soldiers were generally in good condition, for those who suffered from illnesses had been left behind at San Antonio. However, as they progressed southward into Mexico, many of the troops from the north became plagued by various chills and fevers. The volunteers were more susceptible in catching various diseases than the regular troops who had been inoculated, particularly for smallpox. Living in close proximity with others, poor sanitary conditions, contaminated food and water, and exposure to the elements compounded the problems. Two thirds of the deaths during the Mexican War were due to infectious diseases, the most common ones being yellow fever, malaria, measles, and dysentery.

The foot soldier, such as those in the 1st Illinois Regiment, endured many discomforts as they advanced. Traveling conditions were often arduous. One soldier complained that the marches from San Antonio were of the most fatiguing character. They often “marched thirty miles in a day, without water, and this in clouds of dust and under a burning sun.” With the approach of fall, weather changed abruptly from the hot sun of the day to the rapidly dropping temperatures of the night. Along with the prickly pear cactus, the palmetto soap plant found in one valley caused problems as its sharp leaves inflicted deep wounds on the marchers.⁴⁷ The punctures made from some cacti were found to be poisonous and caused lameness. Advancing over the plains, there were times when the army was forced to wade in water two or three feet deep for several miles, carrying

⁴⁶ Correspondent “Illinois.”

⁴⁷ “The Taylor-Kearney Campaigns,” *The Army Medical Department 1818-1865, the War with Mexico*. Ch. 5, 104.

muskets and cartridge boxes overhead. The swiftly moving streams flowing from the mountains, though not deep, were quite difficult to cross and created more challenges.

The Illinois troops under Col. John J. Hardin marched southward from San Antonio to Parras, Mexico, under the command of Gen. John E. Wool and arrived at the Rio Grande about 150 miles from San Antonio. With foresight in preparation for the crossing of this river, Wool's chief engineer officer, William D. Fraser, had built a "flying bridge." Robert E. Lee, arriving in San Antonio just a few days before the army marched south, was given the assignment to aide Capt. Fraser in collecting tools for building roads and bridges. Fraser and Lee scouted ahead of the army, smoothing the way by ensuring that the line of march was passable.⁴⁸ Their work shortened the time required to reach the Rio Grande, where the pontoon bridge was soon constructed at an old ford, Paso de Nogal.⁴⁹



"Illinois", the volunteer from that state, wrote home to the newspapers with great detail how the Rio Grande was crossed by using this pontoon bridge. "The Rio Grande is a noble stream of excellent drinking water, three hundred yards in width and four feet deep where we crossed it. . . . By taking out the loading from the wagons, and filling the bottom of the beds with sticks of timber and replacing the loading, the wagons were driven across the river, and most of their loading taken at the same time. Some of the men waded across but most of the men and the heaviest articles were transported in boats. [The boats for the pontoon bridge] were prepared in San Antonio, framed and the plank jointed by some of the volunteers, and transported, thence in wagons with the army to the Rio Grande. On the arrival of the troops, they were put together. They were built in the shape of yawls, and had beams placed across to unite the two boats. These beams were covered with plank, thus forming a large platform on which seventy-five men could cross at a time. On the twelfth day after leaving San Antonio, we crossed the Rio Grande, and camped for the first time on Mexican soil."⁵⁰ It had taken only three days for the army to traverse the river.

Knowing the character of Leonidas Horney one can assume that he was a very active participant in transferring the army from one side of the river to the other. He may have observed the procedure with great



⁴⁸ Freeman, Douglas Southall. "A Campaign Without a Shot." *R. E. Lee, a Biography*. New York and London: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1934.

⁴⁹ Near modern-day Del Rio, Texas.

⁵⁰ Correspondent "Illinois."

interest and may even have become acquainted with Robert E. Lee.⁵¹ His prior experience in surveying would have been helpful in accurately gauging the distance across many rivers and streams.

The correspondent for the *Missouri Republican* continued, “Seventy miles from the Presidio⁵² we crossed a range of hills. The ascent was not steep, nor would they be remarked were it not that we had been traveling through a perfectly level plain, and that the formation was changed to gravel and limestone. Ascending a high hill, which lifted itself up near our road, a magnificent panorama was spread before us. Behind, was the wide expanse of plain over which we had passed, skirted in the far distance by the thickets bordering the Rio Grande. In the southwest was a chain of mountains, which modestly raised their heads in the distance and broke the even line of the horizon. The range of hills on which I stood, rose smoothly from the plain, and as gently rolled into repose in the lap of the plain on the south-western side. To the north the columns of Dragoons, Artillery and Infantry, marching along the crooked road beneath me, looked like a huge, variegated snake, slowly crawling down the hills. Behind, was the immense train of wagons – two hundred and fifty in number – followed by the Arkansas Regiment of Cavalry – the whole making a line five miles in extent. Right brave and gallant looked that column of my countrymen, marching with all the material of war, through this lonely Mexican wilderness.

“Ninety miles from the Presidio, we camped on the banks of the Almos. . . . At an early hour next morning, the whole command was on the banks of the Almos ready to cross. But the first view of the river dissipated all hopes of crossing it easily. It was 70 feet wide and four feet deep, and swept downward with amazing velocity foaming, roaring and tearing along as though it were determined to prohibit any invasion of its light and transparent waters. Men could not wade it – their feet were swept from under them in three feet water, before they had reached the centre of the current; neither mules nor horses could pull their wagons across. It became necessary to take the horses and mules from the wagons and attach long ropes to the wagons which reached across the streams and men on the opposite side pulled them across. By elevating the loading of the wagons, as had been done at the Rio Grande, they were safely taken over with their contents. The men crossed on the wagons by holding to them. The volunteers took hold of the ropes with alacrity and fairly worked themselves into favor by their good conduct during the day.

“Leaving a portion of the troops to assist the provision train across the stream, the principal part of the army, with the baggage and ammunition wagons, marched on to cross the Sabinas, five miles distant before camping. This was found to be not so wide,

⁵¹Office of the Chief of Military History, United States Army, “The Mexican War and After,” *American Military History*, Army Historical Series. Ch. VIII. 171.

⁵² The Presidio was located on the Rio Grande. “Presidio” means a fort or fortified place.

but if possible, more rapid than the Almos, with quicksand on either bank. The men were fatigued with the labor of the morning when they reached it – but here was an obstacle still to be overcome, and with redoubled energy they set to work to master it. The same course had to be pursued in crossing the wagons as at the Almos. Men and ropes were found far more serviceable than horses and mules. There were not wagons sufficient to cross the men on, and a bridge of empty wagons was made across the main part of the stream by fastening the wagons together – still the men had to wade to their waists to get on and off the wagons.

“... the hardships of the day were aggravated by another circumstance. It took so much time to cross over the artillery and staff wagons (who were given a preference over the volunteer’s) that more than half the company wagons of the regiment of volunteers had to be left on the opposite side of the river from the troops. The consequence was that after tugging all day at the ropes, pulling wagons over, and going without any dinner, the majority of the men had to lie down at night in their wet clothes without tents, blankets, or food. Several of the men were washed away from their wagons and were only saved by extraordinary exertions. Several were drowned. A Quartermaster’s wagon was upset in the Sabinas and his papers and stores floated down in admirable confusion.

“Neither was there any want of commanders, for both the Generals, with all the Colonels, the whole Staff, and all the wagon-masters were giving orders at the top of their lungs and with the most violent gesticulations.”⁵³

The crossing over the river was no small matter; not only must the army be transported to the other side, but also numerous wagons pulled by mules. On October 16, a correspondent for the *New Orleans Picayune* wrote, “A chance offers to send a line, which I must write in haste, as the gentleman who takes it will be off in a few moments. Gen. Wool crossed the Rio Grande thirteen days ago on his way to Monclava. A train of fifteen hundred mules arrived from Camargo a day or two since, with provisions. Two thousand mules have been hired at this place for the use of the army, at 37 ½ cents per mule a day each.”



“On the 24th October, having marched 120 miles in a southwestern direction from the Presidio, General Wool’s column entered the town of Santa Rosa. The infantry ‘carried arms’ through the town – the drums rolled – the brass band sounded their instruments – the staff looked their dressiest – the artillery shook their fire buckets and red horse tails,⁵⁴ and drew up their battery on the plaza – the infantry formed on two sides of it – the dragoons curled their moustaches and drew their sabers and formed on the unoccupied

⁵³ Correspondent “Illinois.”

⁵⁴ Leonidas wrote in his day book that the Artillery had “red hair plumes.”

part of the plaza – the women, children, and old men crowded the door sills and the corners of the streets – and with a flourish of drums, trumpets, bugles, gilt buttons and cocked hats, Santa Rosa fell at the first onslaught. The army marched back again a mile and camped and this was a military possession taken of another Mexican town.

“October 25. The army resumed its line of march for Monclova, which is about fifty-five miles distant by the mule road across the mountains, but is ninety miles by the wagon road. Our route ran circuitously around the base of the mountains. We crossed several small streams and camped on the banks of a beautiful rivulet. During the day the mountains continued to present a most attractive appearance – white clouds were forming in the valleys of some of the broken chains and as the wind wafted them they either covered the base leaving the higher prominences projecting above or some enveloped the summit . . .

“The 27th of October will long be remembered by the Infantry as a day of vexation and hard marching. It had been determined the previous evening that the mounted men and train should march thirty miles to a Hacienda, to get corn for the horses and mules; and that the Infantry should march only ten miles, there being no water from that point to the Hacienda. We were aroused at half past four in the in the morning, and were soon ready for the march and were then informed that there was a change of plans and that the Infantry had to march through to the Hacienda. The request was made to permit them to start on as soon as they were ready. This was refused and we had to await three hours for the train to start and get out of our way. This consumed a great part of the morning. The horses and wagons cut up the road into dust ankle deep, and a wind to our backs blew the dust with the column, nearly suffocating the men.

“In the afternoon a drizzly rain fell dampening the spirits of some of the soldiers; still the men sustained themselves and as night approached quickened their speed to reach camp. We arrived at dark and had to pitch our tents on a rocky patch of prickly pears, in the midst of darkness and rain. What added to the aggravation of the day’s march was that we had no wagons with the regiment, sufficient to carry our sick, although a considerable number of empty wagons had come on ahead knocking up a dust to the annoyance of the men. To say the least of it, this was bad management without an excuse.



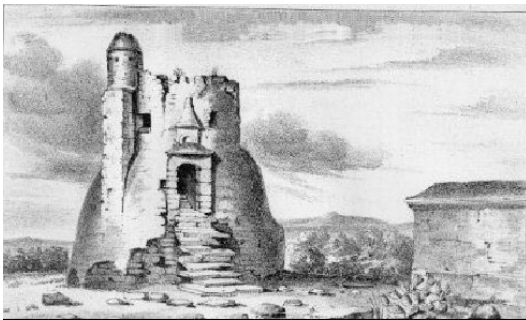
Some of the volunteers from illness and fatigue did not reach camp till midnight and one of the regulars was sent back the next day and found several, miles from the camp, having been unable to keep up from sickness.

The Arkansas regiment of cavalry had reached camp some hours before us and had their fires lighted. Some of us had gathered round the tent of the Field officers to dry our clothes . . . “⁵⁵

⁵⁵ Correspondent, “Illinois.” (Events occurred in October 1846; letter written from near Saltillo, Mexico, January 24, 1847.)

En route to Chihuahua, Gen. Wool had learned that the Mexican troops who had occupied this city had abandoned it. His objective was then changed to Parras, a city to the west of Saltillo, deep in enemy territory. Wool's command traveled along the Sierra Gordo Mountains until they reached the town of Monclova, where the army had a chance to rest for around a month.

Written by "A Volunteer" at Monclova, Mexico, November 1, 1846: "On the 30th of last month, Gen. Wool's column encamped four miles south of this city, the whole army coming up in fine condition and excellent health. On the day following, accompanied by his staff and a small escort of dragoons, he went to the city and took nominal possession of the same, and on Wednesday of this week, on his way to a new encampment, selected south of this place, he intends marching the entire column through Monclava and take actual military possession of the same. . . . How long we shall remain here is involved in some uncertainty. The officers commanding that battery of artillery, and the squadrons of the 1st and 2nd dragoons, have required that some two weeks be given them to recruit their horses. Added to this is the rumor . . . that General Kearney has sent a detachment of his column that has taken Chihuahua without resistance." If that is accomplished, then [our] column would probably form a junction with Gen. Taylor at Saltillo. There are strong possibilities "that we shall not move from Monclova before the 25th of this month at least. Col. Bissell's regiment of Illinois volunteers will be up tomorrow evening, that advance having already reached here. They are in fine health and condition, and have made a very rapid march with a view of overtaking us. . . .



Watchtower at Monclova

"Monclova contains a population of between four and five thousand inhabitants, many of whom are intelligent and wealthy citizens. . . . This column is now in what is regarded as the granary of Northern Mexico." Wheat is of high quality which the inhabitants dispose of by the mule load for six dollars. Corn excels in quality and exceeds in yield that which is produced in the American Illinois bottoms.

"There is a small mill in the vicinity of Monclova, which we have taken possession of, and it will be kept continually running, in grinding flour for the army, while we remain at Monclova. The last train of wagons, with provisions, that we expect to receive from Lavacca, is now on its way hither. . . . Our entire reliance for provisions will be by opening a communication with General Taylor, and drawing them from Camargo, and by obtaining them in part from the country that we march through. Here there is no difficulty whatever in procuring all the beef, wheat, and corn that we may desire, for our subsistence and the forage of the horses."⁵⁶

⁵⁶ "A Volunteer." *NRR*. #71.263.

While at Monclova, Wool's kind treatment of the inhabitants won their confidence and esteem, and they regarded him as a friend instead of an enemy. Wool left a force of 250 men from the Second Illinois Regiment to guard Monclova and the major portion of his command continued the weary march into Mexico.⁵⁷

Politics then as now, were evident throughout the war. Petty jealousies and political differences were often reported in the press. "Regulars" often looked down upon the "volunteers" with friction developing between the two groups. The writer above mentions the difficulty between Col. Harney and Gen. Wool, lamenting the transfer of Col. Harney's column to Gen. Taylor. He also mentions an argument that Gen. Wool had with Col. Hardin, arising from "an unjust imputation cast upon the volunteers" by Gen. Wool. It was settled when Gen. Wool gave an unqualified disclaimer that he did not intend to include Col. Hardin's regiment.

The Mexican War was the first war in which newspaper correspondents regularly reported from the camps and battlefields. A means of rapidly sending news over a long distance, the "electro-magnetic telegraph," had just been invented. However, it was not readily available for there were few telegraph lines in place.⁵⁸ Dispatches were usually used for military reports and to relay news. Besides official dispatches there was other coverage. George Kendall, a volunteer in Taylor's army, wrote articles for his paper, *The New Orleans Picayune*. Kendall set up a series of posts along the Army's march and offered high wages to attract trustworthy Mexicans who would carry dispatches to steamships on the coast for transport to New Orleans. Once reaching New Orleans, some communications were sent north to other American cities either by carriers on horse or by steamboat up the Mississippi. There was sparse communication from the regular soldiers, both to and from home. Wool seemed to discourage the sending out of personal mail with the dispatches; in contrast, those serving under Taylor were given this privilege. This may have been one reason some of the men were anxious to come under the command of "Old Rough and Ready," Gen. Taylor.

One report tells of receiving a newspaper in camp. "A *Missouri Republican* of the 6th of September found its way into our camp a few days since, and never was a popular work

⁵⁷ "The Diary of the Travels of Augustus Frederic Ehinger Co. H, 2nd Regiment 1846-1847," Ed. Charles F. Ward. "Illinois in the Mexican American War." Illinois National Guard Bureau. Roswell, NM, 1978. Web. 7 Nov. 2010.

⁵⁸ Butterfield, Roger. "The Halls of Montezuma," *The American Past*. Simon and Schuster: New York, NY, 1966. 113.

of romance sought after with more avidity than it was by all the Suckers.⁵⁹ It was read and reread, until it fairly tumbled into pieces from being handled; and when it was gone, there was a general lamentation even among those who had read it once, but were anxious to read it again. The officers have come to the determination to hire an express, and send him to San Antonio for their letters and papers, having ascertained there is any quantity there for them.”⁶⁰

After leaving Monclova, no opposition was met and Parras was reached on the fifth of December. Wool’s column encamped within two miles of the city. Gen. Wool was ordered to establish a depot there and to “levy upon all supplies belonging to the Mexican Government.” In this rich, productive valley, he obtained an abundance of supplies for both his army and that of Taylor, acquiring large quantities of flour, wheat and corn.⁶¹

Major-General Zachary Taylor planned to establish a strong defensive line with the cities of Parras, Saltillo, Monterrey, and Victoria. By mid-November Taylor had divisions occupying the city of Saltillo, and another detachment was in place at Victoria. These positions were strengthened by the arrival of Wool’s forces in Parras. Wool’s regiments had now become part of Taylor’s main army,⁶² adding 2,000 men and six pieces of artillery.

At Parras, the troops again rested. The period of recuperation was of utmost necessity, particularly since an epidemic of measles had erupted. Due to its unusual severity, there was a high mortality rate.⁶³ Measles and typhoid spread rapidly through the hot, unsanitary camps and killed many more soldiers than did bullets.

Parras was reported as being a lovely city with beautiful *casas*, churches, and surrounding scenery. A volunteer from Missouri, Frank S. Edwards, came through Parras a few weeks after the battle of Buena Vista. He described the town as beautiful, interspersed with palms, lemon trees, and vineyards. A short distance from the town was a large hacienda, which the owner built in American-style. Edwards stated, “Thoughts of

⁵⁹ People from Illinois are sometimes disparagingly called “suckers.” Of several legends about the origin of this term, the most plausible one dates from the opening of the first lead mine, in 1824, about a mile north of Galena. By 1827 there were 6 or 7 thousand people in that area, most of them from the settlements in southern Illinois and from the lead mining district in southwestern Missouri. The Illinois men came up the Mississippi on steamboats in the spring and went back down to their homes each fall. The Missourians jeeringly named them “Suckers” because the sucker is one of the few common fish that migrate upstream each spring.

⁶⁰ *NNR* #71.067.

⁶¹ “Later from New Orleans,” *Missouri Republican*, 7 Jan 1847.

⁶² Office of the Chief of Military History, United States Army. “The Mexican War and After.” *American Military History*. Army Historical Series. Ch. VIII. 171.

⁶³ “The Army Medical Department 1818-1865.” 104.

home were awakened by the sight of the first peaked roof that we had seen since we left Missouri.”⁶⁴ It can be assumed that the 1st Illinois Regiment experienced the same feelings.



Dragoons entering Saltillo

The soldiers had marched close to 500 miles from San Antonio, traveling over uninhabited regions, often lacking supplies. On 17 December, after twelve days of rest and replenishment of food supplies in Parras, Gen. Wool was ordered to make a rapid march to Saltillo to reinforce the army there. These new orders were followed with alacrity; the steadiness shown by the rested troops was notable.

Saltillo, a town of about twelve to fourteen thousand inhabitants, was built in a narrow pass or valley, said to be the coldest and most visited by high winds than any other place in Mexico. An important junction, Saltillo was the key location for the domination of northern Mexico. It controlled the only road north from Mexico City that could be used for wagons and guns as well as the route west to Chihuahua and the road east to the provincial capital of Victoria.

Peter Lott, correspondent, wrote of apple orchards growing in thickets as though the seeds had been sown like wheat. Aloe plants were cultivated in the fields. The town was strongly marked by characteristic features of decay, apparent in all the exterior Mexican towns. He described dilapidated walls, decayed mud fences, deserted houses, neglected fields and gardens, all which showed a condition of sure decline. In several of the plazas or public squares, were fountains from which the water fell from a height of fifteen or twenty feet into basins or reservoirs. The people dipped from it with their earthen jars,

⁶⁴ Edwards, Frank S. *A Campaign in Mexico with Col. Doniphan*, Ch. VII. 144.

which they then carried on their heads. There were two things, however, that Lott felt were superior to any thing of the kind in our country, the organs and the bells.⁶⁵ The sonorous ringing of the bells would note the passing of time each morning, noon, and night.

Saltillo, Mexico. January 10, 1847. "It seems to be understood that the three Indiana regiments, and the **1st and 2^d Illinois**, are for the present to remain in this region. This settles the question. If the result shall prove that we are correct in the anticipation of remaining here – all question as to the policy to be pursued in the field towards the volunteer troops – they are to be kept in the back ground, and not allowed to take any part in the active operation of the war, . . . Our two Illinois regiments, the **1st and 2^d**, are encamped at the Encantada ground, in the Grand Pass, ten miles southwest from this place on the San Luis Potosi road. They are in good health and have but one source of dissatisfaction, which is the fear that they may be employed as a kind of rear guard of supernumeraries for the remainder of their twelve months."⁶⁶

Preparing for Battle

Late in 1846 Congress formed new plans that called for a direct attack on the capital, Mexico City, by way of Vera Cruz. Major General Winfield Scott, who had been given the leadership of the war by President Polk, decided to detach 8,000 trained troops from Taylor's forces; they were ordered to Gulf ports to await sea transportation. General Wool and his army then joined Taylor's depleted forces, marching from Parras sixty-eight miles southeast to Agua Nueva. Taylor's greatly reduced command now numbered 4,800 men, most of whom were concentrated at the camp south of Saltillo. All of the soldiers were green volunteers and untried in battle except for two squadrons of dragoons and a small force of artillery.⁶⁷ Though few had been under fire, many of these raw troops were from the border states and were very much at home handling their weapons. They were good marksmen and were full of confidence in their abilities.

The ordnance of the American army was superior in all ways to that of the Mexicans. The weapons used by soldiers by 1847 were generally muzzle-loading rifles or muskets. Muskets were preferred since they were quicker and easier to load, although their range and accuracy left something to be desired. The dragoons usually carried five- or six-shot Colt revolvers, introduced into warfare for the first time during the war. Volunteers were notorious for arming themselves with an assortment of pistols, knives, or revolvers.

⁶⁵ Lott. 19 Feb 1847. (It has been recorded that Santa Anna melted the church bells and cast them into field pieces for his field artillery.)

⁶⁶ Lott. 19 Feb 1847.

⁶⁷Office of the Chief of Military History.

The average Mexican infantryman carried an old, outdated flintlock musket. The soldiers often used too much powder and would fire from the hip because of the recoil. As a result, the shots tended to go over the heads of their enemies⁶⁸ For use in their cannons, they depended primarily on single-shot cannon balls. These often fell short, and even when they covered the desired distance flew so slowly that the targeted soldiers simply side-stepped them. A volunteer from Missouri wrote about picking up a Mexican cannon ball that had burst exactly in half. Because of the bad powder used to fill them, the balls frequently failed to shatter into fragments and therefore did not perform as intended.

Though the Mexican artillery had a greater number of pieces, they too were outmoded, while the pieces of the Americans were the best available. U.S. troops had newer weapons firing case projectiles that exploded on impact and canister shells stuffed with multiple shots. Canister shot was a tinned-iron can full of lead or iron balls that had been packed in sawdust. It would break apart as a part of the explosion, scattering its load of shot in the fashion of a shotgun blast. Canister was the ammunition of choice for mass, close-up slaughter, effective 100 to 400 yards from the artillery. Grape shot was like canister, only it had a wider dispersion spray and could cover a broader area sooner. It was used when the enemy was almost upon the artillery with a range from a few feet to 200 yards.⁶⁹ In addition, the American army had recently developed the strategy of “flying artillery.” Just prior to the war, the army equipped several companies in which each cannoner had his own mount pulling “little bronze guns slung low between oversize wheels.”⁷⁰ This innovation meant that the unit could gallop around the battlefield, quickly bringing its guns to bear where most needed. Because the batteries could move almost as fast as cavalry, they served as rallying points for the infantry. Captain Braxton Bragg’s artillery unit, in particular, was highly trained in the use of the flying artillery.



Flying Artillery

Through a captured dispatch, Santa Anna learned of the heavy depletion of Taylor’s troops. Deciding to take advantage of this weakness, he marched northward from Le

⁶⁸ Hale, Virginia, Researcher. “U.S.-Mexican War Veterans 1846-1848, Hood Co., Texas.” Hood County Texas Genealogical Society. Web. 7 Nov 2010.

⁶⁹ Weapons of the Mexican War, 1846–1847. *Air-Land-Sea Weapons*. Web. 1 Nov 2010

⁷⁰ Niven, David. *The Mexican War*. Alexandria, VA: Time-Life Books. 1978. 13.

Encarnacion with about 20,000 men⁷¹ to dislodge the Americans at Saltillo. His torturous advance, lasting three weeks, lost him many men through desertion, thirst, and even starvation.⁷² The expedition took him through dry, sandy deserts and over mountains, making it difficult to provide sustenance for the vast army. The need for both food and water necessitated a quick, decisive victory, or that failing, a hasty retreat.⁷³

Early on February 21 American scouts brought word of the advancing army, preceded by a large body of cavalry. Though Taylor had less than 5,000 men at his disposal, he chose to make a stand. In deploying his small command, Taylor and his officers carefully selected La Angostura. This was a narrow mountain pass in the Sierra Madre Mountains located between Saltillo and Le Encarnacion. The area was seven miles south of Saltillo near the hacienda of Buena Vista. The ranch, situated in a valley a couple of miles wide, had good possibilities for a strong defense because of the rough and broken nature of the terrain. About a mile south of the clay-roofed ranch buildings was a plateau, cut by two deep ravines. These small narrow steep-sided valleys lay between the mountain spurs that came down to the road on the east, while gullies were backed by a line of high hills to the west.

A very similar but more graphic description of the place chosen for the battle was given by an “accomplished gentleman” who was at Buena Vista. “The mountains rise on either side of an irregular and broken valley, about three miles in width, dotted over with hills and ridges, and scarred with broad and winding ravines. The main road lies along the course of an arroyo, the bed of which is now so deep as to form an almost impassable barrier, while the other side is bounded by precipitous elevations, stretching perpendicularly towards the mountains, and separated by broad gullies, until they mingle into one at the base of the principal range.”⁷⁴

On February 22, 1847: “The morning was bright and beautiful. Not a cloud floated athwart the firmament or dimmed the azure of the sky, and the flood of golden radiance which gilded the mountain tops and poured over the valleys, wrought light and shade into a thousand fantastic forms. A soft breeze swept down from the mountains, rolling into graceful undulations the banner of the republic, which was proudly streaming from the

⁷¹ The number of Santa Anna’s men differs according to the source. The figure of 20,000 men comes from Santa Anna’s own statement, which was later confirmed.

⁷² Santa Anna’s army reputedly were fed from a large cattle herd that was moved along with them.

⁷³ Hubert H. Bancroft, ed. “The Battle of Buena Vista,” *The Great Republic by the Master Historians*, vol. III, c. 1900. Web. 7 Nov 2010.

⁷⁴ *Washington Union*. Mar. 3, 1847. “Mexican-American War,” *NNR*, vol. 71, Sept 1846-Feb 1847. #72.084.

flag staff of the fort and from the towers and battlements of Saltillo. The omens were all in our favor.”⁷⁵

“By daylight on February 22, the entire force, save for a few pickets . . . had regrouped either in the Narrows or at Buena Vista. At the sound of the long roll just before sunrise, tents tumbled in twenty minutes and were stowed with other essential baggage in wagons that drew up in parallel lines on either side of the road . . . Forty rounds of ammunition were issued to each man, and a regimental band struck up “Hail, Columbia!” Because it was George Washington’s birthday, Wool set ‘Remember Washington!’ as the day’s password. The shout rolled down the ranks and the deployment began.



Capt. John M. Washington lined up his eight guns almost wheel to wheel in the ravine; supporting them were Colonel John J. Hardin’s eight companies of the **First Illinois**, who had spent the night in their trench or behind the promontory.”⁷⁶

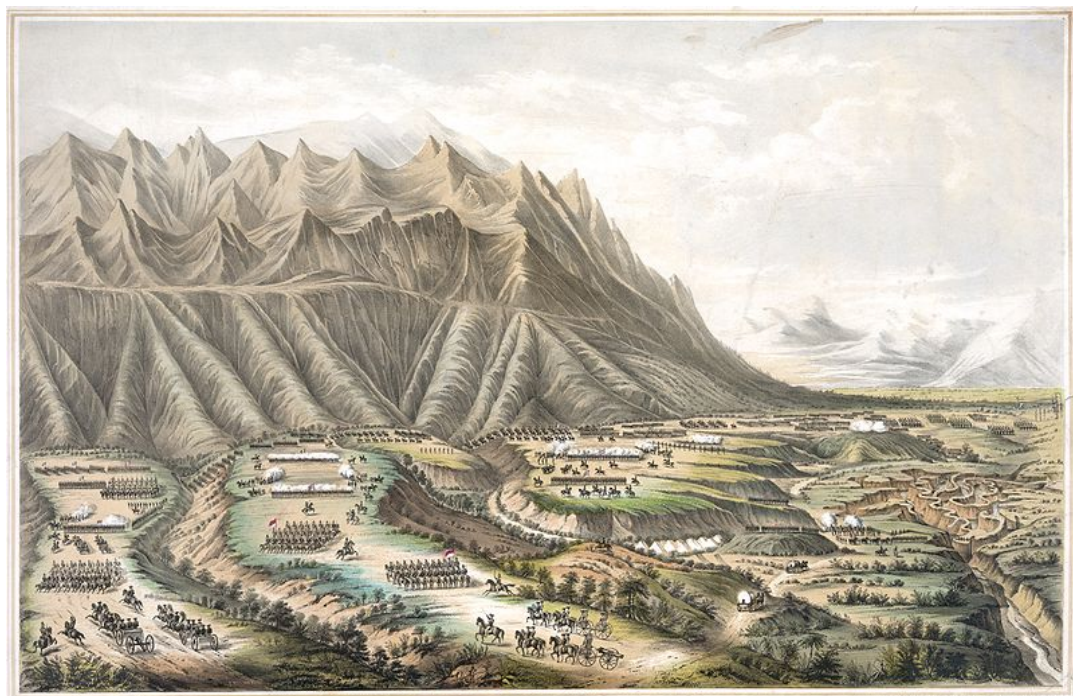
While the regimental bands played “Yankee Doodle” and “Hail Columbia,” Gen. Taylor, mounted on his horse, Old Whitey, reviewed his greatly outnumbered troops.⁷⁷ The Americans’ small army of artillery and men had been established in the most advantageous positions possible. “**The first Illinois regiment**, under Lieut. Col. Weatherford, was stationed in a small trench, extending to the natural ravine, while on the opposite height, the main body of the regiment under Col. Hardin was posted, with a single piece of artillery from Capt. Washington’s battery. The post of honor on the extreme was assigned to Bragg’s artillery, supported by the second regiment of Kentucky foot under Col. McKee, the left flank of which rested upon the arroyo.”⁷⁸

⁷⁵ *Washington Union*.

⁷⁶ Lavender, David Sievert. *Climax at Buena Vista: the Decisive Battle of the Mexican-American War*. University of Pennsylvania Press. 2003. 172-4.

⁷⁷ “Enoch Steen, Battle for Buena Vista, Mexico,” Note: Enoch Steen, of the First Dragoons, was severely wounded at Buena Vista.

⁷⁸ *NNR*. #72.083.



79

Official Report of Gen. Taylor gave a like arrangement: “Captain Washington’s battery (Fourth artillery) was posted to command the road, while **the First and Second Illinois regiments**, under Colonels Hardin and Bissell, each eight companies . . . and the Second Kentucky, under Col. McKee, occupied the crests of the ridges on the left and in the rear. The Arkansas and Kentucky regiments of cavalry, commanded by Colonels Yell and H. Marshall, occupied the extreme left near the base of the mountain, while the Indiana brigade, under Brigadier-General Lane (composed of the Second and Third regiments under Colonels Bowles and Lane) the Mississippi riflemen, under Colonel Davis, the squadrons of the First and Second dragoons, under Captain Steene and Lieutenant-Colonel May, and the light batteries of Captains Sherman and Bragg, Third artillery, were held in reserve.⁸⁰

“These dispositions had been made for some time, when the enemy was seen advancing in the distance, and the clouds of dust which rolled up before him gave satisfactory evidence that his numbers were not unworthy the trial of strength upon which we were about to enter. He arrived upon his position in immense masses, and with forces sufficiently numerous to have commenced the attack at once, had he been as confident of success as it subsequently appeared he was solicitous for our safety. The first evidence directly afforded us of the presence of Santa Anna was a white flag, which was dimly seen fluttering in the breeze. . .”

⁷⁹“Battle of Buena Vista,” looking southwest. From a sketch taken on the spot by Major Amon B. Eaton, aide de camp to Gen. Taylor. Feb 23, 1847.

⁸⁰Taylor, Major General Zachary. “Official Report of the Battle of Buena Vista.” Agua Nueva. March 6, 1847.

A long and formal missive from Santa Anna arrived proposing to Gen. Taylor terms of unconditional surrender and stating that defeat was inevitable: “. . . you are surrounded by twenty thousand men, and cannot in any human probability avoid suffering a rout and being cut to pieces with your troops . . .” The American general exploded in fury, then sent a polite message declining the offer and let him know that the terms of adjustment must be “arranged by gunpowder.”⁸¹ The bloodiest battle of the war was now ready to commence.

From the Official Report of General Taylor: “The enemy still forbore his attack, evidently waiting for the arrival of his rear columns, which could be distinctly seen by our look-outs as they approached the field. . . . A body of cavalry, some fifteen hundred strong, had been visible all day in rear of the town, having entered the valley through a narrow pass, east of the city.”⁸² Close to three o’clock in the afternoon, a shell from a Mexican howitzer signaled the start of combat. The Mexicans had gained some positions on the commanding heights, and Taylor’s infantry and artillery were well forward on the plateau. Some skirmishing among the light troops continued until dark as both sides tried to reach higher ground. The booming of artillery was met with the slow, steady fire of the American rifles, but little heavy fighting occurred. The major action was reserved for the following day.

At nightfall, Taylor’s soldiers “bivouacked without fires and laid upon their arms . . . shaken by the size and splendid appearance of the Mexican army, [they] got what sleep they could.” Sergeant Scribner described that night: “A heavy fire was kept up till dark, when all was silent, save the echoing of the enemy’s trumpets. I never shall forget the peculiar melody of those sounds as we lay upon our arms, hungry, and shivering with cold. It was a prelude to the awful din of next day.”⁸³

Battle of Buena Vista

[The following accounts of the battle on February 23 have been taken from various sources and are as sequential as possible. Some segments duplicate or overlap. Other actions were occurring at the same time, but the major emphasis here is on the events in which Leonidas Horney and the Illinois troops were involved.]

During the night the enemy had succeeded in gaining the top of the mountain, where the skirmishes of the preceding evening had taken place, forcing the Americans to abandon important defensive positions. At sunrise on February 23, the battle opened in earnest.

⁸¹ *NNR*, #72.084

⁸² Taylor. Official Report.

⁸³ Sergeant Benjamin Franklin Scribner. “The Battle of Buena Vista.” 59. Web. 7 Nov 2010.

Heavy volleys of musketry, the roaring of cannon, and shouts of officers announced the beginning of hostilities. The very nature of the terrain divided the forces so that there could be no general engagement. Instead, separate actions were occurring in different locales. Each regiment, often numbering less than 400, was up against several thousand of the enemy. In an attempt to force his way up the narrow valley, Santa Anna tried to overwhelm the smaller forces of the Americans by using dense columns of men. These columns were repelled as they met the determined infantry and the superior ordnance of the Americans.

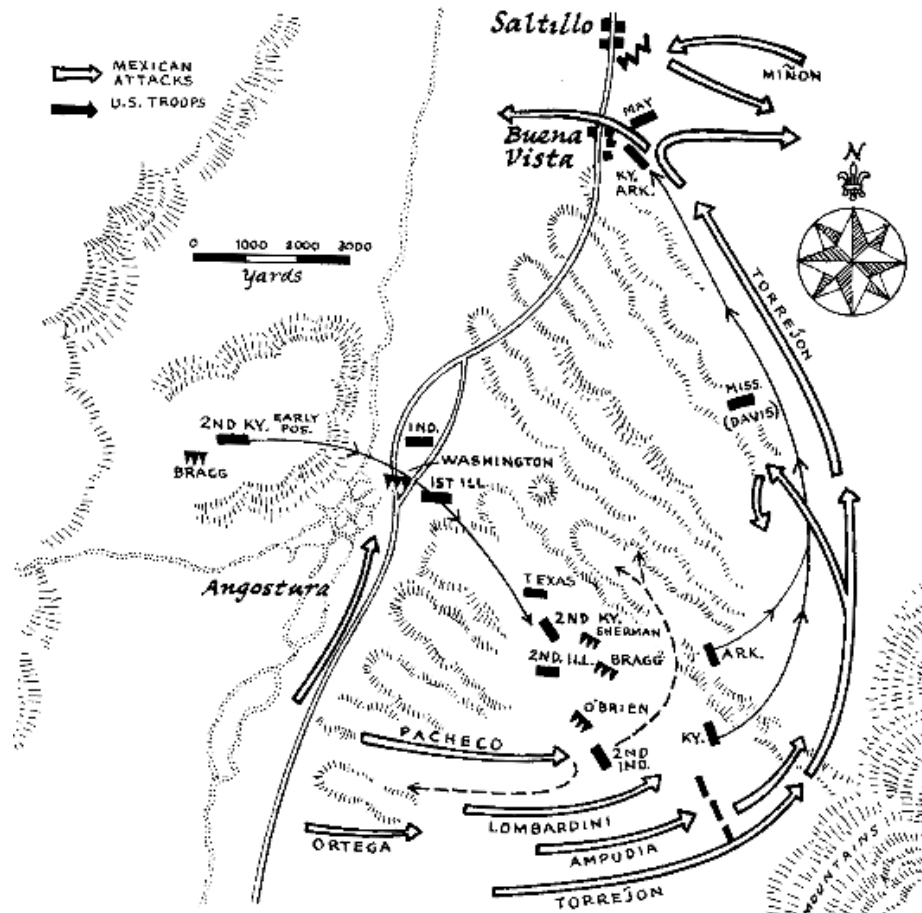
“. . . February 23, the battle opened in earnest at dawn. Santa Ana sent a division up the road toward La Angostura, at the head of the defile, but it was quickly broken up by American artillery and infantrymen, and no further action occurred in that sector. The strongest assault took place on the plateau, well to the east, where Santa Ana launched two divisions, backed by a strong battery at the head of the southernmost ravine.”⁸⁴

Official Report: “. . . The action of the 23rd commenced at an early hour. Our riflemen, under Colonel Marshall, who had been reinforced by three companies under Major Trail, Second Illinois volunteers, maintained their ground handsomely against a greatly superior force, holding themselves under cover, and using their weapons with deadly effect. About eight o’clock a strong demonstration was made against the centre of our position, a heavy column moving along the road. This force was soon dispersed by a few rapid and well-directed shots from Captain Washington’s battery.”

Official Report: “In the mean time the enemy was concentrating a large force of infantry and cavalry under cover of the ridges, with the obvious intention of forcing our left, which was posted on an extensive plateau.”⁸⁵

⁸⁴ *American Military History*. 171-2.

⁸⁵ Taylor. Official Report.



Battle of Buena Vista - February 23, 1847

“It became evident that the enemy was attempting to turn the flank, and for this purpose had concentrated a large body of cavalry and infantry on his right. The base of the mountain around which these troops were winding their way, seemed girdled with a belt of steel, as their glittering sabres and polished lances flashed back the beams of the morning sun. Sherman’s and Bragg’s batteries were immediately ordered to the left; Col. Bissell’s regiment occupied a position between them, while Col. McKee’s Kentuckians were transferred from the right of the line, so as to hold a position near the centre. The second Indiana regiment, under Col. Bowles, was placed on our extreme left, nearly perpendicular to the direction of our line, so as to oppose, by a direct fire, the flank movement of the enemy.”⁸⁶

Official Report: “The Second Indiana and Second Illinois regiments formed this part of our line, the former covering three pieces of light artillery, under the orders of Captain O’Brien – Brigadier-General Lane being in immediate command. In order to bring his men within effective range, General Lane ordered the artillery and Second Indiana

⁸⁶ NNR #70.084

regiment forward. The artillery advanced within musket-range of it with great effect, but without being able to check its advance.”⁸⁷

Sergeant Scribner, Indiana volunteer, described the opening scene of the battle. “The whole mountain side, as far as the eye could reach, glittered with the enemy’s bayonets and lances. It was about nine o’clock when our regiment and a battery of three pieces. . . marched out towards the enemy. We formed a line in front of three regiments of Mexico’s oldest soldiers. It was an awful moment to face the thousands of veterans in solid column, with their gaudy uniforms and showy banners.”⁸⁸

“These dispositions having been promptly effected, the artillery of both armies opened its fires, and simultaneously the Mexican infantry commenced a rapid and extended discharge upon our line, from the left, to McKee’s regiment. Our artillery belched forth its thunders with tremendous effect, while the Kentuckians returned the fire of the Mexican infantry with great steadiness and success; their field officers, McKee, Clay and Fry, passing along their line, animating, and encouraging firmness, and returned an ample equivalent. While this fierce conflict was going on, the main body of **Col. Hardin’s regiment**, moved to the right of the Kentuckians, and the representatives of each state, seemed to vie with each other in the honorable ambition of doing the best service for their country. Both regiments gallantly sustained their positions, and won unfading laurels. The veterans of Austerlitz⁸⁹ could not have exhibited more courage, coolness and devotion.”⁹⁰

The enemy had established a 12-pounder on a point at the base of the mountain, commanding any position that could be made by the Americans. To counter this, Capt. O’Brien, 4th Artillery, was sent with three pieces of Washington’s battery. “The ones farthest forward, part of an Indiana regiment supported by O’Brien’s three cannons, held off severe fire and shelling for half an hour; then their commander reportedly gave them an order to retreat. They broke and ran and were joined in their flight by adjoining regiments.”⁹¹ The enemy charged like an avalanche along the edge of the plateau. The attempts of Col. Bowles to stop the inglorious flight of his men was of no avail. The brave Capt. J. O’Brien, soon found he was abandoned by his supporting infantry screen, and with most of his cannoneers killed, met the advancing enemy with double charges of canister. “Amid the deafening uproar, the shrill voice of Wool was heard far in the distance, calling forward the troops of Illinois.” Finally O’Brien, too, was forced to

⁸⁷ Taylor. Official Report .

⁸⁸ Scribner.

⁸⁹ Austerlitz, a city in Moravia, was the site of a battle of the Napoleonic War in 1805. The French, Russian, and Austrian armies clashed here. It is known as the “Battle of the Three Emperors.”

⁹⁰ “Mexican-American War.” NNR #72.084

⁹¹ *American Military History*. 172.

withdraw. He had lost his pieces, but by his gallant stand, he had held off the massive assault long enough to save the day.⁹² This portion of the line having given way, the enemy appeared in great numbers, causing the light troops to fall back.

Official Report: “Captain O’Brien found it impossible to retain his position without support, but was only able to withdraw two of his pieces, all the horses and cannoneers of the third piece being killed or disabled. The Second Indiana regiment . . . could not be rallied, and took no further part in the action, except a handful of men, who, under its gallant colonel, Bowles, joined the Mississippi regiment, and did good service. . .”⁹³

“At about the same time the 2nd Illinois regiment, under Col. Bissell, having been completely outflanked, was compelled to fall back. Col. Marshall’s light troops, on the extreme left, came down from their mountainous position and joined the American main army. Masses of cavalry and infantry were now pouring through the defiles on the American left, in order to gain the rear north of the large plateau.”⁹⁴

Shortly after nine o’clock that morning, when the battle had become almost a rout, General Taylor arrived from Saltillo with his dragoons, Col. Jefferson Davis’ Mississippi Rifles, a squadron of mounted Arkansas riflemen, and some men of the Indiana regiment whom he had rallied on the way.

Official Report of General Taylor: “The enemy was now pouring masses of infantry and cavalry along the base of the mountain on our left and was gaining our rear in great force. At this moment I arrived upon the field.⁹⁵ The Mississippi regiment had been directed to the left before reaching the position, and immediately came into action against the Mexican infantry, which had turned our flank.”⁹⁶



The Mississippians made a proud sight; each man wore a red shirt, a slouch hat and white duck pants. By their sides they carried 18-inch bowie knives. Far more important were their Model 1841 U.S. rifles and their well-earned reputation as the finest marksmen in the world. They fell upon the Mexican

⁹² Bancroft.

⁹³ Taylor. Official Report.

⁹⁴ Bancroft.

⁹⁵ General Taylor had been seeing about the protection of his supplies that had been deposited at Saltillo.

⁹⁶ Taylor. Official Report.

cavalry that had been trying to outflank the Americans north of the plateau. The Mississippi riflemen opened fire with murderous accuracy and the attackers fell back in complete confusion. A countercharge sent the enemy soldiers reeling back to their own lines. The day was once more saved.⁹⁷

Then 1,500 Mexican lancers, the sun shining on their lowered lances, drew up for a charge and wheeled their horses toward the Mississippians. They came within 80 yards of their opponent and paused, possibly waiting for the fire of the shorter-range muskets. The guns of the Davis's riflemen were accurate up to 500 yards and the green, blue, and scarlet jackets of the lancers were irresistible targets. After a single, tremendous volley, the Mexicans turned their horses and fled the battlefield.⁹⁸

The Official Report continues, "The Second Kentucky regiment, and section of artillery under Captain Bragg, had previously been ordered from the right to reinforce our left, and arrived at a most opportune moment. That regiment, and a portion of the **First Illinois, under Colonel Hardin**, gallantly drove the enemy, and recovered a portion of the ground we had lost. The batteries of Captains Sherman and Bragg were in position on the plateau, and did much execution, not only in front, but particularly upon the masses which had gained our rear. Discovering that the enemy was heavily pressing upon the Mississippi regiment, the Third Indiana was dispatched to strengthen that part of our line. . . . The action was for a long time warmly sustained at that point – the enemy making several efforts both with infantry and cavalry against our line, and being always repulsed with heavy loss."⁹⁹

"On the extreme left, matters were little better. Finally, the overwhelming numbers of the Mexicans simply swept around the defenders and raced down the other side of the mountain to exploit the breach in the American lines. Many of the Arkansas troops remounted their horses and fled north, toward the imagined safety of Buena Vista. Meanwhile, the 2nd Illinois, seemingly immune to the panic that had infected their comrades, fought a stubborn slow retreat- a few companies fighting a division-and gradually became separated from the units struggling on the far left. Capt. Braxton Bragg's battery, together with Col. William McKee's 2nd Kentucky and **Col. John J. Hardin's 1st Illinois**, rushed to plug the widening gap. In pushing forward so quickly the enemy had exposed their flank to the guns of Bragg and Sherman. The Mexican ranks staggered under a galling enfilade, while the Illinois infantry continuously peppered their front with pointblank volleys of "buck and ball" round – three buckshot atop a .69 slug. The drive through the American lines slowed, then stalled."¹⁰⁰

⁹⁷ Steen.

⁹⁸ Steen.

⁹⁹ Taylor, Official Report.

¹⁰⁰ Steen.

Official Report: “The position of that portion of the Mexican army which had gained our rear was now very critical, and it seemed doubtful whether it could regain the main body. At this moment I received from General Santa Anna a message by a staff officer, desiring to know what I wanted. I immediately dispatched Brigadier-General Wool to the Mexican general-in-chief, and sent orders to cease firing. Upon reaching the Mexican lines, General Wool could not cause the enemy to cease their fire, and accordingly returned without having an interview. The extreme right of the enemy continued its retreat along the base of the mountain, and finally, in spite of all our efforts, effected a junction with the remainder of the army.”¹⁰¹ Santa Anna had seen the crisis developing by having his forces divided and, through craft and cunning, sought to avert it. The ruse to gain time accomplished its purpose.

After the second combat, which was in the morning between ten and eleven, a light drizzling rain had begun falling. Then a deafening thunderstorm of rain and hail broke early in the afternoon, but the Americans in the north field continued to force the Mexicans back.

“Just when victory for the Americans seemed in sight, Santa Anna threw an entire division of fresh troops, his reserves, against the plateau. Rising from the broad ravine where they had been hidden, the Mexicans of the left column fell upon three regiments—two **Illinois** and one Kentucky—and forced them back to the road with withering fire, while the right stormed the weak American center. They seemed about to turn the tide of battle when down from the north field galloped two batteries, followed by the Mississippians and Indianians led by Jefferson Davis, wounded, but still in the saddle. They fell upon the Mexicans’ right and rear and forced them back into the ravine. The Mexicans’ left, pursuing the Illinois and Kentucky regiments up the road, was cut to pieces by the grape and canister of the American battery at La Angostura.”¹⁰²

Official Report: “The firing had partially ceased upon the principal field. The enemy seemed to confine his efforts to the protection of his artillery, and I had left the plateau for a moment, when I was recalled thither by a very heavy musketry fire. On regaining that position, I discovered that our infantry (**Illinois** and Second Kentucky) had engaged a greatly superior force of the enemy – evidently his reserve – and that they had been overwhelmed by numbers. The moment was most critical. Captain O’Brien, with two pieces,¹⁰³ had sustained his heavy charge to the last and was finally obliged to leave his guns on the field – his infantry support being entirely routed.

¹⁰¹ Taylor, Official Report.

¹⁰² *American Military History, Army Historical Series*. 171-2.

¹⁰³ O’Brien, of the Fourth Artillery, had applied to Washington’s battery for the loan of two pieces after his had been lost earlier.



104

Captain Bragg, who had just arrived from the left, was ordered at once into battery. Without any infantry to support him, and at the imminent risk of losing his guns, this officer came rapidly into action, the Mexican line being but a few yards from the muzzle of his pieces. The first discharge of canister caused the enemy to hesitate; the second and third drove him back in disorder and saved the day. The Second Kentucky regiment, which had advanced beyond supporting distance in this affair, was driven back and closely pressed by the enemy's cavalry, exposed to his fire, which soon checked and drove them back with loss. In the mean time the rest of our artillery had taken position on the plateau, covered by the Mississippi and Third Indiana regiments, the former of which had reached the ground in time to pour a fire into the right flank of the enemy, and thus contribute to his repulse."¹⁰⁵

The following account of the same afternoon battle was published in the *New Orleans Tropic* on the 30th March. It was written by one who reportedly shared in the honors and perils of the fight. “. . . cavalry and infantry alike, wherever they appeared, poured so destructive a fire as to silence the enemy's artillery, and compelled his whole line to fall back . . . the Mexicans appeared thoroughly routed; and while their regiments and divisions were flying before us, nearly all our light troops were ordered forward, and followed them with a most deadly fire, mingled with shouts which rose above the roar of artillery. In this charge the **first Illinois** regiment and McKee's Kentuckians were foremost. The pursuit was too hot, and, as it evinced too clearly our deficiency in numbers, the Mexicans, with a suddenness which was almost magical, rallied and returned upon us. They came in myriads, and for a while the carnage was dreadful on

¹⁰⁴Picture, “A Little more grape, Capt. Bragg.” General Taylor at the Battle of Buena Vista on February 22, 1847. Lith. and pub. By N. Currier. c1847. Taylor instructed Bragg to “double the shot.” *Grape* consisted of a cluster of balls bound between wooden blocks or arranged in a metal canister. It would spray the area, similar to a shotgun blast.

¹⁰⁵ Taylor. Official Report.

both sides. We were but a handful to oppose the frightful masses which were hurled upon us, and could have as easily resisted an avalanche of thunderbolts. We were driven back, and the day seemed lost beyond redemption. Victory, which a moment before appeared within our grasp, was suddenly torn from our standard. There was just one hope, but that proved an anchor sure and steadfast.



“While our men were driven through the ravines, at the extremities of which a body of Mexican lancers were stationed to pounce upon them like tigers, . . . Washington’s battery gave them such a torrent of grape as to put them to flight, and thus saved the remnants of those brave regiments which had long borne the hottest portion of the fight. On the other flank, while the Mexicans came rushing on like legions of fiends, the artillery was left unsupported, and capture by the enemy seemed inevitable. . . . Bragg and Thomas rose with the crisis. . . Every horse with O’Brien’s battery was killed, and the enemy advanced to within range of grape, sweeping all before him. Here progress was arrested, and before the showers of iron hail that assailed him, squadrons and battalions fell like leaves in the blasts of autumn. The Mexicans were once more driven back with great loss, though taking with them the three pieces of artillery which were without horses.”¹⁰⁷

After the Mexican army had retreated in “the utmost disorder,” Sergeant Scribner told of them fleeing beyond firing range. A detail was sent to explore the ravine for the wounded. While descending into the ravine, a shocking scene presented itself. “The

¹⁰⁶ View of the moment witnessed by Capt. James H. Carleton “when O’Brien was so gallantly striving to hold the Mexicans in check during their last attack upon the great plateau.” It occurred while the Kentucky and Illinois infantry were meeting with disaster in the ravine. (Middle right) Gen. Taylor and staff (foreground). “Battle of Buena Vista.”

¹⁰⁷ NNR. #72.084.

barbarians were cruelly butchering our wounded, and stripping them of their clothes. But our unerring rifles soon stopped these atrocious murders.”¹⁰⁸



Samuel Chamberlain must have been fighting close to the Illinois and Kentucky regiments. In his colorful, illustrated memoirs of the Mexican War, he mentions the death of Lt. Col. Henry Clay, Jr., the son of Senator Henry Clay, who was killed while leading his Second Kentucky Regiment in a charge on the center of the Mexican lines.¹⁰⁹ Other captions of his illustrations tell of **Colonel Hardin’s Illinois Regiment** and the 2nd Kentucky regiments fighting side-

by-side. Also, at one point “General Wool assumed immediate field command and rallied the 2nd Illinois, who charged back into battle while the **First Illinois** surged forward, driving the enemy back and capturing the Hidalgo Battalion’s flag, at the cost of losing their commander, Col. John J. Hardin.”¹¹⁰

“Within an hour, a blinding torrent of rain swept the battlefield.”¹¹¹ The troops, dead with fatigue, halted. The day’s fighting was over. Just before sunset, a most beautiful rainbow appeared in the east.¹¹²

Official Report: “In this last conflict we had the misfortune to sustain a very heavy loss. **Colonel Hardin, First Illinois**, and Colonel McKee and Lieutenant-Colonel Clay, Second Kentucky regiment, fell at this time, while gallantly leading their commands.”¹¹³ “**Hardin** was killed while trying to seize the colors of the Hidalgo Battalion;¹¹⁴ his command was pushed back into a deep ravine, where Mexican infantry lined the rim and fired down into



¹⁰⁸ Scribner. “The Battle of Buena Vista.”

¹⁰⁹ Goetzmann, Dr. William H. Commentary on the sketches of the battle made by Samuel Chamberlain. “Picture Gallery.”

¹¹⁰ Chamberlain, Samuel. “My Confession.” Manuscript. West Point Museum, U. S. Military Academy.

¹¹¹ Steen.

¹¹² Footnote of poem, “Battle of Buena Vista.” *Missouri Republican*. March 1847.

¹¹³ Taylor, Official Report.

¹¹⁴ Col. Hardin, before being killed, captured a flag from the enemy, which, with his horse, he requested should be sent home as a last memento to his wife. *New Orleans Delta*, April 10, 1847. *NNR*. #71.352

the Americans. Colonel McKee was slain, along with many others. Lieutenant Colonel Henry Clay, Jr., whose famous father had bitterly opposed the Mexican War, died calling on his men to leave him and save themselves. As Taylor later understated it, ‘The moment was most critical.’ The gallant O’Brien slowly rode his wounded, limping horse to the rear. He himself had been shot through the leg while trying to withdraw his battery.”¹¹⁵ In a close escape, the hat of Capt. William Richardson of the 1st Regiment was carried from his head by a musket ball.¹¹⁶ The 1st and 2nd Illinois lost a total of 91 men and counted 85 wounded.

Official Report: “No farther attempt was made by the enemy to force our position, and the approach of night gave an opportunity to pay proper attention to the wounded, and also to refresh the soldiers, who had been exhausted by incessant watchfulness and combat. Though the night was severely cold, the troops were compelled for the most to bivouac without fires, expecting that morning would renew the conflict. During the night the wounded were removed to Saltillo, and every preparation made to receive the enemy, should he again attack our position.”¹¹⁷

“For ten hours the battle had raged with unmitigated fury, and yet, strange to say, each army occupied the ground that it had early in the morning. As night crept among the rocky gorges, the wearied soldiers sank down on their arms upon the field. Although the air was excessively cold, the Americans slept without fires, expecting a renewal of the attack early on the following morning. The night was one of horror. On every rock, and in every defile, piles of dead and wounded lay, the latter writhing in torture, their wounds stiff and clotted with the chill air, while their piercing cries for aid, and supplications for water, made the night hideous.”¹¹⁸

Chamberlain, in his memoirs, illustrated the battlefield the night after the battle. The following caption was added: “It was a cold night, with clouds scudding across the moon, which threw a weird light on the dismal scene. The ground strewn with ghastly corpses most of which had been stripped [sic] by our foes. A picket line of Mexican lancers, mounted on white horses was stationed not over two hundred yards in my front.”¹¹⁹

“For the Americans, the misty dawn of February 24 brought first amazement, then celebration. Upon seeing the Mexican army in retreat, Taylor and Wool embraced in the middle of the battlefield and wept like children. Captain Carleton said, “. . . a sound

¹¹⁵ Steen.

¹¹⁶ *History of Knox Co., Illinois*. Chas. C. Chapman and Co. 456.

¹¹⁷ Taylor, Official Report.

¹¹⁸ Bancroft.

¹¹⁹ Chamberlain.

went along our lines ever to be remembered. It was but a single cry at first, then a murmuring which rose and swelled upon the ear like the voice of a trumpet; then a prolonged and thrilling shout: ‘Victory! Victory! The enemy has fled! The field is ours!’¹²⁰

“The expected renewal of the assault by the Mexicans the next day was not made. Santa Anna found his men worn out with fatigue, burning with thirst, and starving for want of food. And they had suffered too severely in the battle to be in a condition to endure another conflict. Before daylight Santa Anna was in full retreat, leaving his dead unburied and his wounded to the mercy of their opponents. The well-won field was left to the victorious Americans. . . .¹²¹

Official Report: “. . . It was discovered that the enemy had abandoned his position during the night. Our scouts soon ascertained that he had fallen back upon Agua Nueva. The great disparity of numbers, and the exhaustion of our troops, rendered it inexpedient and hazardous to attempt pursuit.”¹²²

“The losses in this conflict on the American side were two hundred and sixty-seven killed, four hundred and fifty-six wounded, and twenty-three missing. Of the numerous wounded, many did not have serious enough injuries to require removal to the hospital. Santa Anna stated his loss at fifteen hundred, but it was in all likelihood considerably more.”¹²³ There was no way to ascertain the number of his deserters, though it was known to be very great.¹²⁴ Santa Anna reached Mexico City, however, with only one-third of the troops that were led out.

The Battle of Buena Vista ended any further threat from Mexico against the lower Rio Grande.

Company E of the First Regiment of Illinois Volunteers was in the thick of the fight in the historic battle of Buena Vista. “The 1st Illinoisians when they drove back the enemy to our left, took the standard of the “active battery of San Luis Potosi,” which was sent to

¹²⁰ Steen.

¹²¹ An interesting sidelight concerning Santa Anna: “On April 18, 1847, Illinois volunteers captured Santa Anna’s personal baggage that included \$60,000, fineries, and his spare wooden leg.”

¹²² Taylor. Official Report.

¹²³ Bancroft.

¹²⁴ Adams, James Trueslow. *The March of Democracy*, vol. II. NY: Charles Scribner & Sons, 1965.

the rear and saved.”¹²⁵ Forty-five men were able to go into battle; eight were killed in the engagement.¹²⁶ **Leonidas Horney** was wounded during the battle. However, being a flesh wound in the hip,¹²⁷ it did not disable him and he was not listed as being wounded. After this engagement he was promoted lieutenant, and at the close of the war commissioned captain.¹²⁸



A rare daguerreotype showing Maj. Lucien B. Webster’s battery in the mountains north of Buena Vista after the American victory.

Official Report: “Our loss has been especially severe in officers, twenty-eight having been killed upon the field. . . . I perform a grateful duty in bringing to the notice of the government the general good conduct of the troops. Exposed for successive nights, without fires, to the severity of the weather, they were very prompt and cheerful in the discharge of every duty; and finally displayed conspicuous steadiness and gallantry in repulsing, at great odds, a disciplined foe. . . . To Brigadier-General Wool my obligations are especially due. The high state of discipline and instruction of several of the volunteer regiments was attained under his command, and to his vigilance and arduous service before the action, and his gallantry and activity on the field, a large share of our success

¹²⁵ Unknown correspondent to the *Missouri Republican*, April 6, 1847.

¹²⁶ Dyson, ed. *Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois*. vol. II. Schuyler County, 1908; reprint ed., Astoria, Illinois: Stevens Publishing Co., 1970. 733.

¹²⁷ Dyson. “Samuel Madison Horney.” *Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois and History of Schuyler County*. 846.

¹²⁸ *Combined History of Schuyler and Brown Counties, Illinois*, 1882; reprinted., Astoria, Illinois: Stevens Publishing Co., 1970. 315. Note: Verification of Leonidas Horney’s promotions has not been found.

may justly be attributed. During most of the engagement he was in immediate command of the troops thrown back on our left flank. . . . The **First and Second Illinois**, and the Kentucky regiments, served immediately under my eye, and I bear a willing testimony to their excellent conduct throughout the day. The spirit and gallantry with which the **First Illinois** and Second Kentucky engaged the enemy in the morning, restored confidence to that part of the field, while the list of casualties will show how much these three regiments suffered in sustaining the heavy charge of the enemy in the afternoon. . . .¹²⁹

The New Orleans Delta, May 6, 1847, reported that the force stationed at Saltillo and at Buena Vista, under the command of Gen. Wool, was composed of the **1st and 2d Illinois regiments**, the 2d Kentucky regiment, the 2d and 3d Indianians, and the Arkansas cavalry. The **1st and 2d Illinois** were about to leave; the term of enlistment of the whole of them will have expired between the 1st and 20th.¹³⁰

Near the end of their enlistment, while the **First and Second Illinois Infantry** remained at Buena Vista, Brigadier-General Wool issued the following statement as a testimony to their service:

Headquarters, Buena Vista
May 25, 1847
Orders No. 302

The term of service for which the First and Second Illinois Regiments have engaged to serve the United States has nearly expired, and they are about to return to their homes. The General Commanding takes this occasion to express his deep regret at the departure of those who have been so long under his immediate command, and who have served so well their country.

Few can boast of longer marches, greater hardships, or more privations, and none of greater gallantry than on the field of Buena Vista. It was there that the General witnesses with infinite satisfaction their valor, which gave additional luster to our arms, and increased glory to our country. To their steadiness and firmness in critical moment, and when there were five to one against them, and as General Santa Anna said, "where blood flowed in torrents and their field of battle was strewn with their dead," we may justly ascribe a large share of the glorious victory achieved over 20,000 men. A great victory is true; but obtained at too great a sacrifice. Hardin, Zabriska, McKee, Woodwind, Yell, Clay, and many others, fell leading their men to the charge. Their names and gallant deeds will ever be remembered by a grateful people. In taking leave of these regiments, the general cannot omit to express his admiration of the conduct and gallant bearing of all, and especially of Cols. Bissell and Weatherford and their officers, who have on all occasions done honor to themselves; and heroically sustained the cause of their country in the battle of Buena Vista. His best wishes will attend them to their homes, where they will be received with joy and gladness as the pride of their families and of their States.

By Command of Brigadier-General Wool
IRWIN M'Dowell, Assistant Adjutant General.¹³¹ (ADJXXVIID)

¹²⁹ Taylor. Official Report.

¹³⁰ NNR. #72.165.

¹³¹ Adjutant General's Report, State of Illinois. Qtd in "Illinois in the Mexican War." Northwestern University, 1939. Illinois National Guard Bureau.

Homeward Bound

The First and Second Illinois were mustered out of service on June 17, 1847, at Camargo, Mexico. After being mustered out at Camargo, Mexico, one wonders, “What then? How did Leonidas Horney get back to Illinois?” Circumstances, most likely encountered by Leonidas, are represented by studying comparable excerpts from the journal of Frank S. Edwards, a Missouri volunteer serving under Col. Doniphan.

“About noon we encamped at Walnut Springs¹³². We saw nothing of Old Rough and Ready for some hours afterwards, although we were near to the General’s tent. In the afternoon, a rather common-looking man, dressed in a check shirt, fancy trowsers of common stuff, brown holland coat, and large straw hat, was observed examining our Mexican pieces of cannon very attentively; and it was soon whispered around, ‘that’s him!’ His whole appearance was such a contrast to Wool, for the latter came to our camp in full uniform, and in review style, that this unceremoniousness took us pleasantly by surprise.

“We left Walnut Springs about noon on the twenty-seventh of May, and continued our route to Camargo, where we were to take boat for the mouth of the Rio Grande. . . . General Taylor had ridden out with us two or three miles, and then, bidding us farewell in the kindest manner, returned to his camp. . . . We reached Camargo on the thirty-first, but found that the Rio Grande. . . was too low to allow steamboats to come up this far. . . . Camargo has now become a place of some importance, for, although there are but few substantial dwellings, yet there are quite a large number of canvas houses used for the protection of provisions and other stores landed from the steamboats, and sent hence in wagons to the army.

“An attempt was also made by two of our officers, to induce some of us to re-enlist during the war, but this object could not be accomplished; we were for going home to Sarah and the children! – and for our pay, as even up to this point we had received none.

“We marched but nine miles during the first morning we left Camargo. . . . News had been brought to us that five steamboats were lying at Reinosá; and several regiments, which had been discharged by Taylor, being also on the march for that place, we were obliged to push on as fast as possible, in order that we might get the first chance. This we did, and we managed to get ahead of all but one regiment, which was only a few hours’ march before us; so it was resolved to push on all this night, in order to reach Reinosá by sunrise. At midnight, as we

¹³² Camp of General Taylor at this time.

were moving as rapidly as possible, we came upon the above regiment encamped; and they, perceiving our object, at once struck tents, and came after us; but we had got too much the start of them, and they did not arrive at Reinosá until after our officers had secured the only two available boats; three others being hard aground on the bar below the town, and the water falling fast.

“The first sight of the steamboat pipes on the Rio Grande was hailed by us with three cheers, for they were the first we had seen since we left Missouri, and we now felt sure we were getting towards home. . . . Our voyage lasted four days, stopping every evening at sundown, when we would land to cook and sleep. . . . we were almost all the time struggling over sand-bars, and the river was so crooked that there was hardly room for the boat to turn properly. The scarcity of wood along [the Rio Grande] banks will always be a drawback to its navigation.

“We passed Matamoros on one side and Fort Brown on the other, but were not permitted to land. The next evening we encamped at the mouth of the river. . . . We lay encamped here until noon of the ninth of June, when we moved to Brazos Santiago. It is simply an island formed by a shallow arm of the sea. . . . On the northeast, across the strip of water, is Point Isabel.

“Our embarkation for New Orleans was in two vessels, one of them a small bark, wherein myself and some three hundred and fifty companions were packed. Her hold, containing one hundred double berths, was in such a filthy condition that we preferred the deck as a sleeping-place, and it was a struggle with us who should get his blanket first on deck. . . . we ran short of water. . .

“Oh! The relief felt after almost four thousand miles of rough travel, as we reached New Orleans, and placed our feet once more upon American soil! We were still in our tattered clothes, with unshorn beards and without a cent in our pockets; but “Sarah and the children” were now not far off!”¹³³



¹³³ Edwards, Frank. “A Campaign with Col. Doniphan.”



Years of Fulfillment

- Home Again
- Working as Surveyor
- Land Purchases
- Family Happenings



*Mid pleasures and palaces
Though we may roam,
Be it ever so humble,
There's no place like home.*

-John Howard Payne (1791-1852)

Home At Last

Weary and worn, the Schuyler boys returned home to family and friends. Embarking at Alton, Illinois, the 2nd Illinois Infantry was greeted with parties and celebrations. Public speeches, parades, brass bands, barbecues and salutes welcomed them.¹³⁴ While there is no record of a similar fanfare for the returning heroes of the 1st Illinois, their arrival must have been greeted with just as much honor and festivities.

Leonidas Horney was particularly anxious to get back to Schuyler County, Illinois, after a year's absence. A week before the battle of Buena Vista, on the 16th of February, his third child, Leonidas Hardin Horney,¹³⁵ had been born and now was a lusty five-month old. Celeste and Madison, five and three years old, would have grown after his absence of a year. They may have been a bit shy, hiding behind their mother's skirts, as their father was welcomed home. Relatives and friends would have dropped by to hear the tales and escapades of the returning soldier. How thrilled Jane must have been to have her husband safely home again! She surely gave a huge sigh of relief when she relinquished her task of supervising the farm duties.

Leonidas eagerly took the reins in his hands and resumed farming. So much to do, so many things to accomplish! All the plans he had dreamed of making during the tedious days of marching and the lonesome nights away from home now could be carried out. As a diversified farmer Leonidas raised a variety of crops; he must now decide which crops were ready to be harvested, how many acres of fall wheat should be planted, and which new field should be opened up, and more. Was the price right for selling the hogs? The orchard with many apple and other fruit trees, planted south of the building site, would likely need pruning.¹³⁶ To improve his herd of cattle, he would like to purchase a Durham bull soon.¹³⁷ These beef cattle were improved shorthorns, the first of English breeds brought to the western farms. Slowly, day by day, year by year, improvements were made.

Surveying and Acquisition of Land

Unlike his father who had little interest in accumulating land, Leonidas continually increased his ownership of property. Land was cheap – at the most, \$1.25 per acre. The Congressional Session of 1848 issued 160 acres of public domain land to veterans of the

¹³⁴ McCartney, Samuel Bigger. *Illinois in the Mexican War*. Northwestern University, 1939. 74.

¹³⁵ Though Jane's grandmother was Malinda Hardin Crawford, the baby was most likely named for John J. Hardin. Jane and John J. Hardin would have been distant cousins.

¹³⁶ 1872 Littleton Plat Map.

¹³⁷ Leonidas Horney. Letter. 4 Aug 1862.

Mexican-American War;¹³⁸ this made a substantial addition to his other farms. There were the 160 acres where he and Jane had moved shortly after their marriage.¹³⁹ This farm was located in Section 20 in the “Prairie Township” of Littleton. A short distance away was the 40-acre tract in Brooklyn Township, purchased when he was eighteen. By the time the 1850 census of Schuyler County was taken, Leonidas (now 33 years old) had \$5,000 worth of property.¹⁴⁰ Through the next decade, he augmented his holdings until, at the time of his death, he owned 1,600 acres.¹⁴¹ These farms were scattered throughout the townships of Brooklyn, Littleton, Camden, Buenavista, and Rushville, as well as over by the river in Hickory. Some acreages had been purchased outright and others acquired by warrant. [See Addenda for Public Domain Land Tract Sales] For 1848, state and county taxes of \$1.46 were paid on 120 acres; in 1852, taxes of \$18.97 were paid on 720 acres and, in 1854, taxes of \$6.06 were paid on 400 acres. A biography of his son, Matt Horney, gives the following information: “. . . in the course of time he [Leonidas] became the owner of 1,300 acres of land in different parts of Schuyler County. Five hundred acres of this property were in Littleton Township, mostly covered with timber, some of it being swamp land along the river.”¹⁴²

When the Quincy land office opened in February of 1831, it soon became a busy place with many prospective land owners recording their purchases. Squatters had been invading the rights of the settlers so the government set up guidelines for pre-emption,¹⁴³ preference being given to the claims of existing settlers of the Military Tract.¹⁴⁴ This favorable legislation, along with the availability of a federal land office close by in Quincy, created an up-swing in public land transactions in northwestern Illinois. Speculation in land became brisk after the end of the Black Hawk War when the threat of Indian attacks had come to an end. A newspaper, the *Illinois Bounty Land Register*, began in 1835 to advertise lands that had been granted to veterans but now were for sale. With the land boom, surveyors were certainly kept busy.

In 1835 the very first purchase of forty acres in Brooklyn Township by Leonidas may have been possible through the knowledge and guidance of his father. Because of Samuel’s work as a surveyor, he was in a position to know the availability of the most desirable acreages and could identify the property that would be the best investment. How was Leonidas financially able to make his first purchase? One possibility, along

¹³⁸ McCartney. 82. Three months pay was also given to returning soldiers for their financial needs.

¹³⁹ Obituary of Jane Horney. *Rushville Times*. Feb 1907.

¹⁴⁰ Oregon Township (forerunner of Littleton Township) of Schuyler County, 1850 Illinois Census.

¹⁴¹ Letter, Ward Horney.

¹⁴² Dyson. 846.

¹⁴³ A process through which a settler could stake a claim to a piece of land for up to four years without paying for it as long as he cultivated it, built on it, or otherwise improved it.

¹⁴⁴ Rugh, Susan Sessions. *Our Common Country: family farming, culture, and community in the nineteenth century*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press. 2001. 7.

with the reasonable cost per acre, is that he may have earned funds by helping either his father and/or Jonathan Manlove as they measured and recorded locations of various plots of land.

Along the frontier as new territories were settled and developed, there was always a pressing demand for able men to survey and identify the divisions of land while keeping accurate field notes. In the formative years of Schuyler County, the skills and education of both Samuel Horney and his cousin, Jonathan Manlove, were immediately put to use. Samuel had been described as “a skillful surveyor” when he was recruited to draw up the plans to lay out the town of Rushville.¹⁴⁵ Along with land surveys, a demarcation of roads was needed to connect the scattered communities in the developing county. Jonathan, the first county surveyor, told of surveying with a compass and marking some of the first roads, often using buffalo bones as stakes. Many of the original records identified location by naming large, prominent trees such as butternut, white oaks, or hickory. “Thanks” was often the only pay for these very early endeavors.¹⁴⁶ Surviving today is the hand-written manual on surveying with the flyleaf inscribed “Samuel Horney’s book 1839.”¹⁴⁷



It was necessary to employ men to carry chains and stakes for surveyors; they were paid 43 cents to one dollar per day¹⁴⁸ to help carry the heavy wrought iron chains (100 lengths, totaling 66 feet). Helpers were recruited for other hard, physical tasks as the way must be cleared through primordial woods, soggy swamps, or pesky fly-infected prairies. It can be assumed that Leonidas, as he developed into a strapping young man, became an “official” helper, or chain bearer, assisting both his father and/or Jonathan in their work. In the process, he became a proficient surveyor, getting actual one-on-one instruction in the field, as well as having the use of his father’s guidebook. Becoming well-trained in the essential skills of surveying, he followed this profession throughout his life, in addition to engaging in his agricultural pursuits.

The Schuyler County history lists Leonidas as being the county surveyor from 1846 to 1861.¹⁴⁹ After his return from the Mexican War he surveyed and plotted the village of Browning in 1848 and the village of Littleton in 1849. Two years prior to this, James Little had built the first house and the first store on the future site of Littleton and was later appointed the first postmaster. He and his son-in-law, Dr. William H. Window, were the promoters for the development of the village, located two miles east of the Horney

¹⁴⁵ *Combined History of Schuyler and Brown Counties*. 1882. 79.

¹⁴⁶ Dyson, Howard F. “J. D. Manlove Recalls the Early Days.” 1918.

¹⁴⁷ The book was later handed down to Samuel’s grandson as indicated by an additional inscription on the flyleaf which reads “Wm. J. Horney’s book 1877.” The book is in the possession of David Johnson, 2011.

¹⁴⁸ *History of Schuyler and Brown Counties*. 80.

¹⁴⁹ Dyson. 678.

homestead. Another village, Bluff City, laid out by Abraham Louderback in 1850, was surveyed and platted by Leonidas in November 1860.¹⁵⁰ The results of the work of Leonidas still exist today.

In 1853 Leonidas was hired to re-survey the Frederick to Rushville Plank Road. This road originally had been a trail used by the Indians for their annual migration. Later a road was surveyed and built to carry goods - corn, wheat, pork, broomcorn, staves, and more - to the Illinois River for shipment down river to St. Louis. Frequently impassable for months at a time, horses would become mired in the mud during rainy seasons. The thoroughfare eventually was improved to become nine miles of gravel, twelve feet wide. Not quite wide enough whenever two wagons met, the one with the lighter load had to yield by going off onto the shoulder. When the plank road was built, white oak from a nearby farm was used. Mile posts and toll gate locations were established. There was a tollbooth at every mile with the west toll house being a mile east of the Rushville square. A charge was assessed for every vehicle that used the road, except for funeral processions, families going to the grain mill, or those heading to church services. When the road was new, the toll paid the expenses to keep it up, but as it became older and more work was needed, it became a financial failure and was disbanded in 1867. The planks, when the road was dismantled, were sold to local farmers.¹⁵¹

After re-election as county surveyor in 1854, Leonidas was given an official document by Governor Matteson of the State of Illinois, which authorized and empowered him to execute and fulfill the duties of that office according to law. Leonidas was required to sign an affidavit of his non-involvement with any duel. This was necessitated by a provision in the State Constitution of 1848 which “disqualified any person engaged in a dueling affair, either as a principal or second, from holding any office of honor or profit in the state.”¹⁵²



*State of Illinois
Schuyler County*

I, Leonidas Horney, do solemnly swear that I will faithfully and impartially perform and discharge the duties of the office of County Surveyor in and for said county, to the best of my skill and abilities and that I will support the constitution of the state and of the United States and do solemnly swear that I

¹⁵⁰ Dyson. 697-704.

¹⁵¹ “Harvesting the River.” Illinois State Museum. Web. 27 January 2011.

¹⁵² Bateman, Selby, and Partridge. *Historical Encyc. of Illinois*. Chicago: Munsell Pub. Co., 1903. 140.

have not fought a duel, nor sent or accepted a challenge to fight a duel, the probable issue of which might have been the death of either party, nor been a second to either party, nor in any manner aided or assisted in such duel, nor been knowingly the bearer of such challenge or acceptance, since the adoption of the Constitution; and that I will not be so engaged or concerned directly, or indirectly, in or about any such duel during my continuance in office, So help me God.

Leonidas Horney

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of March 1854.

Hosea Davis, J. P.

A justice of the peace in and for the afore said county¹⁵³

Swamp lands along the Illinois River and its tributaries, originally under control of the state, were turned over to the county; this increased Schuyler County's ownership of land by 4,344 acres. The property could then be sold with the funds to be deposited in the county coffers. In 1855 the first public sale of swamp land (or overflow lands) sold as low as ten cents per acre, in the belief that they were unfit for cultivation. On March 12, 1856, Leonidas Horney was appointed Drainage Commissioner; he advocated the drainage of several tracts, claiming their value would increase 500 per cent. Under his direction, a survey was made of such lands owned by the county.¹⁵⁴ The September 12, 1859, issue of the *Schuyler Citizen* reported on the first Regular Session of the Supervisors' Court; Leonidas Horney, Swamp Land Commissioner, presented his report on the subject of drainage. At the same meeting, the Court ordered the county treasury to issue \$9.00 to Leonidas Horney for the survey of the Rushville and Lagrange road.

Family Affairs

The family of Jane and Leonidas continued to grow in number; William Jeffery arrived on March 14, 1849, and Mary Jane was born on January 30, 1851, making a total of five children. However, heartbreak came when more little graves were added beside that of baby Malinda's in the Thompson Cemetery. A son, James Monroe, born on January 16, 1853, did not live out the year and died on September 11. On December 31 of the next year (1854), Charles Murray arrived. Though living longer than James, he did not survive long enough to celebrate his second birthday, passing away on September 1, 1856.

Still mourning the loss of their last little son, the Horney family was visited again by calamity when Jane's father was killed from injuries received in a tornado. About 5 p.m. on October 25, 1856, a very black cloud was seen in the southwest direction from Littleton. A destructive twister tore up forest trees and scattered fences before descending

¹⁵³ Official document from the state of Illinois with hand-written letter of Leonidas Horney attached.

¹⁵⁴ Dyson. 653-4.

upon the village of Littleton. The town was built upon the east and west side of the road leading from Rushville to Macomb. On the east side were two churches, a tavern stand, several shops, barns and private residences. In a matter of seconds all except the tavern were a mass of ruins. Roofs, timbers, furniture, men, women, and children were picked up indiscriminately by the tornado and, in an intermingled mass, cast them where it pleased. One father stood in his dwelling and then he was thrown many feet outside.



Two children were lying near by his side where they had been tossed by the storm, his babe was a short distance from him, beneath a stove; his wife and her mother still further from him covered with timbers and rubbish, badly bruised, and wounded. A wagon and a pair of horses had been hitched in front of his house; they were thrown over, or through, the fence, the horses having ended up on a feather bed and were kicking it to pieces.

On the west side of the street, the havoc was nearly as great. Two dwelling houses and a store were not destroyed, but were much damaged; the rest were in ruins. Two posts were driven through the frame of one house. The store room and home of T. Crawford [Jane's brother] were completely demolished. His father, an old and well-known citizen of the county, Mr. William Crawford, was severely injured. His physicians supposed that his bowels had been ruptured. Goods of the store were mostly saved, but in a damaged condition, except the queens¹⁵⁵ and glassware and such other breakable stock which, of course, were ground to atoms.

Dr. Davis's office, dwelling and barn, were entirely destroyed, together with his medicines, furniture, and clothing. The Methodist Episcopal and the Baptist church were laid level with the prairie and the dwellings of their ministers met the same fate.

Early in the evening, a messenger reached Rushville requesting medical aid. A corps of physicians hastened to the spot. Those badly injured had been placed in the few remaining houses, and all possible assistance was rendered them.¹⁵⁶

William H. Crawford, aged 53 years, lingered until the 4th day of November, when he made his last will and testament and, shortly after, passed on. He left his wife, Malinda Thompson Crawford, and seven children of whom Jane Horney was the eldest. Again, family members trekked to the Thompson cemetery in sorrow.

Two more daughters were born and made the family of Leonidas and Jane complete with seven living children. These two little girls undoubtedly were doubly precious after the previous loss of the other three babes. Emilia Ann was born on July 16, 1857, and Adelia was born on August 27, 1860.

¹⁵⁵ Earthenware

¹⁵⁶ "Terrible Tornado, Littleton in Ruins." *Rushville Times*. 31 Oct 1856.



Politics

- Schuyler County Democrats
- Lincoln and the Republican Party
- Spiraling Down Hill to War



*“If a kingdom is divided against itself,
that kingdom cannot stand.
If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot
stand.”*

Mark 3:24-5 NIV

1856: An Eventful Year

The year of 1856 saw many activities in the county. The agricultural society planned the second County Fair for the middle of October. Its members would be able to enter competition in numerous classes that included - among others - oxen, horses and mules, horse shoeing, buckskin mittens, and dressed deer skins. Ladies were represented with classes for fresh butter, millinery, preserves, quilts, and other domestic items. Held in an enclosed wooded lot of three acres, tickets would be sold for 25 cents.¹⁵⁷

In June a notice was placed in the newspaper warning merchants to get their summer supplies up the river as rapidly as possible. The Illinois River was “quite low” – only about four feet over the bars.”¹⁵⁸



An entry in the *Rushville Times*¹⁵⁹ told about J. M. Egbert and Co., located in Littleton, having “set out a fine Osage Orange nursery.” Their plants would be ready the next spring, but they were now prepared to contract for setting hedges.

This notice was published in the August 1 issue of the *Rushville Times*:
“Saturday-A-Week. A tall pole will be raised by the Union anti-Abolition, anti-Sectionalism, and anti-ism generally boys in this town, next Saturday-a-week. Look out, for it will be a good pole and it will carry a big and a true flag.”

The local newspaper, *The Rushville Times*, replaced the independently owned *Prairie Telegraph* in the spring of 1856. Leonidas, newly appointed as Drainage Commissioner, increased his activity in county politics in yet another direction and became a stockholder in this weekly paper. Ten of the eleven stockholders were listed as prominent Democrats. It was their desire that Schuyler County should have a paper that would support the policies of Senator Douglas and the Democrat party. The first issue in May contained the Democratic state ticket with William A. Richardson¹⁶⁰ listed as candidate for governor. Richardson, popular in the county, had once been a resident of Rushville and had been a captain of the 1st Illinois Regiment in the Mexican War. The amazing telegraph (by now taken for granted) brought additional news to be printed, and kept citizens informed of up-to-date political happenings throughout the nation.

¹⁵⁷ *Rushville Times*. 26 Sept 1856.

¹⁵⁸ *Rushville Times*. 20 June 1856.

¹⁵⁹ 15 Aug 1856.

¹⁶⁰ Dyson. 719.

Politics Heat Up

Schuyler County, from the time of its inception had overwhelmingly supported the principles of the Democratic Party. However, as slavery became a national issue, an increasing number of citizens of the county became supporters of the newly formed Republican Party. Though few in number, the new party needed a newspaper in which *its* viewpoints would be publicized. Printing its first issue in 1856 with G. W. Scripps as editor, the *Schuyler Citizen* soon fulfilled that purpose.¹⁶¹ Schuyler County now had two competing newspapers, each presenting differing views on the controversial topic of slavery.

In the same year, the Republican party formed a national organization and presented a ticket at whose head was John C. Fremont. The old Whig party had split and virtually self-destructed over the question of the extension of slavery, leaving the field wide open for the Democrats. On November 4, 1856,¹⁶² the Democrat James Buchanan was elected the fifteenth president of the United States. He defeated both Fremont of the fledgling Republican party and the former president Millard Fillmore, who represented a coalition of “Know-Nothings” and Whigs. In Illinois, Abraham Lincoln came to the realization that he differed with the policies of the waning party of the Whigs and leaned more to those of the Republican Party. In 1856 “the Rail Splitter” became a Republican and rose in its ranks as a moderate opponent of slavery, gaining the support of both the abolitionists and the conservative “Free-staters.”

Illinois had become a free state in 1848 when the policy of freedom for men of all classes had become a part of the Illinois State Constitution.¹⁶³ The Missouri Compromise of 1850 had kept the nation intact but proved to be only a temporary solution. Now settlers were moving into the new territories of Kansas and Nebraska, causing a growing uneasiness about any further expansion of slavery, most citizens believing that it must be confined to areas where it already existed. In Congress and across the United States there were heated arguments on this controversial subject. The inflammatory debates continued to build and, when in 1856 it appeared that slavery might be introduced in Kansas territory, hostility boiled over, resulting in the burning of Lawrence, Kansas. Further turmoil and violence resulted in “Bloody Kansas,” fed by the continual skirmishes of the

¹⁶¹ *Combined History of Schuyler and Brown Counties, Illinois*. 1882. 155.

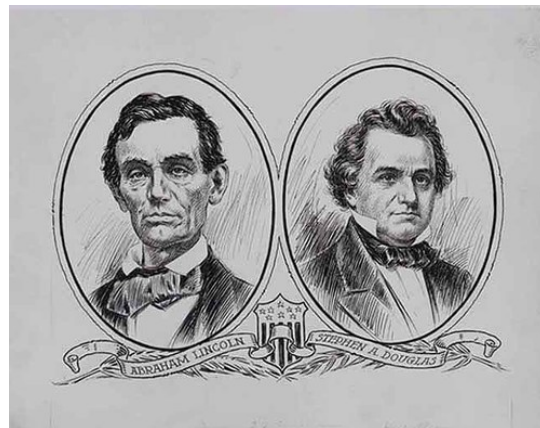
¹⁶² This was also the day William C. Crawford died. It is highly unlikely that Leonidas went to the polls to cast his vote.

¹⁶³ Dyson. 735.

Border War between Kansas and Missouri. The citizens of Illinois kept a close eye on the reports of bitter strife coming from their neighboring state of Missouri. In Schuyler County as well as nationally, public sentiment rapidly began to firmly take sides, either pro-slavery or for abolition. Many heated discussions took place wherever the men of Rushville would gather - around the old pot-bellied stoves, on the streets of town, or at any social gathering.

On July 21, 1858, the *Schuyler Citizen* reported that the Democratic Mass Meeting had listed the appointed delegates to the Congressional Convention in Mt. Sterling, whose purpose being to choose a candidate for Congress and a candidate for the State Senate. L. Horney was chosen for the senatorial delegation. The delegates were instructed to cast their vote for “no man not known to be favorable to Douglas.”

This off-year election pitted Abraham Lincoln against Stephen A. Douglas for United States Senate. The two contenders stumped across the prairie state of Illinois with Lincoln giving 63 speeches and Douglas 130, in addition to the seven famous debates.



Lincoln, beginning a swing through several small villages, opened his senatorial campaign at Beardstown on August 12th. Several hundred people from Schuyler County arrived to hear what he had to say. They crossed the ferry with waving flags and flowing banners. Lively music resounded from the Rushville band as the speaker was escorted to the stand.¹⁶⁴ Douglas had spoken at Beardstown the day before but had left to go northward with plans to meet with Lincoln for the first debate at Ottawa on August 21. The series of seven debates between the two contenders drew attention throughout the United States, and Abe Lincoln’s fame as an orator increased.

¹⁶⁴ Dyson, Howard F. Pub. No. 8. “Illinois State Historical Library.” Board of Trustees of the Illinois State Historical Library. 1903. 228-29.

Though the county was predominantly Democratic, Rushville gave Abraham Lincoln an enthusiastic reception on October 20. Early in the day wagons, horsemen, and people on foot began pouring into town. A procession was formed with the Rushville band at its head. They marched to the “hospitable mansion” of a local businessman, Wm. H. Ray, where Mr. Lincoln was being entertained by old friends and admirers. At the insistence of the crowd for a speech, of “he stepped down from the veranda and mounted a high flower pedestal, which stood in the yard, and from this lofty position, addressed the crowd in his nasal voice. ‘Boys, this is a shaky platform,’ he said, ‘but the Republican party has a strong foundation.’”¹⁶⁵.

A large crowd had gathered in the public square to hear Abraham Lincoln speak. One newspaper reported that the procession of attendees entering the square measured approximately "one mile and a half long--double the length of any other procession ever seen in Rushville. Lincoln spoke in the raw, cold air at 2:00 in the afternoon from a speakers’ stand erected on the north side of the old court house. In the opening of his speech he demonstrated that his opinions coincided with those of Henry Clay: “that in the States where it already exists, slavery should not be interfered with, but, in the new territories, where slavery does not exist, it should not be introduced as an element.” Besides stating his views on slavery, he defended his "House Divided" speech against the criticism of Douglas.

The candidate spoke to an audience of between 2,000 and 3,000,¹⁶⁶ among who were a large number of ladies. The people of Schuyler County, having avidly followed the hotly disputed issue of the abolition of slavery, were beginning to develop strong partisan opinions, and feelings began to become acrimonious. A couple of flagrant "disturbances" slightly marred Lincoln's speech. Some suspected that the Democratic Party was behind the appearance of a black flag which was found fluttering from the top of the Court house steeple! A newspaper reported that the incident is "a public insult offered to the Republicans of Schuyler County." During his speech, some "foolish boys" on the Courthouse roof as well as "several females" in the crowd heckled Abe Lincoln to the point that he was compelled to stop in the midst of his speech and request them to be still. In spite of the problems, however, the reporter added that the day passed off very pleasantly and successfully.¹⁶⁷

Keeping abreast of any political development, Leonidas and his family most likely were in attendance on the day of Lincoln’s speech, even though Leonidas was a firm supporter of Douglas. Assuredly Leonidas was in attendance when Douglas made his appearance in Rushville during the last week of the campaign. A frequent visitor to Schuyler County, Stephen A. Douglas was “known personally to every man of prominence in the county.” The Democrats were motivated to exceed the welcome of Lincoln, which they did. The

¹⁶⁵ Dyson. Pub. No. 8. 229-30.

¹⁶⁶ Contrasted to “several hundred” a short two months before at Beardstown.

¹⁶⁷ *Schuyler Citizen*. 27 Oct 1858.

Little Giant's reception was reported as "unparalleled" in number, being the largest crowd ever assembled in Rushville. In an attempt to overshadow the Republican rally, a cannon had been borrowed from Beardstown, but met with disaster. The cannon, shot off after Douglas's three-hour speech, exploded into thousands of fragments and shattered all the glass windows on the northeast corner of the square.¹⁶⁸ The day ended with a bang!



169

Douglas won the 6-year term as Senator from Illinois, but in May 1860, "Honest Abe" emerged as a presidential candidate and was nominated to run for president by the Republican convention in Chicago.

On June 6, 1860, the *Schuyler Citizen* reported that the "Democrats of Schuyler had met on the last Saturday to appoint delegates to their State Convention to be held in Springfield on the 13th inst. Samuel Horney, Esq. was called to the Chair, and Prather appointed secretary." Leonidas Horney and others were appointed to a "committee to draft resolutions expressing the sense of the meeting." He was chosen as a delegate.

In the November election for president, Lincoln who represented the newly formed Republican Party, was opposed by Stephen A. Douglas, John C. Breckinridge, and John Bell. The national Democratic Party split over the slavery issue with Douglas representing the northern and western factions of the Democratic Party, while Breckinridge represented the strongly pro-slavery southern states. In Schuyler County, with the largest Democratic vote ever, Douglas carried the day with a plurality of 603 votes.¹⁷⁰ Nationwide, however, Abraham Lincoln was elected the sixteenth president of the United States.

¹⁶⁸ Dyson. 675.

¹⁶⁹ Period drawing of 1858 Lincoln-Douglas debate.

¹⁷⁰ Dyson. 735.



Inauguration of Lincoln - 1861

The stage was now set for bitter conflict. With Lincoln's election (which had been determined by a minority of the popular vote) talk of rebellion exploded in the Cotton Belt, with little hope for compromise. In his first inaugural address, Lincoln firmly stated his convictions,

“In *your* hands, my dissatisfied fellow countrymen, and not in *mine*, is the momentous issue of civil war. The government will not assail *you*. You can have no conflict without being yourselves the aggressors. *You* have no oath registered in Heaven to destroy the government, while *I* shall have the most solemn one to ‘preserve, protect, and defend’ it.”

Meant to calm the fears of the Southerners, the speech did little to accomplish its purpose. Immediately after the inauguration address, Stephen A. Douglas spoke in Chicago, rallying his loyal and devoted friends to the support of the Union. He clarified his position by emphatically stating “There are only two sides to the question. Every man must be for the United States Government or against it. There can be no neutrals in this war, only Patriots and Traitors.”¹⁷¹ Leonidas, along with Illinois, remained true to the Union.

As tensions escalated, the rift deepened. Within a month's time South Carolina passed the Ordinance of Secession, and more of the Deep South states quickly followed its lead. The question of whether slavery was morally right or wrong was now replaced by whether or not a state could secede from the union. The first phase of rebellion had been accomplished unopposed and with no molestation. Most of the leaders voting for secession expected it to be a peaceful action and did not foresee bloody hostilities. How wrong they were!

With the secession of South Carolina additional concerns arose. Southerners felt it was essential to possess the arms and military posts within their borders. One federal post, Fort Sumter, was a coastal fortification lying in the harbor outside of Charleston. It now

¹⁷¹ Dyson. 735.

lay in the new Confederate territory, but the North considered that it was still property of the United States. With both sides claiming possession, Lincoln made the decision to resupply and reinforce the fort. This action was intolerable to the Confederacy. When the first shot was fired on Fort Sumter by the cadets of the Citadel, it was the point of no return. The rebellious states continued bombardment of the fort by mortars for 34 hours. War had begun.



In Schuyler County, the firing on Fort Sumter became a deciding factor and “the partisan feeling, which had previously existed, was swept away, and Democrats and Republicans alike laid aside party prejudice and rallied to the support of the Union.”¹⁷²

“Americans who had lived through the Mexican War believed they knew what war was all about. They had endured death, illness, sorrow, pain, and grief. They could not have imagined what lay ahead. They went at each other with a fury that would change their understanding of battle.”¹⁷³

The *Schuyler Citizen* reported on June 19, 1861, that Leonidas Horney was among those who had signed a proclamation believing that the celebration of National Independence, at all times proper, was at the present time most especially appropriate, by reason of the imminent peril in which our country had been placed. A meeting was called to arrange a celebration on the Fourth of July.

In the summer of 1861, Leonidas, now 43 years old, was a prosperous member of the community. The census taken in July 1860 showed that he was the owner of \$10,000 worth of property and had \$2,050 in personal goods. He and Jane were parents of seven children, and his parents, who lived nearby in the same section, were getting older – Samuel was 72 and Emilia C. was 59.¹⁷⁴ Leonidas faced a difficult decision. If he supported the Union and left for war, it would once again leave Jane with not only the full care of the household, but also that of overseeing the work on the farms. Samuel Madison (Matt) was seventeen; he and his younger brothers could, with guidance from their mother and grandfather, shoulder a great part of the burden. A recognized leader in

¹⁷² Dyson. 735.

¹⁷³ Miller, Wm. J. and Brian C. Pohanka. *An Illustrated History of the Civil War*. Alexandria, VA: Time Life. 2000.

¹⁷⁴ Littleton Twshp. Schuyler Co., Illinois Census. July 1860.

the county, the actions of Leonidas would influence many others. Should he take up arms to preserve the unity of his country?

Throughout the United States, many believed that the war would be of short duration. In May of 1861 Ulysses S. Grant wrote a letter home to his family in which he stated that, in his opinion, the war would be of short duration and would be over in thirty days.¹⁷⁵ This, too, was the belief of Leonidas. If Leonidas left to go to battle, it wouldn't be for long and within a short time he would be back home. Resolute in his beliefs, though it might take "the last man and the last dollar,"¹⁷⁶ he quickly came to a decision,

¹⁷⁵ Grant, Ulysses S. *Letters of Ulysses S. Grant to His Father and His Youngest Sister, 1857-78*. Ed. Jesse Grant Cramer. 1912. 36.

¹⁷⁶ "Col. Horney's Funeral." *Schuyler Citizen*.



The 10th Missouri Volunteer Infantry

- **Enlistment**
- **Protecting Missouri**
- **Moving into the South**
- **Farmington and the Siege of Corinth**
- **Battles of Iuka and Corinth**



Battle of Iuka, Mississippi

One hot September Southern day
In open cotton field we lay –
Where blacks once garnered cotton boles,
Death garnered now immortal souls.
Grape and canister plowed our ranks
The leaden hail played wicked pranks—
Explosive shells took life and limb
Brave souls soared up to ether dim.

The butter-nut mixed with the gray
Fought hero-like to win the day;
But hero-like, did fight the blue
To banner free proved nobly true—
The battle raged thro' field and wood.
Brave charges made brave charges withstood;
Where gained the gray, their exultant yell
Would spirits wake from pits of hell!

Even balanced raged long the fight
Hotly it raged from left to right—
Fierce now the gray drove back the blue
To stars and bars fight they most true;
And now the starry field of blue
In victory waves, o'er bars untrue—
The gray give back with face to foe,
Unjust their cause they do not know.

The bloody Tenth in cotton field
With Holmes to lead ne'er once did yield,
Held back in leash, exposed to shell,
They prayed him lead on Rebel yell
Chased our brave Holmes his men to lead
From cotton field where they did bleed
On foemen worthy of their steel
And in the fight to make them yield.

Compelled to stand where ground ran red
With blood of wounded and of dead,
From Battery shot, from unseen foe,
Lying many of our brave men low.
Oh, hardest lot for brave men true,
Stand target-like, balls aimed for you;
Stand firm in line, in death laid low,
Restrained from rushing on the foe.

-Capt. D. C. Daugherty
10th Missouri Volunteer Regiment



Volunteers from Schuyler County

President Lincoln called for troops to put down the secession, issuing a quota for each state. With bursts of enthusiasm, the Illinois quota was spontaneously and quickly filled. Those not accepted, but still having a strong desire to fight for the Union, looked to the neighboring state of Missouri and were able to help fill its allocation.

The *History of the Tenth Missouri Volunteer Infantry* presented this information about Leonidas Horney of Company A.

“In the little town of Littleton, Schuyler county, in July, 1861, there lived a man by the name of L. Horney, (a farmer), who had been a soldier in the Mexican war, whose blood was as loyal to his country, and whose love for the Union was still so strong that it caused him to hear a call from Missouri to come over and help us. So this man Horney went to work to recruit a Company of men for the war . . . His success was great, for the blood in the veins of a loyal man was getting warm about this time.”¹⁷⁷

Six companies from Illinois, two from Iowa, and one from Missouri ultimately made up the 10th Missouri Volunteer Infantry.¹⁷⁸ Regimental organization began in July with all companies ordered to report to the St. Louis Arsenal.

In its July 31 issue, the *Schuyler Citizen* printed the following:

“Capt. Leonidas Horney informs us that he now has 80 reliable men in his company who will accompany him to the war. Joseph Walker went to Macomb on Monday last to gain all the information he could of the 10th Missouri regiment now being organized, and they will start on Friday next. The Captain requests us to say that he will have an agent in this place early Friday morning to give full information on the subject. If the company leaves on that day, conveyances will be in readiness here for them. Members of his company in this vicinity, not previously notified, should come prepared to start at once.

“The officers of this company so far as we are able to get them are as follows: Capt. Leonidas Horney; 1st Lieut., Joseph Walker; 2nd do [ditto], Miles McCabe; 1st Orderly Sergeant, Felix Snyder; 2nd do, W. T Irvin; Quarter Master, David H. Snyder. There is still room in the company for fifteen or twenty more men if they apply at once, as it is intended to start with 100 men if possible.”

On the second day of August when the company was ready to leave for enlistment, they were honored with well-filled baskets at a picnic in a beautiful grove. Old men were on

¹⁷⁷ Frost, M. O. *Regimental History of the Tenth Missouri Volunteer Infantry*. Topeka, KS: M. O. Frost Printing Company's Rooms. 258.

¹⁷⁸ Frost. 8.

the grounds with teams and wagons to convey the patriots to Macomb, the first step on their journey. They were given a reception at the Randolph House and, after supper, took the railroad cars for Quincy.¹⁷⁹

The *Schuyler Citizen* paper of August 3 contained the muster roll of Captain Horney's party, sent in a letter from Quincy, Illinois.

“Mr. Scripps - -Sir: After a pleasant ride this morning, we have landed safely in this place, and are quartered at the Metropolitan House. After a dinner served up in very good style, of which the boys all partook freely, I now send you a copy of our muster roll. Leonidas Horney . . . H. F. Raper . . . Samuel Thompson . . . Captain Horney wishes that yourself, Dr. Winlow, J. P. Runkle, and others do what they can in the way of getting men for his company. Yours truly, Joseph Walker”

After taking a boat down the Mississippi River to St. Louis, the men, led by Capt. Horney, marched to the arsenal. The Armory, close to Jefferson Barracks, had the biggest collection of rifles and muskets¹⁸⁰ of any of the slave states until Union General Nathaniel Lyon seized the arsenal and secretly sent all but 10,000 rifles and muskets to Alton, Illinois. From this stock, the Illinois volunteers received their arms: old United States muskets that “hurt pretty near as bad behind as they did in front of them.”¹⁸¹ On the 5th of August, sixty-four of the Schuyler county boys, both officers and privates, were mustered and sworn into the United States service as Company A at the St. Louis Arsenal.¹⁸²

In mid-August Leonidas wrote Jane:

“I snatch a few moments to write you a few lines. On last Monday night we were ordered out of the St. Louis Arsenal, we knew not whither or in what direction. We were marched up to the City of St. Louis to the depot. . . where we took the cars and next morning found ourselves at this camp on the Merrimack River . . . One night I was Officer of the Day and had to attend to the guard as they were all new and the last two nights we have been alarmed and bothered by the secession spies slipping around our guard lines. Our guards shot at them . . .”

The citizens in the community with Union sentiments were kind, making gifts of peaches, apples, and potatoes to the soldiers and would offer to care for those that were sick. On Sunday, the people would come to the camp to hear preaching, as there were numerous preachers including the chaplain of the regiment.

¹⁷⁹ Frost. 258-59.

¹⁸⁰ The Arsenal contained 60,000 muskets, 45 tons of gun powder and 1 ½ million cartridges.

¹⁸¹ Frost. 259.

¹⁸² Leonidas Horney. Letter. 6 Aug 1861.

In October Lieut. Joseph Walker wrote a letter to his wife reporting his recent duty as Officer of the Day. He commented that Horney “had been principal at three last Dress Parades,” but that day he had commanded at the battalion Drill. He did very well for the first time; Lieut. Walker believed that he would soon learn to command as well as any.¹⁸³

Keeping Missouri in the Union

The 10th Missouri Volunteer Infantry Regiment spent the first nine months of service in Missouri, keeping watch over country both north and south of the Missouri River. An expedition was made through Jefferson County in September, safe-guarding the southwestern branch of the Pacific Railroad from attacks by guerrillas. Governor Jackson of Missouri had partially burnt the Gasconade bridge, so the troops were sent to patrol that area. For most of December 1861, the regiment was comfortably quartered at Hermann, Missouri, a city located high on the bluff above the Missouri River. Hearing that there were 400-500 “secesh” gathering in Danville, the regiment took three days to ford the ice-filled Missouri River. Tramping through snow, mud, and sleet to Danville, they found the band of rebels had fled in all directions. Scouting along the northern banks of the Missouri River through Warren, Callaway, Boone, and Audrain Counties, a large number of prisoners from the scattered forces of the enemy were captured.

Moving across the river from Hermann, the volunteers established winter quarters at High Hill. The regiment quartered in churches, barns, academies, store houses, or whatever buildings could be found until their tents, clothing, and provisions could be brought from Hermann.¹⁸⁴ Leonidas enjoyed his stay in a private house owned by the principal of the Academy and his wife, a teacher of music. The unit did not leave High Hill until the end of April 1862.

In September, Capt. Horney had been home suffering from the fever and ague. In December, he was expected to be back to finish settling up his official business with the Supervisors’ Court as County Surveyor.¹⁸⁵ This he may have done, since he wrote from Hermann on December 17 that he had applied for an order detaching him on recruiting service to West Quincy in Missouri; if this was granted, he hoped he could come home for a few days. But again, Leonidas complained his requests for leave were continually being denied.

¹⁸³ Walker, Lieut. Joseph. Letter to Sarah Walker. 21 Oct 1861.

¹⁸⁴ Letter. 6 Jan 1862.

¹⁸⁵ *Schuyler Citizen*.

Many of the volunteers became ill from the measles or from exposure to the damp, wintry weather. A good number of the camp died, sometimes as many as five a day. Cornelius Vosburg, former hired hand of Samuel Horney, died with pneumonia and typhoid fever. During the first part of February, Leonidas became quite ill with “a Severe chill . . . something like the Winter fever”¹⁸⁶. After recovering somewhat, he traveled home to recuperate, arriving there on February 19 and staying until March 4.¹⁸⁷

Throughout the stay in Missouri, being not too far distant from Schuyler County, Leonidas was able to communicate easily with home. Mail facilities were convenient as the camps were usually close to the railroads; letters and papers were sent and received with little delay. Soldiers on furlough, relatives, friends, or town people were frequently going back and forth, allowing the regular exchange of letters, money, or goodies. Cakes, nuts, butter, replacement clothing, and even a quilt sent by Mother Horney were all eagerly received. Wives could come to visit their husbands and remain in the vicinity for awhile. At some point Jane visited Leonidas while he was at the camp at High Hill.¹⁸⁸ Her husband noted in one letter that he was “not charged for her board.”¹⁸⁹ These close links with home would soon be snapped and become a thing of the past.

Union efforts to invade the south via the Mississippi River were hampered by the Confederate stronghold of Island No. 10. This crucial island had defenses built upon a tight double turn of the river, which forced boats to slow down thus becoming easy prey for those waiting. After cutting off the only road for supplies and reinforcements at New Madrid, the island was bombarded by Union gunboats and mortar rafts for three weeks. With the surrender of Island No.10, the way was opened for the Federals to navigate as far south as Memphis.

The 10th Missouri gleefully celebrated the victory with a firing of ten rounds from their six-pound “peace maker.” An impressive prayer was offered by the regiment’s chaplain, George R. Palmer.¹⁹⁰ The regimental colors¹⁹¹ were unfurled for the first time with a presentation to the regiment in splendid style by Company A, under command of Capt. Horney.¹⁹²

¹⁸⁶ Letter. 1 Feb. 1862.

¹⁸⁷ Diary of Leonidas Horney

¹⁸⁸ Letter. 22 May 1862.

¹⁸⁹ Letter. 12 Mar 1862.

¹⁹⁰ Frost. 40.

¹⁹¹ US Army Regulations stated each regimental flag to have the name and number of the regiment, along with the arms of the United States. In battle the flag provided a rallying point for the regiment. Though it was a great honor to be a color bearer, the mortality rate was quite high as opposing forces tried to seize their enemies’ colors.

¹⁹² Frost. 34.



Regimental flag of the 10th Reg, U S Vol. Infantry

Headed into Battle

The necessary drilling, scouting, and guarding of bridges had been ably carried out in Missouri, but now the very serious business of actual warfare would soon be faced. Orders had come to leave the camp at Warrenton (High Hill) and report to L'Ourtre Landing, opposite Hermann. There a boat would be taken down the Missouri River to St. Louis, thence to Cape Girardeau. Capt. Horney reported a "most disagreeable march"¹⁹³ with heavy rain commencing before daylight and turning the camp into a mass of liquid mud. Tents were soaked and became heavy and hard to handle. There was a shortage of commissioned officers; therefore more responsibility fell on the shoulders of Capt. Horney. Finally reaching the Landing, the soldiers packed the *Isabella* with great difficulty. Wagons were taken apart and loaded, along with tents and other provisions. Included was their one cannon, a relic of Mexican War days. Getting the mules and horses aboard the steamboat was a complicated process; several of the stubborn mules dropped from the gang planks into the water, taking along with them some of the drivers. Finally, all the men crowded on and the voyage began.¹⁹⁴

Transferring soldiers and cargo to the *Empress*, the regiment left St. Louis on April 24, 1862. They arrived at Cape Girardeau the next day, the gangplanks run down, men and gear unloaded, and a camp established by sunset. Shortly a dress parade was conducted with Col. Holmes reading their orders and announcing commissions. These commissions were the result of a military examining board that, during the past winter, had examined all the officers.¹⁹⁵ Capt. Leonidas Horney now became Major Horney. He purchased a

¹⁹³ Diary. 18 Apr 1862.

¹⁹⁴ Frost. 40-44.

¹⁹⁵ Frost. 44-46.

dapple chestnut horse for \$125 and sent back to St. Louis for a saddle and rigging (as well as a “large 5-shooting revolver”), all necessary equipment for a major.¹⁹⁶

Horses were provided for the armies by the government for they were used to move guns, ambulances, and provide quick communication of messages. Enlisted men who owned their own horses were paid fifty cents extra per day. Leonidas now had a new duty – the care and feeding of “Silverheels.”¹⁹⁷ Shortly after reveille was sounded, buglers gave the stable call, a signal for assemblage at the grain pile. Riders brought their canvas nose bags to be filled, then proceeded to the picket rope with curry comb and brush in hand. Following this, the steed was watered. Only after these duties were accomplished could the soldier look after himself.¹⁹⁸

Leonidas wrote a letter home in great haste to inform those at home of his movements. He had just received orders to get his men transferred to yet another steamboat, headed for Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee. Until Col. Holmes returned from a week’s sick leave, Leonidas, being a major and next in authority, would be in sole command of the regiment – a total of nine companies. Soon all was in readiness.

With heavy hearts, knowing that every step taken toward the South was that much further from home, all of Company A was acutely aware that the battle for the Union would *not* be speedily over, as they had previously thought. Though excited to be where they could be most effective, there was still an underlying nervousness as they headed for direct confrontation with the Southern army. Before leaving Cape Girardeau, Leonidas and many of the “boys” posed for ambrotype¹⁹⁹ likenesses of themselves. He asked Jane to have her likeness taken again and to send it at the first good opportunity. She was instructed to give Celeste money for one of herself and to have pictures made of the rest of the children. Thoughts of the family were foremost in Leonidas’ mind.²⁰⁰

Advancing into Tennessee and Mississippi

From his headquarters in St. Louis, Gen. Halleck began issuing orders to consolidate the strength and size of his army, the immediate objective being the capture of Corinth, a Mississippi town setting astride the junction of two railroads. These railroads could provide the rapid dispersing of food, weapons, ammunition, supplies, and soldiers needed to win battles. Corinth was also of strategic importance to the North because of its location; control here would open up a choice of two potential invasion routes. The army

¹⁹⁶ Letter, 29 Apr 1862.

¹⁹⁷ “The Sixtythird Anniversary.” *Schuyler Citizen*. c. 1926.

¹⁹⁸ Billings, John D. *Hardtack and Coffee*. Boston: George M. Smith & Co., 1887. 170.

¹⁹⁹ A positive photograph on glass using the wet-collodion process. Because of its fragility it is often mounted in a protective case. The ambrotypes largely supplanted daguerreotypes.

²⁰⁰ Letter. 29 Apr 1862.

could either move deeper south toward Vicksburg in Mississippi or into the heart of Georgia.

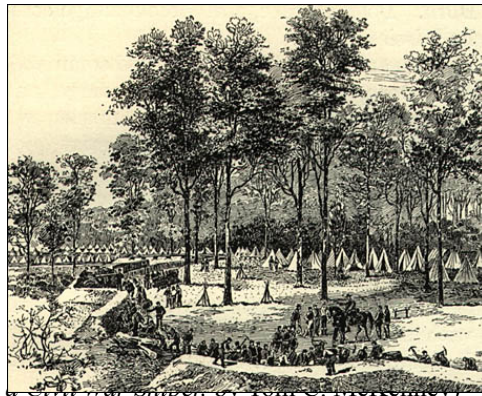
The Tenth Missouri embarked on the steamer *Ed Walsh* at Cape Girardeau on May 1, amid welcome, visible signs of spring. Paducah, Kentucky, was the first destination. Leaving there and traveling slowly southward against the current of the Tennessee River, the 10th Missouri found the banks of the river covered by green, fresh foliage, so thick they could hardly see through it. Early in the morning of May 2, the steamboat was attacked from unseen snipers shooting from near the bluffs at Coffey's Landing.²⁰¹ With the help of the brass six-pounder and scattering fire from those on board, the guerrillas were repulsed with only two men of the Tenth seriously wounded. Giving a parting shot at a stable, a flock of chickens flew out in all directions, and a cow started down the road along the river bank with erected head and horizontal tail, at a speed that left the steamboat far behind.²⁰² A gunboat landed and found nine dead Rebels on the bluff.

Arriving at Pittsburg Landing the regiment undoubtedly viewed gruesome scenes remaining of the bloody battle of Shiloh, where a month previously a total of 23,500 men were killed and wounded. They did not tarry long here.

From Pittsburg Landing they took up their line of march for Hamburg, slogging through mud that was sometimes hub-deep.

Baggage had been reduced to what would fit in a knapsack, but still marching was "toilsome" as the soldiers were "drenched by a rain that respected neither man, beast, nor rank." Even the mule teams, doubled up to twelve to a wagon, made slow progress. The siege guns, that required ten yoke of oxen to pull one gun, lagged behind. Camps were made in the pine woods, in a newly plowed corn field, and in an old field, with wet blankets and overcoats as the only covering and not even a hot cup of coffee to be had for comfort.²⁰³ This was just a small foretaste of things to come.

General Hallack moved slowly and cautiously, his army digging entrenchments as they pressed forward, until they occupied a semi-circle around the north and east portions of Corinth. The 10th Missouri advanced, according to orders, toward the direction of Corinth carrying one blanket or overcoat, canteen, haversack, and one-hundred rounds of ammunition per



²⁰¹ Frost. 316-17. (Refer to *Jack Hinson's One-Man War*,

²⁰² Frost. 48-49.

²⁰³ Frost. 51.

man. Positioned in reserve around Farmington, there were continual alarms and firing from the 8th of May to the 30th.

before Corinth 1862 by Edwin J. Meeker

Digging entrenchments

The Tenth Missouri, in advance of the Brigade, made a reconnaissance to the railroad and the Booneville crossing and found the enemy there in full force, firmly established in rifle pits behind an abatis of felled trees. Maj. Horney believed they were facing Texas Troops. A “sharp little fight” resulted.²⁰⁴ He came through without a scratch, though some of the cartridges from double-barreled shot guns contained 4-penny nails, piercing the coats of the men. Col. Holmes ordered the regiment to pull back in an effort to avoid a general engagement. This was reluctantly obeyed with the men re-loading and firing as they went. The Regiment, suffering five men killed and 25 wounded, received very high praise for their actions.²⁰⁵

The siege of Corinth ended on May 30th. A bright light in the direction of Corinth was observed before daylight and, with the coming of dawn, heavy smoke could be seen hanging over the town. The Union soldiers moved into town where they found that the Confederates under Gen. Van Dorn had secretly evacuated. The rebels had set fire to many stores before leaving in a hurry. Large quantities of barrels of meat, flour, corn and other commissary provisions had been placed in a huge pile and set on fire.²⁰⁶ Most of these were piled around the railroad depot. Maj. Horney did not immediately go into Corinth as he was sent back with a detachment to guard a train of wagons;²⁰⁷ however, on his return, he observed acres of tents, wagons, guns, and equipment that were left behind, partially burnt.²⁰⁸ The South in giving up Corinth had suffered a major loss and had retreated to lick their wounds, regroup, and join forces with the army of Price.

Maj. Horney and the Tenth Missouri spent most of June in the environs of Corinth making long and exhaustive marches, as well as protecting the Mobile Railroad. The railroad was badly needed as the army did not have sufficient wagons to haul food and provisions for the thousands of soldiers amassed in the area. On the tenth of June tents were finally brought to the regiments from the old camp near Corinth and were considered quite a welcome treat, regardless of the lack of protection they offered from insects, snakes and reptiles found in the surrounding woods.²⁰⁹ Tents were only up and occupied for one night, however, before orders were received to go back to Clear Creek, which had become the principal camp for the army. The soldiers mustered at a camp west

²⁰⁴ Letter. 31 May 1862.

²⁰⁵ Frost 53-4.

²⁰⁶ Frost. 56.

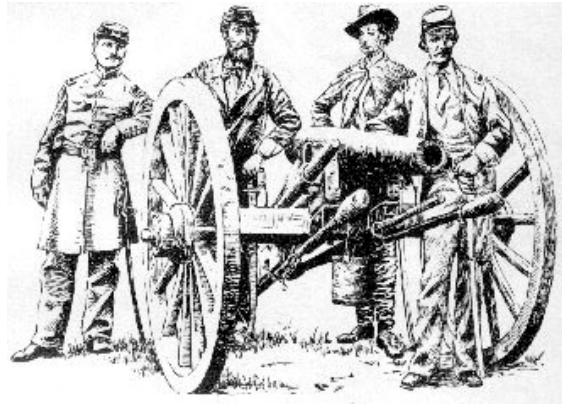
²⁰⁷ Letter.

²⁰⁸ Letter. 2 Jun 1862.

²⁰⁹ Frost. 57.

of Ripley, marched from Ripley to the Big Hatchie River, and continued on to Rienzi. Dust was thick, the heat became unbearable and the water supply dwindled, for it was an exceedingly hot, dry summer. In commemoration of the Fourth, each man was issued a gill²¹⁰ of whiskey, and, from the direction of Corinth, the firing of a salute could be heard. The men paused only briefly to remember their country's history and the reason they were fighting.

Upon the return to the Clear Creek camp, Maj. Horney was laid up with lumbago in his back and diarrhea for the greater portion of the month of August. In June he had written that he was about the size of - and as slim as - Madison, his seventeen-year old son. He worried about the harvesting and haying getting done at home. A year had elapsed since first leaving home.



Meeting the Foe at Iuka

When the differences that existed between Gen. Halleck and Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant became intolerable, Grant thought he had no recourse but to resign, but reconsidered when he was persuaded by his friend Sherman to stay. Very shortly President Lincoln called Halleck to Washington to be general-in-chief. This left the field open for Grant's leadership, and he resumed overall command of the Tennessee-Mississippi theater.

After slipping away during the siege of Corinth, the Confederates had kept two armies in the vicinity. Sterling Price moved his fourteen thousand Confederates into Iuka, a pretty little business town known for its mineral springs. This was one step closer in an attempt

²¹⁰ A unit of liquid measure equal to one-half a cup.

to recapture Corinth. Anticipating that Price would soon be reinforced by Van Dorn, Grant decided to attack before the two armies could unite.

The 10th Missouri had remained at an outpost near Jacinto until September 19. On this date, reveille was sounded before daylight and soon an 18-mile march to Iuka was begun. Arriving at the scene of action, the 10th Missouri neared the town and halted by a small stream at the far end of a huge field of cotton. Col. Samuel Holmes deployed his men at the edge of the woods and exchanged fire with skirmishers concealed among the trees. His position was perilous, but it was crucial for protection of the right flank of the attacking army. Holmes's moving men were seen by Confederate gunners deployed on higher ground, and the Tenth was blasted by fire as they crossed the open field. A single shell burst in the ranks of Company D with sickening effect, killing or mangling fourteen men. The regiment stopped, dressed ranks, and lay face down amid the cotton shrubs. For ten hours, overhead firing from the enemy continually sent shells their way. Smoke became dense, and though lying down, the regiment met with considerable loss because of their inability to return fire or to move.²¹¹



The Regiment, pinned down by the enfilading fire from the enemy, lost a total of twenty-five, killed and wounded.²¹² Major Horney recorded total fatalities of the battle of Iuka in his diary of a “loss on our side of 625. The enemy lost 1,000,” but the numbers were actually higher.²¹³ An official report filed by Col. Holmes acknowledged the “valuable assistance received during the action from Lieutenant Colonel John D. Foster, Major L. Horney, and Adjutant F. C. Deimling.”²¹⁴

After a night spent sleeping on their arms, the Federals discovered that Price and his men had withdrawn from Iuka under the cover of darkness. Eating a very scanty breakfast

²¹¹ Cozzens, Peter. *The Darkest Days of the War; the Battles of Iuka & Corinth*. Chapel Hill & London: The University of North Carolina Press. 1997. 85.

²¹² *Annual Report of the Adjutant General of Missouri*. Missouri Office of the Adjutant General. 1862. 138.

²¹³ Diary. 19 Sept 1862.

²¹⁴ Holmes, Col. S. A. “Official Report from Headquarters Tenth Regiment Missouri Infantry. “ Iuka, Miss. 20 Sept 1862.

(poem – Battle of Corinth)

(the first sustenance since starting the preceding day), the Tenth made a rapid march in the direction of the fleeing Rebels.²¹⁵ They chased Price all the next day. After returning from their pursuit of the scattered, retreating enemy, the Tenth encamped again at Jacinto in a beautiful shady woods with good springs in abundance and remained there until October 1, scouting and drilling.²¹⁶

Battle of Corinth

Escaping from Iuka, Sterling Price headed westward and joined the forces of Van Dorn. Their collective armies now numbered around 20,000; this, they felt, was strong enough to enable them to recapture Corinth and its critical railroad junction. On the first day of October, becoming aware that an attack was imminent, Gen. Rosecrans²¹⁷ called in his scattered Union forces. The Tenth Regiment, roused before dawn, quickly marched back from its outpost at Jacinto to help defend Corinth, which was being threatened by the combined rebel forces of Price and Van Dorn.

The expected battle began on October 3. Six companies were sent out under the command of Major Horney to the Purdy road north of Corinth to occupy the breastworks between the road and the swamp. There they watched the movements of the enemy until about three o'clock, when Col. Holmes dispatched a messenger for them to rejoin their unit, as the Rebels were closing in on the town. Going on the double quick back to the rest of their regiment, they awaited orders.²¹⁸ About dark the right wing fell back, their movement covered by skirmishers, to near the north side of the town where position was taken for the night.²¹⁹

After the intense heat of the day, the temperatures fell quickly after dark. Soldiers waited nervously through the clear cold night under the bright full moon and glittering stars.²²⁰ The next morning, the second day of the fight, the regiment formed a reserve in Sullivan's 2nd Brigade, 3rd Division; the reserve was commanded by Col. S. A. Holmes of

²¹⁵ Frost. 70.

²¹⁶ Diary. 22 Sept 1862.

²¹⁷ "Old Rosie" had taken over from Halleck.

²¹⁸ Frost. 80-1.

²¹⁹ Letter. 9 Oct 1862.

²²⁰ Cozzens.221.

the 10th Missouri, leaving the regiment now in charge of Major Horney and Adjutant Deimling.²²¹

About 8:30 Van Dorn hurled his army at the outer defenses of Corinth and drove the Union defenders back nearly two miles. The enemy advanced in heavy masses from the woods all along the front and down the Purdy road. The portion of the brigade first exposed to attack was the Sixth Wisconsin Battery and its supports.²²² A heavy assault of the enemy at Fort Robinet (a redoubt protecting the railroad junction) resulted in the most brutal fighting of the day. The enemy again massed their forces and came up on the 12th Wisconsin Battery and drove the 80th Ohio into confusion. The Tenth had been ordered to lie close, forming the next line to the 80th, until needed. Major Horney thought the time had now come to move as the enemy was making for their line. He gave the order to "Rise up - fix bayonets - and now, at 'em, boys." The Tenth Missouri, aided by the 56th Illinois needed no second invitation, but with yell after yell, started for the advancing enemy. As they started, their Battery commenced pouring shot and shell into the foe, firing over the heads of the Tenth as they went down into the hollow and up the next hill.²²³

The following report of Col. Samuel A. Holmes, Tenth Missouri Infantry, commanding Second Brigade, tells of the part played by the Tenth Missouri on this second day of battle at Corinth.

"For the part taken in the battle by my regiment during the time I was in command of the brigade I desire to refer to the report of Major Leonidas Horney. I cannot at the same time too much commend the coolness and gallantry of that fine officer during the whole day, and especially in the charge upon and recapture of the Sixth Wisconsin Battery, in which he was wounded, but refused to leave the field. Adj. Francis C. Deimling, of the same regiment, deserves honorable mention for exemplary bravery on the same occasion and throughout the day.

"About 8.30 o'clock the enemy made the grand attack upon the center and right wing of the army, advancing in heavy masses from the woods all along the front and down the Purdy road. That portion of the brigade first exposed to attack was Captain Dillon's Sixth Wisconsin Battery and its supports. These for a while gallantly maintained their position against an overwhelming force. Soon the line of Davies' division, to their left, began to give way in confusion, and almost at the same time the Eightieth Ohio Regiment was forced back from its position in disorder, followed by the limbers and caissons of the battery. The enemy rushed up and took possession, killing the gunners at their guns. The gallant Tenth Iowa .

²²¹ Report of Adjutant General of Missouri. 138.

²²² Holmes. Official Reports. 231.

²²³ Frost. 81-2.

. . . gradually fell back some 300 yards, fighting as they went. The battery and redoubt to the left [of the] Sixth Wisconsin, as well as the whole line, now seemed to be in possession of the enemy, and the fugitives came pouring on in great numbers through and over the lines of the Tenth Missouri and Fifty-sixth Illinois, which still bravely held their ground under the most terrific fire.

“. . . as soon as the enemy had obtained possession of the crest, opened upon [the Twelfth Wisconsin Battery] with great effect, and, aided by the well-directed fire of the Tenth Missouri and Fifty-sixth Illinois, repeatedly drove them back out of sight and prevented the removal of the guns. Never could any battery do more effective service at a more critical period. The enemy had now advanced in large numbers from the direction of the redoubt, under cover of houses, toward the front of the Fifty-sixth Illinois and the left of the Tenth Missouri, and were pouring upon them a most galling fire. Seeing that Lieutenant-Colonel Raum of the Fifty-sixth Illinois, was wheeling his regiment to the left, preparatory to making a charge, I gave the order to Major Horney, commanding the Tenth Missouri, to retake the Sixth Wisconsin battery with the bayonet, and away went these regiments to their work at double-quick in the most splendid style.

“The Tenth Missouri regiment retook the [captured] Sixth Wisconsin Battery and turned the guns upon the flying enemy, serving them with such ammunition as was found upon the ground.”²²⁴

Another official report gave a similar description of the same part of the battle.

“The Tenth Missouri Regiment, supporting the Sixth Wisconsin Battery, under the brave Horney, nobly stood its ground against the panic-stricken regiments [Sixth Wisconsin] that gave way in its front, and as soon as its front was uncovered by the retiring soldiers and the caissons and limbers of the battery, it opened a vigorous fire on the advancing rebels, and then joining in the advance of the division, charged the battery with the bayonet.”²²⁵

This charge was made in splendid style, the ground on which it was posted held by the regiment, notwithstanding the repeated attacks of the enemy to reclaim it. The ten pieces of repossessed artillery lost by the Sixth Wisconsin was turned against the enemy, which

“halted, looked, and then turned ‘about face,’ and made tracks back, faster than they could have come forward. On the Tenth went, yelling at the top of their voices, every man trying his best to reach the top of the next hill first, to get the best shot at the enemy. After giving them a few rounds of grape and canister,

²²⁴ Holmes, Samuel A. Report Number 31.

²²⁵ Hamilton, C. S. Part I – Reports. *War of the Rebellion: a Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*. Washington: Government Printing Office. 1886. 207.

accompanied by plenty of minie balls from the rifles, Price and company now left as hastily as legs could carry them.”²²⁶

Brigadier General J. Sullivan’s official report had high praise for the Tenth Missouri and the Fifty-sixth Illinois, stating that

“on the second day they charged the enemy and retook two batteries. Their courage was deserving of all praise, as five times their numbers had fled ingloriously from the foe they drove from the field. For over half an hour the Tenth Missouri had sustained a fire of musketry without answering, losing one-sixth of their number killed and wounded. . . All honor to their noble dead; praise and credit to the living.”²²⁷

The advantages of the first day of battle were with the Rebel army, but on the second day, quick action by the 10th Missouri and the 56th Illinois helped in driving the rebels back, repulsing reinforcements, and breaking the center of Price’s army, which immediately retired.²²⁸ Rosecrans's Union army lost 2,520 (355 killed, 1,841 wounded, and 324 missing); Van Dorn's Confederate losses were 4,233 (473 killed, 1,997 wounded, and 1,763 captured or missing).

The Tenth Missouri’s casualties were ninety-five, killed and wounded. Included amongst the latter was Major Horney who was wounded in the right leg but remained in command on the field.²²⁹ Leonidas later wrote Jane that his wounded leg was very sore and that he should have to give up riding on horseback and ride in an ambulance for a few days.²³⁰ Three weeks later he wrote his parents that he was in good health and that his wound was nearly healed up, although it pained him considerably in traveling. In the same letter he told of receiving his commission as colonel that morning. Accompanying the commission was a letter from the governor of Missouri that highly complimented the officers and men of his regiment.²³¹

Guarding the Railroad and the Catastrophic Raid on Holly Springs

During the month of November, the Tenth Missouri was part of an expedition that roamed along the border of southern Tennessee and northern Mississippi, protecting the area and guarding the railroads as they were being repaired. After camping near

²²⁶ Frost. 81-2.



Chewalla, fifteen miles from Corinth, the regiment had crossed the Tuscumbia River in pursuit of Price. Now in a good farming area with good corn and large cotton fields, they got plenty of fodder and corn for the horses as well as sweet potatoes and pork for the men. They marched 23 miles to Grand Junction and lay in camp while a disagreeable, cold northerner blew. The regiment continued on to Davis Mill, and into Marshall County, Mississippi, where the division was ordered forward on a reconnaissance mission that resulted in the capture of two hundred prisoners. From Lamar to Coldwater Creek, and on to Holly Springs, they returned to Lamar, then marched north to La Grange and encamped near Moscow. While there, guerillas captured eleven wagons and teamsters and got off with sixty mules. Several days in the Moscow camp were spent in drilling the companies before marching to Hudsonville, again crossing Coldwater Creek, to Holly Springs, and on to Lumpkins Mill. Leonidas was impressed with the productive country and the beautiful little towns through which the army passed.²³²

Leonidas continued with good health – “better than he had for eight to ten years” - and had to lengthen his belt instead of taking it in. Sweet potatoes, fat hogs, and chickens had been left behind when inhabitants of the farms had skedaddled. Food – one time a hive of honey and twenty-five bushels of potatoes - was confiscated at every opportunity and enjoyed, especially by the darkies. Leonidas worried about debts at home and not being able to send any money home since he had not been paid for four months. Whenever other units were close by, he visited with old friends and acquaintances from Illinois. With the weather getting colder, he bought two woolen shirts and one pair of drawers from the sutler and got a new cavalry over coat and cavalry pants from the quartermaster at Corinth.²³³

The Confederate defeat at Corinth allowed Gen. Grant to focus his attention on Vicksburg, the last major Rebel stronghold on the Mississippi River. His plans were soon thwarted by Van Dorn who made a daring raid on Holly Springs.

Although Van Dorn’s army had been badly mauled at Corinth, it had escaped. Plans were soon afoot for Nathan B. Forrest to distract Grant by striking the Mobile & Ohio Railroad to the north at Jackson, Tennessee, leaving Van Dorn with a cavalry division of three mounted brigades to carry out an attack. On December 20, evading Union troops, he fell on the Federal supply depot at Holly Springs from three directions. The Yankee defenders, surprised out of their sleep, tried unsuccessfully to bring order out of the chaos and to form a defense, but were quickly overwhelmed. Van Dorn’s men quickly lay claim to the vital supply depot with its tons of medical, quartermaster, ordinance, and commissary stores. What supplies could not be carried away were set afire, along with buildings and a 2,000 bed hospital. During the time spent paroling the 1,500 prisoners, the Rebels plundered the warehouses, cut telegraph lines, and destroyed two miles of

²³² Diary and Letters. Nov 1862.

²³³ Letter. 20 Dec 1862.

railroad between Holly Springs and Grand Junction.²³⁴ In ten hours, over \$1,500,000 worth of damage was done, severely crippling the Union cause.²³⁵ The raid at Holly Springs had both immediate and far-reaching consequences. After Grant's cavalry had failed to overtake the marauding Rebels, he had no choice but to abandon his plans and pull back to Memphis. Without provisions his army could go no further.

After waiting for supplies at Oxford, the Division moved forward to the Yocona River. "In camp near Yocona, Mississippi, when fresh meat and hard tack was very scarce, eight or ten of the 8th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry got after a squirrel and ran it inside of the Tenth Missouri camp lines. Albert Daniels of Company C caught the squirrel and refused to give it up to the 8th Wisconsin boys, but being told he was the first man that had ever refused anything to their eagle, Old Abe, he cheerfully gave up the squirrel. Old Abe had fresh meat for supper, and Daniels went to bed on an empty stomach."²³⁶ Since the 8th Wisconsin and the 10th Missouri frequently traveled together and often fought side-by-side, Old Abe, circling above the armies, would have been a familiar sight to Leonidas. Returning to Holly Springs, Col. Horney and his men remained there over Christmas, which was a very warm, pleasant day. Many of the boys went in swimming.²³⁷ This must have been quite a treat after all the cold and rainy weather they had endured in November and December. A soldier in the Sixth Wisconsin wrote in his diary that they feasted on dumplings and unleavened bread.²³⁸ Perhaps the Tenth Missouri's menu was about the same. Col. Horney wrote in his diary that he got up early and wished all his friends at home Merry Christmas. He concluded to enjoy himself as well as circumstances would permit. Soon after breakfast, orders were received to march to Memphis.²³⁹

Because of the destruction of the vast stores at Holly Springs, the Tenth Missouri was ordered to go to Memphis with a train of eight hundred wagons for the purpose of procuring supplies.²⁴⁰ It rained all the first and second days out, making the roads almost impassable, even for empty trains. After reaching Memphis and loading a few hundred wagons, they moved to Germantown the evening of the 31st. The next morning, the train of provisions was escorted as far as Collierville, where the Sixth Division took charge of it.²⁴¹ The Brigade was placed along the Memphis and Charleston Railroad from

²³⁴ Robinson, Arthur J. *Memorandum and Anecdotes of the Civil War*: Unknown:unknown. 1912.

²³⁵ "Holly Springs Raid." *The American Civil War*. Web. 30 Mar 2011.

²³⁶ Frost. 16. {See Addenda for the full story of Old Abe, the eagle.}

²³⁷ Frost. 104.

²³⁸ Jones, Jenkin Lloyd. *An Artilleryman's Diary*. Wisconsin History Commission. 1911. 25 Dec 1862.

²³⁹ Diary. 25 Dec 1862.

²⁴⁰ Adjutant General of Missouri. Annual Report. 138.

²⁴¹ Frost 104-5

Germantown to Collierville guarding the road from guerrilla attacks. Numerous guerilla bands continually harassed the troops and captured 18 or 20 men who had either fallen behind or got off the road out of sight.²⁴² The guard duty continued through January. Col. Horney expected orders to proceed to Vicksburg at any time, but had heard that they were awaiting the arrival of steamboats.²⁴³

Winter arrived in full force with rain or snow, one or the other, for more than a month. The Schuyler County boys were fairly comfortable as the men built little shelters they called their “dog houses.” Col. Horney had his tent floored and a stove in it. Col. Holmes had left on a furlough for two days, and Col. Horney was left in command of the regiment. He expected that he would become the permanent head of the 10th Missouri Regiment upon Holmes’ return, who would advance to command of the Brigade.²⁴⁴

In January, back pay for the months of July and August - \$320.40 - was received.²⁴⁵ Debts were paid, enough money for three or four months was kept, and the remainder was sent home to Jane. While in camp at Germantown, Leonidas went into the city and paid \$8.00 for a hat and fixtures, \$12 for pantaloons, \$1.50 for halter strap, and 75 cents for repairing the martingales.²⁴⁶ Pay for the months of September and October was received near the end of February. Another trip was made into Memphis to get a photograph taken; copies were sent to his mother, Jane and each of the children. There was hope for a furlough to go home for twenty days - even to the point of having his trunk all packed - to no avail. Instead, steamboats were boarded, bound toward Vicksburg.²⁴⁷

²⁴² Diary. 4 Jan 1863.

²⁴³ Letters. 24-Jan 1863 and 31 Jan 1863.

²⁴⁴ Letter. 24 Jan 1863 and 3 Feb 1863.

²⁴⁵ Diary. 20 Jan 1863.

²⁴⁶ Letter. 9 Feb 1863.

²⁴⁷ Letters. February 1863.

On to Vicksburg

- Down the Yazoo Pass
- By-passing Vicksburg
- Crossing the Mississippi River



TENTING ON THE OLD CAMPGROUND

We're tenting tonight on the old camp ground,
Give us a song to cheer
Our weary hearts, a song of home,
And friends we love so dear.

Many are the hearts that are weary tonight,
Wishing for the war to cease;
Many are the hearts that are looking for the right
To see the dawn of peace.
Tenting tonight, tenting tonight, tenting on the old camp ground

We've been tenting tonight on the old camp ground,
Thinking of days gone by,
Of the loved ones at home that gave us the hand
And the tear that said "Goodbye!"

Many are the hearts that are weary tonight,
Wishing for the war to cease;
Many are the hearts that are looking for the right
To see the dawn of peace.
Tenting tonight, tenting tonight, tenting on the old camp ground

We are tired of war on the old camp ground,
Many are dead and gone,
Of the brave and true who've left their homes,
Others been wounded long.

Many are the hearts that are weary tonight,
Wishing for the war to cease;
Many are the hearts that are looking for the right

To see the dawn of peace.

Tenting tonight, tenting tonight, tenting on the old camp ground

We've been fighting today on the old camp ground,

Many are lying near;

Some are dead and some are dying,

Many are in tears.

Many are the heart that are weary tonight,

Wishing for the war to cease;

Many are the hearts that are looking for the right

To see the dawn of peace

Dying tonight, dying tonight, dying on the old camp ground.

-Walter

Kittredge

From Memphis into the Yazoo Pass

By January, 1863, Grant began assembling his 'Army of the Tennessee' along the Mississippi River from Lake Providence to Young's Point. In an attempt to get at Vicksburg, the fortress city that guarded the last section of the Mississippi River held by the Confederates, Grant tried to formulate an effective plan of attack. He was stymied by the difficult terrain and strong rebel defenses. The approaches to the city were protected from both the north and the south for almost twenty miles. Troops could not be unloaded to the north of Vicksburg because of the swamps and flood-plains. On the west, the twenty-eight heavy caliber guns mounted on the river-front bluffs of the city were well above the maximum elevation of the guns of the Union fleet. A scheme finally was devised to bypass the defenses on the bluffs by bringing in two divisions from the north through the Yazoo Pass. To be able to do this Grant had to work closely with Rear Admiral Porter and two of his gunboats.²⁴⁸

The regiments close to Memphis received orders to march into the city for transport to the heart of Dixie. What a commotion there was as infantry, artillery, provisions, baggage, wagons, horses and mules made ready to board the steamers. The Tenth Missouri and Seventeenth Iowa took passage on the steamboat, *Gladiator*; the Eightieth Ohio filled the *Ed Walsh*, and the Fifty-Sixth Illinois was on the *Tecumseh*. Another boat ran aground and had to be towed out by the *Gladiator*. Taking on a supply of forty boxes of coal, the *Gladiator* finally steamed out into the muddy waters of the Mississippi, heading to the lands of the South.

²⁴⁸ Sanborn, Gen. John B. "Memories of Vicksburg." St. Paul, MN, 1887. 5.

The Division, under the command of General I. F. Quinby, disembarked at Grand Lake, but was ordered to re-load the boats and proceed on to six miles below Helena, Arkansas. Encamped on a sand bar, they awaited another steamboat to convey them down the Yazoo Pass.²⁴⁹ Upon the arrival of the *Tecumseh*, wagons, horses, and mules were once again taken aboard as well as the thirty days rations drawn by the Quartermaster. Col. Horney would have been quite busy overseeing this loading and unloading of his regiment. After reveille sounded at 5 a.m. the next morning, tents were struck. The 10th Missouri and a portion of the 12th Wisconsin boarded, ready to depart for the Yazoo Pass.²⁵⁰

This natural inland water route connected the Mississippi River with Moon Lake and the Coldwater River, though blocked by a levee. This was soon breached by the use of 1,500 pounds of gunpowder.²⁵¹ By doing this it was hoped a safe passage of troops and gunboats could be made to the northern approach of Vicksburg. The Rebels had foreseen the Federal plans and had used enormous trees, stumps, and other obstructions to hinder movement into the mouth of the Yazoo. The rapid influx of water from the Mississippi helped clear away the blockages, and a 22-boat flotilla was soon underway. Forward motion of the steamboats was slow as natural obstacles continued to create havoc.

The *Tecumseh*, a side-wheeler, was the largest of the fleet.²⁵² Difficulties immediately arose as the swift current threw the vessel into over-arching trees along the bank and held it there, entangled in drift wood and undergrowth. Every turn of the wheel only seemed to cause more entrapment. With great difficulty and help from another steamer, the boat was freed and drifted on down, navigating slowly through the crooks and abrupt bends. The rudder soon unshipped and an immense log caught in one of the wheels, breaking twelve of the buckets. All this, and the trip had barely begun.

The next day, overhanging limbs tore away the wheel house and destroyed most of the railings. The *Tecumseh* passed two boats that had sunk, their provisions floating on with the current, though the men had made their way to shore. One disastrous day followed another with even more destruction occurring. The smokestacks were broken, the pilot house torn away. Two horses of the 12th Wisconsin Battery fell overboard; the officer's horses were then removed from the after guard to the engine room.²⁵³ (It can be assumed that Col. Horney's horse, Silverheels, boarded safely.)



Rebels made their presence known as concealed snipers fired from the banks;

9. 251.

they felled more than forty trees to block the narrow waterways. It was slow progress, often backing up nearly as much as going ahead. As the Tenth Missouri made its way down the twisting Coldwater and Tallahatchee Rivers, they had several skirmishes with the enemy but, even with all the damage done to their vessel, they were successful in reaching their destination of Fort Pemberton.²⁵⁴

Because of the sluggish progress of the convoy, Confederate General Pemberton had plenty of time to set up a fort, manned by 1,500 soldiers, to stop the passage of the Federal fleet. The site chosen was a narrow neck of land about 400 yards wide where the Tallahatchee and another river joined to form the Yazoo. The fortification was constructed of cotton bales (three deep), covered with eight feet of earth, and finally topped with eight pieces of artillery. Trenches and breastworks were made of more than two thousand bales of cotton and thousands of sandbags. As a finishing touch, a captured steamer was sunk to block the channel.²⁵⁵ Fort Pemberton was situated and constructed in such a manner as to command the river for several miles.

The Union gunboats, damaged by Rebel fire, were unable to break past the fort, and the expedition was abandoned. After the ironclad gunboats had been repulsed, Brigadier General Quinby quickly saw the futility of further attacks, especially since there was no firm ground on which to land 5,000 men. The troops began their withdrawal. Those aboard the *Tecumseh* were given orders to put up defenses around their battered steamer and attempt to return to camp near Helena. Repairs were made the best they could, for if unable to get the boat in shape, it would have to be burnt. On the return, Lieutenant Colonel Horney ordered the men on the hurricane roof to keep their equipment on and their guns in their hands, as all the other boats had been fired on as they progressed along the Coldwater.²⁵⁶ Making it back to their original starting place, the men were happy to be out of the Yazoo, having been on that expedition a month. A wagon load of heavy mail from home awaited them. Good spirits prevailed; and there was singing around the campfires. When the entire force had returned by April 12, the grueling and dangerous expedition was at an end.

Leonidas continued writing letters home while on board the *Tecumseh* and again after returning to Helena. Communicating with his family seemed to be a welcome reprieve from his burdensome responsibilities and a way of putting the business of war aside. Always concerned about his family and home back in Illinois, he was quite anxious about Jane's burns, which must have been severe. Madison was given instructions about the farm and stock. Leonidas was very disappointed when his leave did not come through; Grant had endorsed it, but it could not be granted at that time. He became quite introspective, telling Jane,

²⁵⁴ Adjutant General of Missouri. "Annual Report." 138-9.

²⁵⁵ Groom. 252.

²⁵⁶ Frost. 120.

“I was well-pleased that you had got me out of debt at last. I want you to take it easy now and not work and bother yourself so much as you have, as I think we have plenty to keep us our life times even if we should live to be very old and it is no use to work as hard as we have heretofore. I fear you have a harder time than even I have. I would like to get home once more and relieve you of so much care as I know you must have. It begins to appear almost like a life-time since I saw you. I think if the Almighty in his Goodness and Mercies should spare me through this service, I will not leave you again. Write often.

*From your loving Husband, L. Horney.”*²⁵⁷

By-passing Vicksburg

Shortly after debarking on the sand bar just below Helena, Col. Horney and the Tenth Regiment took transport on the steamer, *Black Hawk*, for Milliken’s Bend, Louisiana. There, before going ashore and making their camp, they could see the white tents of Grant’s great army stretching up and down the river bank and over nearby plantations.²⁵⁸ Writing from his tent in an open field, Leonidas noted the apple trees and rose bushes were in full bloom and the timber was in full leaf. Engineers were observed filling up some very large coal barges to be used when the army crossed the river below Vicksburg. Leonidas hoped to get to a more healthy location before the weather would get hot. Mosquitoes “by the millions” bothered the men, and malaria was rampant.²⁵⁹

Gen. Grant had made numerous attempts to get to Vicksburg, all ending in failure. Pemberton, in the Confederate’s defensive stronghold, felt secure after the numerous abortive efforts of the Union army’s winter campaign. Believing that Grant had withdrawn his troops from the bayou expeditions, Pemberton considered sending a good portion of his army to reinforce Bragg in Tennessee. Becoming uneasy after Rebel scouts reported that sixty-four Federal transports loaded with troops had left Memphis, headed south, he sent Bragg only the cavalry and two divisions - instead of four.²⁶⁰

Grant, with great tenacity, was not giving up. To get to Vicksburg, he considered ways of getting boats past the heavy artillery guarding the river below the fortress city. Even if the Vicksburg guns could be bypassed, an approach from the rear would be difficult because of the rugged hills, steep ravines, thick forests, and numerous swamps and bayous. A decision was reached with trepidation; first, all divisions of the army would be

²⁵⁷ Letter. 14 Apr 1863.

²⁵⁸ Dana, Charles A. *Recollections of the Civil War*. New York: D. Appleton and Co. 1898. 28.

²⁵⁹ Letter. 18 Apr 1863.

²⁶⁰ Groom. 275.

concentrated at Milliken's Bend, where the river was a mile wide. He then boldly planned to turn his army and march it down the west bank of the river to a point below the Rebel fortification. The Union fleet would run the gauntlet of the five-mile long stretch around hair-pin turns and under the formidable guarding batteries. If meeting with success, the ships would rendezvous with the infantry at Grand Gulf.²⁶¹ After weighing all the pros and cons, Grant's risky scheme was in place by April 16

Careful preparation had been made for the protection of the ironclads and steamers by adding bulwarks of hay, cotton, and sandbags. Admiral Porter's fleet was made up of eight gunboats, one tug, and three transports which had twelve barges in tow. Transports were loaded with provisions; the barges were loaded with forage, coal, and the camp equipment of McClelland's corps (which had already gone to New Carthage).²⁶² A call was issued – and answered – for volunteers to act as pilots, engineers, and firemen. All was almost lost when a severe storm with high winds broke the heavy transports from their moorings and they began to float downstream. Pilots were able to rescue them just in time by getting up enough steam for their return. Disaster averted, the plan was once again ready to be put into effect.

Grant had two distracting tricks up his sleeve to be performed concurrently with the running of the batteries. One was a cavalry raid to the north by Col. Grierson who was to do "all the mischief he could" to Rebel property and communications. The second one was a "division-sized feint" by Sherman on Haines' Bluff up the Yazoo River. These would divide the Confederate forces by causing them to believe that a raid was coming from those directions.²⁶³ Pemberton, taking the bait, was fully perplexed, not knowing which way to turn.

Admiral Porter started his dramatic, perilous run on the dark, moonless night of April 16, 1863. Those watching could see a mass of black objects detaching themselves from the shore and float out toward the middle of the stream, at intervals of about two hundred yards, dropping slowly down stream. They drifted silently with neither steam nor light.²⁶⁴ One observer wrote, "At half past ten P.M. the boats left their moorings and steamed down the river, the *Benton* [with Admiral Porter on board] taking the lead. As they approached the point opposite the town, a terrible concentrated fire of the centre, upper and lower batteries, both water and bluff, was directed upon the channel, which here ran within one hundred yards of the shore. At the same moment innumerable floats of turpentine and other combustible materials were set ablaze. In the face of all this fire,

²⁶¹ Phillips, Charles and Alex Axelrod. *Portraits of the Civil War*. New York, NY: Friedman and Fairfax Publishers, 1993. 76-8.

²⁶² Dana. 36.

²⁶³ Groom. 281.

²⁶⁴ Dana. 37.

the boats made their way with but little loss except the transport *Henry Clay* which was set on fire and sunk."²⁶⁵



After rockets sent up by the fleet were seen - indicating they had successfully made it past the hundred guns guarding the bluffs - anxious watchers responded with great joy. With the first part of the Union stratagem a success, the army was now put in motion to slog its way down the Louisiana side of the river. The low-lying lands, already flooded, had become inundated again by three days of severe storms of wind and rain.

The overflow of the bottoms along the Louisiana shore created deep mud through which the infantry must struggle, sometimes in it up to their knees. The carriages for the heavy artillery frequently bogged down in the mire up to the axles and required double the usual number of horses or mules to pull them. Sloughs and bayous must be by-passed if possible, and in some cases, corduroy roads made of small logs or confiscated fencing had to be quickly laid down; frequently bridges had to be built over flooded areas.²⁶⁶

Col. Horney's individual passage through the black loamy soil of the lowlands was made more bearable since he was mounted on his horse, though concerned about his men who were trudging through the water-logged terrain. The Seventh Division, of which Col. Horney's regiment was a part, took advantage of the hasty improvements to roads and bridges as they were among the last of the military train to leave Milliken's Bend.

The 10th Missouri had landed at Milliken's Bend on the 18th of April where they stayed for a couple of days awaiting their position in the movement down river. After leaving on the 20th, the next day they marched ten miles and arrived at the little town of Richmond, Louisiana. While there, the pay for four months arrived. Col. Horney was up the whole night attending to the payment of the regiment and never slept a minute, but made up for it the next night. Five hundred dollars was expressed home to Jane.²⁶⁷ Because of the danger of sending money by mail, an allotment plan had been devised in which a soldier could sign, designating the money sent to someone back home, who would then receive scrip (paper currency) from the government.²⁶⁸

From Smith's Plantation in Louisiana on April 27th, Leonidas wrote,

²⁶⁵ Qtd. in "Steamboat Times." Web. 15 Apr 2011.

²⁶⁶ Sanborn, John B. "Memories of Vicksburg." St. Paul, MN. 1887. 9-11.

²⁶⁷ Letter. 21 Apr 1863.

²⁶⁸ Steen, Philip Van Doren. *Soldier Life*. New York: Bonanza Books, 1961. 62-3.

“ . . . We marched from Richmond day before yesterday through a fine rich country, splendid bottom land farms clear of water overflow and corn knee high. Rose bush hedges, no end to them. In fact, the most luxuriant vegetation I ever saw. This is a splendid fine farming country. The Negro houses better and nicer buildings than half the white people live in at the North. Our road led up the Roundaway Bayou to the point where it joins the Bayou Videl. The latter runs SW, the Roundaway NW. We will start on the march for New Carthage 3 miles south of this, but we will probably have to travel 25 miles to get around the different Bayous to get there. We hear heavy firing every night and sometimes in the day in different directions of the River. We suppose from the gun boats and the enemy's batteries. We now have a number of steam boats and gun boats down here below Vicksburg. We are about 20 or 25 miles below Vicksburg by the River. It is said we will cross the River in a day or two at some point below here . . . It is raining which will make the roads awful. We have two days rations only on hand. We have to leave our tents, clothing, and almost every thing strewed along the road as we have only five wagons to a Regiment of 400 men. They calculate we will do without tents and I reckon they will try next to 'learn' us to do without eating. I suppose the boats that ran the blockade brought down some provisions. Yours in great haste. Leonidas Horney”

Deep into Dixie

- Invasion of Mississippi
- Battle of Raymond
- On to Jackson, the Capital
- Battle of Champion Hill



*“Indeed, it was nothing but a great game of chess
that was being played,
only we, the moving pieces, had life and blood.”*

-Major S. H. M. Byers, 5th Iowa Infantry

*

Crossing the River into the State of Mississippi

Gen. Grant's Army of the Tennessee was made up of three corps: The Thirteenth Army Corps commanded by Maj. Gen. McClelland; the Fifteenth Army Corps, commanded by Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman; and the Seventeenth Army Corps, commanded by Maj. Gen. James B. McPherson. The Seventeenth Corps consisted of the third, sixth and seventh divisions, including twenty-seven regiments of infantry and thirteen batteries of artillery, seventy-two guns in all, and one or two regiments of cavalry.¹ The Tenth Missouri Infantry Regiment, led by Col. Horney, was a section of the Seventeenth Corps, Seventh Division, under McPherson. Their brigade commander was Col. Samuel A. Holmes. All were spurred on by one goal – the capture of Vicksburg!

McPherson had arrived at Smith's plantation with the leading division of his corps, the rear being not very far behind, but their movements had to be slowed, for those divisions in front were at a stand-still. Soon sixteen thousand men were at Hard Times Landing, ready to go ashore on the opposite side of the river at Grand Gulf. But first the enemy batteries guarding the landing site must be silenced. A cannonade was kept up for six hours without intermission, but the five batteries on the bluff proved to be too much for the gunboats. Admiral Porter gave the signal to withdraw. By then the numbers waiting to be transported across had continued to increase, numbering around thirty thousand; more would be coming, for Sherman and his men had yet to arrive.

Giving up on Grand Gulf as a safe point to disembark, Grant determined to drop further south, putting the soldiers out of reach of the Confederate guns.² A slave informed Grant of a road leading to an alternative crossing downstream six miles above Bruinsburg. It was the first point south of Grand Gulf from which the highlands of the interior could be reached by roads over dry land. Boarding began to the airs of patriotic music and loud cheers,³ and on April 30 and May 1, the Union army was ferried across to the east side of the Mississippi River unopposed. Gen. Grant wrote later that after the successful crossing he experienced "a degree of relief scarcely ever equaled since. . ."⁴

The enemy at Grand Gulf had held off their attackers from daylight to almost sundown. With no reinforcements arriving from Pemberton in Vicksburg, and fearful that they would be cut off from the bridge at Big Black, the Confederates withdrew across Bayou Pierre. Before deserting their post, the rebels exploded the magazine, destroyed all the heavy artillery, and burnt the bridge across the South Fork. Union gunboats, exploring the cause of the explosion, found the fortification of Grand Gulf had had been abandoned by Gen. Bowen and his rebels; it was taken without a shot. Grant was now able to transfer

¹ Sanborn, John B. "Memories of Vicksburg." St. Paul, MN, 1887. 7. Web. 22 Apr 2011.

² Dana, Charles A. *Recollections of the Civil War*. New York, NY: D. Appleton and Co., 1898. 41-43.

³ Ballard, Michael B. *Vicksburg: the Campaign that Opened the Mississippi*. UNC Press Books, 2004.

⁴ Green, A. Wilson and Gary W. Gallagher. "National Geographic Guide to the Civil War National Battlefield Parks." Washington, DC: National Geographic Society, 1992. 54-55.

his base of supplies from Bruinsburg to Grand Gulf.⁵ Pemberton, holed up in Vicksburg without cavalry and civilian scouts, had no clue concerning the movements of the Union army.



On May 1, the Tenth Missouri left all public and personal baggage, embarked on board the gunboat *Carondelet*, dropped down the river about four miles, and landed on the Mississippi shore.⁶ After making the crossing of the river, the 10th Missouri Infantry waited on the shore long enough to draw one hundred rounds of ammunition to the man, and a few “hard tacks.”⁷ They

then marched along a sunken trace to support the force that was engaged with the withdrawing Confederates of Gen. Bowen near Port Gibson. However, before the reinforcing regiment arrived, the battle had terminated, and the enemy had again taken flight.⁸

McPherson’s corps having now come up with the command, Grant ordered them to push across Bayou Pierre and attack the demoralized enemy which was in full retreat through Willow Springs. Before nightfall, McPherson’s two divisions had crossed the South Fork, the pontoon bridge having been quickly repaired by a heavy detail of McClernand’s forces. They marched to the North Fork where they found the bridge at Grindstone Ford still burning. The fire was extinguished and the bridge repaired during the night, allowing the troops to pass over by 5 a.m.⁹ Advancing about three miles, the head of the column encountered a force of the enemy with supporting artillery. Col. Holmes deployed the Tenth Missouri infantry under Lieutenant-Colonel Horney as skirmishers,

supported by the Eightieth Ohio and the Seventeenth Iowa. . Shots were exchanged with the Rebels throughout the day, through broken country with narrow, tortuous roads and impassable ravines. The fleeing Rebels were chased all the way to Hankinson’s Ferry on the Big Black River, six miles distant.¹⁰ Several hundred



GENERAL BURNETT'S DEPARTMENT CROSSING THE BLACK RIVER. FROM A WATER-COLOR BY FRANCIS C. BOWLING. U.S. ARMY, WASHINGTON, D.C. PUBLISHING OFFICE, 1897.

⁶ SIU Press, 1979. 518.

⁷ *Official Records*. “Report of Maj. . . .” Vol. XXIV: 780.

⁷ Frost 122.

⁸ Report of Adjutant General. 139.

⁹ Frost 123-4.

¹⁰ *Official Records*. Holmes, Col. Samuel A. # 11. 25 May 1863. 774.

prisoners were taken in the pursuit.

At four o'clock in the afternoon, McPherson's blue-coated soldiers made contact with the hastily withdrawing Secesh when the last of the "Gen. Blair's Division Crossing Big Black River" – from a watercolor¹¹

rebels were crossing the bridge over the Big Black. It was just in time to prevent any destruction and allowed the Federals an unobstructed fording of the river. Now being dark and the enemy driven across the river, the command rested for the night ¹²

This, on the 3rd of May, was when the 10th Missouri took part in the skirmish at Hankinson's Ferry, also called Forty Hills, and helped establish the bridgehead. They were in support of Battery M of the 1st Missouri Light Artillery.¹³ In this engagement, just like at Iuka and Corinth, the fighting men's spirits were given a boost by the inspiration of Old Abe, the eagle, whose cries cheered them on.¹⁴ The command stayed at the Big Black for several days, awaiting provisions and transportation.¹⁵

Writing from camp on the Black River, State of Mississippi, on May 4, Leonidas wrote to Jane.

"I wish to inform that I am well and still unhurt although several shell and solid shot heavy caliber have come rather close to be uncomfortable. We have had continual skirmishing on our front for the last five days. On the last day of April [sic] our advance had some severe fights, killing, wounding, and taking of 8 or 10 hundred Secesh. Yesterday we had a skirmish in the hill and brush south of this, capturing 50 or 60 prisoners. Our pickets and the enemy were firing at each other all last night and I could not get to sleep until near midnight, and we were waked up at 4 o'clock after daylight. The artillery fought a duel for two hours or more. Since then every thing has been quiet and we have been laying under the shade all day. We are nearly out of bread. Will use the last tonight. We crossed the Mississippi River some distance below Grand Gulf on the last day of April [sic] with nothing except what we could pack on our backs, being 3 days rations of hard bread and 2 days of sugar and coffee, this to do us five days. It was a very warm day. I had to take it on foot the first day from the river and blistered my foot. I had not marched on foot so long that my feet were tender, but my horse got up that night. We find plenty of pork, bacon, fat chickens, hogs, sheep, corn, molasses, sugar, salt, and everything but bread . . . is plenty. We will have provisions from our trains in a few days. We turned and out-flanked the enemy's

¹¹ Winchel, Shea & Terrance J. "Vicksburg is the Key, the Struggle for the Mississippi River." Web. 27 Apr 2011.

¹² Frost 124.

¹³ Report of Adjutant General. 139.

¹⁴ Barrett 54.

¹⁵ Frost 123-24.

strong fortifications at Grand Gulf, capturing six very large siege guns and also a light field battery. Prisoners and deserters from the enemy are coming in all the time. We completely surprised the Confeds. We captured a large number of Negroes. Company A had only 18 to carry their knapsacks, but they were all turned over today and put to work on fortifications, building bridges. I do not think we will have very hard fighting for several days, perhaps they may evacuate Vicksburg. In haste, L. Horney”¹⁶

During the delay while waiting for rations to be brought forward, foraging parties were sent out ten miles in each direction. Everything eatable could be found except bread, coffee, and tea. Thousands of pounds of sugar, bacon, pickled pork, and splendid molasses were found. Herds of cattle, swine, or sheep were brought in. Pork and bacon were discovered hidden in the woods or buried under houses when people ran and left their homes. According to Leonidas, if families were still at home, the soldiers left enough food for sixty days.¹⁷ A good number of horses were picked up. An assortment of conveyances such as wagons, carriages, and ox carts were confiscated to carry provisions.

On January 1, 1863, Lincoln had issued the Emancipation Proclamation declaring “that all persons held as slaves” within the rebellious states “are, and henceforward shall be free.” After the proclamation, Leonidas had seen its effect as slaves continually attached themselves to the army. After crossing the Mississippi, he described the colored folks they saw along the way:

It is a perfect Jubilee with the Darkies here. They run out to meet us everywhere by hundreds, women and men and tell us everything they know that they think will be any help to us – where we can find provision. They are astonished at our numbers and say, ”You might as well go back. Dere is enuff of you folks gone by now to eat up all de Sesesh.” Ask them where they are, they answer, “Lord Bess you Massa. I don’t know. They runnin’ like the debel after um . . . to de Cain Break, I recon.”¹⁸

Grant Makes Decisive Decisions

The Confederates, expecting Grant to head directly to Vicksburg, began improving the fortifications at Warrenton, where they entrenched and waited for an assault. Gen. Grant had other ideas, however, and resolutely made a key decision. Rather than going directly to Vicksburg, he opted to first strike the Southern railroad between Vicksburg and Jackson. This would cut off critical supplies and communication to Pemberton in Vicksburg. Catching the Southerners off balance, this tactic would most importantly keep Pemberton and Gen. Joe Johnston from uniting their forces. Johnston, however, was

¹⁶ Letter. 4 May 1863.

¹⁷ Letter. 6 May 1863.

¹⁸ Letter. n.d.

progressing slowly and having problems in reaching Jackson. By advancing without delay, the invading Federal army would have a decided advantage.

Grant moved his army in a forced march northward, dividing them into three prongs, McClernand on the west, Sherman in the middle, and McPherson on the east. During the night of the 6th, McPherson drew in his troops north of the Big Black, in accordance with Grant's orders. The next morning reveille sounded at an early hour, and soon the division was started on the road to Jackson, via Rocky Springs, Utica, and Raymond. McClernand moved on through Rocky Springs, while McPherson's troops stayed there until May 9; Col. Horney and the Tenth Missouri were in the rear and arrived that night in Rocky Springs, advancing the next day to a point a few miles west of Utica.¹⁹

A private in the 6th Wisconsin recorded in his diary that although they were in the "land of cotton and alligators," the nights were very cold and chilly while the days were in the other extreme.²⁰ While the army had been plagued by storms, rain, and mud along the Mississippi River, now the opposite was true, for there had been no rain for several weeks. It had turned hot and dry with most creeks reduced to a trickle. The red loess soil of Mississippi was kicked up by the feet of thousands of marching soldiers who choked on the dust and suffered from the lack of water. At Utica water was found in nearby Tallhala Creek for McPherson's 12,000 thirsty soldiers as well as an uncounted number of horses who suffered from lack of water.

On the evening of the 11th, McPherson received a communication from Gen. Grant which ordered him to "move your command to-night . . . with all activity into Raymond. At the latter place you will use your utmost exertions to secure all the subsistence stores that may be there, as well as in the vicinity. We must fight the enemy before our rations fail, and we are equally bound to make our rations last as long as possible."²¹ Military procedure always demanded that an army have a secure line for provisions. Nevertheless, after the supplies at Holly Springs had been destroyed, Grant had learned his army could endure with short rations, living off the land. Grant was now proposing to continue to do the unthinkable and move his army so speedily that whatever meager provisions were issued would have to last many days, supplemented only by foraging from the countryside.

Battle of Raymond

On the 12th, following Grant's orders, the army was roused before dawn and began advancing in earnest, maintaining strict drum and bugle silence. The expectation prevailed that a serious conflict with the butternuts would soon be in the offing. The Seventeenth Corps was on the extreme right with Logan's Division leading the way. The 160-man cavalry battalion provided a strong cavalry screen and had been reconnoitering in advance to determine the best route to follow. The contingent had pressed forward for

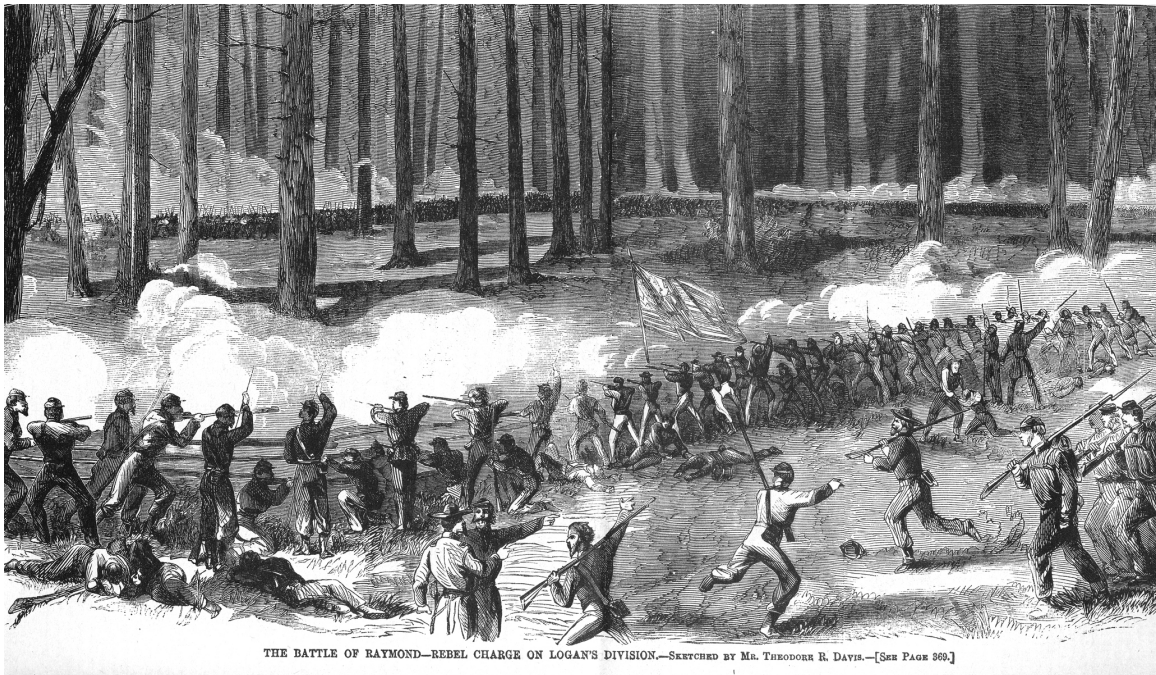
¹⁹ Grant. *Memoirs*.

²⁰ Jones, Jenkin Lloyd. "An Artilleryman's Diary." Wisconsin History Commission. Feb 1911.

²¹ Bearss, Ed. "The Vicksburg Campaign, Grant Moves Inland." *Blue & Gray*. Fall 2000. 12.

about two hours when it struck a division of rebels a mile or two south of the little town of Raymond.²² Suddenly they were hit with deadly fire. They had met up with forty men of Gen. John Gregg's brigade who were on patrol.

The initial attack of the Confederates was successful, but after realizing their small squad was facing a solid mass of Union soldiers, they fell back toward Raymond. Gregg was warned that a column of undisclosed strength was advancing.²³ What scant information the Southern general had concerning the strength or whereabouts of the Yankees was inaccurate. Believing Logan's small force to be a raiding party, he had no idea he was stirring up the leading edge of McPherson's two divisions of 12,000 or more men. Gregg chose his field of battle, and his brigade of 3,000 Confederates soon clashed with the larger force. The unequal battle progressed along Fourteen Mile Creek, southwest of Raymond, often amid underbrush covered with thorny vines and fallen trees. Logan's troops, hampered by clouds of dust and the smoke of battle, lost ground the first two or three hours until reinforcements arrived and they were able to counterattack. Heavy fighting was waged for a total of six hours.



The Battle of Raymond - Rebel Charge of Logan's Division

The Tenth Missouri, awaiting their turn to proceed, had started out at 9 a.m. The Illinois soldiers marched over hills and hollows – the fields and woods spotted with beautiful magnolias in full bloom. By noon, about seven miles from Raymond, they could hear the sharp report of musketry and occasional discharge of cannon. Pushing on, the roar of

²² Sanborn 14.

²³ Bearss 14.

artillery became louder and more distinct every moment. By one o'clock, they arrived at the scene of conflict. They could tell by the sound that Logan, after being severely engaged with the enemy, was finally gaining ground. At first posted in reserve, the Tenth formed into a line, and immediately made preparation to fight.²⁴ The regiment was ordered to extend the line of Gen. Stevenson's Brigade of Logan's Division on the extreme right wing, preparatory to an advance into town.²⁵

The blue-coated brigades continued to arrive to strengthen the battle line and soon the Southerners began to give way. A major turning point occurred when twenty-two pieces of Northern artillery were massed along a ridge on the edge of the battlefield. Around three in the afternoon, the outnumbered Rebels began to fall back in haste, even leaving their knapsacks. They skedaddled through Raymond, not even stopping under the shady oak trees to partake in the huge picnic lunch prepared for them by the ladies of Raymond. The townspeople had been confident there would be a victory celebration upon their soldiers' return from battle. Instead, to the chagrin of the Southern cooks, the advancing Federals (the 20th Ohio arriving first)²⁶ hungrily helped themselves. Decorum was certainly not observed by the smoky, dirt-encrusted Yankees, who felt the delicious food had been well-earned. It is said that sandwiches were speared with swords when the weary, but jubilant, Northerners passed by. By the time Col. Horney and his hot and parched men arrived, it was too late to participate for the feast had quickly disappeared.

The Union casualties at Raymond were 68 killed, 341 wounded, and 37 missing. The Confederate casualties were 100 killed, 305 wounded, and 415 captured.²⁷ Abandoned by Gregg, the wounded Confederate soldiers from the battle were cared for in the Hinds County Courthouse at Raymond, while St. Mark's Episcopal Church and the Methodist church were used as hospitals for the Union wounded. Makeshift beds were made by unrolling layers of cotton from the huge bales of cotton.²⁸

As the sounds of battle lessened and finally stilled, Col. Horney and the 10th Regiment moved forward to the sound of fife and drum. Advancing into Raymond, they were allowed to rest a few minutes before moving into position again. Passing through the town to the Edward Station road, they remained there until morning.²⁹ The following day, the 13th of May, Holmes' brigade proceeded nine miles, through heat and dust, to Clinton without meeting any opposition. Encampment was made one mile east of that place on the Vicksburg and Jackson Railroad.³⁰

²⁴ Frost. 125.

²⁵ Official Records. Holmes. # 11. 775.

²⁶ Bearss, Ed. "The Vicksburg Campaign." *Blue & Gray*. Oct 2000. 20-21.

²⁷ "The Battle of Raymond." Wikipedia. Web. 3 May 2011.

²⁸ Tullos, Isla. Interview. 24 May 2005.

²⁹ Frost. 125.

³⁰ Official Records. Holmes. # 11. 775.

After the Battle of Raymond, Gen. Grant made a major change in his strategy. Jackson, the state capital and the communications and manufacturing center of Mississippi, lay 45 miles to the east. Rather than just settling for the destruction of the railways, he determined to clear the capital city of enemy troops and make it ineffective as a Rebel operating base. Even though he was between two commands of the enemy (Pemberton at Edwards Station and Johnston, who was tardily arriving in Jackson), the capture of Jackson would prevent an attack from the rear when moving toward the anticipated capitulation of Vicksburg. To carry out this plan, Grant ordered McClelland's corps to remain at Raymond and Clinton to block any Confederate reinforcements that might arrive from the west; McPherson and Sherman were given the assignment to move to the east and attack Jackson. Grant's unexpected tactics continued to keep Pemberton in a state of confusion.

On to the Mississippi Capital

It had rained most of the night, then at daybreak on May 14, the rain began to fall in torrents. According to orders, the troops were up and moving at dawn. The Tenth Missouri, ordered out very early, hastily prepared what breakfast they could. Marching down the Clinton road as the advance guard, Col. Horney and his men plodded along the slippery roads in mud and sleet as the rain continued to pour down. At every turn of the road, glimpses of the enemy cavalry could be spotted. Companies A and F had been thrown out to the sides of the road as flankers while Company D was deployed as skirmishers. Topping a hill, the Rebels were seen waiting for them with infantry and artillery. Word was immediately sent back to Col. Holmes, in charge of the brigade. The line was ordered to halt, and the skirmishers directed to note the movement of the foe. In a very short time a Battery of four 10-pound Parrotts was brought up, placed in position, and was soon pouring answering shot and shell into the entrenched Confederate ranks.³¹ The rain had increased in violence with frequent flashes of lightning and peals of thunder, delaying an immediate attack. It was feared there would be great danger of ammunition being spoilt if the men opened their cartridge boxes during the heavy showers. While waiting about an hour for the rain to lessen in intensity, the time was productively spent in putting the troops into position.³²

³¹ Frost 126-7.

³² Frost 132-33.



About 11 o'clock, the downpour having partially ceased, the whole line was ordered to advance, which they did - the Seventeenth Iowa on the left, the Eightieth Ohio next, and the Tenth Missouri on the right. The brigade pressed on under a heavy fire of artillery, over two ridges. Remaining for about fifteen minutes under the crest of a third ridge, Col. Holmes then commanded that bayonets be fixed and a charge be made upon the enemy. The troops moved forward at double-quick, cheering wildly, driving in first the skirmishers, and then their main line, while undergoing a terrific onslaught of shell, canister, and musketry. A desperate hand-to-hand conflict ensued between Col. Horney's Tenth Missouri Regiment and a crack regiment of the south, the 24th South Carolina volunteers.³³ The Tenth Missouri suffered severely before routing their adversary, having ten men killed and seventy-four wounded.³⁴



³³ Frost 128.

³⁴ Deimling, Francis C. "Report of Operations." May 1863.

Bayonet Charge before Jackson, Mississippi
10th Missouri, 80th Ohio, 17th Iowa

Sherman, totally unexpected by Gregg, came from the Raymond road toward Jackson and attacked from the southwest. Strong emplacements of Rebel artillery in the center delayed his advance for a brief time. He sent his men around the right flank and on into the heart of the city, with the Union troops occupying the ground of the Confederates as fast as their brigades fell back. When the startling boom of Sherman's artillery came from the unexpected direction, the frightened enemy deserted their works, left artillery unspiked, and retreated through the town, moving northward. By 3 p.m. the Stars and Stripes was once again hoisted over the dome of the state capitol, and the victorious army marched through the abandoned camps, capturing nine cannons and taking several hundred prisoners.³⁵

Col. Holmes' Brigade, after successfully dislodging their opponents from a strong position, entered Jackson unopposed and seized four cannon.³⁶ The Tenth found tents still standing filled with commissary stores, clothing, blankets, officer's baggage, cooking utensils, camp kettles, mess pans, plates, cups, and everything used by a soldier or officer in camp or garrison.³⁷ Gregg's overwhelmed brigades had taken no time to gather up any belongings as they hastily made their escape.

"At Grant's orders, large parts of the city were put to the torch. 'Foundries, machine shops, warehouses, factories, arsenals, and public stores were fired as fast as flames could be kindled,' reported a Northern journalist. Of more importance, both of the rail lines passing through Jackson were destroyed. Sherman's soldiers tore up the tracks, started fires with the ties and then, to ensure that the rails would never be used again, heated them over the flames until they were soft enough to be twisted around trees."³⁸ Vicksburg was now isolated as communication had been severed – the railways had been demolished, telegraph wires had been cut, and an army was knocking at their front door.

Col. Samuel A. Holmes, Tenth Missouri Infantry, commander of the Second Brigade, filed the following official report on the Battle of Jackson:

"The march was resumed on the morning of the 14th toward Jackson, the Second brigade leading. In view of the probability of soon meeting the enemy, a heavy force of skirmishers from the Tenth Missouri was thrown forward and deployed with supports. Advancing about three miles, the enemy was discovered in force

³⁵ Groom, Winston. *Vicksburg 1863*. New York: Vintage Books, 2009. 315.

³⁶ Bearss 50.

³⁷ Frost 128.

³⁸ Korn, Jerry. *The Civil War. War on the Mississippi: Grant's Vicksburg Campaign*. Time Life Books: Alexandria, VA, 1985. 116.

on both sides of the road, occupying a commanding position, his right covered by a dense thicket of oak bushes, his center and artillery at Wright's house, with his left on the continuation of the ridge. The main position at the house was also covered by a line of infantry formed in the ravine in his immediate front. His artillery commanded the road and an open country of undulating ridges for 1 ½ mile in the direction of our approach. Upon discovering the enemy, the Second Brigade was at once deployed, the Tenth Missouri, [under] Lieutenant-Colonel Horney, to the right of the road, and the Eightieth Ohio . . . and the Seventeenth Iowa . . . to the left. The First Missouri Battery was now taken into position and my line changed so as to support it with the Seventeenth Iowa on the left of the road, the Eightieth Ohio in the center on the right of the road, and the Tenth Missouri on the right of the line, the whole supported on the right by the First Brigade . . . and on the left by the Third Brigade [under] Col. Boomer. The whole line advanced in a heavy rain and under a severe fire of artillery and skirmishers to within 500 yards of the enemy's main line, when I halted under the shelter of an intervening ridge, preparatory to the final charge. Being again ordered to advance, I commanded my three regiments to fix bayonets, and at the word, to move at double-quick upon the enemy, which they did in excellent order, sweeping everything before them and carrying the position. The Sixth Wisconsin battery . . . was quickly brought to the front, and opened a heavy fire upon the fleeing enemy, who continued his retreat into and through the town of Jackson, abandoning his artillery as he went."

"My loss in this battle – mostly in the charge- amounted in all to 215 killed, wounded, and missing, out of a force of about 1,000 actually engaged. . . The conduct of my officers and men in this action was worthy of all praise, without excepting any. The brigade bivouacked in the town that night, and in the morning took up the line of march, with the rest of the division, for Vicksburg. Marched 8 miles to Clinton, where I encamped."

Commander of the Seventeenth Corps, James B. McPherson, issued the following order to his soldiers after the battle:

Jackson, Mississippi,
May 13, 1863
General Order No. 18

Soldiers of the Seventeenth Army Corps, your General congratulates you on your noble endurance and heroic bravery. Year long and tedious marches through dust and heat, borne without a murmur; your unflinching courage and victories at Port Gibson, Raymond and Jackson, driving the enemy at every point, prove you worthy your noble ancestry, and have made you heroes in American history. Your General is proud of you. Your country honors you, and will remember you and your deeds with gratitude and exultation. The enemy is still active though defeated; let us press him and crush him, till one nationality is ours and one flag

alone, the flag of our fathers, floats over American soil and protects American people.

James. B. McPherson³⁹

The Battle of Champion Hill

When a communiqué from Johnston to Pemberton was intercepted, Grant learned that Gen. Johnston had commanded Pemberton to come out of Vicksburg and attack the rear of the Federals; Johnston stated he would cooperate. With the knowledge of the plans of both commanders, Grant immediately turned the bulk of his army about to meet the enemy while leaving Sherman in Jackson to finish tearing up the railroads and to destroy all the public property that could be of any use to the Confederates.⁴⁰ The corps of McClernand began marching west from Jackson to meet and do bloody battle with Pemberton. At 10:00 a.m. on the 15th, the troops of McPherson had left Jackson, ready to support McClernand.

“The Confederates, with the crucially important key to the Mississippi River at stake, were in disarray. Johnston’s force was widely dispersed northeastward from Jackson. Elements of Pemberton’s army unaware that they were about to be met by an unseen force, were to the south. Away from their secure defenses at Vicksburg, they hoped to cut the Federal supply line (which didn’t actually exist) and somehow expel Grant from the state.”⁴¹ The two large armies of the South were not able to meet and become a united force, for they were scattered and marching in different directions. By the time that Pemberton belatedly arrived at Edward’s Station, the situation was out of his control and the enemy was already upon him. As he stated upon arrival in Jackson, “I am too late.”

While there was no fighting on the preceding day, the bloodiest battle of the campaign was fought on May 16, at Champion Hill, a cotton plantation owned by Sid and Matilda Champion. Pemberton was moving northeast just south of Champion Hill early in the morning when he received word of the Union advance coming down the Jackson road. He halted his march and formed a line of battle to protect the high ground of Champion Hill as well as the crossroads leading to Edwards Station and Vicksburg. Pemberton’s 23,000 men would be facing 32,000 Federals of the commands of McClernand and McPherson (Sherman still being in Jackson).

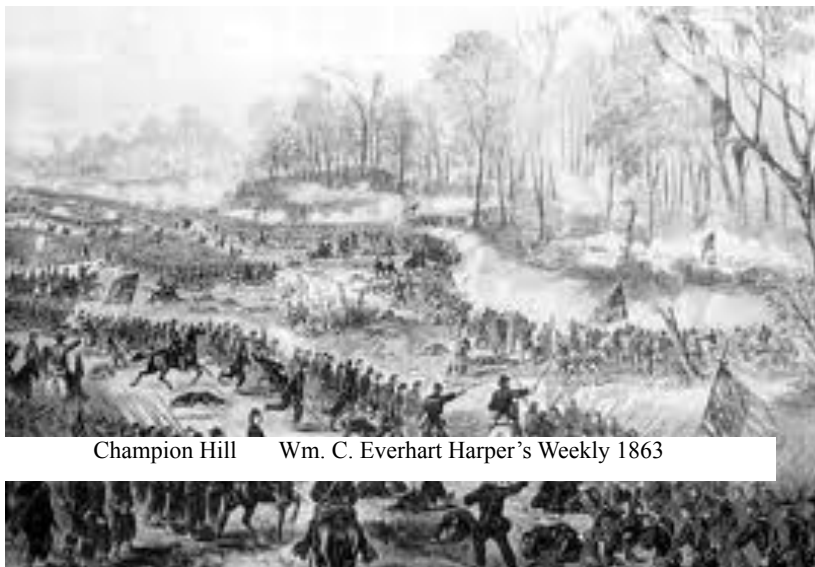
“Historians agree that the battle of Champion Hill, or the ‘Hill of Death,’ as it was called from the number of men of both sides slaughtered there, which was fought on the 16th of May, 1863, was one of the most hotly contested and spirited battles of the war. The enemy was strongly posted on the hill, near which the road to Edward’s Station turned to the south, sixty or eighty feet above the surrounding country and the highest land for many miles around. The topmost part is bald,

³⁹ Frost 134.

⁴⁰ Dana 53.

⁴¹ Eicher, David J. *The Longest Night: A Military History of the Civil War*. Simon & Schuster. 2001. 465.

which gave the Rebels a commanding place for their artillery. The remainder of the crest and in fact all the hill except the top is covered with a dense forest and undergrowth, deep ravines having been made by heavy rains. To the north are cultivated fields which extend to Baker's Creek, a full mile away. The Rebel line ran southward along the entire crest, its center covering the road from Raymond. The whole line was about four miles long.⁴²



Champion Hill Wm. C. Everhart Harper's Weekly 1863

⁴² Frost 135.

Meeting with Destiny

- 10th Missouri Joins the Battle
- Col. Horney killed
- News Reaches Schuyler County
- Funeral



90th Psalm

*Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations,
Before the mountains were born,
Or Thou didst give birth to the earth and the world,
Even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God.*

*Thou dost turn man back into dust,
And dost say, "Return, O children of men."
For a thousand years in Thy sight
Are like Yesterday when it passes by,
Or as a watch in the night.*

*Thou hast swept them away like a flood, they fall asleep;
In the morning they are like grass which sprouts anew.
In the morning it flourishes, and sprouts anew;
Towards evening it fades, and withers away.*

Psalms 90:2-6

The Death of Col. Horney

Col. Holmes, encamped at Clinton, received orders from Grant to move immediately to the front. Heavy firing was heard from the direction of Champion Hill, thirteen miles to the west. After arriving within about three miles of the field of battle, orders were given to leave the train of wagons parked under guard of a regiment, the Eightieth Ohio. The two remaining regiments under Lieutenant Col. Horney and Col. Hillis continued to advance until meeting the enemy. The enemy occupied a strong position upon a steep, wooded hill, topped by a road, and flanked by deep ravines. This point had been sharply contested through the day and, at the time of the arrival of Holmes' brigade about 2 p.m., was in the act of being retaken by the enemy. The Tenth charged with the bayonet. A desperate contest ensued, but the enemy was steadily pressed back, and at last was broken and forced to retreat.⁴³

M. O. Frost of Company D of the Tenth Missouri Volunteer Infantry wrote the following account of the decisive battle at Champion Hill.

“Champion Hill was undoubtedly the key to the Rebel stronghold of Vicksburg. Continuous firing had been heard all morning (our Brigade today being in the rear), and we knew there was trouble ahead. By eleven o'clock we knew from the heavy firing that a battle was being fought. By two o'clock the stragglers and wounded passed us on the road and through the fields telling of the slaughter in our front; when within about two miles of Champion Hill, one of Gen. Crocker's aides came riding back saying to Col Holmes, ‘The General directs that you hurry up your men; the third Brigade is about out of ammunition and can't hold out much longer.’

“The order was given to ‘forward, double-quick, march,’ and although we had traveled twelve miles under the hot sun we started on the run; knapsacks, haversacks, blankets and everything except our guns and cartridge boxes, were thrown to the side of the road. We soon reached the place where we were needed. The situation looked indeed desperate. On the right of the road were parked all our wagons; while not four hundred yards from them our lines were slowly falling back, contesting every inch of the ground, closely followed by the Rebels. We had but two Regiments, the Seventeenth Iowa and our own [the Tenth Missouri], the Fifty-sixth Illinois being away guarding prisoners and the Eightieth Ohio being in the rear of our Division wagon train.

“One of Grant's Aides who was on his horse at the side of the road as we passed said, ‘Boys, if you only do as well as you did at Jackson, you can drive them back, and I know you will.’

“We formed in line of battle at the foot of the hill under a severe fire and as soon as formed, under orders to ‘fix bayonets,’ and charge, we started up the hill with yells and shouts that made the ‘Earth tremble’ Our shouts were taken up by those

⁴³ Frost 138.

who were still holding the Rebels at bay, by the wounded and stragglers back on the road; the enemy's lines were broken and they fled in all directions. Prisoners captured said they supposed from the shouts and noise that a fresh army of Yanks were upon them, and they were too nearly exhausted to fight longer. We drove them through the woods capturing many prisoners, arms, & c.

“The Seventeenth Iowa fought as heretofore, nobly and well. They captured the flag of the Thirty-first Alabama and many prisoners. At one time we were nearly surrounded, the Rebels having formed in a ravine on our right and rear. Our men discovered them and commenced pouring hot shot into their ranks, when, Lieutenant Colonel L. Horney who was in command of the Regiment, ordered the firing in that direction to cease as he supposed it was our men who were in the ravine. To make himself sure about it as some of the men insisted that they were Rebels, he rode up to the edge of the ravine, when he was pierced by half a dozen bullets, and fell dead from his horse.”⁴⁴

Various sources give additional information. The Official Report of Deimling adds “. . . Leonidas Horney, who, up to this period, had been in command of the regiment, was instantly killed, falling from his horse, pierced with three shots in the breast and head.”⁴⁵ A newspaper article entitled “The Sixty-third Anniversary” states Col. Horney fell from his horse, Silverheels, into the arms of one of his command, Elijah Wilson, who had enlisted in his Company A at Littleton.

Brigade commander, Col. Samuel A. Holmes, wrote “The gallant Lieutenant Colonel Horney, commanding the Tenth Missouri, while moving his regiment across the road to the right to uncover the Seventeenth, fell, pierced by several balls. . . . I cannot withhold a just tribute to the lamented Lieut. Col. Leonidas Horney, commanding the Tenth Missouri Infantry, who fell, as stated, at Champion Hill. He was truly a capable and valiant soldier, and his loss is very deeply regretted.”⁴⁶

George Boardman Boomer, 26th Missouri Infantry told of the loss of two friends from his unit, Capt. Welker and Maj. Brown. They “were buried with Lieut. Col. Horney this morning, side by side, in rude coffins, with a description of the locality that will identify their graves if the rude mementos we placed at their heads are lost.”⁴⁷

⁴⁴ Frost 135-37.

⁴⁵ Deimling.. Report of Operations.

⁴⁶ Official Record. Holmes. # 11. 776-77.

⁴⁷ Stone, Mary Amelia Boomer. *Memoir of George Boardman Boomer*. Boston: Press of Geo. C. Rand & Avery, 1864.

Billy Watts, Confederate Sharpshooter

An account of the killing of Col. Leonidas Horney was recorded by a Confederate soldier, Private A. H. Reynolds. “. . . We had caught the enemy with empty guns, and they gave way easily. We were charging up the long slope from the negro quarters to the highest peak of Champion Hill and almost parallel with the public road to Bolton. At the top of the hill we met another long line of blues climbing the same hill. They were within eighty feet of us when we gained the top of the hill, and without orders it seemed as if every male in our ranks fired at once. Never before, nor since, have I ever witnessed such a sight. The whole line seemed to fall and tumble head-long to the bottom of the hill. In a moment they came again, and we were ready and again repulsed them. And again and again for several hours in this way we held them at bay, until we charged them and gained the top of the next hill, the spindle top . . .

“When we reached there, we were ordered to fall back . . . About twenty of us, mostly from my company, were left to cover the retreat, being sharpshooters. We stopped at a hollow that headed up near the Bolton road. After waiting until the command was clearly out of sight, six of our number, Hat Hogg, **Billy Watts**, Joel Moody, Frank Smith, a half-blood Indian by the name of Busic, and I, went out where we could see over the hilltop. A regiment of Federal infantry was just filing out of the big road to our right and about eighty yards away and advancing at trail arms in an oblique direction toward us, their commanding officer riding just in front and to our right. When they had covered about half of the distance between us, **Billy Watts** knelt beside a little oak tree and fired, when the officer fell as if dead or mortally wounded. . . . In the next minute we were prisoners of war and passed by where Billy Watts had killed the officer, just as they were conveying him off. I noticed then that it was not over forty yards from where he fell to the public road leading to Bolton.”⁴⁸

Billy Watts belonged to Co. G., 19th Arkansas Volunteers, CSA. He and Private Reynolds went to prison together for four months before being paroled.



“Six thousand blue and gray-coated men were lying there in the woods, dead or wounded, when the last gun of Champion Hills was fired. Some of the trees on the battlefield were tall magnolias, and many of their limbs were shot away. The trees were in full bloom,

⁴⁸ Reynolds, A. H. “Vivid Experiences at Champion Hill, Miss.” *Confederate Veteran*. Jan 1910.

their beautiful blossoms contrasting with the horrible scene of battle. Besides killing and wounding three thousand of the enemy we had also captured thirty cannon and three thousand prisoners.”⁴⁹

When the fighting ended about 3 p.m., the battlefield was a scene of carnage, littered with the bodies of soldiers and horses, the wreckage of cannon, and spent ammunition. It had been the bloodiest and most decisive engagement thus far in the Vicksburg Campaign. Grant reported 2,441 casualties, Pemberton 3,839.⁵⁰ The victory at Champion Hill allowed the Union army to advance to Vicksburg and accept its surrender on July 5, 1863.

News soon reached Schuyler County of the death of Leonidas. On June 3, 1863, the *Schuyler Citizen*, with the headline “Col. Horney Killed!” reported “a private letter written to a gentleman in St. Louis, Mo. from Vicksburg under date of May 20th and published in Monday morning’s Democrat, gives the sad news that Col. Leonidas Horney of the 10th Mo. Reg. was killed before Vicksburg. This is indeed bitter news to his family and many friends in this county. Let us hope the intelligence may not be confirmed. We shall probably have the particulars next week.”

. “Death of Col. Horney”

“The rumored death of Col. Leonidas Horney, which we barely mentioned last week, has been since confirmed. It is stated that during the battle of Champion Hills, in the approach to Vicksburg, his regiment was engaged in the fight, and while engaged in forming his men into line of battle, the dastardly foe approached dressed in Federal uniform, --Col. Horney was a brave and loyal soldier, and in every respect a most worthy man. He was the only child of his parents – Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Horney, who live in the vicinity of Littleton in this county. He leaves a wife and several children. His parents and family have the deepest sympathy of our entire community. We trust some one better prepared than ourself [sic] will furnish a fuller notice of his melancholy decease.”

Jane and her family surely were immensely grieved when the news came of the death of Leonidas. The letter confirming it likely arrived around the same time.

Camp in the field near Vicksburg Miss May 24th 63

Mrs. Jane Horney

Dear Friend, It is with a heavy heart I undertake under present circumstances to write you a note to inform you of the death of your

⁴⁹ Byers, S. M. H., 5th Iowa Infantry. Diary, “With Fire and Sword.” Neale Publishing Co., 1911. Web. 2 Sept 2002.

⁵⁰ Korn. *Time/Life*. 122.

husband, Col. Horney, who fell in the battle of Champion Hills (about twenty miles distant, east from here) on the 16th inst. Our Brigade remains there to bury the dead, to care for the wounded. On the evening of the 17th we buried Leonidas, in as good a coffin as [conditions?] at hand would admit and under a large tree, marked the place so there will be no trouble in any of us finding it, should you wish to remove the body.

Such is a certain casualty of war & all good soldiers are liable to meet the same fate, all any fellow Soldiers can say of him, is that in every particular he strove to do his whole duty as an officer, and, as at all times doing all in his power for the comfort of his men. His death is a source of mourning in the 10th Mo Reg. by each and every member, and more especially for us, who enlisted with him & have ever looked to him for counsel & advice. He will ever live in our memory as a dear friend, and if possible, too, brave soldier & commander.

Be assured you have the sincere sympathy of all of us in your bereavement on account of arduous & constant duty since that time I have not been able to write to any one until today. Col. Holmes promised to write to you which I hope he has done before this. If not I shall remind him of his promise Major Demling also promises to write to the county papers.

Col. Horney's effects here are being cared for as well as possible. The horse, Harbison is attending to. His trunk we have to leave in the wagon where we think it safe. His sword belt & pistol is all put away safely we think. & on account of the uncertainty of life here before Vicksburg we put his pocket book & contents amounting to two hundred and eight dollars & fifty five cents 208 ⁵⁵/₁₀₀, also in the trunk. We think of sending all home the first opportunity, and hope to get them to you safely. We have communications now with the Yazoo & upper Mississippi.

Our Dr Butler from Laharpe, Hancock Co. was __[in our regiment?]- today we hope to have him take all to Quincey or some point from which you can get them, or perhaps home to you. The Confederates have no doubt possession of that battle ground, therefore it would be difficult to get to his grave until this place is recovered, if ever, of which we have no doubt though as to the time there is some uncertainty. If we send them before hearing from you it will be because we think it best for all & in safe hands. We today received the sad news of the death of Mrs. Thompson⁵¹ which Samuel mourns very deeply. Samuel is unwell at present in hospital, but able to come to camp today, a distance of ___ miles. We today recd news of the death of T A Rice at Millikens Bend in hospital, a good

⁵¹ Catherine Crawford Thompson (1809-63) was a sister to Wm. H. Crawford, Jr. She came to Schuyler Co. after James Thompson built a cabin in that county, returned to Kentucky in 1831 and married her.

boy & one of our best soldiers You will [when] this reaches you have heard of the battle at Jackson & Champion Hill both of which we took part in to a great extent, losing in Reg in first, 84 killed & wounded, in the latter 43 ___ My health is good so is also nearly all the men that is with us for which we have reason to be thankful.

Hoping that this may find you & family in good health. I close by wishing you well.

Yours Truly Joseph Walker

“Dr. H. Davis and Darius Runkle left on Wednesday last [first part of June] to visit our boys at Vicksburg. They intend if possible to bring back the body of Col. Horney.”⁵² Dr. Davis returned from his mission to recover the remains of Col. Horney in December 1863. He reported that the body was at that time within the rebel lines and could not be reached, but that the probabilities are favorable for an early repossession of that district. Arrangements are made for sending the body forward just as soon as it can be recovered.⁵³ Two more years elapsed before the body of Col. Horney reached Mt. Sterling and arrangements could be made for the funeral.⁵⁴

Joseph Walker, writing home to his wife on June 6, stated, “We have not yet sent Horney’s effects home. They are in safe keeping & hope to hear from some of his folks soon.”

Schuyler Citizen, Feb. 14, 1866. The body of Col. Leonidas Horney, arrived at Mt. Sterling on Friday last, and will be buried with military honors today, at Littleton. Rev. James Dewitt will preach a funeral sermon, and Dr. Window will pronounce an eulogy. Exercises to begin at 11 a.m.

Col. Horney’s Funeral

Last Wednesday, the day appointed for the funeral obsequies of Col. Horney, the weather was so intensely severe that the ceremony was deferred till Friday the 16th. On that day a very large concourse of people assembled; the Methodist church was crowded to its

⁵² *Schuyler Citizen*. 10 June 1863.

⁵³ *Schuyler Citizen*. 16 Dec 1863.

⁵⁴ *Schuyler Citizen*. 14 Feb 1866.

utmost capacity, and fully as many were left outside. The interior of the church was appropriately draped in mourning. The metallic coffin containing the remains of the deceased was placed at the altar and a flag spread upon it. The Rev. Mr. Evans opened the exercises by reading the XC Psalm and by prayer. After which a very appropriate sermon was preached by the Rev. James Dewitt, followed by Dr. Window, who pronounced a most glowing eulogy on the public life and character of the deceased. The exercises were interspersed with appropriate singing by a number of young ladies and gentlemen, led by Mr. Canada Odell.

On the conclusion of the services, the body was placed in the Macomb hearse (procured for this especial purpose) by the pall bearers, consisting of Major W. Hill, of the Engineer regiment of the West; Major Robert Blackburn, of the 78th, Capt. C. W. Hite, of Co. A, and Capt. Van Dosen, of Co. G, of the same regiment, and Messrs. Samuel Dodds, Thomas McCoy, R. R. Randall, and G. W. Scripps.

The hearse was preceded by a company of soldiers, commanded by Capt. Robt. Colt and Thos. Window. Major Joseph Walker, acted as chief Marshal, and Mr. Benjamin Gilliland as Marshal of the civil procession, which was a full half mile in length. Arriving at the grave, the soldiers were drawn up in order, and at the word of command, fired three volleys over the grave. The assembly was then dismissed; the grave filled up and all that was mortal of Col. Horney was left to its last long silent sleep. Every part of the day's ceremonies was carried out with the utmost regularity and harmony.

Littleton does herself honor for the sympathy and respect she manifests for her patriotic dead.

We gather the following facts in relation to the life of Col. Leonidas Horney. He was born in 1817, in Guilford County, North Carolina. In 1818 removed to St. Clair County, in this (then) Territory – Came to Schuyler in 1825, - received his early schooling in Rushville – studied surveying under his father, and was for 13 yrs. County Surveyor of Schuyler. He was reputed to be the best surveyor, in his day, west of the Illinois River. During the Mexican War, he served as a private under Captain, afterwards, Col. Wm. A. Richardson.

On the breaking out of the rebellion, though politically opposed to the administration, he seconded, with all his soul, its resolution to crush out the traitors, “though it took the last man and the last dollar.” Accordingly, in the summer of 1861, he raised a company, mainly from Littleton township, and on the 2d of August, left for camp. Unfortunately, just at this time, the call for Illinois volunteers was fully made up, and his company in consequence, could not then be accepted. But determined not to be thwarted, he joined the 10th Missouri, and was mustered into service as Company A at St. Louis, on the 4th of August.

After doing much heavy service in Missouri, he was promoted to be Major of the regiment, on the 15th of April, 1862. In May following, he joined Halleck's army near Corinth, and was in his first battle on the 29th of May, when he distinguished himself by the fearlessness of danger, and great daring. On the 19th of September, he was in the battle of Iuka, and on the memorable 3^d and 4th of October, having charge of the regiment, he greatly distinguished himself, and contributed to the important victory resulting in the capture of that stronghold.

April 15th, 1863, he joined Grant's army at Milliken's Bend - May 12th participated in the battle at Raymond - May 14th in the desperate battle of Jackson, where the 10th Missouri had the most exposed position, and by their heroism, again as at Corinth, aided materially in winning that important battle.

On the 16th, after a severe march of twelve miles, through the excessive heat of that region, they were met by an aid-de-camp in hot haste, and informed that at Champion Hill, some distance ahead, the enemy was pressing our forces hard and unless speedily relieved, would ruinously defeat them. Though tired, hungry, and thirsty, our gallant boys bounded for war, throwing away their blankets, knapsacks, and everything that impeded their march, arriving just in time to find their comrades out of ammunition and retreating in confusion before the exultant foe. Without a moment's delay, they rushed upon the advancing hordes of treason, at once the tide is turned back, and the Star Spangled Banner again waved triumphant on the field. In all of this Col. Horney's voice was heard, and his presence seen, wherever the fight was severest, encouraging his men.

The fight being ended, Col. Horney observing a number of men in federal uniform at a short distance, but uncertain whether friend or foe, rode forward to ascertain. He soon discovered what they were, and turned to order his men forward; at this moment a volley was fired upon him, and he fell, instantly killed, with three balls in his head.

Thus perished, in the defense of his country, one of her bravest and most patriotic sons.⁵⁵

*Day is done, gone the sun,
From the hills, from the lake,
From the sky.
All is well, safely rest,
God is nigh.*

⁵⁵ *Schuyler Citizen*. 21 Feb 1866.

10th Missouri Infantry - Union

ADDENDA

Jane Crawford Horney

What a wonderful person Jane Crawford must have been! During her life-span of eighty-three years, she faced one tribulation after another. Three of her babies did not live very long. Her father, still a relatively young man, was killed when a tornado struck Littleton.

Jane, pregnant with her fourth child, was left the care of her young family, as well as the management of the farm, when Leonidas was gone for a year to the Mexican War. Again, when her husband answered the call in 1861 to fight for his country, this strong mother held down the fort. With heartbreak, she received the dreaded news her husband had been killed.

Jane's sister, Sarah, came to stay when her husband, John Colt, was killed in 1864. The two widows must have comforted and supported each other. After the death of Samuel Horney in 1874, Jane took in Emilia, her mother-in-law, who lived with her for ten years. In 1885 Samuel Madison's wife, Mary Elizabeth, died after giving birth to twins. One baby girl did not live out the first day, but the second one, Elizabeth, lived to be seven months. Who cared for this motherless child? Grandmother Jane.

Great-granddaughter Alleyne Horney told of relatives stopping by to "look at the Colonel's house" and were always welcomed and never turned away. Oftentimes relatives would come and stay for a month or so at a time.

Jane successfully raised her children to be fine adults. She productively supervised her farms with the help of hired men who lived in her home. (This means that the added chores of housekeeping and cooking for them was added to her duties!) By the 1880 census, the only ones enumerated as belonging to her household were her daughter Amelia and her mother-in-law Emilia. By that time the land was most likely farmed by Matt (Samuel Madison). Jane received a small widow's pension of \$30 a month.

Death of a Pioneer Woman

Mrs. Jane Horney, widow of the late Col. Leonidas Horney, died at her home in Littleton township yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock, aged eighty-three years. Mrs. Horney was one of the pioneer women of Schuyler County, coming here with her parents in 1833, and this county has ever since been her home. She had been in feeble health all winter and within the past week grew worse and the children were summoned to her bedside. Mrs. W. I. Larash [Emilia Ann] of this city was with her mother when the end came. Mrs. Horney was one of the grand, good pioneer women of Illinois and we hope to next week publish a fitting tribute to her memory.²⁶⁹

²⁶⁹ *Rushville Times*. 21 Feb 1907.

The End of a Noble Life

“Funeral services of Mrs. Jane Horney were held at the M. E. Church at Littleton on Friday afternoon of last week, conducted by Rev. Smith, and there was a large attendance of friends and neighbors present to pay their last sad tribute of respect to the departed one. Mrs. Horney’s life was a long and noble one, and her influence for good will long be felt in the community where she spent more than sixty years of her life.

“The following biographical sketch was read at the funeral:

Jane Crawford was born at Hardinsburg, Breckinridge County, Kentucky, October 28, 1824, and came to Schuyler County, Illinois, with her parents at the age of 9 years. She was the eldest of a family of seven children of William H. and Melinda Crawford, only one son of whom survives, namely Samuel Crawford of Tombeen, Texas, age 67 years.

“On September 2, 1841, Jane Crawford was united in marriage with Leonidas Horney. To this union were born ten children, three of whom – Melinda, James, and Charles – died in infancy. The remaining seven grew to manhood and womanhood. The eldest daughter, Celeste, wife of John T. Sellers, died September 1, 1903. The surviving members of the family are Samuel Madison, who resides near the old home; L. Hardin, near Sheridan, Wyoming; W. Jeffrey, Rushville; Mrs. Adelia Barlow, near Tisdale, Kansas; [and Mrs. Emilia Ann Larash, Rushville.]

“A short time after their marriage they established the home in which she continued to reside till the end of her life. A home noted for its hospitality for a radius of many miles. And many have remarked that no one ever came to her house weary and hungry and was turned away empty. On the 16th of May, 1863, her husband, Col. Horney, was shot from his horse at Champion Hill, Mississippi, while bravely leading his command, the 10th Missouri Vol. Inf. Regiment, into battle. Since that time his widow has bravely fought life’s battle alone, rearing the children and meeting every difficulty with undaunted courage.

“After a long life of usefulness and with no fear of death, she peacefully departed this life at 1:30 p.m., Feb. 20, 1907, at the ripe age of eighty-three years. As the ripened wheat stands in the field ready for the sickle, so the full, well-rounded life, calmly awaits the final call and truly ‘her children rise up and call her blessed.’

“Jane Crawford was converted at the age of sixteen years, but did not identify herself with any church until in the early part of 1904, when she joined the M. E. Church of Littleton during the pastorate of Rev. G. W. Metzel. Her amiable character and genial disposition all thru life marked her as a queen among women, and thru her confession of Christ and associating herself with the church was a great comfort to her family and friends, there could be no marked change in the manifestation of the Christian graces, her exemplary walk thru all the trying ordeals she was called to pass, her hope and fortitude shown with a luster obtained from no other source than that of Christ, who was to her the abundant life. To her, to do and serve was, or seemed, natural and now she enters, we trust, into the well-earned rest of the servants of God.”



Another newspaper, possibly the *Littleton Leader*, published this tribute in addition to her biographical sketch:

“DEATH CLAIMS NOBLE WOMAN
MRS. JANE HORNEY CLOSES VERY USEFUL LIFE
THE END CAME QUICKLY

Was Littleton’s Oldest Resident and One of Schuyler County’s first Settlers

“There is always a touch of sadness in the death of an honest pioneer. They fought with adversity clearing away things objectional, leaving in their wake a country glorious in its education and enlightenment. They spent the vigor of their life fighting and when the fight was won, old age came on, putting to a stop activities or any opportunity to reap the fruits of their work. Their only enjoyment was in seeing others enjoy pleasure made possible by their hardships. Therefore we say their demise causes an additional feeling of sadness. Their life was one of sacrifice that their progeny might enjoy comforts.

“This feeling is deeply manifest when this week we chronicle the death of Mrs. Jane Horney, widow of the late Col. Leonidas Horney. For some time her health has been growing rapidly worse and the ultimatum was reached Wednesday of last week when she quietly lay down life’s burden and passed into peaceful rest. She was Littleton’s oldest resident being at the time of her death 83 years of age. Her life was grand and glorious. She lived not for herself alone but for others as well. Before her affirmatives she administered to the wants of all, taking especial delight in doing whatever she could for her fellow creatures. Her death leaves a niche that cannot be filled and Schuyler county loses one of her grandest pioneers . . .”

Children of Jane Crawford and Leonidas Horney

1. Celeste Elizabeth (m. John T. Sellers) b. 21 May 1842 d. 1 Sept 1903
2. Samuel Madison "Matt" Horney (m. 1. Mary Elizabeth Sellers on 13 Sept 1866
2. Frances L. Raper on 20 Apr 1887)
b. 26 May 1844 d. Oct 1913 Littleton, Illinois
burial in Thompson Cemetery, Littleton, Illinois
3. Malinda Horney b. 24 Oct 1845 d. 21 Dec 1845
4. Leonidas Hardin Horney (m. Elinor Little) b. 16 Feb 1847 d. Nov 1909
Living in Sheridan, Wyoming, in 1907
5. William Jeffery Horney (m. Anna Parke) b. 14 Mar 1849 d. 29 Feb 1936
Living in Bowen, Illinois, in 1913
6. Mary Jane Horney (m. Lee E. Johnston) b. 30 Jan 1851 d. ? (4 Jan 1911 burial in
Rushville Cemetery?)
7. James Monroe Horney b. 16 Jan 1853 d. 22 Sept 1853
8. Charles Murray Horney b. 31 Dec 1854 d. 1 Sept 1856
9. Emilia Ann Horney (m. William J. Larash) b. 16 July 1857 d. 2 Sept 1942
10. Adelia Horney (m. Virgil A. Barlow?) b. 27 Aug 1860 d. 1945
Burial in Highland Cemetery, Winfield, Cowley Co., KS
Living near Tisdale, Kansas in 1907

Illinois Public Domain Land Tract Sales Database-Leonidas Horney

Legal Description	Sect- ion	Twn- ship	Ra- nge	Meri- dian	Date Purchased	County	
NESE	26	03N	03W	4	04/01/1848	SCHUYLER	Vol. 698, p. 89 40 A @ \$1.25
NE	33	23N	06W	3	03/10/1848	MASON	Bk. 59, p. 6 160 A. Warrant
SE	33	23N	06W	3	03/10/1848	MASON	Bk. 59, p. 6 160 A. Warrant
NE	33	03N	03W	4	10/23/1849	SCHUYLER	Vol. 698. p. 90 160 A. Warrant
SENW Federal	32	03N	03W	4	04/26/1856	SCHUYLER	Vol. 70, p. 235 40 A. @ \$1.25=\$50
SENE Federal	14	02N	03W	4	04/26/1856	SCHUYLER	Vol. 70, p. 235 40 A. @ \$1.25=\$50
SESE Federal	08	03N	03W	4	04/26/1856	SCHUYLER	Vol. 70, p. 235 40 A. @ \$1.25=\$50
SWSW Federal	23	03N	03W	4	04/26/1856	SCHUYLER	Vol. 70, p. 235 40 A. @ \$1.25=\$50
N2SW	24	03N	03W	4	04/26/1856	SCHUYLER	Bk. 825, p. 76 80 A. Warrant Federal
SFRPTSWLS 46.63 A. @ \$1.25= \$58.29 Federal	18	02N	02E	4	03/14/1861	SCHUYLER	Vol. 66, p. 180

The initial sales of public domain lands were made in federal land district offices. Sales of federal lands resulted in land patents being issued at a later date by the U.S. General Land Office.

IMAGES of Land Records:

(Land Patent Search, <http://www.linkpendium.com/genealogy/USN/IL/Schuyler>)

NESE	26	03N	03W	4	1/1/49	40 A,	(4/01/1848)
NE	33	03N	03W	4	12/21/1850	160 A.	(10/23/1849)
SE 1/4 NE	14	02N	03W	4	3/12/1857	40 A.	(4/26/1856)
SENW	32	03N	03W	4	3/12/1857	40 A.	(4/26/1856)
SESE	8	03N	03W	4	3/12/1857	40 A. Cash entry	(4/26/1856)
SWSW	23	03N	03W	4	3/12/1857	40 A. Cash entry	(4/26/1856)
S ½ SW	18	02 N	03E	4	6/1/1861	SCHUYLER	46.63 A (3/14/1861)

Township Designations

2N 1W Rushville

2N 2W Buenavista

2N 3W Camden

3N 2W Oregon (after 1854, it was renamed Littleton)

SECTIONS IN A TOWNSHIP

6	5	4	3	2	1
7	8	9	10	11	12
18	17	16	15	14	13
19	20	21	22	23	24
30	29	28	27	26	25
31	32	33	34	35	36

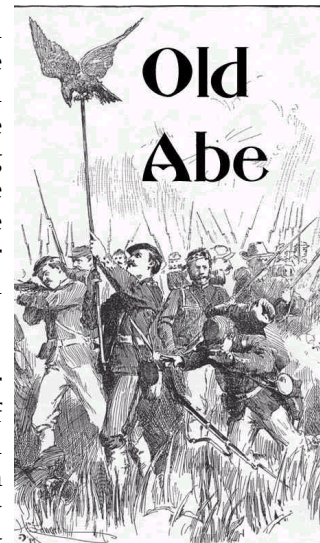
DIVISIONS OF A SECTION

NW ¼ NW¼	NE ¼ NW¼	NE ¼ Section 160 acres	
SW ¼ NW¼	SE ¼ NW¼ 40 acres		
N ½ SW¼		W ½ SE¼	E ½ SE¼ 80 acres
S ½ SW¼ 80 acres			

1861-63 Mississippi "Old Abe"

One day in the summer of 1861 Big Sky, the son of an Indian chief, captured a young eaglet at the headwaters of the Chippewa River in northern Wisconsin. He soon sold the eaglet in return for a bushel of corn to Daniel McCann, who wanted the bird as a family pet. However, he did not keep him very long; soon several soldiers chipped in a few coins apiece and bought the two-month-old bald eagle for \$2.50. Naming him "Old Abe" in honor of President Abraham Lincoln, they made him the mascot of their unit --- the 8th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment. The new recruit was sworn in by draping his neck with a red, white and blue ribbon. He seemed to take great pride in wearing it.

On October 12, 1861, the "Eagle Regiment" (as the 8th was now nicknamed) started for the front. "Old Abe", his white-plumed head gleaming, rode on his perch. Attached to the end of a five-foot staff, the perch was cut in the shape of a shield and painted with stars and stripes. Old Abe liked his position high above the marching men. He often balanced himself with expanded wings, the picture of a living national emblem. When in parade formation the eagle was placed to the left of the colors. As the regiment marched through Chicago, he attracted a lot of attention, especially after one irreverent spectator allowed as how it was a buzzard and the men of the Eagle Regiment fell out of line to convince him otherwise.



When the first battle was shaping up for the 8th Wisconsin near Frederick's-town, Missouri, Old Abe was safely tethered on the roof of the courthouse, a good half mile from the fighting. It was here that Old Abe's company found out he was a bird of battle. Instead of cowering in fear, the eagle seemed to become wild with joy at the rattle of musketry and the boom of cannon. He leaped up and down madly, uttering blood-curdling cries. In the next skirmish, Old Abe was again left well behind the lines, but before his Company had gone very far, they heard a shrill scream, and the big eagle came swooping down, dragging his heavy tether line. His sharp beak had made quick work of the heavy cord that restrained him.

Old Abe really got his baptism of fire at Farmington, Mississippi, when Union soldiers were hurled against Confederates led by Beauregard. The Eagles hung onto a patch of woods in the face of heavy fire. 'Get that bird to the rear!' the captain ordered. His bearer started out reluctantly. Rifle fire increased, and the men were ordered to get down. Old Abe cocked his head, looking at the men lying flat. After studying them a moment, he hopped down and crouched beside his bearer, who ordered him back up. Old Abe, however, just hugged closer to the earth. Only when the firing slackened and the men got up did he return to his perch.

Abe got so he understood the meanings of the bugle calls, and leaped to act on their message. Once when the bugler blew the call to advance, only to have it suddenly countermanded, Old Abe went into a frenzy. He chewed through his tether, flew ahead, and then came back screaming, as if berating the men for disobeying the forward command.

The 8th Wisconsin and Old Abe fought at Farmington, Mississippi, on May 19, 1862; then the battles of Corinth, Iuka and Vicksburg soon followed. The soldiers, on catching sight of the bird wheeling in the sky, would be kindled with fresh fervor, and often break forth into cheers. In the

heat of battle Old Abe spread his wings and screamed encouragement to the soldiers. The louder the noise of gunfire and cannon, the louder and fiercer were his screams. With eyes flashing and feathers quivering, he became an active participant in any conflict. The eagle had a narrow escape as he flew above the smoke of battle at Corinth; some shrapnel cut off three quill feathers. "Minutes later a minnie ball cut his tether cord and Old Abe soared from his perch. . . Old Abe flew over the Confederate lines, as if inspecting them, completely ignoring the hail of rebel shot around him. Then he swung back toward the Union troops. Below him in the wild confusion were at least 50 companies, yet Old Abe came plummeting straight down to land among his own Company C of the 8th Wisconsin.

Old Abe's fame spread; Generals Grant and Sheridan stopped by just to see him. Whenever the regiment marched through a city, the bald eagle borne aloft excited the whole populace. Several other regiments made offers to buy him. In his own company there was fierce competition for the honor of being his bearer, a privilege often gambled for as high stakes in a dice game. Carrying him in battle was considered to have practical value, for not one of the bearers was killed while carrying the eagle. One who had gone through six battles with him was killed the day after he turned over the job to another. Once a shot winged Old Abe, who was so startled that he leaped from his perch with force enough to drag his bearer forward. In the next moments, a cannon ball ploughed the earth in the exact spot where the soldier had been standing.

The rebels called him "Owl," and "Yankee Buzzard," and hated him. It is said that at Corinth (and thereafter) the Confederate marksmen made special efforts to bring down Old Abe, desiring to either capture or kill him. Such was the eagle's value in encouraging the troops, General Price was heard to remark, "I would rather have him than a whole brigade."

As Union forces tensely waited outside a Confederate stronghold they had surrounded, they knew that their venture was desperate one. If the garrison inside got out word to Gen. Taylor, not far away, he could come up during the night and catch the Union troops between two fires. Heavy guards were posted, with sentries every few yards in the tangle of swamps. Suddenly Old Abe, who had seemed to be sleeping, leaped to attention, and began to raise an outcry. 'Hears something he doesn't like,' announced his bearer, who had observed the bird's reactions to the uniforms of captured Confederates he'd seen. 'Bet there's a Johnny Reb in the camp.' A search turned up a Confederate courier who had almost succeeded in working his way through the lines. As a result, no word reached Taylor, and in the morning the hopeless Confederate garrison surrendered. After that the boastful Eagles called Old Abe 'the bird who captured a fort.'

Lt. Col. Leonidas Horney, killed at Champion Hill shortly after the Battle of Jackson, was a leader of Company A of the 10th Missouri Regiment. The movements of the 10th Missouri and the 8th Wisconsin were closely intertwined as the army under Grant moved southward. Both regiments fought at Farmington, Corinth, Iuka, and in the battles of Raymond, Jackson, and Vicksburg. Col. Horney was in a good position to observe the participation of the legendary bald eagle in these battles.

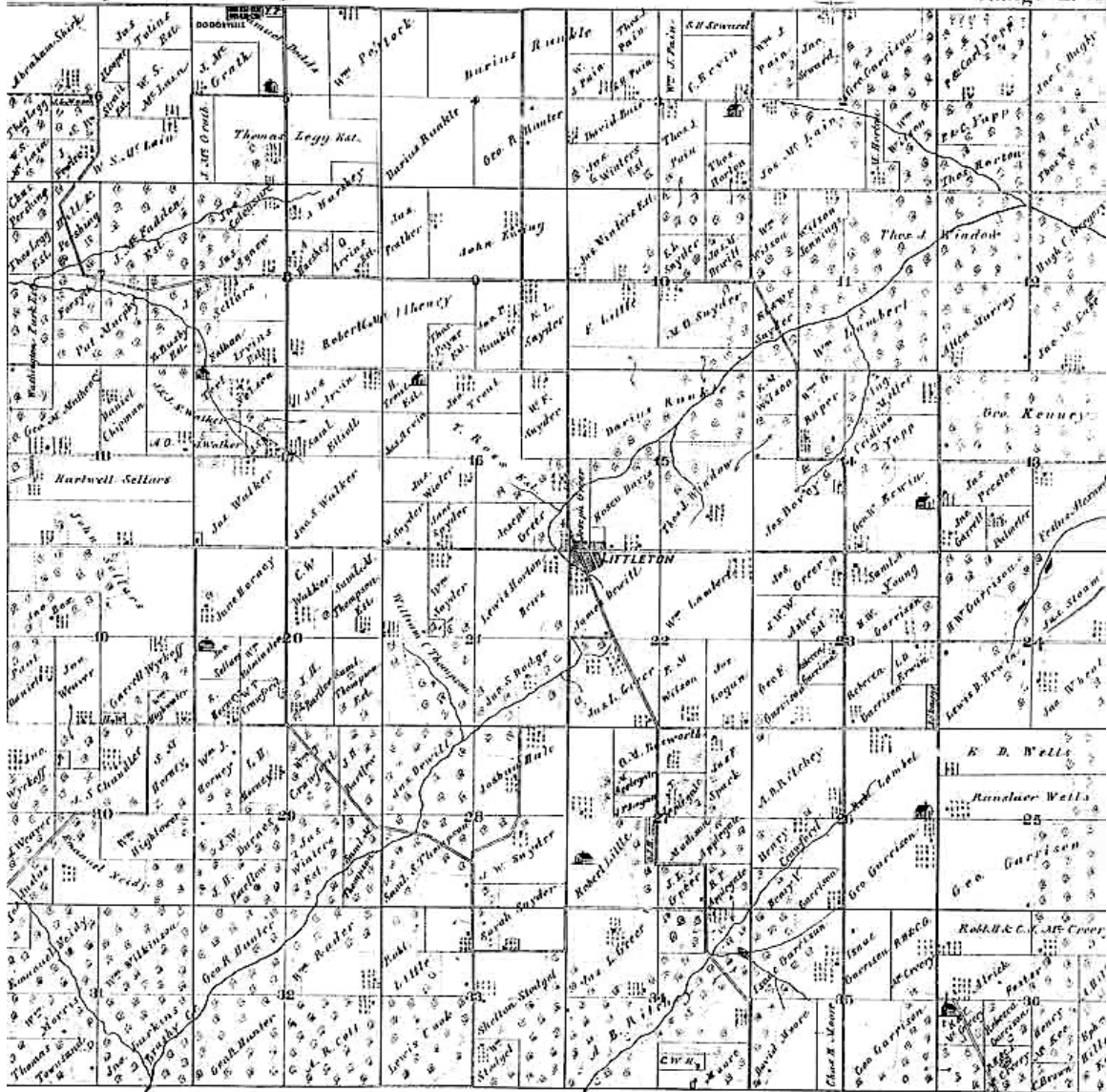
The eagle and his followers went through 42 skirmishes and battles during three years of service. "Old Abe" still lives. The Wisconsin Memorial at Vicksburg is topped by the 8th Wisconsin Infantry's mascot. Today, the 101st Airborne Division is known as the "Screaming Eagles" in Old Abe's honor, and he is portrayed on the division's patch.

"Old Abe, the Battle Eagle." Web. 4 Apr 2011.

MAP OF LITTLETON TOWNSHIP

Township 3. N.

Range 2. W



1872 Plat Map
 Littleton Township, Schuyler County, Illinois