

The Civil War in Franklin County
A Series by Ruth Bardot
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The Civil War in Franklin County - Part One

First in a Series by Ruth Bardot (©1986)

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April 12, 1861, the first shots were fired upon Fort Sumter that started the Civil War. Three days later, on April 15, President Lincoln issued his first call for 75,000 men. Lincoln placed the State of Missouri's quota at 4,000 men. Governor Jackson of Missouri said that Lincoln's call for troops was illegal, unconstitutional, inhumane, and diabolical.

Jackson said Missouri would not send a single man to fight a war against the South. The news of the need for men reached Union, Missouri, and David Murphy raised a group of 52 volunteers. He took the group to St. Louis by train to be among the first men to enlist outside of the city of St. Louis. When they arrived in St. Louis, the train they were on was stopped by the conductor at Twenty-Second Street. The men from Franklin county left the train unobserved and made their way on foot to the Arsenal Building. There they were inducted into Company A, Rifle Battalion, First Missouri Volunteers, with L. E. Koniuszeski as captain, and David Murphy was first lieutenant.

April 20, 1861, a group of the State Militia, raided the National Arsenal at Liberty, Missouri, and took guns and ammunition for the war.

Another major concern of the Union Army was the Federal Arsenal in St. Louis, which they believed was going to be threatened by Jackson's action. Captain Nathaniel Lyon, a newly appointed Army officer, was in command of the arsenal in St. Louis.

April 25, with the help of Francis P. Blair, Jr., Lyon spirited most of the weapons, which consisted of 60,000 Enfield and Springfield rifles, 1,500,000 cartridges, and 90,000 pounds of gunpowder, across the Mississippi River to Springfield, Illinois.

Governor Jackson applied to the Confederate government for assistance, and a quantity of replacement guns and ammunition, including several field guns, were sent to him in boxes marked "marble." He also ordered a general of the State Militia to establish a camp of instruction near the city of Springfield, Illinois, and gathered there such volunteer companies as were organized and armed.

General Scott had anticipated all this by sending reinforcements to the little company that held the arsenal, and with them Captain Nathaniel Lyon. The company was also increased by several regiments of home guards, organized by the efforts of Francis P. Blair, Jr., and mustered into the service of the United States.

May 6, Lyon and Blair made plans to capture Camp Jackson, near St. Louis. Lyon, disguised in an old black dress and carrying a basket of eggs, entered the camp to check on its strengths and weaknesses.

May 10, 1861, Lyon turned his troops on Camp Jackson and demanded its surrender. General Frost surrendered his troops to Lyon, and the prisoners were marched to the Arsenal in St. Louis, where

they were to be released after they pledged not to fight against the Union Army. (To be continued)



The Civil War in Franklin County - Part Two

Second in a Series by Ruth Bardot (©1986)

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As the prisoners were marched along, a crowd gathered, and a demonstration against Lyon's men followed in which rocks and other objects were thrown at the soldiers. Then, from somewhere in the crowd, a shot was fired. The soldiers fired above the crowd, and in the resulting riot, 28 people were killed and several others were injured.

All of the boxes of "marble" that had come up from Baton Rouge and had been taken to the camp only two days before, were retaken and moved to the Arsenal May 12. General William S. Harney arrived in St. Louis and took over command of the United States Arsenal and its troops.

The former Governor Sterling Price, commanding the State troops, entrapped Harney into a truce that left Jackson and Price practically at liberty to pursue their plans for secession. The government removed him, repudiated the truce, and gave the command back to Lyon, now a Brigadier-General. The very next day, Lyon took his troops and headed for Jefferson City, which he reached on May 15.

He then took control of the town and raised the national flag over the capitol.

At Lyon's approach, the governor fled, taking with him the Great Seal of the State of Missouri. The last effort to maintain peace in the state was made June 11, 1861 at a meeting at the Planter's Hotel in St. Louis between Lyon and Blair on one side and Jackson and Price on the other.

Jackson was a secessionist by this time, and Lyon would not agree to any restrictions on federal movements or authority in the state.

Lyon reportedly ended the meeting very abruptly by walking out with the statement, "This Means War." And war came to Missouri. After his meeting with Blair and Lyon in St. Louis, Governor Jackson rushed back to Jefferson City, burning the Pacific railroad bridge across the Gasconade and Osage Rivers.

June 12, leaving 300 men to hold Jefferson City, Lyon followed Jackson to Boonville. Here he found the Militiamen, who had answered Jackson's call under the command of General Sterling Price. Price's militia outnumbered, but were less experienced compared to Lyon's artillery and federal troops. After thirty minutes, Lyon's men broke and ran.

Jackson and Price then moved into southwest Missouri to recruit and train more men. They planned to join forces with General Ben McCulloch's Arkansas Confederates, hoping this might help Jackson to take control of the state, and also enabling him to get Missouri into the Confederacy. General Lyon followed, and stationed his troops around the Springfield, Missouri area. (To be Continued)



The Civil War in Franklin County - Part Three

Third in a Series by Ruth Bardot (©1986)

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After Jefferson City was captured, Governor Jackson moved the Capitol from there to Boonville, Missouri, June 17, 1861. Lyon and his troops moved on Boonville, defeated Jackson's troops and forced the Governor to move further south to Carthage, Missouri.

Governor Jackson took with him the Lieutenant Governor, the Secretary of State, and all other department heads. He moved them to Jefferson, Texas, a boom town on the Red River. Jackson learned that a group of wealthy citizens from Missouri, all Southern sympathizers, had emigrated to Marshall, Texas, a town of 2,000, 19 miles west of Jefferson.

Jackson went to Marshall and set up the government there, proclaiming Marshall the new Capitol of Missouri. Back in Jefferson City, a convention named Hamilton R. Gamble, a Unionist, the replacement for Jackson. Jackson had in his possession, the Great Seal of Missouri, as well as the other top officials, so Gamble was Governor in little more than name only.

Colonel Franz Sigel was sent to Neosho, Missouri, to stop any state militia who were heading south to join the Confederates. On July 5, 1861, a fight occurred in which Sigel's troops were forced to withdraw to Springfield, giving the pro-southern forces the victory.

Near the end of July, Price and General Benjamin McCulloch planned to attack Lyon at Springfield. Their combined forces numbered nearly 10,000 men, almost equally divided between men from both Missouri and Arkansas.

Lyon sent an urgent request to General Fremont in St. Louis for more troops. His request went unanswered as there were no reinforcements to send him. Instead of retreating with his men to Rolla, Lyon decided to launch a surprise attack on the Missouri and Confederate troops.

August 9, Lyon made a night march southwesterly some ten or twelve miles toward Wilson's Creek, where the Confederates were camped. When Lyon attacked Wilson's Creek at 5:30 on the morning of August 10, 1861, one of the most costly and bitter battles of the Civil War was launched. Men on both sides fought bravely for four hours. Confederate forces outnumbered the Union forces 11,600 to 5,400, and the second Southern victory in Missouri in a month resulted in a flood of young Missourians volunteering to fight as, "Johnny Rebs."

General Nathaniel Lyon fell mortally wounded only four hours after the day-long fight began. The death of Lyon opened the way for four years of strife and pillage in Missouri. Official reports show that the Confederates lost 1,095 killed, missing, or wounded. The Union Army lost 1,235 killed, missing, or wounded in the Battle of Wilson's Creek.

August 25, 1861, trying to regain control of Missouri, Price moved toward Lexington, Missouri, calling along the way for volunteers to join him. Price arrived in Lexington with nearly 15,000 men. There he found a regiment of nearly 3,000 Irishmen from Illinois under the command of Colonel James A. Mulligan waiting for him.

Mulligan had his headquarters in the Masonic College about a half-mile from the Missouri River. What Mulligan didn't know was that Governor Jackson had hid \$900,000 in coins, and the "Great Seal of Missouri" in the basement of the Masonic College.

Price launched a major attack against Mulligan on September 18, 1861. The battle raged for two days, with artillery and small arms fire being exchanged. Finally, Price soaked bales of hemp in water to prevent them from burning and used them as rolling fortresses to shield his troops as they advanced up the hill against Mulligan's troops.

Mulligan and his men were low on ammunition, food, and water, so they surrendered to Price. Mulligan's losses were 39 killed and 120 wounded. Price had 25 men killed and 75 wounded. Price captured from Mulligan and his men 1,000 horses, 100 wagons, 3,000 muskets, five pieces of artillery and extra supplies. (To be continued)



The Civil War in Franklin County - Part Four

Final segment in a four-part series by Ruth Bardot (©1986)

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When General Price and his troops left Missouri in 1862, the state was in Union hands. Irregular bands of guerillas now carried on a war of their own. Led by vengeful men, they murdered, robbed and caused destruction throughout the state. Many of these men were outlaws, now able to plunder and kill under the cover of the War.

September 19, 1864, General Sterling "Old Pap" Price crossed the Arkansas border in a last ditch effort to drive the Union forces from Missouri. Keeping his forces near Pocahton, Arkansas, he entered Missouri from the southeast with some 12,000 men and 14 pieces of artillery.

The troops were divided into three columns commanded by General John S. Marmaduke, General James F. Fagan, and General Jo Shelby. Fort Davidson at Pilot Knob was reached September 27. This was 85 miles south of St. Louis. There Price found General Thomas Ewing with about 1,000 men; half of them raw recruits, waiting for him.

Price abandoned his plans to take St. Louis, and instead moved his troops toward Jefferson City. During the Civil War, Catawissa came into direct contact with military operations when troops invaded the area from Grubville. Under Price and Gamble, these soldiers covered the roads from Pacific to Union. They destroyed the telegraph lines and the railroad. With axes, they chopped down the telegraph poles and 100 to 150 feet of railroad track at a time by moving the ties and rails with handspikes. They piled lumber on and set fire to the railroad bridge over the Meramec River between Catawissa and Pacific.

October 1, 1864, the town of St. Clair was ransacked and the surrounding countryside was searched for recruits to be in General Price's Army. Price also needed horses and food for his men and animals, so these things were also taken.

Union was the next town in General Price's path. There horses and mules were taken and all of the stores were raided for supplies. There were some minor battles in and around Union, with reports of cannon balls lodging in the old brick building on the square (now the Dollar General Store), and in the Halligan Mansions four blocks north, later known as the Martin Summer house) near Wally Avenue. The Rebel forces were soon captured by the Union soldiers near the town of Union.

October 2, 1864, Price made his way to Washington, Missouri. The raid there lasted only one day, but the citizens and most of the militia had sought refuge across the Missouri River, after hiding their valuables from the advancing troops. In the raids, stores and homes were ransacked of food, clothing, and furniture.

October 23, Samuel Curtis, the victor at Pea Ridge, met Price near Westport, Missouri. With the

help of Albert Pleasonton's Cavalry, Curtis defeated the Rebels, drove them into Arkansas, and virtually ended the war in the trans-Mississippi West.

During the many campaigns throughout Missouri, the Confederate soldiers often went without food, adequate shelter, or warm clothing. Like their Northern counterparts, they found winter camps boring.

The Civil War had been called the Brother's War. Nowhere was this more true than it was in Missouri. Brother fought against brother, and the state gave men and materials in great amounts to both the North and the South. More men from Missouri fought in the war than did men from any other state. From Missouri, 109,000 men fought in the Union armies, 14,000 of whom were killed. Many of these men were negroes. A total of 8,344 negroes served in the Union Armies during the war. Thirty thousand Missouri men served with the Confederate Army.

A total of 359,000 Federal soldiers and 258,000 Confederate soldiers lost their lives in the Civil War. The total enlistment in the Union Army was 2,900,000 men. The total enlistment in the Confederate was 1,300,000 men.

Battles in Missouri

May 10, 1861 - Camp Jackson, Missouri - Confederate losses 639 prisoners; Riots in St. Louis - Union, 4 killed, Confederate, 27 killed.

July 26, 1861 - Lane's Prairie near Rolla

August 1861 - Wilson's Creek, Missouri; Potosi.

September 12, 1861 - Black River near Ironton.

October 15, 1861 - Big River Bridge near Potosi

October 17 to the 21st, 1861 Fredericktown and Ironton

Charge, Springfield December 3, 1861 - Salem; February 17, 1862 - Pea Ridge; January 7 and 8, 1863 Springfield

September 26 and 27, 1864, Pilot Knob of Ironton

September 29 and 30, Leasburg and Harrison, Missouri

October 7 to the 11th - Jefferson City, California, and Boonville, Missouri (Price's Invasion)

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