

Northern Kentucky Views Presents:

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**Morgan's Cavalry and the Home  
Guard, at Augusta, Kentucky**  
September 27, 1862

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by  
Walter Rankin

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# MORGAN'S CAVALRY AND THE HOME GUARD AT AUGUSTA, KENTUCKY

SEPTEMBER 27, 1862

BY WALTER RANKINS

Augusta, Kentucky

There had been building up for years an enmity among the citizens of this cultured community over the slavery question, and the Augusta College, one of the noted pioneer colleges of the West, that had brought renown to Augusta, "had become the center of the antislavery movement in Kentucky,"<sup>1</sup> and its influence had been far-reaching.

In addition to men who had achieved prominence in educational and professional fields, it numbered among its graduates and students: Colonel Alexander William Doniphan, hero of the Mexican War; John Gregg Fee, a champion of the antislavery cause; General Durbin Ward, a Union officer who lost an arm at Chickamauga; Major John Brethitt, of the Union Army; Colonel William H. Wadsworth of Maysville's Home Guard; Dr. Joshua T. Bradford, major and surgeon in the United States Army; Judge Joseph Doniphan, former lieutenant colonel in the Sixteenth Kentucky Volunteer Infantry, and many others who were opposed to secession and were striving to preserve the Union.<sup>2</sup> But there were divided loyalties among the prominent families of Augusta; the Armstrongs, Knoedlers, Weldons, Diltz, and others, militantly favored the cause of the Confederacy.

It was James W. Armstrong, wealthy merchant and philanthropist, who sided with the South, and contributed large sums of money to the Confederate Army. He kept in his mercantile notebook, a diary of the happenings, births, deaths and even the weather, both local and national, and it is this diary that gives a picture of the impact of the civil conflict on this small town in Kentucky.<sup>3</sup>

The interest in the Presidential election of 1860 is apparent in these entries:

"Thursday Aug. 8/60 Douglas meeting at Felicity, O.—Jos. Doniphan, W. C. Marshall, Jas. Armstrong, Wm. Douglas & E. W. Coburn attended."  
"Nov. 6, Abraham Lincoln elected President of the United States."

The protest and great excitement over Lincoln's election to the Presidency extended to the small towns, and it was evident that the

South was preparing for war. "The year 1861 began with secession accomplished in one state, imminent in other states, and civil war impending."<sup>4</sup>

The citizens of Augusta were preparing for any eventuality. The Armstrong diary makes these significant notebook debits:

"January 23, 1861—Lewis Knoedler, 1 Sharps' repeater, 2 boxes cartridges \$10;

January 28—L. P. Knoedler, 1 Sharps' pistol and 200 cartridges \$10; John Taylor, 1 Sharps' pistol and 200 cartridges \$10; J. M. Bradford, 1 Sharps' pistol and 100 cartridges \$9.15; Thornt Weldon, 1 Sharps' pistol and 100 cartridges \$9.15."

March the fourth, Lincoln's Cabinet is named, and the diary continues:

"April 11th, rain & cloudy—South Carolina attacks Fort Sumpter with seven batteries, 3 war steamers off the Bar unable to enter the Chanal [*sic*] on a/c the severe storm, 5000 men on board."

"April 13th, rain and cloudy all day. City election as follows: Jos. Doniphan, Mayor; W. C. Marshall [grandfather of General George C. Marshall], T. F. Marshall [he cast the deciding vote in the Senate that kept Kentucky in the Union]<sup>5</sup>, J. T. Bradford [noted Kentucky surgeon], L. J. Bradford, P. H. Rudd, John Taylor [one of the staunch and true Confederates]<sup>6</sup>, J. B. Ryan, F. L. Cleveland [first cousin of President Grover Cleveland] elected councilmen; Thos. Briley, Marshal."

This council consisted of six Democrats and three Republicans, and on April the twentieth it appropriated \$1500.00 for the equipment of a "Home Guard." This Home Guard was organized to see that neutrality was observed and to protect the town against guerillas and bushwhackers, or any force that might attack it.

The diary makes note of the surrender of Ft. Sumpter on April 13th, and "April 19th, Harpers Ferry Arsenal burnt by U. S. Troops with 15,000 stand of arms." "Virginia seceded."

From his vantage point on the Ohio at Augusta (the longest direct course of the river), James Armstrong watches the war unfold:

"April 22nd, 115 volunteers from Ripley [Ohio] to Camp Jackson."

"April 24th, 1 company of volunteers passed here from Georgetown and Higginsport [Ohio] for Cairo."

"May 14th—Legislature suspended courts and specie paying in banks for 1 year."

"Sunday night 30 June, very brilliant comet visible in the northeast."

As the war continues to spread the growing enmity among friends, relatives and neighbors begins to assert itself:

"July 5th, Jos. Doniphan told J. W. Armstrong that he had the power to withhold muskets from secessionists and would exercise his power; said he was too shrewed [*sic*] to give Mr. Armstrong a musket."

"July 20th, W. P. Diltz has retracted 2 statements made on ten different occasions."

Though there were bickerings and disputes, the Home Guard prevented any outbreak of violence or overt acts against neutrality until the summer of 1862.

It was then through the months of July, August and September that Colonel John Hunt Morgan's famous cavalry, with headquarters at Lexington, was operating through the whole of the Licking valley, harassing Union forces and raiding towns that were not favorable to the Southern cause.

Open hostility to neutrality was now being shown at Augusta. The diary makes its final war entries:

"July 18th, Friday—John Cross Diltz, Marma Slade, Dick Taylor & Daris Wood, Sr. arrested and sent to Camp Chase."

"July 20, 1862, martial law declared by J. Doniphan in Augusta, Ky.—Sunday—"

Though the Home Guard, consisting of about one hundred men under the command of Dr. Joshua T Bradford (Major) and Major Joseph Harris, seems to have been the stabilizing force in the town and county, yet there were defections, due to southern sympathizers within its organization.

One amusing incident occurred in August on its drill ground: "Dr. Will Keith, a pronounced Confederate sympathizer, was among the guards being drilled. It was a very warm day, when like a flash he stepped out of line, threw his gun down and started to walk off the grounds. An officer asked: 'Why the outrageous conduct,' and threatened punishment, to the amusement of all, including the officers. Dr. Keith replied: 'My mother, ever since I can remember, has taught me that I was born forty five years ago this morning at nine o'clock and I will never handle a Yankee musket again.' "7 That seems to have ended his connection with the Home Guard.

It was most unlikely, from an incident such as this, that men of the calibre of Dr. Will Keith and George Catlett Marshall, Sr., "one of the Home Guards," could have been pressed into any organization,

officered by home men, and not mustered into the U. S. Army or State Service.<sup>8</sup>

That Augusta was in a precarious position was realized by its neighboring towns as well as by its people and Home Guards. Across the river there was great excitement over the prospective coming to northern Kentucky towns of Morgan's Cavalry, and preparation had been made to defend the towns in Ohio, should they cross the river.

During the week of September fifteenth, Colonel Richard M Gano, commanding the 2nd brigade of Morgan's Cavalry "took the city of Maysville without a shot."<sup>9</sup>

Colonel Basil Duke, with his headquarters at Falmouth, had sent Capt. Castleman with a detachment of Morgan's Cavalry to Foster's landing six miles below Augusta<sup>10</sup> to reconnoitre and locate a place on the Ohio where the river could be forded. On Wednesday, September 24th, about forty rebels visited the home of Mrs. Mary Coburn, two and one half miles from Augusta on the Augusta and Georgetown road, and pressed the Coburn family to provide them with dinner and feed for their horses.<sup>11</sup> Mrs Coburn's son, Clay, was a member of Co. F, 3rd Regiment, Jenkins Division of Morgan's Cavalry. The town, still under martial law, must have been apprized of these reconnaissances, and every road was picketed at the town limits and about three miles out in the county.

"It was a sultry day on Saturday, September the twenty-seventh, that Mrs. John Lute and Mrs. Allen Pepper (wife of Captain Allen Pepper of the Home Guard), mounted their fine horses and went early in the morning to Augusta, to spend the day with their husbands and to take them a change of clothing. 'We arrived by 10 o'clock, without any serious interruption, not comprehending the danger we might encounter. We were halted by Union pickets and advised of the risk we were running, being told we might get into Augusta, but could not promise that we could get out with the fine horses we were riding. We got there all right, but left soon after dinner. We made for home and felt glad; all seemed to think that trouble was not far off.'"<sup>12</sup>

Basil Duke, in command of a detachment of Morgan's Cavalry consisting of about four hundred and fifty men, including a light artillery company, left Falmouth on this Saturday morning with the intention of breaking up the Home Guard at Augusta, crossing the Ohio at a ford below the town, and "marching toward Cincinnati, so threaten the city that the troops at Walton, Kentucky would be hurried back to protect it."<sup>13</sup> Coming through Brooksville towards Augusta, they captured the outside pickets and brought them with them, coming the old Augusta and Georgetown road past the Coburn's home, and about a mile down this

road, through a hollow, they reached the summit of a one hundred and seventy-five foot hill that overlooks the town.

Hardened soldiers though they were, many must have been awed by the beautiful panorama that lay before them, of trees, valley and the river in its direct course as far as the eye could see, both east and west.

Laying at the wharf were two gunboats of the mosquito fleet; the *U.S.S. Belfast*, Captain Sedam commanding, and the *U.S.S. Florence Miller*. Duke in his narrative four years later, recalled that these boats were manned by sharpshooters in addition to the gunners, and commanded the turnpike "by which road we were advancing." He determined "to drive them away before moving the bulk of the command from the hill." He planted his howitzers on the highest point "where they could probably chuck every shell into the boats."<sup>14</sup>

The experience of a boy of the age of ten, whose father was stationed at the Fourth Street and Dutch Ridge road as an inside picket, is recalled in after years, both as to the time and the circumstance: "About eleven o'clock a passer-by brought a message from father to mother, to bring the children and noon lunch, and come at once to him at where he was stationed. I can never forget his words, 'Go quickly to Baker's Wine Cellar,<sup>15</sup> I want to get you out of town before I am released; I am afraid of the Rebels coming today.' We hurried out to the wine cellar. He came with us and we all ate lunch together. He then went up the hill to gather grapes.<sup>16</sup> I had been instructed by him to go to our small barn, near the junction of the Dutch Ridge road and Fourth street, and ride the 'old black mare' (followed by the mule colt) to water. As I rode into the river above the wharf boat, I noticed Dr. Bradford's water wagon (an old fashioned dray), with two barrels of water, drawn by a mule, which was driven by a small negro man, whom I believe was named Dan. He was just ready to leave the river when Dr. Bradford appeared at the corner of Front and Upper streets, and called him: 'Dan, turn loose your water barrels and get the mule back to the barn, quick! The Rebels are coming.' You may know that I do not know whether my mount drank or not, but I do know that I was scared. I rushed back near the barn where I saw my father coming over the hill shouting: 'Leave the mare and colt in the road, throw the bridle over the fence into the weeds and make for the wine cellar.' He beat me across the point of the hill, shouting to the folks about the wine press, warning them to take to shelter."<sup>17</sup>

The Confederate artillery company on the hill had placed a gun near a large tree. It was discovered by the gunboat *Belfast* which "threw a shell, and so well was it aimed that it struck within thirty

feet of the Confederate gun, killing two or three of its men and causing them to change" its position.<sup>18</sup>

Up to this time the people of Augusta were generally unaware of the Confederates on the hill, for when this first shell went over the town, there were children playing in the streets away from home.<sup>19</sup>

Duke then sent Company A and the advance guard down the road to the east end of the town; "here they would be enabled to annoy the troops on the boats very greatly."<sup>20</sup> The howitzers were then opened on the boats and one shell burst near them, one penetrating the hull of the "Flag Ship," and the fleet withdrew.<sup>21</sup> These gunboats had bales of hay as their protection; the pilot house was boarded up with two inch oak, with little windows at the side, and boats of this type were in grave danger of being sunk by land based artillery.

When the boats were well past the town proper, the Confederates were sent down the road and through the fields into the town. Duke had seen the Home Guards going into the houses, but without gunboat protection he expected an immediate surrender. But the Home Guards had decided to fight for their homes, "the Union and old Kentucky."<sup>22</sup>

Duke, entering the town in force, divided his men; they rushed down Elizabeth, Upper and Main streets. The contingent that went down Main Street turned east at Front Street and passed the home of Major Bradford, who feeling he had been deserted by the gunboats, and since there were only fifty or sixty Home Guards in the town at the time, "surrendered with a white flag from his upstairs window."<sup>23</sup> The men in the houses were unaware of this surrender, and when the Confederate contingent turned from Front into Upper Street, they were met with a fusillade from the upstairs windows of the James Armstrong's and Thomas Meyers' buildings, on opposite corners of the street.

The men had been unseen by Duke as they entered these houses, and as soon as Captain Cassell and Lieutenant Greenberry Roberts heard the firing, they came to reinforce the men in the streets. Lieutenant Roberts' men were mounted, and they added to the confusion. The sergeant who had charge of the howitzers opened fire on the town, and Lieutenant Roberts was killed and other Confederates wounded.<sup>24</sup>

When this bombardment started, neighbors assembled at the home of Lewis Thomas on Front Street and went to the cellar. "A Miniè ball passed through the upstairs room, landing in the plastering, and a shell burst against the wall of the kitchen, doing considerable damage. Also, a shell tore through the kitchen of the home of Dr. Will Keith and demolished that section of the house."<sup>25</sup>

"The artillery sergeant was sent notice to quit firing, and the foot soldiers were ordered to capture the Federal forces from the houses."

"Lieutenant George White was shot from his horse as he came down Upper Street; Captain Kennett was wounded and died very soon, and Lieutenant William Courtland Prentice, (son of George D. Prentice, editor of *The Louisville Journal*), was carried, mortally wounded, to the front porch of James Weldon, then to the colonial home of Lewis Wells at the southeast corner of Third and Elizabeth streets, where he died on the Monday following. Captain Whip Rogers of *Cynthiana* fell at the door of the home of J. T. McKibben on Upper Street, between Front and Second streets. He called for his Lieutenant King, to give a message to his father, a 'pioneer preacher,' at *Cynthiana*, and before he could finish, King was shot from the hallway and died before Rogers.<sup>26</sup> 'An old man of that company, private Puckett, devotedly attached to both of these men, rushed to raise them, but was instantly killed, falling upon them.'<sup>27</sup> A Confederate soldier by the name of Wilson was badly wounded and was taken to the home of W. C. Marshall, one of *Augusta's* largest and finest homes, and Duke told Mrs. Marshall that 'he had taken two of her sons prisoners, and unless the soldier was well treated, her sons would not be paroled.'<sup>28</sup>

Details were then ordered to break into the buildings, and the artillery was brought into the streets and turned on the houses where there was resistance. "Double-shotted with grape and canister, the howitzers tore great gaps in the walls."<sup>29</sup> Two or three houses were set on fire and wounded Union soldiers were burned in these buildings. They were not allowed to be taken out, even though a request was made to do so.<sup>30</sup>

Over on Elizabeth Street, Captain Sam Morgan, cousin of John Hunt Morgan, was seriously wounded and was taken to the home of Walter P. Taylor on the corner of Front and Elizabeth streets. Mr. Taylor bathed his face<sup>31</sup> and Mrs. Taylor tore up her linen tablecloths trying to save his life.<sup>32</sup>

Duke in his narrative wrote: "Some of the women came (while the fight was raging) from the part of the town where they had retired for safety, to the most dangerous positions, and waited upon the wounded, while the balls were striking around them."<sup>33</sup>

Captain Sam Morgan died in the Taylor's home, and was later taken, "dressed in his gray uniform," to the home of Mrs. Mary Coburn in the country where he was prepared for burial.<sup>34</sup> Major Wash. Morgan, a cousin of Colonel John H. Morgan, thanked Mr. Taylor for his kindness to his brother, and said: "I did not want these men to come here and burn this pretty little town, but I could do nothing with them."<sup>35</sup>

The little band of Union defenders had fought until holding out was no longer possible, and a general surrender was made. "This was



a signal for the plundering that followed;—entrance was gained to stores and homes and the contents picked."<sup>36</sup> They broke into the cellar of the Taylor's home, knocked in the heads of barrels of cider vinegar and scooped it out.<sup>37</sup>

It is evident that Duke tried to keep a semblance of order for "he posted a guard at the front and back entrances of the store of Rankins & Son, with instructions that no one was to enter."<sup>38</sup>

"The firing of the town began at the home of J. T. McKibben and continued to Front Street, to the store and home of Thomas Meyers; then east, burning the house of John McCormick, occupied by J. B. Ryan, the store of Philip Knoedler, the home of Watson Diltz, a house owned by W. P. Taylor, occupied by the Adams' family, and the Taylors' home; and back of the houses, a lumber yard. Crossing Elizabeth Street, it burned the home of Mrs. Howk. She was ill and was carried out of the house by Confederate soldiers. The flames from Tom Howk's drug-store leaped over the home of Thornton F. Marshall and destroyed a frame building on the other side, but was brought under control at the home of Vachel Weldon. James Armstrong's store was set on fire on west Upper Street, but did not burn, and Robert Patterson's store below was destroyed."<sup>39</sup>

"Major Wash. Morgan came riding down Front Street toward the Bradford's home asking: 'Where is the Colonel [Major]?' He was a most vicious looking man with a revolver almost as long as his arm, clasped in his hand, and with a feather sticking in his cap. He was in a rage and crying, and said to a number of women standing in front of the Thomas' home: 'Lassies, I have lost a brother and cousin here today, and ten thousand Yankees shall pay the penalty.'<sup>40</sup>

A young man and his wife had returned to Front Street from a place of safety in the west part of the town. Major Morgan asked him for a drink of whiskey, and he was not long in finding it at the George O'Neil hotel at the northwest corner of Front and Main streets. Mr. O'Neil was in hiding, but was soon found, and he produced a cut glass bottle of his finest brand; Morgan and his aides had a drink, and the aides were told to divide the remainder into their canteens.<sup>41</sup>

The fighting in this small engagement had been desperate, and the toll was tragic. Most of the men were killed or wounded in fifteen minutes of time. Duke left some of his dead and wounded on the field. They were cared for by Augusta men and women.<sup>42</sup>

The raiders seemed to be in a demoralized condition and were out of Augusta within two hours, commandeering all available means of transportation to carry the wounded and prisoners. Many of the prisoners were forced to walk to Cynthiana. Duke spent the night at Brooksville

paroling men;<sup>43</sup> he wrote: "the gloomiest and saddest that any man among us had ever known."<sup>44</sup>

To avoid capture, after the surrender, many ruses were used. Mayor Joseph Doniphan effected a disguise by donning a Mother Hubbard and a sunbonnet and going out into a garden to gather vegetables.<sup>45</sup> As the fire menaced the home of Watson Diltz, Victoria, a maid, rushed into a closet, gathered her arms full of clothes and called to Miss Addie Diltz: "Oh, Miss Addie, I have my arms around a man." Miss Diltz came and said: "Why Ezra Kirpatrick, shame on you for hiding behind a woman's skirt." Ezra Kirpatrick was a lawyer but was a cripple.<sup>46</sup> Young James W. Jennings came home to find his horse exchanged by the Confederates. He went at once toward Augusta, and walked right in among the horses tethered on a hill. A guard who knew him agreed to let him stand by his horse, and he mounted when the order was given, and rode off the hill with the soldiers. When he came to a side road, where he knew the terrain, he made a dash for liberty, and, though pursued, made his escape. He came home to the Orr Estate after dark, and found Lieutenant Wilson of Louisville, lying on a couch, mortally wounded. He gave him water and turned him during the night to ease his pain; Lieutenant Wilson died before morning. With the help of neighbors, they improvised a coffin from boards and buried him in a near-by field. His body was exhumed by relatives and taken to his home.<sup>47</sup>

The Union soldiers killed were: Dr. William H. Taylor, a graduate of Jefferson Medical College, associated with Dr. Joshua T. Bradford; Charles Landrum, a student at the Augusta College; Alpheus McKibben; J. J. Gephart; George Byar; John Perkins; Nick Worthington; killed and wounded ten or fifteen. Duke reported his loss: twenty-one killed and eighteen wounded, including "some matchless" officers. He left Doctor Ashford, a Confederate surgeon, in Augusta to give medical treatment to his wounded soldiers.

On Saturday morning Captain Ragan with a detachment of Home Guards had gone down the Rock Springs road to reconnoitre. When they heard the firing they hastened back and found they were blocked off from Augusta. To prevent being captured, they, ironically, crossed the ford in the Ohio where Duke had expected to cross. "The U. S. gunboat, *Allen Collyer*, was on her way up the river, and thinking these were rebel soldiers, the pilot, Paul Fenny, became excited and ran the gunboat on the bar. The *Allen Collyer* did not get to Augusta until the fight was over."<sup>48</sup>

In the meantime, the neighboring town of Ripley, Ohio, was fulfilling its promise of aid in case of attack. A soldier who came to Augusta graphically described this event: "I remember very distinctly

that memorable Saturday afternoon. We, in Ripley, were startled by seeing a cloud of smoke arising over the Kentucky hills between Dover and Higginsport, that grew larger and larger, and Front Street was soon lined with crowds conjecturing as to the cause. As we were looking for raids anytime during the summer, the general belief was that the Rebels had fired Augusta. A lot of us boys, among whom I remember Doc. Hemphill, now Admiral Joseph N. Hemphill, U.S.N., ran up Rankin's hill, and out onto the point of the northwest end of the ridge, in a vain hope that we might see the fire, but it was a vain hope.

"Shortly after coming down from the hill, two stern-wheel gunboats came steaming up the river. Crowds rushed to the wharf as the boats came in, and were surprised to see two Ripley soldiers, Will Carey and Albert Boswell, jump to the wharf and cry out, 'Hang these Captains! They are Rebels! Augusta has been destroyed, Union men killed, and these Captains refused to let us take the Rebels who came down on the shore and fired on us.' The crowd became very excited and denounced their superior officers, who immediately pulled out for up the river. Had the gunboats commanding the river two squares away raked the streets with canister and grape-shot as Bradford had commanded them to do, Duke's forces would have met a disastrous repulse, with little loss to the Union side. This battle was never credited with its real importance. It was an offshoot of Kirby Smith's attempt to capture Cincinnati. He had been besieging the Union troops entrenched on the hills back of Newport and Covington for sometime. All the forces in Cincinnati and militia from the counties north of the city were thrown out to meet Smith's force, and the people of Cincinnati were much alarmed. Basil Duke commenced the very audacious plan, one fraught with great consequence to the city if successful. Col. Bradford [Major] and his gallant little company frustrated the plan, however."

"As soon as it was known that Duke was in Augusta, the big bell on the Newlight church was rung. This large, far-carrying bell was only rung during the war to give notice of impending raids, and on hearing it, every member of the artillery and infantry companies in Ripley and surrounding country seized his arms and accoutrements and hastened to his rendezvous. Ripley then had a six-pounder brass cannon, and a 13-pounder rifled steel gun. Besides an artillery company we had a greybeard company composed of men and boys, a small German company and a couple of platoons of colored boys and men, and we could depend on quite a company from Red Oak, Russellville, Decatur and the surrounding country. About 9:00 or 10:00 o'clock that night, our force started for Brooksville, Dover and Minerva with the intention of cutting off Basil Duke's retreat, encumbered as he was by wounded

and prisoners on foot. At Minerva, the recruits were on their way to join their regiments and volunteers from Maysville. Their captain turned the command over to Col. Orange Edwards of Ripley, and on arriving in sight of Brooksville, Duke's forces were seen in possession of the town. They soon came out and formed for a charge. Our troops were formed across the pike, and the artillery stationed on the pike fired two shots at Duke's men. They had, however, more fighting than they came for, so they wheeled about and left their prisoners, and double-quickened for Kirby Smith's army, which soon after raised the siege of Cincinnati and retreated south. Our troops marched then to Augusta, and took a boat for home. Evidences of the battle and fire greeted one on every turn."<sup>49</sup>

On Sunday morning, Mrs. Veach took her ten year old son on a tour of inspection. "We went to Front street over Frankfort street, and down Front, horrified at what we saw, and were told what had happened by bystanders here and there until reaching Upper street, where we went into a store on the west side of Upper and Front to be shown a long row of dead, heads to the counter, bodies all lying with feet to the center of the room. We listened to the names and the incident of each, by a man who seemed to know. We found horrifying sights of every sort, and when we reached the next corner [now Park] we turned south, and soon came upon Dr. Will Keith's office and residence, where we heard the moaning of some of the wounded. The Doctor said one man had been pierced through eight times, and he still lived, but unconscious. He told us that one had died in the afternoon."<sup>50</sup>

Even a foray such as this was disastrous to Duke's command as he had lost, in killed, efficient officers, and his daring plan had failed.

Besides the loss of its valuable citizens, Augusta had seen over two and a half blocks of the town destroyed by fire, with some of its finest homes.

George D. Prentice, the famous editor of the *Louisville Journal*, a strong Union man, was to express for many of Augusta's citizens the regret as well as the condemnation of the rebellion and this attack on Augusta and its people. He wrote of his son, William Courtland Prentice, who had been killed at Augusta: "And after a brief five weeks service in the rebel ranks, he fell, soon to breathe out his fiery life, receiving meanwhile, far away from his family, the kindly ministrations of those against whose cause his strong right arm had been raised. Oh, if he had fallen in his country's service, fallen with his burning eyes fixed in love upon the flag on which his ancestors had looked with eyes of worship, his death might have been borne by a father's heart, but alas, the reflection that he fell in armed rebellion against that glorious old banner, now the emblem of the greatest and holiest

cause the world ever knew, is full of desolation and almost despair. And yet we shall love to think of Courtland Prentice, that brave and noble, though misguided youth, during the little remnant of our lives. Our love for him, undimmed by tears and grief, is and will remain an amaranthine flower upon the grave of our buried years."<sup>51</sup>

"Bracken County had men in both armies, and some of its finest blood. Notwithstanding the chaotic conditions, the people generally began to recover. Within the next few months they began to rebuild and to reconstruct matters in general."<sup>52</sup>

## FOOTNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> Dr. John Owens Gross, President, Union College, Kentucky. *Christian Advocate*, February 20, 1936.
- <sup>2</sup> Walter Rankins, *Historic Augusta and Augusta College*, pp. 12-14.
- <sup>3</sup> J. W. Armstrong's mercantile notebook diary, in possession of the author.
- <sup>4</sup> Edwin Emerson, Jr., *A History of the Nineteenth Century Year by Year*, p. 1321.
- <sup>5</sup> E. Polk Johnson, *A History of Kentucky and Kentuckians*, p. 783.
- <sup>6</sup> J. D. Hinds, Letter to James W. Armstrong, December 12, 1874. Letter in possession of author.
- <sup>7</sup> Samuel K. Veach, Carlisle, Kentucky. Letter to the *Bracken Chronicle*, Augusta, Kentucky, September 24, 1936.
- <sup>8</sup> William Frye, *Marshall, Citizen Soldier*, p. 24.
- <sup>9</sup> G. Glenn Clift, *History of Maysville and Mason County*, Transylvania Printing Company, Lexington, Kentucky, p. 226.
- <sup>10</sup> Basil W. Duke, *History of Morgan's Cavalry*. Miami Printing and Publishing Company, Cincinnati, 1867, p. 247.
- <sup>11</sup> J. Jeffery Auer, "The Little Fight," *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, January, 1951, p. 29.
- <sup>12</sup> Mrs. W. A. Pepper, Covington, Kentucky. Letter to the *Bracken Chronicle*, January 23, 1917.
- <sup>13</sup> Duke, *op. cit.*, p. 247.
- <sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 248.
- <sup>15</sup> The Baker Wine Cellar on the outskirts of Augusta is 104 feet long, 22 feet wide; the walls of masonry, 46 inches thick; the ceiling 26 feet high, arched of stone. It has two small cellars built on either side of the arch at the rear, and over the cellar are commodious living quarters. Covered with vines, it is one of the most picturesque and largest of the wine cellars still standing, and it attracts many visitors.
- <sup>16</sup> About 1850, German emigrants from the Rhine Valley came into northern Kentucky and sought to establish a vineyard and wine industry on the hills along the Ohio. This effort failed. But several great wine cellars of stone were built into the hills around Augusta, and one of them remains today as a relic of the past and an attraction to sight-seers. James T. Norris—*In Kentucky*, Autumn Edition, 1947.
- <sup>17</sup> Samuel K. Veach Letter.
- <sup>18</sup> Clift, *op. cit.* p. 227.
- <sup>19</sup> A. E. Rankins, the author's father, was standing in front of the Marshall's home when the first cannon ball went over the town. He picked up his little brother and ran home with him, about two blocks away.
- <sup>20</sup> Duke, *op. cit.* p. 249.
- <sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 249.
- <sup>22</sup> *Cincinnati Daily Commercial*, September 30, 1862.
- <sup>23</sup> S. K. Veach Letter.
- <sup>24</sup> Duke, *op. cit.* p. 250.
- <sup>25</sup> S. K. Veach Letter.
- <sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>27</sup> Duke, *op. cit.*, p. 252.
- <sup>28</sup> S. K. Veach Letter.

<sup>28</sup> Duke, *op. cit.* p. 250.

<sup>29</sup> Clift, *op. cit.* p. 231.

<sup>31</sup> Mrs. J. P. Reese, a daughter of Walter P. Taylor and a sister of Dr. William H. Taylor, interview with the Editor of the *Bracken Chronicle*, October 5, 1922. Hereinafter interviews will be with the Editor of *Bracken Chronicle*, unless otherwise stated.

<sup>32</sup> Mrs. A. E. Rankins, the author's mother (daughter of Walter P. Taylor), related this incident to him.

<sup>33</sup> Duke, *op. cit.* p. 252, 253.

<sup>34</sup> Interview—Mrs. John Bowman, daughter of Lewis Thomas.

<sup>35</sup> Mrs. A. E. Rankins related this to the author.

<sup>36</sup> Clift, *op. cit.* p. 227.

<sup>37</sup> Mrs. A. E. Rankins related this to the author.

<sup>38</sup> A. E. Rankins related this to the author.

<sup>39</sup> S. K. Veach Letter.

<sup>40</sup> Interviews: Rev. W. G. Bradford, son of Major Joshua T. Bradford—Mrs. John Bowman.

<sup>41</sup> S. K. Veach Letter.

<sup>42</sup> Clift, *op. cit.* p. 227.

<sup>43</sup> Parole

"Headquarters, Army of Kentucky  
Lexington, October 3, 1862

D. L. Overturf, Bracken County, Ky., a home guard, captured by the Confederate forces under Major General E. Kirby Smith, having been this day paroled, do solemnly swear that I will not take up arms against the Confederate States of America under any circumstances or in any capacity whatever, and I will not communicate any military information to the enemies of the Confederate States, which I may obtain while in their lines. The penalty for the violation of this parole is death." "The above was signed by Mr. Overturf, as well as Robert D. Hart, Acting Provost Marshall for the Confederates." J. W. Crumbaugh's scrapbook.

<sup>44</sup> Duke, *op. cit.*, p. 253.

<sup>45</sup> *Cincinnati Daily Commercial*, September 30, 1862.

<sup>46</sup> Mrs. George Taylor, daughter of Mrs. J. T. Robbins (Addie Diltz) related this incident to the author.

<sup>47</sup> James W. Jennings related this story to his son, James Jennings, Jr., as told to the author.

<sup>48</sup> James L. Young, Company T. National Military Home, Dayton, Ohio, who was aboard the *Allen Collyer*. Letter to the Editor of the *Bracken Chronicle*, September 28, 1922.

<sup>49</sup> Charley Campbell, Bellfontaine, Ohio, to the *Ripley Bee*, Ripley, Ohio. J. W. Crumbaugh's Scrapbook.

<sup>50</sup> S. K. Veach Letter.

<sup>51</sup> Obituary by George D. Prentice. J. W. Crumbaugh's Scrapbook.

<sup>52</sup> S. K. Veach Letter.